

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



Special to The Commercial Review/Samantha Thomas

S'more fun

Brooklyn Herriford, 6, gets her marshmallow topped off at the smores table during the Bryant Chili and Fun Night Saturday sponsored by the Town of Bryant and the Jay County Trails Club.

County bridges need repairs

Two roads are closed due to unsafe structures

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Some of the county's bridges are beginning to deteriorate.

Jay County needs to put together a plan for how to handle the issue moving forward.

Jay County Commissioners heard Monday about two road closures on county roads caused by unsafe bridges and the highway department's inability to fund repairs or replacements.

Jay County Highway Department superintendent Bob Howell explained the bridges on county road 700 West between 200 South and 300 South and on county road 600 West north of Indiana 26 are closed until further notice.

He pointed to two bridge repairs or replacements set for 2026 on county road 350 West between county road 50 North and 200 North and county road 1100 West between Division Road and county road 100 North that are mainly funded on a federal level, as well as another bridge replacement set for Portland's Seventh Street bridge over the Salamonie River mainly funded by Community Crossings for next year.

Combining all the bridge work, the highway department doesn't have enough funding in its budget to make the necessary repairs or replacements to the bridges on county roads 700 West and 600 West. Howell suggested commissioners allocate more funding, cut or decrease road conversions next year or come up with another plan to make the repairs or replacements soon.

See **Budget** page 2

See **Bridges** page 5

Dunkirk reviews '25 budget

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — The city got a first look at its proposed budget for 2025.

Before the new year comes, it will also need to make decisions about how to spend some federal funding.

Dunkirk City Council held its first reading and public hearing for the 2025 budget Monday and discussed the process for spending its remaining coronavirus relief funds from the federal American Rescue Plan Act.

Council members also heard from Mayor Jack Robbins regarding the potential purchase of land for housing on the south side of the city.

The 2025 budget was

City must commit American Rescue Plan Act funds by end of the year

presented at just over \$2.7 million, which is down from \$2.74 million for 2024. A chunk of the budget in both years — about \$500,000 in 2024 and \$360,000 in 2025 — involves spending of American Rescue Plan Act funds. With those federal dollars removed, the budget is planned to increase about 5.1% over 2024.

The general fund

makes up the bulk of the 2025 budget at \$1.71 million. Other major funds include \$319,010 in motor vehicle highway, \$135,000 in local option income tax (LOIT) public safety and \$100,000 in economic development income tax (EDIT).

No members of the public, other than local media, attended the meeting and public hearing,

so there was no public comment on the budget.

Council will consider the budget for adoption at its Oct. 28 meeting.

Clerk-treasurer Kara Lowe also reminded council members that American Rescue Plan Act funds must be committed by the end of this year and spent by the end of 2026. County attorney Wes Schemenaur noted that committing the funds requires that they be under contract by the end of the year.

"There's a number of ways to do it, but we just need to be aware of that and get that contract with a vendor or contractor in place, or identify that other agency of government that we are

going to commit that money to," he said, adding that the contract needs to be binding. (Once the money is committed, it can't be pulled back and used for a different purpose.)

Robbins said plans call for using some of the funds to cover the installation of video and audio equipment for live-streaming meetings — it will be required by state law on July 1, 2025 — and said the city could consider using some of the money to repair and replace fire hydrants.

"It's not problem spending that amount of money, it's just putting it where it's needed," said Robbins.

Former sheriff sentenced

By CASEY SMITH

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Former Clark County Sheriff and longtime Republican operative Jamey Noel could spend upwards of a decade in prison after a judge accepted his guilty pleas to more than a dozen felony charges in court Monday. The plea deal brings a close to Noel's portion of the case — dubbed the largest in agency history by state police — but other investigations are ongoing.

Noel was originally charged with 31 felonies for allegedly misusing money from the fire and EMS departments which he oversaw. He pleaded guilty to 27 of those in August.

Special Judge Larry Medlock, of Washington County, officially accepted Noel's plea following two hours of victim testimony in open court on Monday. Twenty-one statements were provided, including from members of law enforcement who formerly worked with or under Noel, and by Hoosiers in Clark County and neighboring communities whose lives have been "upended" by the former sheriff's actions.

Noel pleaded guilty to 27 felonies in August

In many cases described, it was Noel's mismanagement of millions in taxpayer dollars which victims said will scar their families and communities for "years to come."

"As firefighters, first responders and public servants, we take a higher oath. We are held to a higher standard of integrity," said Roger Montgomery Jr., a first responder who worked for Noel from 2005 to 2011. Montgomery said firefighters and paramedics lacked proper equipment under Noel's command, and that emergency personnel were tasked with driving Noel's personal "limousines," sometimes leaving just one firefighter on duty — and "putting citizens' lives in jeopardy."

He said, too, that non-emer-

gency transfers were often prioritized over 911 calls because those runs netted "more money" from Medicare and Medicaid.

"Jamey Noel has betrayed the trust of the public, and any first responder — or anyone else that's ever worn a badge and taken that oath," Montgomery continued. "He did so knowingly and willingly for personal gain, and that personal gain was put ahead of patients and the lives of the people that worked for him."

Noel, who appeared in court shackled and wearing an orange jumpsuit and pink handcuffs, was mostly expressionless at the defense table during Monday's hearing.

See **Sentenced** page 5



Indiana Capital Chronicle/Casey Smith

Indiana State Police Superintendent Doug Carter provides testimony during a court hearing on Monday at the County Circuit Court in Jeffersonville, Indiana. Former Clark County Sheriff Jamey Noel could spend upwards of a decade in prison after a judge accepted his guilty pleas to more than a dozen felony charges in court Monday.

Deaths

Bonnie Morgan, 83, La Grande, Oregon
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 55 degrees Monday. The low was 46.

Tonight's low will be in the lower 30s with widespread frost expected after midnight. Skies will be sunny Thursday with a high in the lower 60s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Public Library will host its Fall into Fun event from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday in partnership with Jay County Farm Bureau. The event will include pumpkin picking and painting, fall crafts, wagon rides, outdoor games and inflatables. Hot chocolate and apple cider will be provided.

Coming up

Thursday — Coverage of this week's Redkey Town Council special meeting.

Friday — Details from this week's Portland Board of Aviation meeting.

Saturday — Results from the JCHS football game against Heritage.



Budget ...

Continued from page 1
Schemenaur said he will share a presentation he created for county government officials — he also serves as the attorney for Jay County — that explains the process and rules for committing the funds.
Robbins also informed the council that Dunkirk Industrial Development Corporation has reached a tentative agreement with Brian Addington to purchase nearly 10 acres of land in

the area behind Dollar General, 1001 S. Main St. He noted that the city would have right-of-way access to the parcel from Indiana 167 (Main Street).
The mayor said plans call for bringing in a developer to look at the parcel and determine if it fits with Dunkirk Industrial Development Corporation's plans for housing development. (He said it would likely involve apartment housing.) If the land is considered feasible for the

project, Robbins will return to council with a formal purchase proposal and additional details.
In other business, council members Jesse Bivens, Christy Curts, Dan Watson, Donna Revolt and Randy Murphy:
•Learned from Revolt that the connection between the Dunkirk City Park walking trail and the sidewalk along Highland Avenue does not meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Robbins said he

believes the issue cropped up because of the lag time between the sidewalk and trail projects being completed. Indiana Department of Transportation will handle the work to make the connection ADA compliant.
•OK'd \$16,608 in work by Peerless Midwest to rebuild a pump at the water treatment plant.
•Approved a \$200 sponsorship for the Jay County Junior-

Senior High School show choirs. (Robbins noted that the choirs typically perform at the city's Feel the Warmth of Christmas celebration.)
•Heard from Robbins that a police vehicle that had been out for repairs is back in service.
•Approved payment of claims totaling \$297,626.73.
•Heard the city received a thank you card from Secret Families Christmas Charity of Jay County for its sponsorship.

