

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Raises addressed



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Dunkirk City Council members, from left, Donna Revolt, Jesse Bivens and Christy Curts, Mayor Jack Robbins, and council members Dan Watson and Randy Murphy review paperwork Monday evening while considering employee raises for 2025. Council ultimately settled on 5% raises for most employees and 10% raises for most supervisors.

Council had long discussion on increases

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — It took some time, but raises have been approved for 2025.

Dunkirk City Council spent more than an hour and 15 minutes discussing the raises section-by-section

Monday, generally settling on 5% increases for employees and 10% increases for supervisors.

Council also gave official approval to raising water and sewer rates by 3% each beginning Feb. 1.

There was extensive discussion

regarding raises and other issues related to the salary ordinance, with council president Jesse Bivens noting that proposed increases from department heads ranged as high as 20%. He indicated that such a level was too high and advocated for 4% or 5%.

(Employees received 7% raises last year.)

Council member and former mayor Dan Watson pointed out that superintendents currently make only about \$1 per hour more than their employees.

See **Raises** page 5

County to look at health insurance option

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

County commissioners heard a case for partially self-funding county employees' health insurance Monday.

Their plan is to see what that would look like with other insurance brokers in the coming weeks.

Jay County Commissioners heard an assessment from representatives of Understand, Service and Innovate (USI) Insur-

Consultant makes proposal to shift to self-funded plan

ance on Monday about the potential savings partially self-funding insurance would generate based on numbers from past years.

USI Insurance has been

in contact with commissioners president Chad Aker and Jay County Auditor's Office since May.

"We had conversation surrounding whether or

not it was going to be more financially beneficial for the county to be self-insured in your health plan moving forward versus being fully insured, which is currently how the county funds their health insurance," explained Tom Schweisthal of USI Insurance.

USI Insurance gathered data from the county's current health insurance provider, Physicians

Health Plan, between 2020 and now.

Alex Dickman of USI Insurance said in the last five years, the county has overspent about \$780,000 for insurance. Dickman said on an average basis, clients who switch to self-funding saving on average about \$180,000 annually.

In 2023, Dickman said, the county paid around \$1.35 million in medical fees, and insurance claims came in at about \$700,000.

That's about a 56% loss ratio, he noted.

"When we see that, that's a great opportunity to look at self-funding, just because the numbers are showing that to us," said Dickman.

Confirming a question from commissioner Brian McGalliard, Dickman noted the county could opt into a partially self-funded program through Physicians Health Plan.

See **Insurance** page 5



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Prop prep

Andrew King of Goodfolk & O'Tymes Biplane Rides spins a propeller Saturday morning while checking an aircraft before flying at the Portland Municipal Airport pancake breakfast and fly-in. Goodfolk offered rides in pre-World War II era planes on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Former sheriff pleads

By CASEY SMITH

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Former Clark County Sheriff Jamey Noel pleaded guilty to 27 of 31 felony charges in court Monday as part of a plea deal in a massive corruption case that could land him in prison for more than a decade.

Noel was charged with more than two dozen felonies for allegedly misusing money from the fire and EMS departments which he oversaw.

A plea agreement submitted to the Clark County Circuit Court shows Noel agreed to plead guilty to charges of theft, money laundering, corrupt business influence, official misconduct, obstruction of justice and tax evasion.

Four charges of ghost employment were dismissed as part of the agreement.

Noel faces a 15-year prison sentence but with three of those years suspended to probation if the deal is approved by the judge, according to the plea agreement. He would get credit for time served, beginning June 8.

Noel faces 15-year sentence in connection with corruption case

Special Judge Larry Medlock, of Washington County, said Monday he wants to hear from victims affected by Noel's actions before making a decision.

Special Prosecutor Ric Hertel, of Ripley County, said in a news briefing after the plea hearing that a sentencing hearing could take more than a day to allow for victims to testify in open court.

"I think that an agreement to 15 years of sentence — at least proposing to the court and the judge — we've come a long way since the initial hearing back in November of 2023," Hertel said.

"I feel like there's been a lot of time and a lot of effort and a lot of heartache, trying to take into consideration the folks in

Clark County, the victims in Clark County ...," Hertel continued. "I think that (Noel) going to prison for 12 years, if the judge accepts this agreement, should be a pretty big deterrent for a guy who lived a lifestyle that he lived leading up to this. ... It's about to be a wake up call if the judge accepts this agreement."

Additionally included in the plea deal is an agreement for Noel to pay back more than \$3.1 million in public funds: \$2,870,924 to the Utica Volunteer Firefighters Association; \$61,190 to the Clark County Sheriff's Department; \$173,155 to the Indiana Department of Revenue; and \$35,245 to the Indiana State Police.

See **Pleads** page 2

Deaths

Madonna Bright, 97, Portland

Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County's high temperature hit 90 degrees Monday. The low was 66.

Expect a low in the upper 60s tonight with a 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. There is a 30% chance of rain Thursday with partly cloudy skies and a high in the upper 80s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Several meetings have been added to the schedule for September:

Portland Plan Commission at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 5

Portland Board of Zoning Appeals at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 10

Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals at 6 p.m. Sept. 19

The meetings will be held at Community Resource Center.

Coming up

Thursday — Results from the JCHS volleyball match against Winchester.

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

Saturday — Results from the Jay County football home opener against New Castle.



Capsule Reports

Wrong lane

A Muncie man drove off the side of Indiana 1 to avoid hitting an oncoming Pennville teen's vehicle, causing severe damage to his car about 7:50 a.m. Saturday.

Keegan M. Carpenter, 20, was driving his 2011 BMW 335i north on the highway when he began passing a vehicle in front of him. Carpenter noticed a southbound 2012 Ford Edge driven by 16-year-old Cody W. Dehoff while passing, causing Carpenter to drive off the road and into a ditch to avoid a collision. Carpenter's vehicle crashed into a sign, and his car stopped in a bean field. Carpenter's vehicle sustained heavy damage and was

towed. Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

Couldn't see

Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000 after a Union City man drove in front of oncoming traffic at the intersection of Indiana 18 and county road 375, causing an accident about 7:09 p.m. Saturday.

Charmile Derinord, 37, was driving his 2016 Chevrolet Equinox south on the county road as he approached the highway. He told police he stopped and couldn't see traffic on Indiana 18 because of corn stalks on the side of the road blocking his vision. He proceeded into the intersection, driving into the side of a 2017 Chrysler Paci-

fica driven by 28-year-old Randy L. Fortkamp.

Fortkamp's vehicle was towed.

Passing accident

The vehicle a rural Bryant woman was driving struck the Portland man's car in front of her while attempting to pass it on county road 300 North about 8:46 a.m. Tuesday.

Carol Dirksen, 58, was driving a 2024 Buick Enclave behind a 2008 Chevrolet HHR driven by 47-year-old Bill Smiley. Dirksen began passing Smiley, and she told police Smiley went left of center, causing her to crash into him.

Smiley's vehicle left the road and hit a tree. Dirksen's vehicle

spun off the south side of the road.

The Chevrolet HHR is registered to Portland Motor Parts. Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Failed to yield

A Portland man failed to yield to oncoming traffic at the intersection of Race and Hayes streets in Portland, causing an accident about 4:25 p.m. Friday.

Jose Lopez, 21, Berne, was driving a 2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee west on Race Street. At the same time, Charles Tow, 50, was driving his 2018 Ram 1500 north on Hayes Street. Tow failed to yield to Lopez, and Lopez didn't have time to stop before crashing into Tow.

Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

Intersection crash

A Bryant woman failed to yield to a Portland woman's car at the intersection of Middle and Walnut streets in Portland about 1:18 p.m. Sunday.

