

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

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## Republicans roll



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County Commissioner-elect Duane Monroe grins while chatting with his wife Rhonda (right), Krista Muhlenkamp (foreground left) and Sue Bailey on Tuesday during a gathering of local Republicans at John Jay Center for Learning. Monroe totaled 81% of the vote as the Republican dominated Democrat Blake Watson in the race for the south district seat.

### Monroe dominates race for county commissioner; 76.6% of local voters support Trump for presidency

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Local voters overwhelmingly backed Republicans again.

Their support for former president Donald Trump was even greater than in his first two runs for office.

Republican Duane Monroe dominated the only local contested race, defeating Democrat Blake Watson by a 79% to 21% margin for the Jay County Commissioner south district seat in Tuesday's election.

Trump pulled 76.6% of the local vote in his successful bid to reclaim the White House as the GOP earned at least 67% in all state and federal races.

In Jay County, Republicans had a more than 6-to-1 advantage in straight-ticket voting with 1,921 compared to 350 for Democrats.

"I think people like the conservative values the Republican Party tries to stand for," said Jay County GOP chair Jenae Blasdel.

Monroe rolled in his

second bid to become a Jay County Commissioner. After finishing second in a three-way race behind Brian McGalliard in the 2020 Republican primary, he won a head-to-head rematch in May with 67.7% of the vote. Early voting tallies, which are available shortly after the polls close at 6 p.m., showed Monroe with 79% of the vote Tuesday. Those numbers held as he out-pollled Watson 6,148-1,590.

"I'm pretty excited,"

said Monroe at a gathering of local Republicans at John Jay Center for Learning on Tuesday evening. "I'm excited for the future. From day one, this has never been about Duane Monroe; it's been about Jay County, the people of Jay County. And it's going to be that way at the beginning of my term and at the end of the term."

He thanked his wife Rhonda, sons Josh and Jacob, supporters, employer Jay County

REMC and all those who voted for him.

Monroe has previously expressed support for Jay County Development Corporation, making bridge repairs a priority and maintaining the county's current assets.

"I just want to get back to the way it should be, not arguing," he said. "Handling the things that need to be handled the right way. I just feel like there needs to be unity."

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## JCDC looking at its future

*Richards will continue to help as needed*

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

A committee will be appointed to chart a course for Jay County Development Corporation.

The organization's board of directors held a special meeting following an executive session Tuesday to discuss the future following last week's announcement that executive director Travis Richards is resigning effective Nov. 15.

The board:

- Agreed to an hourly rate of \$46.95 per hour for Richards to continue working on an as-needed basis through the end of the year. "We have some major projects going on, especially READI (Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative 2.0), that we want to make sure are taken care of," said board president Angela Paxson.

- Approved the appointment of a committee to look at the executive director's job description, compensation and benefits. The group, to be appointed by Paxson, will make recommendations at the organization's regularly scheduled Dec. 3 meeting.

Richards reiterated Tuesday that his decision to leave Jay County Development Corporation was primarily family related. He has led the organization for six years. He will become the production manager at Sonoco in Portland.

"I think that what Travis has done over the years needs to be complimented," said board member Mike Medler. "It's appreciated what you've done for this entire community and county."

Several board members commented in agreement, as did Rob Weaver of WPGW Radio.

"This standing ovation that he received at the awards program said a lot," he said, referencing the reaction after Jay County Development Corporation won the Not-for-profit of the Year Award during the Jay County Community Awards in May.

During the community update portion of the meeting during which each board member is invited to share information, Jay County Commissioner Rex Journay told the board that the county declined an offer of \$1 million through the state's Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) 2.0 toward an effort to develop 68 acres of county-owned land on the west side of Portland. He explained that the funding is not enough to launch the project, a planned \$25.5 million in total over a series of phases for commercial space and housing.

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## Trump to return to the White House

By HAILEY BRANSON-POTTS

Los Angeles Times

Tribune News Service

Donald Trump was elected the 47th president of the United States on Wednesday.

The former president's decisive victory over Vice President Kamala Harris — after an extraordinary campaign in which he was convicted of felony charges and survived two assassination attempts — was confirmed shortly after 5:30 a.m. when he secured more than 270 electoral votes after picking up the key battleground states of Georgia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Trump, who won the electoral college in 2016 but not a majority of votes, was also on track to win the popular vote.

"This will forever be remem-

bered as the day the American people regained control of their country," Trump told a crowd at around 2:30 a.m. Wednesday from a stage adorned with star spangled banners at his campaign headquarters in West Palm Beach, Florida.

The former president declared himself the winner before most news outlets had called the race.

Trump said the election, which saw more than 137 million Americans cast ballots, represented a "historic realignment" of American interests and was a "massive victory for democracy and for freedom."

"I will not rest until we have delivered the strong, safe and prosperous America that our children deserve," he added.