CR almanac

Thursday 10/17	Friday 10/18	Saturday 10/19	Sunday 10/20	Monday 10/21
62/36	66/37	71/42	73/45	75/49
Thursday's forecast shows frost in the morning. Otherwise, sunny skies.	Friday looks to be sunny with the low dipping into the 30s at night.	Sunny skies and cool temperatures Saturday, when the low will be in the lower 40s.	Another day of sun is in the forecast for Sunday. The high may climb to 73.	Monday's forecast looks to be sunny with a high in the mid 70s.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 14-18-33-64-67 Power Ball: 14 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$408 million	Daily Four: 0-6-3-5 Quick Draw: 12-16-23-30-34-35-41-46-49-50-55-56-57-60-62-65-68-71-72-79 Cash 5: 19-21-24-26-31 Estimated jackpot: \$206,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$169 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 9-6-4 Pick 4: 6-1-5-0 Pick 5: 4-4-5-9-8 Evening Pick 3: 0-8-8 Pick 4: 7-6-4-7 Pick 5: 6-4-4-7-8 Rolling Cash: 7-16-23-24-34 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 2-5-2 Daily Four: 8-7-6-3 Quick Draw: 1-2-10-11-13-14-20-22-26-28-37-47-49-68-72-73-75-76-79-80 Evening Daily Three: 4-9-4	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....3.52 Dec. corn.....3.82 Wheat.....4.80	Dec. beans.....9.78 Wheat.....5.30
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....3.47 Dec. corn.....3.82 Jan. corn.....4.02	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.52 Oct. corn.....3.54 Beans.....9.35 Oct. beans.....9.47 Wheat.....5.19
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....3.47 Nov. corn.....3.47 Beans.....9.30	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....3.37 Nov. corn.....3.37 Beans.....9.20 Nov. beans.....9.35 Wheat.....5.00

Today in history

In 1793, Marie-Antoinette was guillotined as the French Revolution began.
In 1813, Napoleon Bonaparte's forces were defeated by Prussia, Austria and Russia amid the Battle of Leipzig. The battle was dubbed the largest of its kind in Europe prior to World War I.
In 1847, Charlotte Bronte published "Jane Eyre" under her pen name, Currer Bell.
In 1854, Abraham Lincoln gave his Peoria Speech on the lawn at Peoria County Courthouse in Illinois.
In 1923, the Walt Disney Company was founded under brothers Walt and Roy Disney. Originally created as the Disney Brothers Cartoon Studio, it became a leading entertainment industry.
In 1946, ten of 12 defendants in the Nuremberg trials were executed for their crimes against peace, war crimes and humanity amid World War II.
— The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.	ty Country Living Advisory Board, Jay County Country Living, 1194 E. 200 South, Portland.
Thursday 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 Mooney St. 6 p.m. — Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.	5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery School Board, community room, high school, 400 E. Butler St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
Monday 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Jay Coun-	Oct. 23 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.

Obituaries

Bonnie Morgan

Aug. 17, 1941-Oct. 6, 2024
Bonnie Jean Morgan, 83, of La Grande, Oregon, passed away on Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024, at a local care facility.
A Celebration of Life will be held on Memorial Day 2025.
Bonnie was born on Aug. 17, 1941, in Melrose Park, Illinois, to Roy and Dorothy (Toerpe) Porter. She resided in Dale, Indiana; Evansville, Indiana; Portland, Indiana; Helena, Montana; and La Grande, Oregon. She graduated from Dale High School and then attended Indiana State University and Ball State University. She married Robert D. Morgan in 1960.
Bonnie was a librarian for South-

ern Wells School in Indiana and a reference librarian for Montana Historical Society. She trained horses for riding and packing, loved going on trail rides, parades, wagon trains, pleasure drives, crafting, sewing, weaving and fiber arts. She started horse expo in Helena, Montana, and arranged the first carriage show in Helena, Montana.
Bonnie is survived by her husband, Robert; children, Scott E. Morgan of Hoodspert, Washington, Amy M. Seiders (Keith) of Olympia, Washington, Todd E. Morgan (Lisa) of Concord, California, and Martin W. Morgan (Natalie) of Placerville, California; five grandchildren, Dalton Morgan, Kaitlin Morgan, Joshua Morgan, Colton Morgan and Emily Morgan Campos (Yosvan

Campos); one great-grandchild, Ximena Campos; and 19 nieces and nephews.
She was preceded in death by her grandson, Ryan Morgan.
In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to your local library or school library.
Condolences may be made to the family at lovelandfuneralchapel.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.

Cleaver calls for bold response

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.
CQ-Roll Call
Tribune News Service
WASHINGTON — Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II, ranking member of the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, says the policy response to hurricanes Helene and Milton should be as wide-ranging and impactful as the storms that hit the Southeast.
"I think we've got to be bold," the Missouri Democrat said in an interview with CQ about Congress' next steps following the disasters. "A lot of forward-thinking people realize these two hurricanes may be a cautionary tale. What's coming down the road may make these look like a spring rain shower. We are not prepared for that."
That vision may clash with the

stance of the Republican majority, which sees a narrower mission to recover from the storms' immediate damage.
Cleaver is first seeking to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program for several years, as opposed to the series of short-term extensions Congress has enacted since 2017, including in the current fiscal 2025 continuing resolution that funds the government through Dec. 20.
"If we reauthorize for one year or two years, that's not being bold," Cleaver said. "If we could get it reauthorized for seven, I think we would be producing actions based on bold decisions."
The next step, he said, would bolster the Federal Emergency Management Agency's ability to analyze areas most vulnerable to floods.

"We desperately need to initiate a massive mapping program to help forecast changes in the environment which can inform us about necessary congressional decision-making on flood risk," Cleaver said. "Rivers move, water plains actually move and sometimes they even go backward."
And, in what would be a major change, Cleaver suggests creating a single pool of disaster insurance for floods, terrorism and crops.
Some of these ideas mirror those promoted by House Financial Services ranking member Maxine Waters, D-Calif. Waters on Oct. 3 called for debt forgiveness and long-term reauthorization for the flood insurance program, modernization of flood-mapping technologies and other steps to address climate-related disasters.

Roads blown up, warning shots fired

By SOO-HYANG CHOI
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service
North Korea blew up sections of roads in its own territory that are part of links once used to connect the southern part of the peninsula with the north, in a show of defiance after it accused Seoul of flying drones over Pyongyang.
North Korea detonated bombs north of its eastern and western borders at around noon on Tuesday, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said. South Korea's military later fired off warning shots within its border, according to the JCS, which also confirmed there were no reports of damage in South Korea from the detonations.
A video released by the South Korean military showed smoke billowing from roads following an explosion, with North Korean troops monitoring the operations nearby.
South Korea strongly condemned the move, call-

ing it an "extremely abnormal" act that violates inter-Korean agreements. The roads were built as a cooperative project between the two Koreas, with Seoul providing materials and equipment for construction.
While the incidents reflect an escalation of tensions on the peninsula, they don't signal the imminent start of a military conflict, analysts say. North Korea has tended in the past to engage in provocative acts in the runup to major political events overseas, including U.S. elections.
"The explosion is a symbolic move to highlight that Pyongyang now sees South Korea as an enemy state," said Park Won Gon, a professor at South Korea's Ewha Womans University, specializing in international relations. "It was not a direct provocation to South Korea, so Seoul is unlikely to overreact to it to further escalate tensions."