Crystal E. Laux, 75, was driving a 2020 Chrysler Pacifica and stopped at the intersection of Walnut and Middle streets. She proceeded east on Walnut Street and didn't notice the northbound 2014 GMC Acadia driven by 38-year-old Kristen Gibson in her path. Laux crashed into Gibson's vehicle.

Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Gibson's vehicle was towed.

CR almanac

Thursday 8/29	Friday 8/30	Saturday 8/31	Sunday 9/1	Monday 9/2
88/69	92/65	83/58	83/55	75/47
Thursday's forecast shows a 30% chance of thunderstorms under mostly cloudy skies.	There's a higher (40%) chance of storms on Friday, when the high may hit 92.	Saturday looks to be mostly sunny with a slight chance of rain. Temperatures will be in the mid 80s.	Sunny skies are on the horizon for Sunday, when the high will be around 83.	Labor Day looks to be mostly sunny. Temperatures will be more moderate, around 75.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 2-4-23-68-69 Power Ball: 15 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$54 million	Daily Four: 8-4-5-9 Quick Draw: 1-8-16-17-24-27-40-41-46-62-63-64-65-67-68-69-71-72-74-77 Cash 5: 6-15-28-33-41 Estimated jackpot: \$193,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$582 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 6-9-8 Pick 4: 9-3-1-1 Pick 5: 3-2-3-4-6 Evening Pick 3: 4-0-4 Pick 4: 4-0-1-6 Pick 5: 5-1-8-0-6 Rolling Cash: 1-8-9-18-19 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 2-3-2 Daily Four: 2-5-8-4 Quick Draw: 2-17-20-27-28-33-35-37-41-46-54-57-62-63-64-67-68-70-71-74 Evening Daily Three: 8-8-4	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....3.37 Sept. corn3.42 Wheat4.10	Sept. beans9.40 Wheat 4.85
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....3.39 Sept. corn3.52 Oct. corn3.47	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.39 Sept. corn3.39 Beans9.65 Sept. beans9.60 Wheat4.64
The Andersons Richland Township Corn3.42 Sept. corn3.42 Beans.....9.50	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....3.32 Oct. corn3.38 Beans9.35 Oct. beans9.35 Wheat4.37

Today in history

In 1955, 14-year-old Emmett Till was brutally murdered in Money, Mississippi, for allegedly flirting with a white woman four days prior. Till's death spurred civil rights movements and shed a light on segregation in the south.

In 1963, around 200,000 marched to Washington, D.C., in the civil rights movement best known for its famous "I Have a Dream" speech from Martin Luther King Jr.

In 2018, Fort Recovery High School's volleyball team swept rival Jay County Patriots 25-15, 25-13, 25-23 at Fort Site Fieldhouse. Fort Recovery (5-0) jumped on the Patriots early in the opening set thanks to a Paige Jutte kill, back-to-back Brooke Gaerke kills and a Hannah Knapke ace. Jay County pulled to within two, 9-7, but a Paige Fortkamp kill, Jutte kill, Kierra Wendel ace and Madi Rammel kill made it 13-7. The Patriots never fully recovered.

— The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 5 p.m. — Jay County Redevelopment Commission, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.	118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 9 a.m. — Portland Historic Preservation Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.
Thursday 9 a.m. — Portland Facade Committee, Community Resource Center,	
Sept. 4 5:30 p.m. — Jay County Council budget review, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	

Obituaries

Madonna Bright

Aug. 10, 1926-Aug. 3, 2024
Madonna L. Bright, age 97, of Portland, passed away Saturday August 3, 2024 in Persimmon Ridge Healthcare.

She was born in Jay County on Aug. 10, 1926, the daughter of Samuel and Cora (Stoner) Whitacre. She was married to Ernest Bright Jr. and he passed away on April 14, 2013.

Madonna had worked for Loy Real Estate and Auctioneering. She was a member of American Legion

Auxiliary and the Moose Lodge. She enjoyed golfing and bowling.

Surviving is one son, Larry Miller (wife: Teresa) of Ridgeville; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements are Thursday, Aug. 29, 2024, at 11 a.m. in the Green Park Cemetery Chapel with Pastor Randy Smith presiding. Burial will be in Green Park Cemetery.



Bright

Baird-Freeman Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Memorials can be made to the choice of the donor.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.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.

The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Spinnin' and grinnin'

Visitors to the Tri-State Antique Engine and Tractor Show chat Saturday afternoon while an engine spins in front of them. The show concluded Saturday, and the 60th iteration of the annual event will be held next year.

Pleads ...

Continued from page 1
Noel agreed to the plea deal nearly a year after he was arrested and Indiana State Police investigators raided his home in southern Indiana.

Noel posted a \$75,000 bond in November, but has been held in the Scott County jail since April

after Medlock raised his bond to \$1.5 million.

Using findings from a long-term Indiana State Police investigation, state prosecutors alleged Noel used millions of taxpayer dollars to buy cars, planes, vacations, clothing and other personal luxury purchases.

Felony arrests

Battery

A rural Portland man was arrested Monday for battery against a public safety official.

Preston R. Keen, 28, 5938 W. 800 South, was preliminarily charged with a Level 5 felony for the alleged crime, as well as a Level 5 felony for possession of cocaine or a narcotic drug and a Level 6 felony for unlawful possession of a syringe.

He was being held on a \$15,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Residential entry

A Pennville woman was arrested Monday for residential entry.

Shelby E. Smith, 31, 565 N. Union St., is charged in

Jay Superior Court with a Level 6 felony for the alleged crime and a Level 6 felony for domestic battery.

She was being held in Jay County Jail on a \$3,000 bond.

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SERVICES

Thursday
Bright, Madonna: 11 a.m., Green Park Cemetery Chapel, Portland.

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Portland, Indiana 47371
(260) 726-9201
progressiveofficeproducts.com

JOB OPENING

FULL TIME HEALTH DEPARTMENT IMMUNIZATION CLERK
JAY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT SALARY: \$34,470.80

DUTIES

- Schedules/coordinates appointments for clients and sends out reminder/recall notices regarding upcoming and/or missed appointments.
- Maintains patient immunization records and enters immunization data into Children and Hoosier Immunization Registry Program (CHIRP).
- Conducts billing to insurance and Medicaid companies for vaccines administered.
- Maintains current knowledge of CDC guidelines and immunization/vaccination standards and attends educational training/seminars as necessary.
- Issues certified birth and death certificates to authorized individuals.
- Receives/receipts monies for permits, certificates, and immunizations and files reports as necessary.
- Answers telephones and greets office visitors, responding to inquiries, providing information and assistance.

REQUIREMENTS

- High School diploma or equivalent.
- Possession of or ability to obtain TB skin testing certification and CPR/AED certifications.
- Possession of or ability to obtain Notary Public License and National Incident Management (NIMS) Certifications.
- Ability to serve the public with diplomacy and respect, including occasional encounters with difficult persons.
- Ability to problem solve and collaborate as a team player.
- Ability to operate standard office equipment.
- Ability to travel off-site (active Indiana driver's license).
- 35 hours weekly (Monday through Friday from 8:30 am -4:30 pm).
- Occasional evening and weekend hours as needed for department operations and out of town meetings.
- Follows the Jay County government office holiday schedule.

All interested applicants can submit their resume to the Jay County Health Department at:
504 W. Arch St., Portland, IN 47371
Ph. 260-726-8080 Fax 260-726-2220 Environmental@jaycountyhealthdept.org
Applications will be accepted until September 20, 2024



New members

The Portland Evening Optimist Club recently added 4 new members. From left: Karen Bricker, sponsor Linda Aker, Debbie Waechter, sponsor Debra Imel, Donny and Anita Shauver with sponsor Mike Leonhard.