See Trump page 2



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Chip Somodevilla

Former President and now President-elect Donald Trump points to supporters with former first lady Melania Trump during an election night event Tuesday at the Palm Beach Convention Center in West Palm Beach, Florida. The Associated Press and other news outlets called the election for Trump about 5:30 a.m. Wednesday.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 75 degrees on Election Day. The low was 64.

The forecast calls for a low in the mid 30s tonight. Expect most-

ly sunny through Friday with a high around 60. Rain is expected Saturday evening.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Jay County Public Library will host a Home Alone Safety Class for third through sixth graders from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday. Attendees will learn about safe habits, preventing unsafe situations, what to do in situations such as power outages and weather emergencies. Registration is required by calling (260) 726-7890.

### Coming up

**Friday** — The inaugural All-GPC volleyball team will be revealed.

**Saturday** — Coverage of Thursday's Portland Board of Works meeting.

**Tuesday** — Details from Monday's Jay County Commissioners meeting.



JCDC ...

Continued from page 1  
There have been no public announcements from Indiana Economic Development Corporation regarding READI 2.0 awards for the East Central Region or from East Central Indiana Regional Partnership, which is leading the eight-county region that includes Jay County. (Officials have reached out to applicants that were preliminarily selected for funding.)

Also Monday, the board:  
•Heard from Richards that JCDC has received its \$50,000 allocation from The City of Portland for its services in 2024. "That's great," said Richards, noting that the organization was down to about \$5,000 in its checking account. "We're in a position where we can carry on into the new year." (JCDC has not received any funding from the

county this year during a continued contract dispute.)  
•Was reminded about the following upcoming events:  
—Pennville Park Board's designer purse bingo at 6 p.m. Friday  
—The Delta Theta Tau craft show from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at Jay County Junior-Senior High School  
—An Arts Place community input meeting from 4:30 to

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 13, at John Jay Center for Learning  
—A sportsman's dinner and gun raffle at 5:30 p.m. Saturday and an all-you-can-eat breakfast in support of Secrete Families Christmas Charity of Jay County from 7 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, both at Portland Elks Lodge  
—The turkey drop at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, in downtown Dunkirk

—The Arts Place Holiday Benefit Auction at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22  
—A "shop hop" with visits to businesses in Portland, Pennville, Dunkirk and Redkey on Nov. 22 and 23. (LifeStream buses will provide transportation.)  
—Feel the Warmth of Christmas from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 2, in downtown Dunkirk

CR almanac

Friday 11/8	Saturday 11/9	Sunday 11/10	Monday 11/11	Tuesday 11/12
<b>62/37</b>	<b>61/47</b>	<b>66/47</b>	<b>59/42</b>	<b>60/45</b>
Friday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a slight chance of rain at night.	Mostly sunny on Saturday with the chance of rain increasing throughout the day.	Sunday has a 90% chance of showers throughout the day with a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly sunny skies on Monday when the low will be in the low 40s.	Mostly sunny skies on Tuesday, when the high will be in the mid 60s.

Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$75 million	Evening Daily Three: 5-6-7 Daily Four: 5-2-2-8 Quick Draw: 1-2-15-16-21-22-28-30-31-33-36-42-43-46-49-53-63-68-72-80
<b>Mega Millions</b> 2-24-25-52-58 Mega Ball: 9 Megaplier: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$334 million	<b>Ohio</b> Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 2-0-3 Pick 4: 2-4-5-7 Pick 5: 2-0-5-0-1 Evening Pick 3: 5-9-6 Pick 4: 7-2-5-2 Pick 5: 3-8-4-2-8 Rolling Cash: 10-16-20-25-28 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 6-3-8 Daily Four: 1-0-3-5 Quick Draw: 14-20-22-24-25-31-32-35-36-37-42-47-48-50-51-58-59-61-66-79	

Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.20 Dec. corn.....4.25 Wheat .....4.75	Dec. beans .....9.77 Wheat ..... 5.25
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.29 Dec. corn.....4.24 Jan. corn .....4.32	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.19 Dec. corn .....4.22 Beans.....9.69 Dec. beans .....9.72 Wheat .....5.20
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....4.27 Dec. corn .....4.27 Beans .....9.77	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.09 Dec. corn .....4.19 Beans.....9.54 Dec. beans .....9.59 Wheat .....5.10

Today in history

In 1989, Democrat Douglas Wilder became the first African American to be elected as a governor as he won the race in Virginia, defeating Republican J. Marshall Coleman  
In 1991, Magic Johnson announced his retirement from basketball because he was HIV positive. He returned to the sport to play for the Dream Team in the 1992 Summer Olympics and to the NBA for part of the 1995-96 season.  
In 2000, the presidential election ended in a virtual tie with Democrat Al Gore leading Republican George Bush by less than 600,000 votes out of more than 104 million cast and the Electoral College count hinging on disputed bal-

lots in Florida. It took until a Dec. 12 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to deny a Florida recount and thus make Bush the winner in the Electoral College, 271-266.  
In 2016, Jay County Hospital proposed a two-year agreement to Jay county Commissioners that would allow the hospital to take over management of Jay Emergency Medical Service, which at that time had been struggling financially. Commissioners and Jay County Council later approved the agreement. Approximately a year later, the hospital announced final details for its plan to become part of the IU Health network. —The CR

Citizen's calendar

<b>Today</b> 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Plan Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St.	120 N. Court St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community room, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.
<b>Monday</b> 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse,	<b>Wednesday</b> 6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St.