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COVID-19 suggestions and restrictions will be in place.

Husband irked by situation

DEAR ABBY: Recently, my wife and I and several other couples were houseguests in a large home. Among them was a couple who, when introduced, mentioned that the husband was a chiropractor. The following day, as we were all watching TV, my wife mentioned having neck and arm discomfort. The chiropractor offered to adjust her neck and back and they left.

After 30 minutes, I became concerned. After an hour, other guests were raising their eyebrows. I checked the house and couldn't find them, but I didn't look in bedrooms with closed doors. After 90 minutes, I quietly asked his wife where they were, and she said in their bedroom. I requested she check on them, and they promptly came out. There wasn't a scene, but I was upset. I was later advised that my attitude about this was "inappropriate." I'd appreciate your take on the situation. — DUMBFOUNDED IN GEORGIA

DEAR DUMBFOUNDED: I don't think your attitude was inappropriate. You were uncomfortable because of your wife's long absence with another man while everyone else was mingling. That the chiropractor's wife knew where her husband and your wife were suggests to me there was nothing for you to worry about, but your feelings were your feelings, and under the circumstances, you were entitled to them.

Dear Abby



DEAR ABBY: My parents live with my husband and me. I have a horrible relationship with my brother. He has always been demeaning, cruel and emotionally abusive to me. When my brother attacks, he goes for the jugular. Whenever I must have contact with him, I get so upset I can't sleep for days.

My husband and I have decided to cut him out of our lives, but my elderly mother will not accept that. When I tell her I can't see him, she shakes and cries for days. She says family forgives anything and everything, and I just have to put up with it. Is that true? — HURT IN INDIANA

DEAR HURT: Of course not! Stop telegraphing your plans to your mother, and stay away from your abuser. While you're doing that, remember that dear old Mom is responsible for her own feelings, and her tears and tremors stop when she gets her own way. You are an adult. You do not have to please your mother. And relatives do not have to forgive the unforgivable just because they happen to be blood-related.

DEAR ABBY: I have caught a close friend in several lies,

small and big, over the past few years. Prior to this, we were close, but since these lies have piled up, I have pulled back. I don't trust her anymore and wonder how many more lies there are. My question is, should I just let the friendship fizzle, or does she deserve an explanation? — TRUTH TELLER IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR TRUTH TELLER: If she asks why your relationship is no longer as close as it once was, tell her the truth since you are the truth teller. Unless she initiates the conversation, I see nothing to be gained by confronting her and possibly creating a scene.

DEAR ABBY: Four years ago, I separated from my husband of many years due to his infidelity. I moved back to my hometown and am working to improve myself and build a happier life. While I have no interest in him anymore, I still find myself putting off the task of actually filing for divorce. How can I motivate myself to get this important step done? — READY TO FILE IN MICHIGAN

DEAR READY: You are still a work in progress. When you are ready for a happier life, perhaps if you meet someone and want to form a permanent relationship, you will be motivated to sever that last bond. In the meantime, consult an attorney about any possible risk, including financial, in remaining legally married to your husband.

Fall-themed activities planned for library

Fall is in full swing at Jay County Public Library.

The library and Jay County Farm Bureau are hosting fall fest from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, offering fall-themed activities set up for families inside the building and in the west parking lot at 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Activities include "bobbing" for apples, pumpkin picking and painting, fall crafting and creating mini apple pies. There will also be wagon rides, outdoor games, a bouncy slide and corn maze, as well as various fall-themed snacks.

Also, the library is hosting a reading and watching challenge for teens and adults in October. Participants may choose from three categories — reading, watching a TV series or watching movies — and complete corresponding cards, which must be turned in for a drawing by Oct. 31.

Tribal connection

Fort Recovery State Museum is highlighting tribal nations in a two-day event again this year.

"Beyond the Battlefield and St. Clair's Defeat: Connecting with Tribal Nations Today" returns Oct. 19 and Oct. 20 at the museum. The event highlights Eastern Shawnee, Miami, Ottawa and Wyandotte history and culture, allowing visitors the opportunity to experience Native American cultures from tribes whose ancestors were victorious in St. Clair's Defeat in 1791.

Tribal citizens will have booths set up along the walking trail behind the museum from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 19 and 20. The museum will also be open free of charge.

Other scheduled activities each day at the museum include:

Taking Note

zens and battlefield tours at 10:30 a.m., noon, 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

•Children's story time from a Tribal interpreter from 1 to 1:45 p.m.

Masquerade ball

Tickets are on sale for a new event at Jay County Fairgrounds this year.

Peer Addiction Support Team (PAST) Recovery Services is organizing a masquerade ball from 6 to 11 p.m. Nov. 2 at the Bubp building, 806 E. Votaw St., Portland. There will be dinner, dancing, a silent auction and recovery spotlights. The event will serve as a charity fundraiser for assisting individuals in their recovery. Tickets are \$30 per person or \$50 per couple and are available at Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition.

Collectibles show

Collectibles of all kinds will be back at Jay County Fairgrounds this weekend.

The next Jay County Fair Cards Coins Comics and Collectibles Show is slated for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19, at the fairgrounds. The show features sports cards, Pokémon, Magic: The Gathering and Yu-Gi-Oh! cards, coins, Coca-Cola items, NASCAR memorabilia, Funko Pop! items, comic books and vintage toys. The last 2024 show is scheduled for Nov. 16. Shows are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with vendor set-up from 7 to 10 a.m.

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.

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 Cen-

ter, 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.

A BETTER LIFE — BRIGANNA'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.

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

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

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

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

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

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9

p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

Friday

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.

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.

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will hold its next meeting at noon Friday, Oct. 18, at Harmony Café in Portland.

Saturday

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.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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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Nicknames are an odd phenomena

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Oct. 14, 2009. Tracking nicknames can be an interesting endeavor. The origins of some are obvious, while others seem to be created out of nothing at all. Think about the nicknames you've had over the years as you take this trip down memory lane with Jack.

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

"Was there some sort of rule that you had to have a nickname at Dunkirk High School?" I kidded "Dub" Miskinis the other day during the Dunkirk reunion at the Jay County Historical Society's Heritage Fest.

Nah, he said. If you want nicknames, Albany's really the town for them.

Maybe so, but there seems to be a correlation between the size of a school and the tendency for alternate monikers.

At the D.H.S. celebration, for

Back in the Saddle



example, I chatted not only with "Dub" but with "Chick" and "Forrey" as well.

And a letter for the event had been sent in by another old friend, "Scoop" Campbell, whose wife Dorothy used to work at The News and Sun.

Then again, maybe it wasn't the size of the school but the era we grew up in.

Receiving a nickname seemed an inevitable rite of passage in childhood and adolescence.

Some stuck and others didn't.

(My own, for the record, lasted for about three years of

high school and the first two or three years of college. To a handful of friends, I will always be "Jocko," even in my dotage.)

A significant number came from variations of people's names. "Klop," "Fitz," and "Smitty" were buddies of mine in high school; none of them, to my knowledge, goes by those names today.

In college, there were "Rid-O" and "Don-Don," not to mention "RAM," a linebacker whose nickname came from both his initials and his style of play on the football field.

But sometimes the distortions of names got so far from the original that the connection disappeared.

Only his classmates could tell you the real last name of "Coongie," I suspect.