Registration open for ArtWorks class

Registration is open for Arts Place's ArtWorks classes at its Jay County Campus, 128 E. Walnut St., Portland.

Classes beginning in September include oil painting with Scott Alexander from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, beginner wheel throwing with John Gibson from 4 to 6 p.m. on Wednesdays, a Cookies and Canvas event at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 12, advanced wheel throwing with Kim Anderson at 10 a.m. Saturdays beginning Sept. 14 and elementary home-school art with Lindsay Edwards at 1 p.m. Thursdays beginning Sept. 19.

For more information, email visualarts@myart-splace.org or call (260) 726-4809.

Taking Note

Senior Learning

The next installment in the senior lunch and learn series is coming up at the beginning of the month.

"Historical Homes in Jay County," a presentation from retired Jay County High School teacher Florine Golden, will begin at noon Sept. 5.

Reservations for lunch are \$5 for those 55 years old and older, and they must be paid in advance. Call (260) 729-5525 for more information.

Family members don't support trans relative

DEAR ABBY: My young adult child came out to us as transgender several months ago. My husband and I, along with her sibling, are supportive and love her unconditionally.

She recently decided to share the news with her grandparents, sending a heartfelt email along with a couple of resources specifically for grandparents. One grandparent has been completely supportive, immediately started using the correct name and pronouns, began doing some research and continues to treat her as the amazing young adult she is.

The other grandparents sent a text that pretty much said, "We love you because you're family, but we don't really sup-

Dear Abby



LY: Your daughter is fortunate to have loving, supportive parents, siblings and ONE grandparent who is willing (and able) to accept her as her true self. She needs to be prepared for the fact that not everyone will do that.

This other set of grandparents appear to be less open to learning and less flexible in what they are able to accept. Your daughter should continue on her own path and not permit their judgments to define her. If she can do that, she'll be happier.

DEAR ABBY: Last year, my husband and I relocated to my hometown, which I left 40 years

ago. We are happy with our choice to return. Our problem is my friend "Shirley," who I have known since grade school. Shirley has always been a high achiever, but lately she has been taking credit for our positive life decisions.

At the dinner party we threw to thank neighbors and childhood friends for supporting us through our move, Shirley dominated the conversation about her role. When I reconnect with former classmates, if she is around, she inserts herself and makes the conversation about her, or puts me down by making passive-aggressive comments.

Shirley's had a rough life, so I have chalked it up to her needing a win. But now she's doing

this with my husband, and it has crossed the line. She didn't do this when we lived out of state. What can I do to put our friendship back to a more equal footing? — REACHING THE LIMIT IN OHIO

DEAR REACHING: Please reread your letter. The person you have described is not a "friend" — she's an insecure, jealous individual you happen to have known for a long time. She needs to be the center of attention regardless of how it makes you appear. Do NOT fool yourself into thinking you can make someone like this into a friend. The less you see of Shirley, the better off you and your husband will be.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

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

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

EUCHRE CLUB — Will meet at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at Chalet Village Health and Rehabilitation in the North Lounge.

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.

PORTLAND EAGLES — Will meet at 6 p.m., on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Eagles' lodge, 320 N. Meridian St., Portland.

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

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-

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

Thursday

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

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

Friday

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.

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.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

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

The Commercial Review

Time with The CR was a good ride

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Aug. 25, 2004. He was celebrating 30 years at The Commercial Review. This year would have been 50. For a guy who only planned to be here for a couple of years, Jack truly made an impact on his community in the nearly 48 years he spent at his hometown newspaper.

By JACK RONALD

The Commercial Review

Some anniversaries pass quietly. You never really notice them.

Others smack you upside the head and make you wonder, "Where did the time go?"

Thursday's one of those for me.

Thirty years ago Thursday was my first day as a reporter in the newsroom of The Commer-

Back in the Saddle



cial Review. Thirty years. That's longer than far too many lifetimes.

The plan was — if indeed it could be called a plan — to work on the family-owned daily in my hometown for a couple of years. After that, specifics were kind of fuzzy, but they didn't include three decades of community journalism in the place where I grew up.

I'd been working — after a

fashion — as one of the editors of a quasi-underground weekly in Indianapolis. And since that job paid in bylines and fun but not in dollars and cents, I'd been looking for something a little more traditional.

That's when an opening popped up at The CR. It was one I was qualified for, though just barely, and I had the advantage of knowing the community. Or at least I thought I knew it.

There's a world of difference between growing up in a place and having to cover it — on deadline — as completely, as accurately and as fairly as possible.

Fortunately, I was a pretty fast learner.

And though 30 years is a lot longer than I thought I'd ever

stay, it's been a darned good ride.

If you love to write and you like chasing sirens into the night, there are few jobs better. Floods, fires, murder trials, strikes, political squabbles and public scandals can make for a great news smorgasbord.

But the real reward has been the people I've met along the way.

Newspapering gives its practitioners an opportunity to be nosy. We get to sit down with interesting people and ask them countless questions. We get to help them tell their stories. At best, we help share their lives with our readers.

I think of a memorable visit with the late O.H. "Doc" Schwanderman at his farm out

in Madison Township when we prowled through his endless collections. I think of regular chats with Woody Turner, the first one on that first day of work as I tried to put together a re-cap on the engine show; the last one in his nursing home room in Portland not long before his death.

And on and on. Business people, farmers, kids, politicians, criminals, the elderly, teachers, students, people with funny stories to tell, people with tragic stories to tell. Personality after personality, story after story, deadline after deadline.

As I said, it's been a darned good ride.

Thanks for your patience. Thanks for your friendship. And thanks for reading.

We must do more to prevent deaths

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

We are very glad, as Gov. Kathy Hochul announced yesterday, that provisional CDC data shows that NYC opioid overdose deaths fell 3.1% for the year ending in March 2024 and declined 9% in the rest of the state, as she listed some of the steps being taken to slow this scourge.

However, missing from the list is the most effective way to save lives: Giving addicts a safe place to take their drugs just in case they OD.

You can't really police away or disincentivize people from overdosing. To some extent, they can't help it; many don't even want to continue abusing substances but cannot stop, burdened by a mix of psychological and chemical dependence. Simply punishing them or trying to push them away from using drugs in certain sites just means they'll end up doing so elsewhere, perhaps where they're further from prying eyes and more likely to die.

Heroin or crack addicts aren't thinking about the potential ramifications and future criminal consequences of their conduct; they're often thinking just as far ahead as that next hit. This doesn't mean that we should excuse or condone open drug abuse, but it does mean that the heavy-handed approach just doesn't really work and often backfires. Instead, we should focus on providing pathways out of this cycle, which many of those afflicted will take if they're readily available.