Local ...

Continued from page 1  
The county will have two new commissioners in January as Republican Doug Horn was unopposed Tuesday for the north seat. He defeated former three-term commissioner Mike Leonhard in the Republican primary in May for the seat currently held by Republican Rex Journay, who chose not to seek a second term.

Atop the ballot, Jay County voters overwhelmingly supported Donald Trump in the presidential race for the third time. His 76.6% of the vote was more than against President Joe Biden (75.1%) in 2020 or Hillary Clinton (71%) in 2016.

The Kamala Harris/Tim Walz ticket earned just 21.5% of the vote in Jay County.

In other voting in Jay County for federal offices, Republican Jim Banks won by a 76.8% to 20.5% margin over Democrat Valerie McCray for U.S. Senator and Republican Marlin Stutzman picked up 75.8% of the vote against Democrat Kylie Adolph (20.2%) for U.S. Representative in Indiana's 3rd District. Banks, the 3rd District's current Congressman, was polling at about 58.9% with about half of the state's precincts reporting and will claim the seat being vacated by Republican Mike Braun. Stutzman reclaims the seat he gave up in 2016 to run for the Senate as he was at 65.1% of the vote across the district.

Braun earned the least support among Republicans in Jay County but still pulled more than two-thirds of the vote in his race for Indiana governor. He came in at 67.8% compared to 25.1% for Democrat Jennifer McCormick.

The Associated Press called the race for Braun within an hour of polls closing at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

In the other state races, Jay County voters backed Republicans

Prescott headed to statehouse representing District 33, which includes Jay County

Todd Rokita 75.5%-24.5% over Destiny Wells for attorney general and J.D. Prescott 74.8%-25.2% over Democrat John Bartlett for state representative in District 33. Both were projected to win, with Rokita at 59% of the vote statewide and Prescott at nearly 73% in District 33.

"I'm really looking forward to it," said Prescott, who earned his fourth term. "I'm just really thankful to the voters of the district who have given me this opportunity to continue to serve."

For the 2025 session, he said he is excited about working with Braun, streamlining state government agencies and crafting the two-year budget. He also noted property taxes as a key issue.

"Most of the discussion has been around homeowners, which that's very important, we need to make sure we get property tax relief for homeowners," said Prescott. "But our community is really a rural, agriculture-heavy community and the vast majority of the property taxes here in Jay County, Randolph, Blackford, Delaware and Henry ... it's really a rural, ag base. So we need to make sure we have that in mind — any tweak that we do for homeowners, if we're not careful, it could shift that tax burden to ag."

Jay County voters also supported an amendment to the state con-

stitution to remove the state superintendent of public instruction from the list of officeholders in line for ascension to the office of governor.

They were also in favor of the retention of Indiana Supreme Court Justices Loretta Rush, Mark Massa and Derek Molter and Fourth District Court of Appeals Judge Rudolph Pyle III, all by 70% or higher.

Voter turnout was up slightly in Jay County from the 2020 election, coming in at 68.5%. (Totals in the previous three presidential years were 68% in 2020, 64.7% in 2016 and 65% in 2012.) Out of 11,998 voters who are registered, 8,216 cast ballots. Of that total, 52.8% voted before election day.

Republicans uncontested in addition to Horn were incumbent Matt Lehman for state representative in District 79; Brian Hutchison for Jay Circuit Court Judge; Jonelle Foreman for treasurer; Brad Daniels for surveyor; incumbent Matt Minnich along with Michael Brewster and Bryan Alexander for three county council seats; Brayden Fields for corner; and Missy Elliott for Jay Circuit Court clerk.

Jon Eads (District 1), Aaron Clark (District 4) and Chad Towell (District 6) were uncontested in the non-partisan election for Jay School Board.

Trump ...

Continued from page 1  
"This will truly be the golden age of America."

Trump built his third campaign for the White House on the issues of immigration and economy, appealing to Americans who were weary of liberal elites and the status quo. He promised to secure the Southern border and deport millions of people living in the country illegally, impose tariffs that would revive the economy and restore American manufacturing, and withdraw the nation from the international stage.

He also threatened to use the U.S. military after the election against "radical-left lunatics," including Democrats, who he has dubbed the "enemy from within."

His closing campaign slogan — "Kamala Broke It. Trump Will Fix It" — emphasized Harris' role in the Biden administration and positioned himself as the candidate of change.

Harris, who sought to make history not only as the first female president but also as the first Black and Asian American female president, became the second female candidate in eight years to become the Democrats' presidential nominee only to fail to secure enough votes to win.

The Harris team has yet to comment on Trump's win. Before 11 p.m. Tuesday, Jen O'Malley Dillon, the chair of Harris' campaign, sent staff a memo noting it was a "razor thin race."