Often the nicknames came from physical characteristics. "Orange" got his name because it was a more accurate descrip-

You always knew that a kid nicknamed "Brickhead" wasn't in line to be valedictorian.

tion of his hair than "Red." (Today, he'd more accurately be called "Whitey.")

Other times, the name involved some pointed commentary.

You always knew that a kid nicknamed "Brickhead" wasn't in line to be valedictorian.

Some were straightforward: "Tex."

Others were shrouded in mystery: "Rue"? "Eby"? What tale was behind names like that?

And then there was the menagerie.

In high school and college I was proud to count among my friends "Monkeyman," "Orangutan," and "Cheetah." ("Cheetah" liked to scale the sides of buildings like a monkey. And "Orangutan"? Well, he was pretty much a hairy ape.)

But what's most striking about this entire inventory, which spans several decades, is that all of the nicknames belonged to guys.

Maybe it wasn't a girl thing to do.

Next time I see "Dub," I'll ask his opinion on the issue.

Take back your individual rights

To the editor:

The issue being put forth in this letter is not a Republican or Democrat issue, has nothing to do with any particular party and everything to do with the

faith/trust/belief/sanctity and preservation of our democracy.

"Follow the money if you want the truth" is a quote that has been used by numerous sources. I am a retired CPA, one who has conducted numerous financial audits, some resulting in the detection of significant fraud and believe me, you can cast the above quote in concrete.

The 2010 Citizens United Supreme Court decision reversed century-old campaign finance restrictions and enabled "wealthy individuals," "corporations" and other "outside groups" (who knows where, who or what spawned these funds) to spend "unlimited" funds on campaigns. This decision has dramatically weakened a crucial cornerstone of our democracy — "This democratic cornerstone of one person, one vote, resulting in "equal representation" has been made a farce by the changes in campaign financing that resulted from this Supreme Court decision.

The first notion that comes to mind when one hears a candidate has accumulated umpteen million dollars of campaign funds from this PAC or that Super PAC, many, if not all, of which are primarily funded by wealthy individuals, corporations and outside groups, is that the candidate has already been "bought and sold" by these special interests.

To assure that all voters have "equal representation," they must believe in "equal representation" to mitigate/eliminate "purchased" representation, not only in fact but appearance. There is a dire need for an amendment to the United States Constitution. An example follows:

"Only United States citizens registered to vote may make contributions of funds or any resource

Guest Editorial

of economic benefit, either directly or indirectly to candidates seeking election to any elected federal public office. Contributions of funds from each voter would be limited to \$500 per candidate and \$2,000 in total for all candidates in any one federal election period."

(Please note: The dollar amounts are not set. Dollars amounts used were levels that would be attainable by most voters and not provide an unfair advantage to wealthy voters. Secondly, state constitutions would need to be amended to cover funding of state elections.)

Only such a Constitutional amendment will suffice to address this issue as both the Supreme Court and Congress have failed to protect "equal representation," the cornerstone of our democratic process.

If you are tired of feeling this country's elected holders of public office are being bought and sold to the highest bidder and want your vote to have an equal voice while having "equal representation," I strongly encourage you to inform your candidates (both state and federal) running for public office that you as a United States citizen demand such a Constitutional amendment, you demand a firm commitment that those running for office will enact such an amendment and if those running fail to commit (publicly and in writing) to such an amendment that you will vote them out of office. Do this for you, the voter, do this for your family, do this for the future of the United States.

It is time we, the United States citizens, took our country back.

With all due respect,
Ken Bantz
Portland



Polling on war is surprising

By PAUL POAST
Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

In the year since the attacks by Hamas against Israeli civilians on Oct. 7, 2023, much has changed.

Israel launched a large-scale military operation on Gaza, the geographic base of Hamas. The lives of millions of Palestinians have been thrown into destitution, in addition to the tens of thousands killed. Hamas, which governs Gaza, has been severely weakened but not destroyed. Most concerning, the war has widened. Israeli forces are now attacking the group Hezbollah in Lebanon, and both Israel and Iran, which is the backer of Hezbollah and Hamas, are engaged in tit-for-tat military and missile strikes.

While the region has witnessed much conflict over decades, the current war seems like a watershed moment. It could serve as the event that finally catalyzes a lasting transformation for the region. Whether that transformation will be for the better of all who live there remains to be seen.

But in another way, little has changed. Despite international concern and even legal proceedings regarding how Israel has conducted its military operations, President Joe Biden's administration remains firm in its commitment to aiding Israel militarily. The Biden administration's continued support reflects a long-standing bipartisan consensus in Washington to see Israel as a strong, and at times lone, ally of the United States in the region.

But there is another way in which much has remained the same: the view of the American public toward both Israel and the Palestinians. This might be surprising, given the widespread attention over the past year to protests on and off college campuses, while city councils across the U.S. are calling for a cease-fire, and a general sense that the U.S.-Israel "special relationship" is at a turning point.

Paul Poast



According to new survey data produced by The Pearson Institute and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, to coincide with this month's Pearson Global Forum, public views on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict generally, and this war specifically, are relatively static.

A survey conducted last November, one month into the current war in Gaza, found that only a minority of U.S. adults, 40%, saw Israel's military response as having "gone too far." Given the many protests, as well as assessments by the State Department regarding Israel's lack of safeguards for noncombatants, one might expect that number to have changed over the past year. It has — but marginally. A poll conducted in September put the number at 42% of respondents. This means that a majority of respondents in both polls saw Israel's response as "about right" or as having "not gone far enough."

Similarly, views regarding U.S. support toward Israel have remained largely static. In November, 43% of respondents responded that the U.S. provided "too much" aid to Israel. In September of this year, that number dropped marginally to 41%. But these numbers do not simply reflect a strong pro-Israel sentiment among the American public.

The surveys found a similar stability in support for aiding the Palestinians. In November, only 29% of respondents thought the U.S. was providing "too much" humanitarian relief to the Palestinians in Gaza. That number dropped to 24% of respondents in September. Related to

these numbers, feelings of sympathy toward the sides have remained stable, with slight increases from November to September in sympathy toward Israel (21% to 25%) and the Palestinians (9% to 15%). Such stability in views found in the Pearson-led surveys is consistent with other polling data that identified only slight changes in sympathy for Israelis and Palestinians.

The survey as a whole seems to capture how the inherent complexity of the conflict makes it difficult for Americans to have a unified and consistent view on the matter. They may have sympathy for the Israeli people, but, like Biden, see the Israeli prime minister as an impediment to peace. They are saddened by the plight of the Palestinians but appalled by the actions of Hamas. This contrasts with Western perceptions, and specifically American perspectives, regarding the war in Ukraine, where the aggressor, Russia, and the defender, Ukraine, are clear, the complexity of the Israel-Palestinian relationship in general and the war in Gaza in particular leads to such stability of inconsistent views.

The survey numbers could also simply reflect a general malaise, a war weariness among the American public. While the United States is not a direct and full participant in any of the numerous conflicts presently engulfing the world, the most since the end of World War II, it is a supporter that is funding and arming various states and actors involved in these many conflicts. Unfortunately for the public, while it might have grown tired of this world of wars, the raging of those wars is one trend that is unlikely to change between now and next October.

.....
Poast is a faculty affiliate at the Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts and an associate professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Chicago.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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Indiana Capital Chronicle/Casey Smith

Jamey Noel reads a prepared statement on Monday, at a Clark County Circuit Court hearing in Jeffersonville, Indiana. Noel was originally charged with 31 felonies for allegedly misusing money from the fire and EMS departments which he oversaw.