Among the most important first steps is just keeping people alive. You cannot receive treatment to turn your life around if you're dead. Overdoses can be fatal, yet are almost invariably reversible if caught and counteracted quickly enough. This simple premise undergirds the establishment of overdose prevention centers, like the two OnPoint centers that have been chugging along for years in Upper Manhattan. They've seen hundreds of overdoses reversed and zero deaths, along with clients directed to in-house treatment and recovery services, all under one roof. This painstaking labor requires and deserves support and funding, and they

Guest Editorial

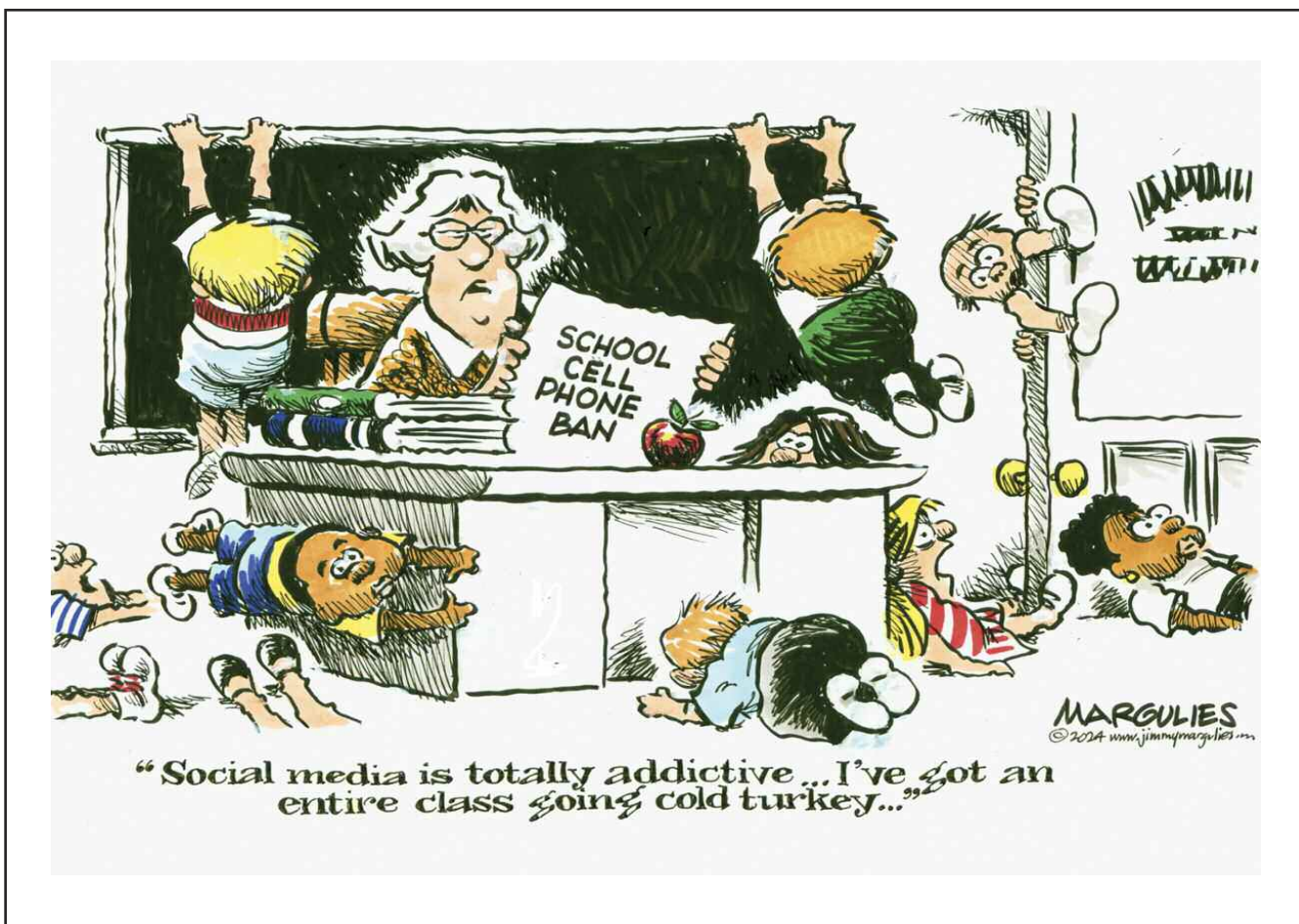
We should focus on providing pathways out of this cycle, which many of those afflicted will take if they're readily available.

should receive it without delay.

Beyond these centers, we need more people to be trained in and have access to opioid antagonists like naloxone, which Hochul properly highlighted. We commend the City Council for having last year passed a bill to stock naloxone in schools, though there's still a general dearth of availability in some of the neighborhoods it's most needed. Some critics balk at the idea of naloxone in public places, particularly schools, claiming it somehow encourages drug use. That's about as sensical an argument as saying the presence of fire extinguishers encourages arson. If and when someone is reaching for an extinguisher, things have already gone very wrong, but you're certainly glad to have one on hand.

As Hochul explained, there are a number of things that can keep people recovering and stable, including access to treatment, including inpatient treatment beds when necessary, medication-assisted treatment programs, mental health services and the general necessities of life, particularly housing.

Someone who is trying to stay on the path out of drug dependency will have a much easier time doing so if they have their own apartment to return to at the end of the day, as opposed to the chaotic environment of a shelter. Only all these things coming together can get the OD numbers to drop lower and lower.



Get serious or cede power

By TAYLOR J. SWIFT
The Fulcrum
Tribune News Service

The Supreme Court's recent decision to strike down a cornerstone of administrative law known as the Chevron doctrine represents a seismic shift in the balance of power between the three branches of government.

After 40 years of relying on federal agencies to interpret legislative ambiguities when implementing regulations, it's now up to courts to discern congressional intent. The Supreme Court did not "return" power to Congress, but it did put the onus on an under-resourced legislative branch to be much more clear in writing laws. If Congress fails to exercise its lawmaking power, it will cede power to the judiciary.

As the "first branch," Congress must now reassess its ability to fulfill this increased responsibility effectively. A recent House hearing highlighted the urgency of this issue: Witnesses called for Congress to increase its resources to ensure that lawmakers can respond to the needs of constituents, engage in effective lawmaking and maintain robust oversight.

Even with a spotlight on its diminished capacity, the House began summer recess early after failing to pass its latest legislative branch appropriations bill, underscoring the difficulty in securing the necessary funding to strengthen congressional operations. Provisions to increase funding for member and staff salaries should not be controversial, but are typically dead on arrival, leading to chronic underfunding and a congressional "brain drain" that has crippled the institution.

After decades of underinvestment, Congress must rebuild its workforce and equip its employees with the tools they need. The leg-

Taylor J. Swift



islative branch operates with roughly 1/120th of the resources of the executive branch. The legislative branch has only 31,000 employees across the House, Senate and support agencies with an annual budget of \$7 billion, while the executive branch employs 2.97 million individuals and operates with trillions of dollars annually. Funding for congressional operations has not kept pace with other increases in government spending, causing further imbalances and resource constraints.

Legislative branch appropriations have increased only 50 percent from fiscal 2001 to fiscal 2022 while non-defense discretionary spending grew by over 90% in the same period. And most increases in the legislative branch budget went to maintaining buildings and policing the Capitol rather than enhancing legislative capacity.

This constrained funding has taken a toll on the institution and its capacity. From 2011 to 2021, House staff salaries were effectively cut 20% when adjusting for inflation while the cost of living in the nation's capital significantly increased. And since the original Chevron decision in the 1980s, Congress has seen a 41% reduction in House committee staff and a 25% downsizing in critical support offices like the Congressional Research Service and the Government Accountability Office.

This decades-long lack of investment has also coincided with an

increase in legislative activity and oversight. The number of legislative drafting requests to the House Office of Legislative Counsel has surged by 76% since the 115th Congress, while the number of proposed amendments has increased by 39%. Despite this growing workload, the Office of Legislative Counsel's operating budget has increased by only 17% when adjusted for inflation.

Congress must build on recent modernization efforts to enhance its capacity and reassert its legislative authority. To provide stability, Congress could mandate that annual legislative branch appropriations increase proportionally with non-defense discretionary spending each fiscal year. Implementing this policy beginning in fiscal 2025 would tie legislative funding growth to the overall growth in federal discretionary budgets. Excluding the Capitol Police funding from this proportional growth policy would account for its unique budget needs.

This approach would prevent legislative capacity from lagging and enable investments in staff, technology, operations and infrastructure to support congressional duties. Stable funding would allow congressional offices and agencies to better project budgets over the long term and — most importantly — fortify the first branch of government's ability to fulfill its constitutional responsibilities.

The overturning of Chevron is a wakeup call for a Congress that has often found it difficult to invest in itself or hold its constitutional ground. The ball is on Congress' court, but if lawmakers don't step up, it will be the courts that run the game.