"We feel good about what we're seeing," she wrote to staff, noting they had exceeded turnout expectations in Philadelphia. "Let's finish up what we have in front of us tonight, get some sleep, and get ready to close out strong tomorrow." It turned out to be a dev-

astating night for Democrats.

Trump flipped Pennsylvania, Georgia and Wisconsin — states Democrats won in 2020 — winning by clear margins of several percentage points. He kept hold of North Carolina. On Wednesday morning, he was several percentage points ahead in Arizona, Michigan and Nevada, but the races were not called.

Republicans also secured control of the Senate after Tim Sheehy in Montana, Deb Fischer in Nebraska, Bernie Moreno in Ohio, and Jim Justice in West Virginia secured a number of contested seats.

The House remains up for grabs as election officials continue to count votes. Republicans hope to hold their House majority. Early Wednesday the Associated Press reported that Rep. Mike Lawler, who holds a suburban New York seat, managed to eke out a second term.

SERVICES

<b>Thursday</b> Hofstetter, Charles: 1 p.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.
<b>Saturday</b> Mast, Edward: 1 p.m., Countryside Christian Church, 1212 E. 100 South, Winchester. Groves, JoAnn: 1:30 p.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva. Arnold, John: 5 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.
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# Legislators: This is state's economy

By MORTON J. MARCUS

Just a few days from now our new, re-elected and holdover members of the Indiana General Assembly will meet.

Here's a refresher course on a very few facts they might find useful.

Many politicians like to talk about per capita personal income as a measure of economic well-being. But personal income is a compound of great complexity, including dollars that are estimated to satisfy theoretical constructs only an economist might imagine.

For example, dividends, interest and rent received into your retirement account aren't dollars you're likely to spend until sometime down the road. Yet, an estimate of them, based on actual

## Eye on the Pie



dollars received and reported to the IRS from taxpayers in your area, is included in personal income.

Worst still, the rental value of the home you own is part of your personal income. As the occupant of your home, you are imagined to pay rent to yourself as the owner of the property. It may not be what a normal person thinks of as income, but it does satisfy a formal concept of income.

Indiana's per capita personal income in 2023 was \$61,243, 12.3% below the national figure.

A number more in line with our conventional understanding of economic relationships is the average earnings per job. This number also has its "distinct" aspects. It is not total earnings divided by the number of persons employed, but by the number of full- and part-time jobs. One person may hold more than one job. The result is an amount lower than that which we usually consider as average pay.

In 2023, Indiana's average earnings per job was \$69,005, 7.3% below the national level.

Compensation per job goes beyond earnings to include

expenditures firms make for employee benefits. Among these are insurance not required by government programs, allowance for parking and/or transportation, payments for health related services (exercise club memberships), education and pension plans.

Indiana's compensation per job in 2023 was 11.2% below that of the nation.

When many Hoosiers see these data, they are put at ease because the cost of living in Indiana is widely reported to be lower than that of the nation as a whole. The Regional Price Parity Index for Indiana, developed by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, for all items in 2022 was 8.2% below the nation-

al level; for housing it stood 30% below the U.S. figure.

This makes paying lower wages in Indiana seem fair to employer and employee alike. But on reflection, it is clear wages are the ability to pay, and wages determine housing and other prices. The mortgage broker asks for your pay slips not your grocery bills.

Why are wages lower in Indiana than elsewhere in America?

Simply stated, the goods and services we produce are not as highly valued by domestic and international markets. Commodities don't compete well with comedies.

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

# Housing effort shows progress

The Virginian-Pilot  
Tribune News Service

Too many of our veterans struggle with homelessness and hopelessness. Across the U.S. and here in Virginia, we must continue efforts to give those who have served the support they need to have safe, rewarding lives when their time in uniform is over.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs said in September that it had found shelter for 43,116 homeless veterans between October 2023 and August of this year. That exceeded the agency's goal of housing 41,000 veterans in fiscal year 2024, which ended Sept. 30.

While it's great that the VA surpassed its goal for housing homeless veterans in the fiscal year that just ended, it's disturbing that so many of those who have served our country were without a place to live.

Homelessness is often related to other chronic problems shared by many veterans. Substance abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, disabilities, loneliness, depression and other mental and emotional health problems are all too common. Some veterans have trouble adjusting to the civilian workplace and finding jobs that utilize their skills.

All those problems contribute to the high suicide rate among veterans, especially older veterans. National statistics show that veterans are at a 57% higher risk of suicide than those who have never served. The National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report for 2023 said that about 17 veterans die by suicide each day, up 11% from the year before.

So it's worrying that over the last year, the national suicide hotline for veterans has been plagued with technical problems. Multiple service outages made it difficult and at times impossible for veterans in a crisis to get help.

The veterans' hotline — reached by dialing the national 988 hotline number and then pressing 1 — has counselors working around the clock. Sometimes a veteran contemplating suicide needs immediate attention. Often, the veterans just need to talk to someone who will listen and suggest help so the situation doesn't become critical.