Sentenced ...

Continued from page 1

However, he broke into tears after a letter — written by his niece — offered a stark rebuke: “Grandma and grandpa would be very disappointed.”

Noel was also emotional as he read a prepared statement, which mostly emphasized his family’s innocence.

“It’s all my fault. ... (My family) were victims of my deceit, like everyone else, and I hope they can forgive me,” Noel said before reciting a Catholic prayer.

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 plea agreement.

“You’ve tarnished the badge and failed everyone in law enforcement,” Medlock told Noel just before sentencing. The judge said he would have preferred a harsher sentence, but worried that doing so could make the case ripe for an appeal.

Noel now begins a 15-year prison sentence with three of those years suspended to probation. With approval from the judge, Noel will get credit for time served, beginning June 8. Per state law, Noel could shave time off his sentence with good behavior in prison, leaving him to serve roughly nine-and-a-half years behind bars.

Victims address

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.

Noel is also subject to a \$270,000 fine determined by Medlock, who tacked on \$10,000 for each guilty count.

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 2023, but has been held in the Scott County jail since April after Medlock raised his bond to \$1.5 million. The

case was originally scheduled to go to trial in November.

Using findings from a long-term Indiana State Police investigation, state prosecutors alleged Noel used millions of taxpayer dollars from the Utica Volunteer Firefighters Association and New Chapel EMS to buy cars, planes, vacations, clothing and other personal luxury purchases. Investigators said public funds were also used to pay for college tuition and child support.

The disgraced former sheriff additionally admitted to tasking county employees with jobs related to his personal collection of classic cars. At least 40 vehicles were confiscated by law enforcement, including a bevy of classics, such as two 1970 Plymouth Superbirds, a 1959 Corvette, and 1966 and 1968 Chargers, according to search warrant returns.

Court documents further point to at least \$33,000 worth of public funds used by Noel to make contributions to various Republican candidates and campaigns between 2020 and 2023.

Indiana State Police Superintendent Doug Carter, who addressed the court on Monday, recalled conversations about money management with Noel as far back as 2015. But Carter said Noel searched for power, control and money, rather than striving to build “public trust.”

“Politics should never be the number one priority ... but it was for Jamey,” Carter said.

Noel’s wife, Misty — who has since filed for divorce from her husband — and daughter, Kasey, separately face charges of theft and tax evasion. Both have pleaded not guilty. A Oct. 28 trial date was pushed back Monday afternoon. The court has yet to indicate a new schedule.

What comes next Noel

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb said in August that a pardon for Noel would not come from his administration.

The governor — a longtime associate and friend of Noel’s — said that pardoning procedures would require a review of the conviction and sentencing. Such a process, Holcomb added, “would be way after my term concluded ... years down the road.”

The governor did not immediately reply to a request for com-

ment after Noel’s sentencing.

Noel led Holcomb’s campaign in 2016 and was part of his transition team. He also served as chairman of Holcomb’s reelection bid and, prior to Holcomb, attended President Donald Trump’s inauguration in Washington, D.C. on a personal invitation from former Gov. Mike Pence, who was Trump’s vice president.

Noel additionally faces several civil cases, including two lodged by Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita in an effort to force Noel to pay back the state agencies he allegedly took public funds from to pay for personal spending.

In one lawsuit, Rokita said Noel should be required to reimburse the Clark County jail commissary fund more than \$900,000 for “funds misappropriated, diverted, or misapplied”, which were cited in an audit report filed by the State Board of Accounts in February.

Rokita also requested a restraining order that would temporarily restrict Noel from selling real estate properties, stocks and bonds, vehicles, firearms, clothing and jewelry while the attorney general’s legal challenges are pending.

A May court ruling prohibited the Noel family from selling any assets. The civil cases are still ongoing, and the next hearing is set for Nov. 13.

Separately, Noel also faces a lawsuit filed by the children of his deceased brother, Leon. They allege that Noel stole from their inheritance when he managed their father’s estate.

It remains uncertain whether Noel will qualify for public pensions. State officials told the Capital Chronicle last month that Noel’s state police service could qualify him for retirement benefits, but Carter told reporters Monday that Noel previously received only a “separation benefit” because he did not meet the agency’s pension requirements.

Even so, Noel could retain eligibility for benefits at the county level.

Special Prosecutor Ric Hertel, of Ripley County, said in a news briefing after the hearing that he was not sure what could transpire with potential pensions but said he’s awaiting further direction from the court on the restitution process.

Bridges ...

Continued from page 1

Currently, Jay County Highway Department plans to apply for Indiana Department of Transportation’s Community Crossings grants in 2026 and 2027 to pay for the bridge projects.

Jay County has been working with engineering firm Egis of Indianapolis for bridge planning. Commissioners signed a \$432,926.96 contract with the company Monday for bridge inspections from 2025 through 2028. (Approximately 80% of the cost is reimbursed on a federal level.)

“They are finding more bridges that are deteriorating and failing each year,” Howell said. “We know that there is heavier farm equipment, trucks, driving over these, so we need to look into better design.”

Commissioner Rex Journey asked about how much it costs to replace a bridge, with superintendent administrative assistant Stephanie Klarer noting recent estimates have come in between \$1.1 million and \$1.2 million per bridge.

Klarer explained the county’s timber bridges built in the 1980s are the main problem, noting the county currently has 42 timber bridges (approximately 27% of the county’s total bridges).

“Since they were all built around the same time, unfortunately they’re going to start deteriorating and failing at the same time, and that’s what we’re falling into,” said Klarer.

Journey expressed concern about more bridges failing in the next five years. He asked about ways to prolong the life of a bridge.

“We surely aren’t the only county that built bridges like this back in the 1980s,” he said. “There’s got to be similar problems in similar counties. Surely there’s some kind of a fit.”

Answering a question from commissioner Brian McGalliard, county attorney Wes Schemenauer suggested the county could use economic development income tax (EDIT) funding or tax increment financing (TIF) dollars. McGalliard pointed to using EDIT funds as a potential source for bridge repairs or replacements.

Commissioners president Chad Aker suggested installing culverts as an alternative. Journey also recommended looking at cost-effective ways to repair bridges.

“This is a problem,” noted Journey. “It’s going to get worse.” Also Monday, commissioners approved an ordinance abolishing emergency response group Rescue 19.

Commissioners have been discussing the volunteer group’s disbandment for months, pointing to decreased participation and a lack of need for its services. Rescue 19 had been in action since 1965 and in recent years served as a vehicle accident response team for extrication needs.

Aker, who also serves as a firefighter at Portland Fire Department, read aloud the ordinance.

“The board of commissioners have determined that said group has become obsolete and that area fire departments have special equipment and manpower to respond to said emergencies,” he said.

In abolishing the ordinance, commissioners gave permission to Samantha Rhodehamel of Jay County Emergency Management Agency to begin divvying Rescue 19 equipment out to Jay County fire departments. Rhodehamel

noted departments have selected items to take from Rescue 19’s inventory list. Remaining equipment will be sold via auction at a later date.

Commissioners also agreed Monday to hire Stacey Johnson as the new director of residential facility Jay County Country Living, formerly known as Jay County Retirement Center.

Jay County Country Living Advisory Board member Jon Eads explained the board unanimously approved hiring Johnson, who currently works at Pregnancy Care Center of Jay County. Johnson will begin at the facility starting Oct. 28, taking over the role from interim director Melissa Blankley.

In other business, commissioners:

- Renewed a contract with Jay County Humane Society for county animal control in 2025. Next year’s contract came in at \$68,315 and incorporates a 3% raise from the current year.