.....
Swift is director of government capacity at POPVOX Foundation.

The Commercial Review



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—Thomas Jefferson

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Raises ...

Continued from page 1
He suggested 5% raises for employees and 10% raises for supervisors.

Brock Farmer, superintendent of the water department, responded that he believes his employees deserve more than a 5% raise.

Council members Christy Curts, Randy Murphy, Donna Revolt, Bivens and Watson ultimately voted unanimously for the following increases:

- 5% for street, water and wastewater department employees, with 10% raises for the superintendents of those departments

- 5% raises for the police department (Watson, who made the motion for the increase, noted that officers received significant raises — 25% and higher — in early 2022 when the city eliminated its dispatcher positions.)

- 5% raises for clerk's office employees, council members and the mayor

- A 9% increase for the clerk-treasurer (Previous clerk-treasurer Tina Elliott took only a 3% raise for 2024 instead of the approved 7% but then retired a couple of months later.)

- 5% raises to the cap for the health and safety officer and zoning officer

- An increase to \$175 per week for the animal control officer from the current \$144

- 5% raises for park employees (Council also agreed that one-third of the funding will come from the park budget. Currently, all of the funding comes from the street department's budget.)

- Increases of 10% for the Dunkirk City Pool manager and lifeguards, and 5% raises for the assistant manager and all other pool employees.

- A 10% increase for city attorney Wes Schemenaur

No raises were given to the fire department. (Full-time firefighters had their salaries increased retroactive to July 1 in response to new federal rules that require overtime exempt employees to make at least \$43,888 annually. (The previous threshold was \$35,568.) The number will increase to \$58,656 beginning Jan. 1.

Also as part of the salary ordinance, council increased the clothing allowance for the police and fire departments by \$500 to \$1,500; removed overtime for firefighters; affirmed that police and their staff and firefighters should get comp time

5% increases approved for most employees

for working holidays while all other employees should be paid time-and-a-half for any hours worked; updated the ordinance to indicate that personal days begin getting paid out after 60 days and that health insurance coverage begins on the first day of employment.

The water and sewer rate increases, which council had already discussed at previous meetings, passed unanimously and with little discussion. They push the sewage rate to a minimum of \$17.38 per month, up from \$16.87 per month. The treatment rate is \$4.35 per 100 cubic feet.

The minimum water rate will increase to \$24.80 per month, up from \$24.08. The rate per 100 cubic feet used is \$18.56 for the first 133 cubic feet, \$9.31 for the next 1,533 cubic feet and \$7.78 for anything over 1,666 cubic feet.

Minimum rates increase based on the size of the water meter.

In other business, council:

- Learned from Robbins that his State of the City address will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10, at West Jay Community Center.

- Agreed to a Miller Pipeline proposal of \$23,118.21 to pay for damage the company caused to city water lines.

- Approved the following: a Downtown Revitalization Loan of \$25,000 for Firehouse BBQ & Blues; the purchase of two sets of "turn-out gear" for the fire department from Donley Safety of Indianapolis for \$6,490; buying signs for the fire station from Advanced Signs & Graphics of Muncie for \$1,908.69; and payment of claims totaling \$189,132.10.

- Heard from Robbins that new carpet has been installed in the city building and walls have been painted.

- Waived permit fees for the upcoming Indiana 167 rummage sale scheduled for Friday and Saturday, Sept. 6 and 7.

- Heard from Robbins that prep work to install the first phase of new water meters will start this week.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Secretary speaks

Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales speaks Saturday during a Republican event at Prescott Farms in rural Randolph County. Among several topics, Morales spoke about the importance of voting and invited Indiana residents to visit indianavoters.com.

Insurance ...

Continued from page 1

Also, responding to McGalliard, Dickman and Schweisthal confirmed the program would have a loss cap of \$1.5 million to the county, the height of which Schweisthal said would be a worst-case scenario.

USI Insurance offered to become a broker to the county for a partially self-funded program through Physicians Health Plan. The agreement would begin approximately 10 days after commissioners approved it. Currently, the county's broker is OneDigital.

McGalliard pointed out the City of Portland's insurance is partially self-funded and has been for a number of years. Its broker is Steve Stockton of Bixler Insurance, which also provides liability insurance to the county.

Commissioner Rex Journey added that Adams County has self-funded its employees' insurance for eight years. Still, Journey said he would like to see what Physicians Health Plan and other brokers have to offer in terms of partially self-funded plans.

McGalliard asked county auditor Emily Franks if switching to the partially self-funded program would reduce expenses for employees.

"I don't know that we want to change everything ... right in the middle of the year," said Franks, pointing to new Health Savings Accounts opened for employees.

Dickman said nothing about the plan design or Health Savings Accounts would change, noting the agreement would allow the company to become the county's broker for the remaining four months and handle the insurance renewal.

"I guess I would just ask for some time," responded Franks. "We've been with this broker for 15 years, that's not nothing. We've been with Steve since the '90s, he does the same thing for the City of Portland."

Journey and commissioner president Chad Aker both questioned why Physicians Health Plan hasn't offered such an option in the past.

"Kind of what our data shows is PHP has been making a pretty penny off the county for the last four years that we've seen, they have no financial incentive to change that," said Schweisthal.

Dickman said it will take time to make a switch and get data together for insurance renewal at the end of the year. Aker suggested commissioners gather information from other brokers and make a decision at their Sept. 23 meeting.

Commissioners tabled discussion on the topic.

In other business, commissioners Journey, McGalliard and Aker:

- Gave permission to Sheriff Ray Newton to purchase a 2024 Dodge Durango for \$43,183 from Thomas Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Highland to replace a totaled vehicle involved in a police chase in July; and highway superintendent Bob Howell to purchase a 2024 Chevy Silverado for \$52,287 from Ed Martin Chevrolet of Anderson to replace a 2008 Ford F-150.

- OK'd installing 300 feet of asphalt at the entrance to Helena Chemical Company just north of Pennville, along county road 500 North at its intersection with Indiana 1. Howell noted with the amount of truck traffic turning in and out of the business along its county road entrance, the chip and seal resurfacing may not last. The cost, \$60,341, will come out of the highway department's paving budget.

- Spoke with Bill Walters of East Central Indiana Regional Planning District, who shared updates about ongoing projects with the county, and community coordinator Nate Kimball, who suggested commissioners hold off on signing a con-

tract for radon testing for the owner-occupied rehabilitation program at least until the next meeting. County officials are waiting for a contract with an engineering firm for the project. There's also discussion ongoing with Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs regarding a \$5,000 cap on how much of the \$1 million grant — it made the program possible — may be used for the required radon testing.

- Approved \$3,482,708.49 in claims as well as a \$1,730.50 claim from Dell for a new computer setup for the quality correctional care nurse at Jay County Jail.

- Learned about concerns from Jay County resident Brad Barnett. Howell explained Barnett would like for commissioners to reduce the speed limit or install children at play signs along county road 300 West near Indiana 67.

- Heard from Karl Kaiser of rural Bryant, who asked commissioners to look into converting county road 850 North from stone to a hard surface. Aker noted the road committee determines which stone roads are converted each year — in years past, the county has converted an average of 5 to 7 miles annually — and told Kaiser how to get in contact with him so he could attend the next committee meeting.

- Heard Jay Emergency Medical Services' financial breakdown for July from director Gary Barnett. In July, the department had \$127,629.16 in expenses and \$95,160.24 in income. Also, Barnett noted his department will be looking to hire two full-time paramedics in the near future.

- Learned several highway department signs have been stolen this year. Howell noted the signs are labeled as property of Jay County and have an inventory number marked on them.