Sen. John Tester of Montana, chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, has urged the VA to make hotline service rela-

## Guest Editorial

bility a priority. It's tragic when a veteran feels so hopeless, but worse when that veteran calls for help and isn't heard.

Meanwhile, there is some progress in the battle against homelessness. Since early 2020, the number of homeless veterans has fallen by more than 4%; since 2010, the decline has been more than 52%.

The VA and the Biden-Harris administration have made preventing and eliminating veteran homelessness a top priority. The goal is to get veterans into housing first and then help them stay there.

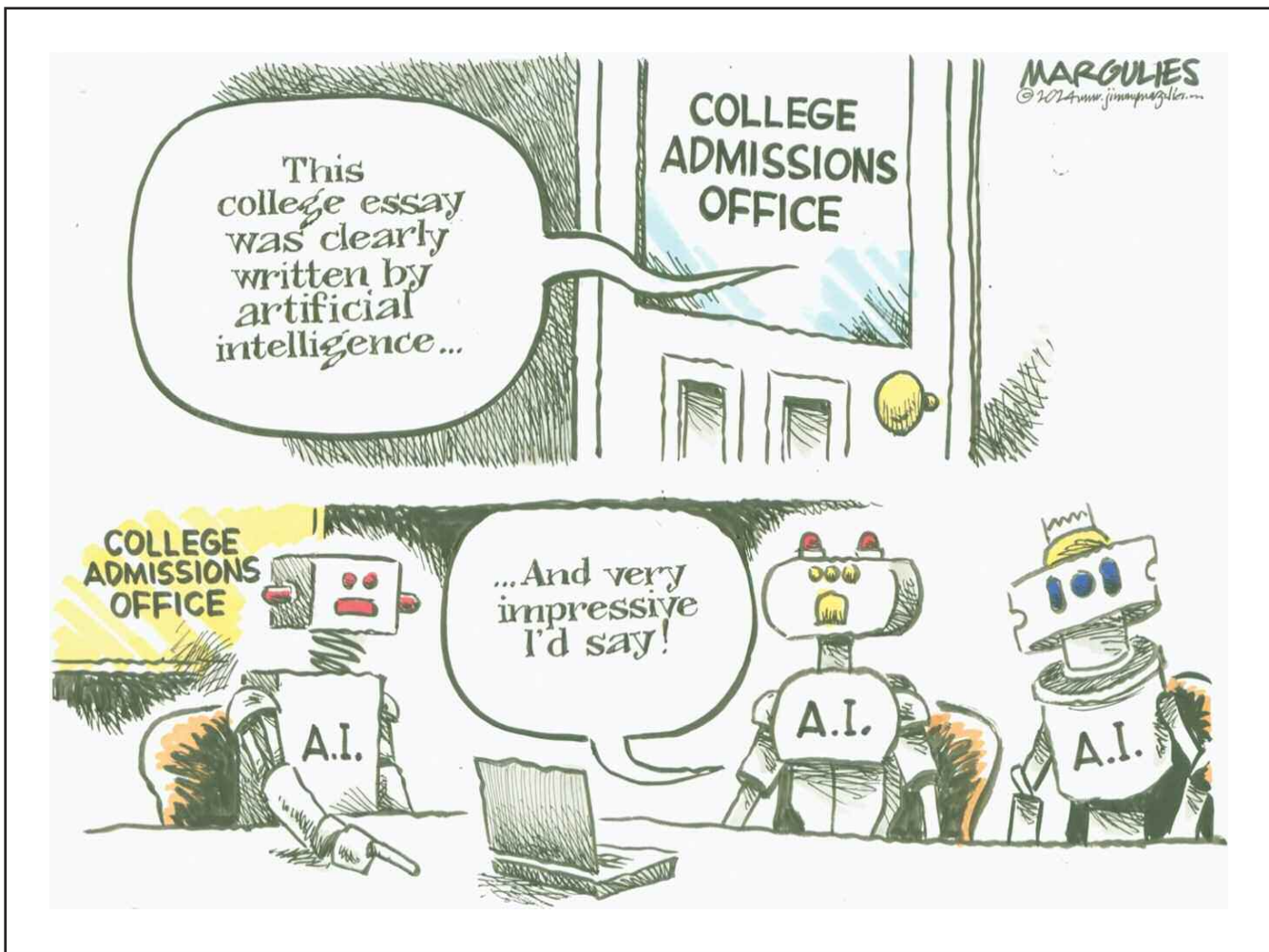
Among other efforts, the VA in August awarded more than \$800 million in grants through its programs for homeless veterans and families. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the VA announced during the summer that changes are making it easier for more veterans to get help through their joint housing program.

These efforts are important, because the percentage of veterans who are homeless is disproportionately high. About 10% of Americans have served in the military, but nearly 13% of homeless adults are veterans.