- OK’d moving forward with All Circuit Electrical of Bryant for roughly \$24,000 in electrical system updates at Jay County Country Living. Commissioners pointed out the outlets are limited in many rooms and noted potential fire hazards with residents utilizing various extension cords.

- Approved a three-year contract with Waste Management priced at \$128 monthly for trash services at Jay County Jail.

- OK’d applying for a United States Department of Justice grant to purchase body cameras, vehicles cameras and video storage space for \$264,626. The grant — its application is due Oct. 22 — requires no match and has no cap. To meet stipulations, commissioners OK’d East Central Indiana Regional Planning District to apply on behalf of Sheriff Ray Newton.

- Learned about community coordinator Nate Kimball’s plans to begin contacting homeowners who applied for repairs through the county’s owner-occupied rehabilitation program. Hopes are to roll out radon testing and engineering work for homes in the coming weeks, with the first bids for projects expected to be opened by Nov. 30.

- Learned about Newton’s plans to use commissary funds to purchase a 2025 Polaris Ranger for the sheriff’s office and a storage building for the firing range as well as to paint the jail’s kitchen and other jail offices.

- Heard Jay County Jail underwent a state inspection Oct. 8. Newton noted the jail had no violations, with the inspector recommending the security center update its policy regarding inmate grievances and discipline.

- Agreed to the following: paying a \$16,581.25 claim from Jay County Humane Society for animal control; applying for \$29,213.05 for an annual salary grant through the state for Jay County EMA; paying \$6,905.76 to Safety Systems of Richmond for installing lighting systems in two pickup trucks at the highway department; increasing Jay County Health Department’s credit card limit from \$1,500 to \$2,500; scrapping a 2016 Dodge owned by the highway department after receiving no bids from the public for it; a request to re-route a county ditch along county road 650 East and Indiana 67, east of Bryant, at the nearby property owner’s expense.

- Approved the 2025 county employee pay and holiday schedule.

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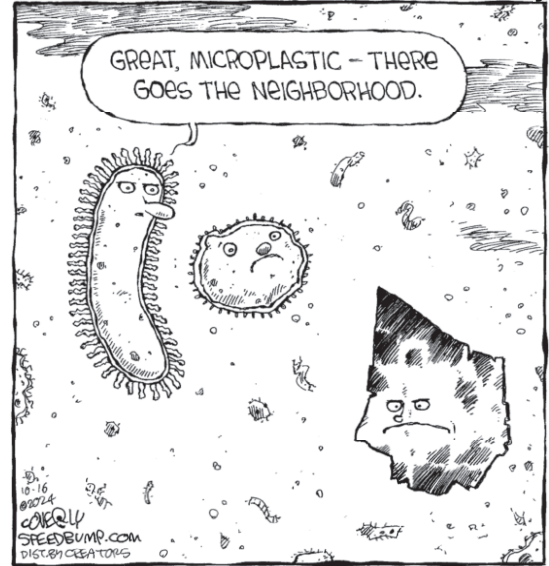
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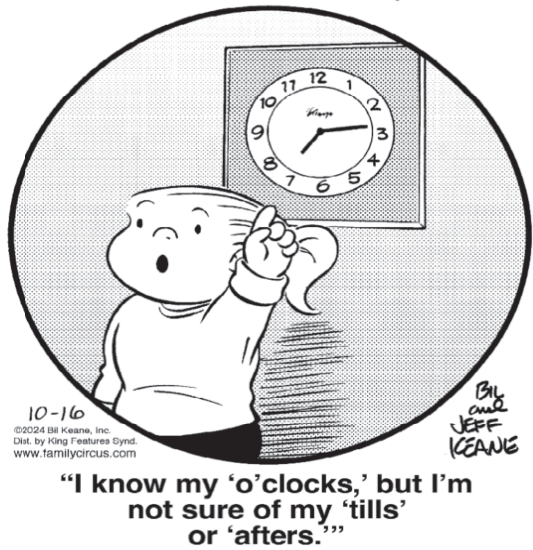


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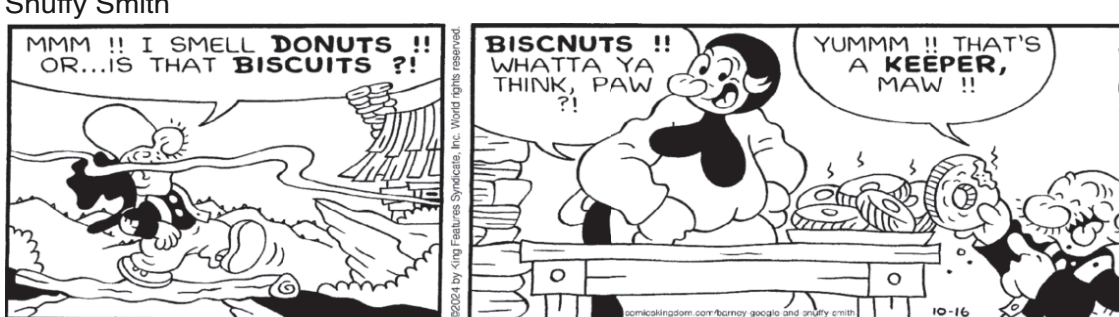
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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Will ...

Continued from page 8
“We’re ready to bounce back,” Buckland said. “We have a lot better shot this time. I mean, we have a better record and we’ve just got to get our mind-sets ready, especially after beating Eastbrook. A lot of us went in thinking we didn’t have a chance (against Eastbrook), but then we proved to our coaches and fans that we can and I really think we can win regional.”

Buckland said the win over Eastbrook added motivation and some extra life into the team but agreed with Reynolds’ sentiment about needing to come prepared to play one of their best games. He compared the regional to the NCAA basketball tournament. “Anybody can beat anybody on any given day, just like March Madness. No. 16 seeds beat No. 1 seeds, so anyone can win and I really hope we can do that because I’m not ready for this to end yet,” Buckland said.

Jay County will have to deal with a balanced offensive attack from the Panthers. While Park Tudor doesn’t have a play-

er that dominates the offense like Muhlenkamp, its leading scorer, Elliot Scotten, has scored 17 goals on the season. Following the PTHS senior, Lorenzo Nofrini and Connor Kacena-Merrel have each scored eight times, Miles Dubie has seven goals and Daniel Peyton and Carson Shattuck have each added four.

All five players distribute the ball well too, as each has over five assists. Dubie leads the team with seven assists.

“Everybody has to be marking somebody,” said Osmar Gonzalez. “We have to play our game, like the way we played against Eastbrook. ... We just have to focus and not get in our heads after they score. That’s what we did against Eastbrook, playing with a line of four and Aryan (Montes) really helped back there.”

Park Tudor averages 2.9 goals per game and is out-sourcing teams 8-3 in the postseason. Reynolds and Gonzalez both mentioned that marking players from 25-yards and in and forcing players to go through defenders will play a key

role in limiting the Panthers.

After going up against a goalkeeper at Eastbrook that had only given up five goals all season, the Patriots face another stout defense in Park Tudor that has only allowed the ball through 23 times. They have shut out teams three times, given up two goals twice and allowed more than two scores only once on the season.

In the sectional championship, Eastbrook made a point to take Muhlenkamp, the school’s leading scorer with 82 career goals, away by sending multiple defenders at him whenever the ball came near him. If Park Tudor takes the same strategy, other Patriot forwards and midfielders like Blake Collins, Emmitt Reynolds, Marentes, Montes and Jaxson DeHoff need to be ready to step up and take advantage of their opportunities.