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Uncanny approach

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 9 5 3
♥ 6 4
♦ K 10 7 3
♣ A K 7

WEST
♠ J 7 4
♥ Q 9 7 5 2
♦ A 5
♣ 10 4 2

EAST
♠ Q 10 6
♥ J 8 3
♦ Q 6 2
♣ J 9 8 3

SOUTH
♠ K 8 2
♥ A K 10
♦ J 9 8 4
♣ Q 6 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1♦ Pass 1♠ Pass
1NT Pass 3NT Pass
Opening lead—five of hearts.

There are plays in bridge that on the surface seem to make no sense, but that are nevertheless entirely logical when analyzed more closely. For example, consider this deal taken from "Test Your Finishing" by Scottish expert Hugh Kelsey.

Assume you're in this notrump and West leads a low heart. You win East's jack with the king, and the question is how to give yourself the best chance for the contract. Of course, you see only the North-South hands while you try to figure this out.

You have seven sure tricks, and it is obvious that the best source for the two additional tricks you need lies in diamonds. It might therefore seem automatic to lead the jack of diamonds at trick two, planning to follow low from dummy and hoping to find West with the queen. If West has the queen (a 50-50 chance), you're certain to make the contract.

But alas, this method of play fails when East wins the jack with the queen and returns a heart. Eventually, you lose three heart tricks and two diamonds and so finish down one.

Kelsey points out that there's a much better approach that is far more likely to succeed: cross to the king of clubs at trick two and lead the three of diamonds toward your hand at trick three! If East has the Q-x or Q-x-x of diamonds, he is virtually certain to follow low, and if he does, you're sure to get home safely.

Furthermore, even if West has the queen of diamonds, you are also in great shape. He wins with the queen but cannot make an effective return. Whatever he does next, you make three notrump.

To tackle diamonds by leading low from dummy's K-10-x-x toward your J-9-8-x certainly goes against the grain, but in this deal, it is surely your best bet.

Tomorrow: Defense is a thoughtful process.
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Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



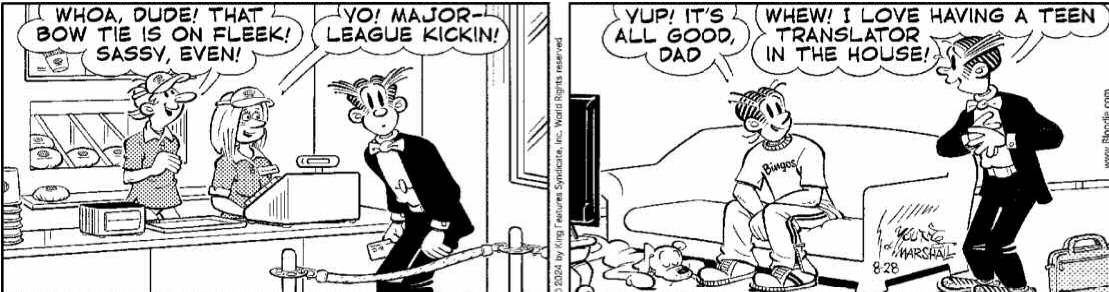
Hi and Lois



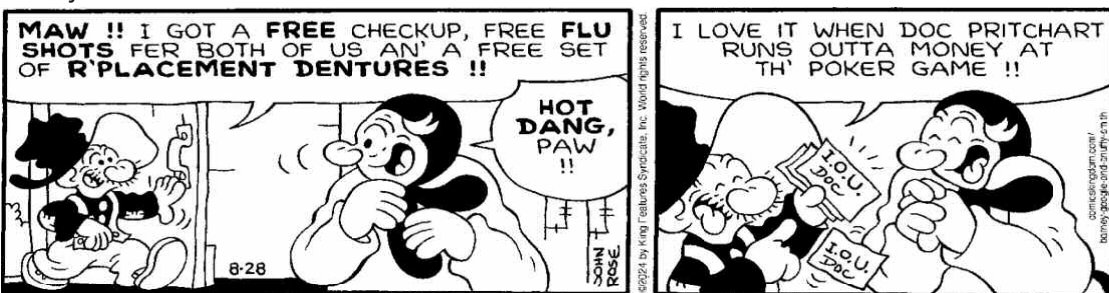
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



8-28

CRYPTOQUIP

IPQSVURONSBQF AVNMBQF N
XNBMRBVIV, SXNS KVOOPA
CVRS NECBQF XBUEVOK

"SPYRVV PM QPS SPYRVV?"
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT CLASSIFICATION OF POOCHES DO YOU THINK WOULD LIKELY BE THE BEST AT RACING CARS? LAP DOGS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals G

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Bikini tops
5 Young bloke
8 Recipe amts.
12 Piece of hardware
13 Actress Thurman
14 Water color?
15 Noise-free Amtrak offering
17 Engine noise
18 Hot and humid
19 Kathmandu native
21 Singer Lana—Rey
22 Lost traction
23 Lobbyists' org.
26 Quibble
28 Early Peruvian
31 Rocky outcrop
33 Web address
35 Up for it

36 Wash thoroughly
38 Gmail alter-native
40 Decay
41 "Star Wars" royal
43 "That—close!"
45 Raises hosts
47 Roast
51 "Sad to say ..."
52 Radiators and axles, e.g.
54 Till bills
55 Verse by Pablo Neruda
56 Gum flavor

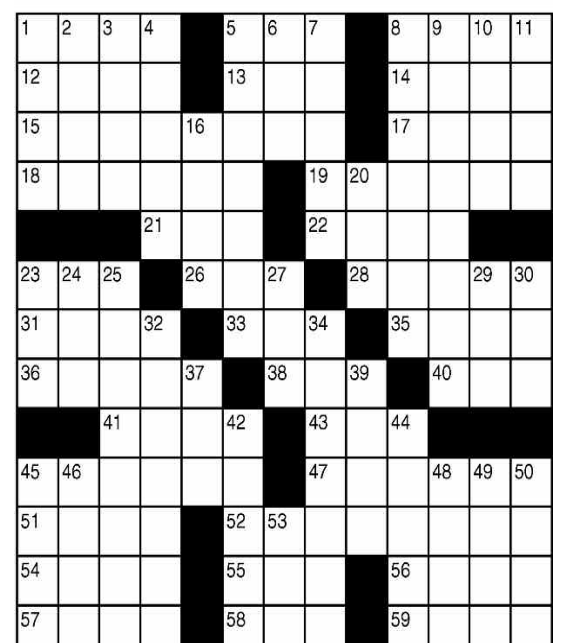
57 Canadian gas brand
58 Rocker Nugent
59 Global septet

10 Knitting stitch
11 Draped garment
16 Fed. agents
20 Yalie
23 Mac rivals
24 Curved line
25 Offerings for auto buyers
27 —la-la
29 "I love," in Latin
30 Mosquito barrier
32 "I suppose"
34 Reduced
37 Morsel
39 Genie's home
42 Natty necktie
44 Con games
45 De-crease
46 Spanish cheers
48 Huron neighbor
49 Sicilian volcano
50 Bygone fleet
53 Citric beverage

Solution time: 23 mins.

ALMA CAB MOPS
REAM ADA AREA
MACY GRAY TESS
SRS RAM SCOTS
MAT BAH
BEGIN WINGNUT
ODIN OHO AARE
BUTTERY SMELT
GET LIE
CADRE OAR MRI
OPTIE MAKEGOOD
MEME IKE ELIE
ASSN ASS EELS

Yesterday's answer 8-28



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First ...