Virginia, with its large veteran population, has worked hard to reduce homelessness. Back in 2015, Virginia became the first state to meet the federal government's definition of effectively ending homelessness among veterans — every known veteran had a home except those who declined help. Concentrated efforts in the Peninsula and South Hampton Roads helped reach that milestone.

Then came the disruptions of COVID and soaring housing costs, and the numbers of homeless veterans began to rise again.

Whether they were drafted into military service, as is the case with many older veterans, or volunteered to serve since the draft ended in 1973, our veterans deserve thanks, respect and honor. They also deserve continuing support to help them build safe, healthy lives — lives with decent homes and hope for a fulfilling future.



# Cathedral is worth admission

By TYLER COWEN  
Bloomberg Opinion  
Tribune News Service

For believers, the question is literally sacrilegious: When should a church charge an admission fee? After all, a church is where many people go to be with God. It is a place of refuge. And it should be open to all, regardless of wealth. If Satan tempts, a church is a sanctuary.

And yet the most famous cathedral in the world, Notre Dame in Paris, is contemplating an admission fee when it reopens in December. French Culture Minister Rachida Dati has argued for a fee of five euros, claiming it would raise €75 million, which would be enough to "save all the churches in Paris and France." That too might be seen as a religious priority, especially given France's fiscal difficulties.

The Catholic Church opposes the plan, citing a 1905 law stipulating that churches must stay open to the public for free. The government says that charging "cultural visitors" is permissible, provided they are not there for religious services.

I am neither a Catholic nor a proponent of the French cultural policy, and reject the premises of both sides. I am, however, a relatively frequent visitor to Paris as well as Notre Dame, so have a modest stake in this debate. I am also an economist, and would like to propose a compromise: Use the revenue from an admission fee to help support the cathedral's original purpose.

The commercialization of churches has some major downsides — but an admission fee can be a partial antidote to commercialization, not its apogee. To be

honest, European churches are already pretty commercialized; before the fire, Notre Dame itself charged a fee to enter its bell tower. Meanwhile the cathedral itself was often so crowded it was difficult to appreciate, from either a religious or aesthetic standpoint. So if a fee drives some visitors away, that could be a good thing.

To put it another way: Extreme crowding is a fee of another sort, even if its nominal price remains at zero. Notre Dame, because of its role as a tourist attraction, has long been driving away and discouraging truly religious uses.

And why are so many tour groups welcome in Notre Dame? Because they bring significant income to Paris and France. Local businesses of course favor this outcome, and can pressure the government to continue to encourage the flow of visitors. To acknowledge this reality is also to accept that the status quo ex ante, that is without a fee, was based on rampant commercialization of church property.

So here is my proposal: First, charge a fee — but make it €10 rather than €5. If seeing Notre Dame is worth only €7 or €8 to someone, I don't mind excluding them, for the benefit of those who really want to see the place. The crowds should diminish — and if they don't, just raise the admission fee. St. Paul's in London, by the way, charges £25 for adult

admission, and Saint-Denis in Paris charges €11. Anyone who can afford to visit Paris can afford to pay more than €5 to see Notre Dame.

Second, assign a priest, nun or other religious counsel to the church, to service any religiously minded visitor who might require assistance in matters of the soul. If need be, that person can walk the God-searching visitor to a nearby church where visits are free. Admission fees will help fund this service, which would be symbolically important even if little used.

Third, set aside further time for Notre Dame to be a quiet and more religious place. Maybe make admission free for one day per week — but only for residents of Paris. Since most visitors stay in Paris for more than a day, the determined tourist still should be able to see the church.

If nothing else, this special day can serve as a referendum on whether one of the world's most inspiring Catholic sites can generate local loyalty. If not, that is valuable information in its own right. Perhaps it can serve as a prod to improve aesthetic education in local schools. For the religiously minded, this plan has another benefit: If even a single soul is saved by this arrangement, it is worth it.

One of the fundamental insights of economics that a price can be more than just monetary. Religion might benefit from recognizing this, too.

Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist, a professor of economics at George Mason University and host of the Marginal Revolution blog.