“We have to look when we’re open,” Collins said. “When everybody goes to Levi, we’ll be open. So just go to the goal and try to shoot.”

Collins also mentioned



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Dylan Marentes dribbles through a pair of defenders during the sectional championship game against Eastbrook on Saturday. The Patriots will need a similar performance to advance to Saturday’s regional championship.

that stronger passes and playing physically will play a key role in the team’s offensive success.

While the Patriots are aiming high and preparing themselves to go for the win, Reynolds is above all else, looking for his

team to give it their all and trust that everything else will fall into place.

“You’re going to have to grind and grind and grind,” Reynolds said about his message to the team. “Even if you’re tired, even if you’re ready

to quit, go out there and give it you’re all. Give it 110% and no one is going to be mad.

It is what it is. The idea is to come home winners, but if you go out and try you’re best, there’s nothing nobody is going to say.”

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

JACUZZI BATH Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 8/25/24.) Call 1-866-937-1159

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THE BATHROOM of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1,000 off or No Payments and No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call Today! 1-855-699-1308

WE BUY Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-855-655-7718

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WESLEY FINANCIAL Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 877-329-1207

00 CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS 260-726-8141
ADVERTISING RATES
20 Word Minimum Effective 07/01/2018:
Minimum charge.... \$12.40
1 insertion.....62¢/word
2 insertions.....81¢/word
3 insertions.....96¢/word
6 insertions.... \$1.14/word
12 insertions. \$1.52/word
26 insertions. \$1.77/word
Includes Online.....FREE
Classified Display \$6.95/ per column inch
No borders or logos allowed on Classified Page
Card of Thanks Up to 100 words.... \$13.00
In Memory Up to 100 words.... \$13.00
Advertising Deadline is 12:00 p.m. the day prior to publication.
Pre-Payment required for: Rummage sales, business opportunities, jobs wanted, boats and sporting equipment, wanted to rent, motorized vehicles, real estate and mobile homes.

40 NOTICES

PLEASE NOTE: Be sure to check your ad the first day it appears. We cannot be responsible for more than one days incorrect copy. We try hard not to make mistakes, but they do happen, and we may not know unless you call to tell us. Call before 12:00 pm for corrections. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland, Indiana 260-726-8141.

60 SERVICES

J. L. CONSTRUCTION & ROOFING LLC. Amish crew. Custom built homes, new garages, pole barns, interior/ exterior remodeling, drywall, windows, doors, siding, roofing, foundations. 260-726-5062, leave message.

“SEAMSTRESS NAN” HOMEMADE Sewing and Alterations, Quilts, Baby Blankets, Appliqué, Zippers, Hemming, Memory T-Shirt, Special Orders, Wedding & Prom Gowns. 260.766.9334

GOODHEW’S ALL SEASON Construction- Specializing in standing seam metal roofs. When Quality Counts, Count On US. A company you can trust. Member of the BBB. New Installation and repairs. Call Rodney Thornbury, owner 765-509-0191

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24TH, 2024
TIME 5:00 P. M.
LOCATED: Westlawn Business Center, 234 W Pearl St., Dunkirk, IN LAND
170 Acres located in Richland and Jefferson Townships, Jay County, IN. To be offered in 5 tracts or in any combination thereof.
Tract 1: 36.6 Acres with 32.5 tillable located in Section 1, Richland Township, Jay County Indiana, with frontage on County Roads 400 S and 800 W.
Tract 2: 44 Acres all tillable in Section 6, Jefferson Township, Jay County Indiana with frontage on County Roads 400 S, 800 W, 350 S.
Tract 3: 36 Acres wooded in Section 6, Jefferson Township, Jay County Indiana with frontage on County Roads 400 S, and 350 S.
Tract 4: 20.5 Acres all tillable in Section 6, Jefferson Township, Jay County Indiana with frontage on County Road 350 S.
Tract 5: 28.5 Acres wooded in Section 6, Jefferson Township, Jay County Indiana with frontage on County Road 400 S.
OWNER: MYRNA COOK ESTATE.
LeeAnn Hedges Combs, Trust Officer.
NOTE: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE
AC31800004
AUCTIONEERS
Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587
www.auctionzip.com

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Bubp Exhibition Hall at the Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 W Votaw St., Portland, IN
October 26th, 2024 9:30 A. M.
OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS-COINS-JEWELRY-HOUSEHOLD-TOOLS
Dining room table with extra board and 4 chairs; cedar chest; freezer; stove; GOLD & SILVER JEWELRY; 14K men;s ring with diamond; 18k ladies ring, several 10K pins; beer steins; McCoy; Fiesta; Fire King; CURRENCY & COINS; (26) \$1 silver certificates, 1934A \$5 Silver Certificate; Mercury Dimes, Buffalo Nickels; and others; crocks; Gene Stratton Porter books; Boyd’s Bears; Matchbox Cars; old Toys; Toro 5200 snowblower; Ryobi pressure washer and other items not listed.

90 SALE CALENDAR

AUCTIONEERS NOTE: This is only a partial listing. Please note that we will be running 2 rings.
JON & DONNA OVERMYER, Deceased & JOHN’S FAMILY Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112 Kayden Khayyata AU12400069
PUBLIC AUCTION
Saturday October 19th, 2024
TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 714 S VINE ST
PORTLAND, IN.
OPEN HOUSE Sunday Oct. 6th 1-3p.m. or for private showing phone auctioneers.
REAL ESTATE
2 bedroom home containing 896 sq. ft. finished living area. GFA with Central air . Attached 1 car garage. Newer roof, siding, windows. Alley access as well as on-street parking.
ANTIQUES-APPLIANCES-MISC
Oak child’s rocker, Bench with cast iron ends, School desk, Washboards, Old pap bottles, Indiana glass and other collectibles glassware, Willow tree figurines, Whirlpool refrigerator, (New) police scanner, (New) KERO Heat kerosene heater, Treadmill, elliptical, and exercise bike. Yard and garden tools.
OWNERS: SANDRA DRUMM, DECEASED.
By Lisa Bonifas and Amy Stephenson
Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE
AC31800004
AUCTIONEERS
Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-558

100 JOBS WANTED
AMISH CREW LOOKING FOR any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489.

110 HELP WANTED

TJ EXPRESS SERVICE is seeking a Human Resources (HR) Associate to join our team! You will perform activities in human resources from recruiting new hires to retaining existing hires. Responsibilities: Screen, recruit, and interview potential employees, On-board and train new employees, Implement company culture, values and policies, Provide requested reports and documents, Run Payroll thru ADP, Accurately maintain employee files, Renew Insurance. Qualifications: Knowledge of labor and employment laws, Ability to build rapport with all employees, Strong organizational skills, Excellent written and verbal communication skills, Other duties will be discussed during the interview. Please contact us at 260-766-4331 or customerservice@tjxpservice.com. Salary up to \$55,000 annually based on experience.

130 MISC. FOR SALE

APPLES-CIDER-PUMPKINS For Sale. Daily 1pm-7pm Menchhofer Farms; 5679 Wabash Rd., Coldwater, OH. 419-942-1502

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Tax parcel number: 01-11-29-211-001.000-019
Owners of property:
Casa Ricca Investments LLC
17794 SW 2 Street
Pembroke Pines, FL 33029
Blue Eyed Property Solutions LLC
7901 4th Street North, Suite 300
St. Petersburg, FL 33702
Ohana Home Partners LLC
84-710 Kili Dr #1520
Wahanae, HI 96792
The Town of Geneva reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
Town of Geneva, Indiana
CR 10-16,23,30,11-6-2024-HSPAXLP

100 JOBS WANTED

BANNERS
40” x 13”
BUY ONE FOR
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Portland.
Open
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information.