Continued from page 8
Gillespie noted that it was big for Pinkerton to finish out a match after leading in multiple but not sealing the deal.
Kadyn Carpenter and Alex Miller fell for the only JCHS loss. Brennan Hoggatt and Jacob Thornburg defeated the freshmen duo 6-1, 6-2.
While Jay County only has one tally in the win column this year, they are happy to get it, with Grif-

fin describing it as a “burden lifted off (their) shoulders.”
“I’ll leave here tonight, a lot happier than I was when I walked in,” Gillespie said. “I think the kids getting a win is a big advantage. ... When I have kids leaving here saying ‘Hey, what time is practice tomorrow?’ I’ve got them where they want to be and I’m ready to ride this now.”

Junior varsity
The Patriots only took one of four

junior varsity matches against Union City.
Jacob Monroe opened up his season with an 8-0 win over Grant Elliot.
Carson Westgerdes couldn’t overcome Elliot, falling 8-4.
In a pair of doubles matches, the Indians duo of Gabe Tapp and Gabe Thomas defeated came out on top.
They beat Troy Lee and Kason Sims 6-5 before topping Joseph Nichols and Clark Wellman 6-4.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Thursday
Jay County — Cross country vs. Fort Recovery — 5:30 p.m.; Girls soccer at Coldwater — 6 p.m.; Volleyball at Muncie Central — 6 p.m.; Boys soccer vs. Delta — 7:30 p.m.; Junior high cross country at Belmont — 5 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys golf vs. New Knoxville — 4:30 p.m.; Cross country at Jay County — 5:30 p.m.; Volleyball (including freshmen) at Marion Local — 5:30 p.m.; Middle school football vs. Minster — 5 p.m.

TV sports

Tuesday
12 p.m. — Grand Slam tennis: U.S. Open (ESPN)
6:45 p.m. — Grand Slam tennis: U.S.

Open (ESPN)
7 p.m. — WNBA: Connecticut Sun at Indiana Fever (Bally Indiana)
10 p.m. — College girls soccer: BYU at UCLA (BTN)
Thursday
9:15 a.m. — Paralympic men’s and women’s track (USA)
11:30 a.m. — Paralympic swimming (USA)
12 p.m. — Grand Slam tennis: U.S. Open (ESPN)
3:30 p.m. — Paralympic basketball: USA vs. Canada (tap)
5:10 p.m. — MLB: Oakland Athletics at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)
6 p.m. — College football: Howard at Rutgers (BTN)

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power washer, Tools & utility cabinets. Several items not mentioned. OWNERS; ESTATE OF GARY W KELLY
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Public Notice

NOTICE OF SHERIFF’S SALE TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

By virtue of a certified copy of Decree of Foreclosure to me directed from the Clerk of the Superior Court of Allen County, Indiana, in Cause No. 02D03-2307-MF-000225, wherein 6723 West Jefferson Boulevard Holdings, LLC, is successor by assignment to Plaintiff, Wilmington Trust, National Association, as Trustee for the Benefit of the Registered Holders of JPMBB Commercial Mortgage Securities Trust 2015-C33, Commercial Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2015-C33, and Defendants AT Jefferson Center FW IN Owner, LLC, AT Lima Plaza FW IN Owner, LLC, AT Max FW IN Owner, LLC, AT Pine Valley FW IN Owner, LLC, AT Portland Commons IN Owner, LLC, and Non-Record Claimants and Unknown Owners are the Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and costs, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder on the 8th day of October, 2024, at the hour of 2:00 p.m. of said day at the Allen County Sheriff’s Department, 715 S. Calhoun St., Suite 101, Fort Wayne, IN 46802, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Jay County, Indiana:

COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF OUTLOT 8 IN THE WOODLAWN PARK (ADDITION TO THE CITY OF PORTLAND, INDIANA: THENCE AT A POINT WHERE THE WEST LINE OF HICKORY ALLEY INTERSECTS THE NORTH LINE OF NORTH STREET; THENCE WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID NORTH STREET A DISTANCE OF 204.00 FEET TO AN IRON PIN FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST (ASSUMED BEARING) ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF NORTH STREET A DISTANCE OF 345.50 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 12 MINUTES 10 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 413.40 FEET TO AN IRON PIN ON THE SOUTH LINE OF VOTAW STREET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF VOTAW STREET A DISTANCE OF 314.50 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 12 MINUTES 10 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 206.70 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 31.00 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 12 MINUTES 10 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 206.70 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.
Parcel Nos. 38-07-20-201-001.000-034 and 38-07-20-201-025.000-034. Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws. All sales are subject to any first and prior liens, taxes and assessments legally levied and assessed thereon. Neither the Sheriff nor the Plaintiff in this case warrants either expressly or impliedly any title, location or legal description of any real estate sold at the sale. Any prospective bidder should obtain their own title evidence before making any bid on any properties subject to this sale.

Sheriff of Allen County Attorney for Plaintiff: Jared C. Helge, Esq. Rothberg Logan & Warsaw LLP 505 E. Washington Blvd. Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802 (260) 422-9454

CR 8-28-9-4-11-2024 HSPAXLP- HSPAXLP

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA, SS: JAY COUNTY
To whom it may concern: Notice is hereby given that at 9:15am on the 9th day of September 2024 there will be a hearing in the Auditorium of the Courthouse, City of Portland, Jay County, Indiana for the purpose of increasing the annual assessments on all legal drains, open and tiled, located in the AB Butcher Watershed.
The Schedule of Reassessments made by the Jay County Drainage Board has been filed and is available for public inspection in the office of the Jay County Surveyor.
The proposed increase for the AB Butcher Watershed per acre assessment is an increase from \$2.00 per acre to \$3.50 per acre and the minimum lot/plot assessment proposed is from \$20.00 per lot/plot to \$35.00 per lot/plot.
Jay County Drainage Board
Chad Aker
Brian McCalliard
Rex Journey
CR/NS 8-28-2023- HSPAXLP

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA, SS: JAY COUNTY
To whom it may concern: Notice is hereby given that at 9:15am on the 9th day of September 2024 there will be a hearing in the Auditorium of the Courthouse, City of Portland, Jay County, Indiana for the purpose of increasing the annual assessments on all legal drains, open and tiled, located in the John Thornburg Watershed.
The Schedule of Reassessments made by the Jay County Drainage Board has been filed and is available for public inspection in the office of the Jay County Surveyor.
The proposed increase for the John Thornburg Watershed per acre assessment is an increase from \$2.50 per acre to \$3.50 per acre and the minimum lot/plot assessment proposed is from \$25.00 per lot/plot to \$35.00 per lot/plot.
Jay County Drainage Board
Chad Aker
Brian McCalliard
Rex Journey
CR/NS 8-28-2024- HSPAXLP

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The Schedule of Reassessments made by the Jay County Drainage Board has been filed and is available for public inspection in the office of the Jay County Surveyor.
The proposed increase for the WS Manor Watershed per acre assessment is an increase from \$2.50 per acre to \$3.50 per acre and the minimum lot/plot assessment proposed is from \$25.00 per lot/plot to \$35.00 per lot/plot.
Jay County Drainage Board
Chad Aker
Brian McCalliard
Rex Journey
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Public Notice

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of Jay County, Indiana that the proper legal officers of Jay County Council at the Jay County Court House, at 6:00 o'clock p.m., on the 11th day of September, 2024 will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the budget for the current year.

	Amount Approved
COUNTY GENERAL	
1000-002-10-0145 Wages- Auditor Stipend	\$2,500.00
1000-201-30-0055 Superior Court- Court Appointed Doctors/Psych	\$4,

Olivia Knapke medals for third match in a row, see story below

Jay County hosts FRHS cross country today, see Sports on tap

Sports

First time for everything

Four Patriots get first varsity win as Jay rolls to first team victory

By **ANDREW BALKO**

The Commercial Review

Tucker Griffin was an eighth grader the last time he picked up a tennis racquet in a competitive match before August.