Tyler Cowen

# The Commercial Review



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—Thomas Jefferson

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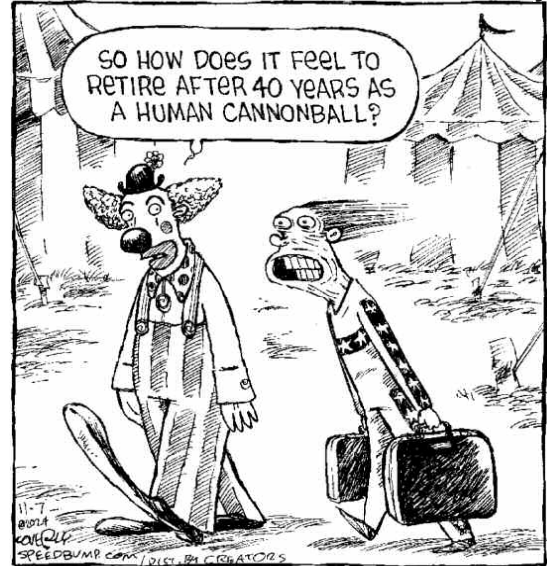
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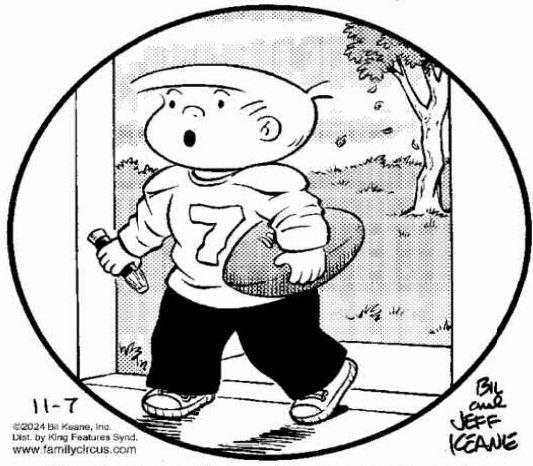
We welcome letters to the editor, which are accepted by email only to letters@thecr.com. They should be 700 words or fewer; signed, with city/town of residence and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit for content and clarity.



SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



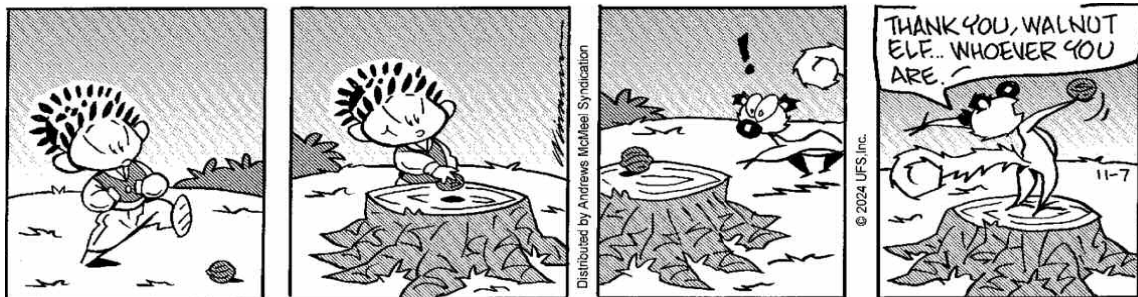
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Partnership rapport

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: K 6 4, A 10 8 3, J 9 8 2, A 7. WEST: J 10 9 8 5 2, 6 4 2, K Q 7 3. EAST: A 3, Q 5, A 10, K J 10 6 4 3 2. SOUTH: Q 7, K J 9 7, 6 5 4, Q 9 8 5.

The bidding: East 1♣, South Pass, West 1♠, North Dble 3♣. Opening lead — jack of spades. It is generally acknowledged that defense is the most difficult part of the game.

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

11-7 CRYPTOQUIP

BEZS GFAV EZG DMXFKM SEM FJNXNZR ZASEMK JFP AFNGH RNSSRM UFVG? "UFA'S BFPFH, DM HZQQH." Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TERRIFYING FLICK ABOUT SPIRITS OF DEAD CHICKENS THAT INHABIT A HAUNTED HOUSE: "POULTRYGEIST". Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals Y

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 "— goes there?", 4 Pyramid, maybe, 8 Third son, 12 Not 'neath, 13 Actress Perlman, 14 152, in old Rome, 15 Speeches boosters, 17 Fanatic, 19 Red algae, 21 Main circus tent, 24 Poorly lit, 25 "A Chorus Line" song, 26 Aye undoer, 28 Argue against, 32 Farm fraction, 34 Aachen article, 36 Judicial garb, 37 Limerick feature, 39 Pre-schooler, 41 "Angie" actor Stephen. DOWN: 3 Citrus green-house, 4 Poseidon's son, 5 "So that's it!", 6 Clothing store section, 7 Founded (on), 8 Con artist, 9 Sailor's saint, 10 Gratuities, 11 Radiator sound, 16 Boy king, 20 Melody, 21 Piglet's dad, 22 Foot fraction, 23 Writer's block?, 27 However nesian island, 30 Modern taxi rival, 31 Brewed drinks, 33 Envoy's residence, 35 Sinbad's bird, 38 Long time, 40 Like some car windows, 43 Vatican-related, 45 "How frustrating!", 46 Rhine feeder, 47 Pride parade initials, 48 "But," in French, 49 Advertising award, 53 Sch. URL ender, 54 Shower curtain holder, 55 Navarro of "The View". Solution time: 24 mins.

Grid for crossword puzzle with letters: MAG, CARY, ERAS, ASU, AREA, SNIP, ATA, SILK, SCARF, MICAH, SHH, REBA, YEATS, SILK, WORM, WRIT, ELI, STROS, GNU, ELEV, SILKWOOD, MSDOS, DEER, DID, TYPOS, SILKSONIC, AWE, ELSA, GISH, TEA, WETS, GARY, SSN.

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers 1-61.