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ALUMINUM SHEETS 23”x30”,.007 thick.
Clean and shiny on one side..35 cents each or four for \$1.40, plus tax.
The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland 260-726-8141.

190 FARMERS COLUMN

AG RENTAL Spreaders: BBI, Artsway Vertical. New Holland 228 skid loaders w/full cab, heat/ac. Fort Recovery 419-852-0309

200 FOR RENT

LEASE SPACE available, Coldwater, OH. Manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, distribution, offices, inside and outdoor storage. Easy access to major highways and railroad access with loading docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, www.sycamorespace.com

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Sports

The will to win

Patriots will need to dig deep to beat Park Tudor in regional semifinal

By **ANDREW BALKO**

The Commercial Review

Facing an undefeated team, the Patriots needed to find an extra level to pull out the victory.

Dylan Marentes found that extra level, scoring a goal to tie the game in the final minutes of regulation. The defense found that level to hold Eastbrook scoreless in overtime. And the six players involved in the PKs found an extra level to secure the sectional championship.

For the Patriots to continue

their season past Thursday, they will need to dig deep inside and find that will to win once again.

The Jay County High School boys soccer team will travel to Indianapolis to take on the No. 6 Park Tudor Panthers on Thursday in the IHSAA Class 2A Regional Semifinal 12 at 6 p.m.

The Patriots (14-2) entered the sectional final with some concerns after watching Eastbrook's 2-0 win over Oak Hill in extratime. Beating Eastbrook, which finished 13th in the Indi-

ana Soccer Coaches Association poll, has given Jay County more confidence in their ability to play with top teams.

"The goals are obviously to come out ahead and it would be nice to cap a regional win," said coach Rodney Reynolds. "Everything else has just got to fall in place. Realistically, we've got to have our A game. We've got to play probably, one of our best games of the season.

"Do I feel confident in these guys? I do. I think they can defi-

nately show up. If they show up and take everything seriously, they'll be able to play (with Park Tudor).

"It's just going to be a tough match. I mean, it's Park Tudor. We all know Park Tudor if you know soccer. It's going to be a high-stakes game."

The Panthers, which won the Pioneer Conference, come into the game with a 15-3-1 record and have claimed regional championships at the 1A level the past three seasons, including

2022 when it won the state championship.

On the other hand, the Patriots haven't claimed a regional championship since 2008. They last made the tournament in 2022, when they got blanked 6-0 by the regional champion, Canterbury. Upperclassmen like Cayden Buckland, Dylan Marentes and Levi Muhlenkamp remember the loss all too well and are looking forward to the opportunity to flip the script.

See Will page 7



Find the **right person** for the job right here!

Muhlenkamp gets Player of the Week

The votes are in and the people have spoken.

Levi Muhlenkamp is Indiana's High School Athlete of the Week.

Muhlenkamp, a senior on the Jay County High School boys soccer team earned Maxpreps' Indiana High School Athlete of the Week award for week 7 Tuesday morning due to his performances at Blackford and Liberty Christian. He shares the award with Samir Del Rio, a football player at Western Boone in Valparaiso.

During the stretch, the JCHS senior scored six goals on 12 shots in an 8-0 victory over Blackford on Oct. 1 and put seven balls into the net and had an assist in the 10-1 win at Liberty Christian Oct. 3. During the game against

the Lions, Muhlenkamp broke former coach Brad Horn's record of 80 career goals at Jay County.

Since the strong week, Muhlenkamp has played a vital role in bringing the IHSAA Class 2A Sectional 23 title back to Portland. In the semifinal game against Delta, Muhlenkamp assisted Dylan Marentes on a momentum-shifting goal at the end of the first half and scored one of his own on a give-and-go with Marentes to push the record to 82 goals.

While Muhlenkamp didn't score in the sectional championship game against host Eastbrook, he started off the penalty kicks with a shot to the right side to get JCHS jump started.

Jayhawks start season ranked No. 1

By **GARY BEDORE**

The Kansas City Star Tribune News Service

Kansas men's basketball will open the 2024-25 season as the No. 1 team in the Associated Press Top 25 for a second straight season and fifth time in poll history.

The Jayhawks on Monday received 30 of a possible 60 first-place votes from an AP panel. Alabama came in second with 14 first-place votes, while UConn, Houston and Iowa State completed the top five.

"We welcome being pre-season No. 1, especially with our returning players like Hunter (Dickinson), Dajuan (Harris) and KJ (Adams), and then you add the players we brought in," Kansas head coach Bill Self said. "The goal is to be No. 1 at the end of the season, and though we welcome this, it is not the end goal."

KU has been No. 1 five times in the 22-year Bill Self era. The Jayhawks also were No. 1 entering the 2004-05, 2009-10, 2018-19 and 2023-24 seasons.

Kansas was also No. 1 in the first poll of the 1956-57 season, but pre-season polls did not begin until 1961-62.

This marks the 60th time Kansas has been ranked No. 1. The last time KU was

No. 1 in the AP poll was Nov. 20, 2023, the third poll of last season. KU was ranked in the top 10 of the 2023-24 AP poll all but three weeks.

KU for the 13th consecutive year will enter a season ranked seventh or higher. This is also the 15th time in the last 16 seasons that the Jayhawks have entered the season No. 7 or higher by the AP, including 12 times in the top 5 and seven in the top 3.

KU was No. 1 in 2009-10, No. 3 in 2016-17, No. 1 in 2018-19, No. 3 in 2019-20, No. 3 in 2021-22, No. 1 in 2023-24 and No. 1 in 2024-25.

KU will play 10 games against teams ranked in the preseason Associated Press Top 25, including seven against Big 12 opponents and eight against top-10 foes. KU will play against No. 4 Houston (twice), No. 5 Iowa State (twice), No. 7 Duke, No. 8 Baylor, No. 9 North Carolina, No. 10 Arizona, No. 15 Creighton and No. 20 Cincinnati.

"To have three Big 12 teams in the top 5 and five in the top 10 just shows how competitive this league will be this season," Self said. "Every year we talk about the Big 12 being the toughest conference in the nation, and with the four additions, it became even stronger."

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Fort Recovery — Volleyball sectional opener vs. Yellow Springs at Arcanum — 5:30 p.m.

Thursday
Jay County — Boys soccer regional semifinal at Park Tudor — 6 p.m.

TV sports

Today
7 p.m. — NHL: Buffalo Sabres at Pittsburgh Penguins (TNT)
7 p.m. — College football: Western Kentucky at Sam Houston (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — College volleyball: Indiana at Illinois (BTN)
8 p.m. — WNBA: New York Liberty at

Minnesota Lynx (ESPN)
9 p.m. — College volleyball: Iowa at Northwestern (BTN)
9:30 p.m. — NHL: Boston Bruins at Colorado Avalanche (TNT)

Thursday
5:08 p.m. — MLB ALCS: New York Yankees at Cleveland Guardians (TBS)
6:30 p.m. — College basketball exhibition: St. John's at Rutgers (BTN)
7 p.m. — College football: Georgia State at Marshall (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — NBA preseason: Charlotte Hornets at Indiana Pacers (Bally Indiana)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Boston College at Virginia Tech (ESPN)
8:08 p.m. — MLB NLCS: Los Angeles Dodgers at New York Mets (FS1)
10 p.m. — NBA preseason: Los Angeles Lakers at Phoenix Suns (TNT)

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