After dropping his first three matches of his varsity career, the senior finally tasted some success.

He wasn't the only one, as three more Patriots secured their first career victories to power the team to its first of the year as well.

The Jay County High School boys tennis team picked up its first win of the year, beating sectional foe, the Union City Indians 4-1 on Monday.

The Patriots (1-5) struggled with the beginning third of their season as the front-loaded schedule – including New Castle and Connoersville, which are ranked fifth and sixth in District 4 – resulted in five-straight losses before they picked off the Indians (1-2).

"I feel a lot better," said JCHS coach Donald Gillespie. "I told (assistant coach Andrea) Garringer before the match '4-1, us.' If we weren't going to get 4-1, I was going to be concerned tonight ...

"If you look at my record the last four years, it's always been 1-4, 1-5. It was the way we were getting beat that disappointed me. When you're getting beat ... and only had one point in five matches it gets a little concerning.

"So I thought the kids came back tonight and played really well."

Before Monday, No. 1 singles player Eli Dirksen owned the only point for Jay County in a 6-3, 6-2 victory at Norwell on Aug. 22. He repeated his luck with a swift 6-0, 6-1 victory over Kolton Mills of UCHS.

"Eli does his own thing," Gillespie said. "He's going to get a lot of wins and we know that, but we've got to find two more."

Dirksen secured the second point of the match for the Patriots. The first came from Griffin, a transfer from New Castle, who picked tennis backup for the first time since junior high.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School senior swings his forehand during the Patriots' 4-1 win over Union City on Tuesday. Griffin along with seniors Gabe Pinkerton, Blake Kahlig and Carter Wellman notched their first career victories on varsity.

Griffin dropped his first three matches of the year, only winning one game before dominating Anthony Wyatt for a 6-1, 6-0 win in the No. 2 doubles contest.

"I felt pretty excited," Griffin said. "You know it's the first varsity win for me and first high school win ... I just felt a lot more confident. I've been playing a lot more with Eli trying to build up that confidence and I felt pretty confident coming into today."

The senior found most of his success when he executed his serves and by playing the ball to allow Wyatt to make mistakes rather than forcing action.

That style of play was on display in the second set as Griffin focused on returning the ball, allowing Wyatt to hit long twice, hit his backhand wide left and double fault for the win.

The match ended similarly as Wyatt ran up on a short ball that he skied over to the right side of the court. Griffin made it to the side in time to hit, but patiently waited for the ball to come down and allow it to land right of the line to win without needing to swing.

"I always try and get to everything," Griffin said. "That kind of what I pride myself on, the

hustle there, so no matter what I try to get to it. He was making mistakes today, so I just let it happen.

A pair of new varsity players secured the third point – their first of the season – for the Patriots to win the match. In their fifth match together, Blake Kahlig and Carter Wellman claimed their first varsity victory 6-4, 6-1 over Levi Clark and Luis Nieto.

The Patriots went back and forth with Clark and Nieto in the first set before pulling away with the win, while dominating the second set, getting up 3-0 and closing out the final three. In the final

game, Kahlig made a trio of mistakes in a row to go down 40-15 before redeeming himself with a pair of volleys to score and a forehand that neither Indian could reach to claim the match.

"They were talking to each other," Gillespie said. "If you don't talk in doubles you're done. ... Communication was better. Not where we needed it but we were better."

Gabe Pinkerton pulled out his first varsity win as well, holding down Keegan Livingston in the No. 3 singles contest for a 6-2, 6-1 triumph.

See First page 7

Tribe girls golf breaks 190 to beat Cavaliers

Sometimes making bets that feel safe backfires on you.

Due to a bet with his team, coach Jeff Vaughn's hair will be no more.

Vaughn lost a bet with the Fort Recovery High School girls golf team on Monday, as it broke 190 in its 185-206 win over the Coldwater Cavaliers at Portland Golf Course.

Fort Recovery (7-2, 5-0 Midwest Athletic Conference) stays undefeated in league play with the victory. The Indians hold a one-game lead for first in the MAC as the Minster Wildcats (4-1 MAC) beat Parkway on Monday.

Local roundup

Olivia Knapke shot a 45 to earn match medalist honors for the third match in a row and fourth of the year.

The Cavaliers' top score came from Kate Hemmelgarn out of the No. 5 position as she shot a 48. Emma Will tied Hemmelgarn to provide the fourth-best score for the Indians.

Mallory Evers and Evvie

Briner finished one stroke behind Knapke with 46s to make up the other scores for Fort Recovery.

Georgia Wenning and Eva Kahlig shot rounds of 49 and 54, respectively, but didn't affect the final.

The Indians also won the junior varsity match 229-261. Rylee Bubp shot the low of 55 to lead the Indians.

Other scores came from Liza Knapke (57), Cora Pearson (58) and Emily Boeckman (59).

Golfers slip

CELINA, Ohio — Despite a breaking 170, the Fort Recovery boys golf team

fell to the Coldwater Cavaliers 165-169 at Mercer County Elks Golf Club on Monday for its second MAC loss.

Reece LeFevre and Keegan Muhlenkamp both shot 41s to lead the Indians (5-3, 3-2 MAC). LeFevre made par on five straight holes and added three bogeys. Muhlenkamp birdied the par-5 first hole, while shooting par one three more holes.

The pair of Indians got beat out by Tyler Overman, who had a 38, for the match medalist title.

Eli Lennartz also birdied the first hole, while making par on the seventh, eighth

and ninth en route to a 42. Caleb Smith added a 45 for the final FRHS score. He shot three pars and four bogeys.

Scores of 46 and 49 from Mason Diller and Colson Post didn't impact the team score.

Tigers get away

BLUFFTON — The Bluffton Tigers took down the Jay County girls golf team 193-240 at Timber Ridge Golf Course on Monday.

Maddy Snow led the way for the Patriots (1-4, 1-3 Allen County Athletic Conference) with a 46, the second-best score in the

match. Snow made par twice in the match on the par-5 13th hole and the par-4 18th hole. She also shot four bogeys.

Bluffton's Emma Schwartz earned match medalist honors with a 42.

Brooklynn Bright and Bailey Towell finished two strokes apart from each other with a 61 and 63, respectively. Bright was the only Patriot outside of Snow to shoot a bogey. It came on the 18th hole.

Erin Aker rounded out Jay County's score with a 70.

Jenna Bricker followed with a 71 that didn't contribute to the team's final.

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GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

Chiefs to re-sign Smith-Schuster

By **BLAIR KERKHOFF**

The Kansas City Star

Tribune News Service

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Kansas City Chiefs are expected to bring back a familiar talent to their wide receivers group.

JuJu Smith-Schuster is expected to sign with the Chiefs, a source confirmed to The Kansas City Star. The news was reported first by NFL Network's Tom Pelissero.

After spending his first five NFL seasons with the Pittsburgh Steelers, Smith-Schuster played for the Chiefs in 2022, when he recorded 78 receptions for 933 yards and three touchdowns. He had 10 catches in the playoffs as the Chiefs won Super Bowl LVII.

After that season in Kansas City, Smith-Schuster signed with the

New England Patriots, and recorded 29 receptions in seven games.

Returning to Kansas City, he'll join a wide receiver room that welcomes Marquise "Hollywood" Brown and first-round draft pick Xavier Worthy.

Brown likely will miss the season-opening game on Sept. 5 against the Baltimore Ravens after suffering a shoulder injury in the Chiefs' first pre-season game.

Other wide receiver candidates include Rashee Rice, Justin Watson, Skyy Moore, Mecole Hardman, Justyn Ross, Kadarius Toney, Nikko Remigio and Cornell Powell. The Chiefs figure to keep six or seven from the group.

Brown, Worthy, Rice and Watson appear to be locks to make the roster.