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# Calling it a career

*Grant Zgunda retires from teaching, coaching football at Jay County*

By **ANDREW BALKO**  
The Commercial Review

Grant Zgunda has had a storied career.

After 27 years, a state finals appearance, two trips to the semi-state, six sectional championships and a final four seasons leading the Patriots he's decided it's time to hang it up.

After notifying the Jay County High School athletic department on Monday, Zgunda officially submitted his letter of resignation as the JCHS football coach on Tuesday prior to his retirement from teaching at the end of the 2024-25 school year.

"When I came to Jay County, I remember the interview and I remember saying 'I've got about four to six years left in me in education,'" Zgunda said. "This is the fourth year, so I'm going to go ahead and get out of everything. It has nothing to do with any kind of giving up or whatever, it was just kind of a part of the plan all along. It's time for me to spend some more time with my family. I'm going to retire from education at the end of the year, so that's the reason."

Zgunda began his career as an assistant coach in the 1980s before getting his first coaching job at Madison-Grant in 1993. He led the Argylls to a 4-5 season before ripping off four winning seasons at MGHS.

In 1998, Zgunda took the coaching job at Delta, where he established his legacy. During his 18-year tenure, he led the Eagles to a 169-45 record and seven Hoosier Heritage Conference championships. During his time at DHS, the Eagles won six sectional championships (2000, 2001, 2005, 2008, 2009 and 2015) and made it all the way to the state championship in 2001. Delta never had a losing season under his guidance, with the worst season coming in at 6-4 in 2013.

He then took a break from coaching for five seasons and stepped into the athletic director role at DHS. Zgunda returned to coaching in 2021, when he took the job leading the Patriots. (He is also a physical education teacher at JCHS and will retire from that position at the end of the school year.)

Through four years with Jay County, Zgunda had a 12-29 record and led the team to its first sectional win since 2017 with a

42-7 victory over Belmont this past season. The Patriots' best season under his tenure came in 2023, as the team finished 4-6.

"He's spent the last several years coaching us, being a part of our team and overall done a phenomenal job," said JCHS athletic director Alex Griffin. "Everyone I talk to - I've only been here this year - but as I look back, or you talk to families, general patrons or those tied to the administration, it's obvious that our boys have continually improved."

"I was talking to coach yesterday and when he looks at the team coming up next year he's like, 'We're in a good spot.' He's not walking away leaving nothing ... I think that was good for him to know and important for him to know and that just speaks volumes to his character. That's why he's a hall of fame coach."

Griffin currently plans to post the position sometime in the month of December, but the school will wait for the new year so the new school board members can join the process before the search gets serious. (Jon Eads, Chad Towell and Aaron Clark were elected to Jay School Board in Tuesday's election. For more on the election, see page 1.)

When reflecting on his time at Jay County, Zgunda mentioned his appreciation for the opportunity to lead the Patriots as well as his wish to have found more success during his tenure.

"I just want the Jay County Community to know that I'm thankful for the opportunity to be there for four years," Zgunda said. "It's been tremendous between the turf field and new facilities and people are hungry there for winning football. ..."

"I feel bad that we weren't able to get more wins. I wish I would have been able to help that happen. I don't know that there's any blame there for anyone. Our players worked extremely hard and we had some close games where we weren't able to get the win. But we also had some big wins like at Huntington and Woodlan last year. We could have beat Kokomo last year, so there were a lot of games we were right there."

"I feel positive about it. I know a lot of people won't see it that way, but our kids played hard. The main thing for me is that I feel bad for them that we weren't able to get more wins."



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School football coach Grant Zgunda calls for his team to kick the point after touchdown following the score on the opening drive in the 35-13 loss at Heritage Oct. 18, 2024. After leading the Patriots for four years, Zgunda will retire from coaching and teaching at Jay County.

<b>Full-page COLOR - \$500</b>	<b>1/2 page COLOR - \$325</b> <i>(includes tile ad on CR website through end of 2024)</i>
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**The Commercial Review**

## Embiid suspended for three games

By **GINA MIZELL**  
The Philadelphia Inquirer  
Tribune News Service

PHILADELPHIA — 76ers center Joel Embiid has been suspended three games without pay by the NBA for his locker room altercation with Philadelphia Inquirer columnist Marcus Hayes, the league announced Tuesday.

The suspension will begin with the next regular-season game that Embiid is eligible and able to play, according to the NBA's news release. The 2023 MVP has been sidelined for the first six games with a left knee condition, following meniscus surgery in February.

After Saturday's Sixers loss to the Memphis Grizzlies, Embiid yelled his disapproval that Hayes mentioned his late brother and son, both named Arthur, in an Oct. 23 column that criticized the All-Star center for missing the start of the season. After Hayes attempted to apologize, Embiid "reached out with his left hand and struck me on the right side of my neck with his open hand, and shoved me a step backward in the same motion," Hayes said.

"Mutual respect is paramount to the relationship between players and media in the NBA," Joe Dumars, the league's executive vice president and head of basketball operations, said in a release. "While we understand Joel was offended by

the personal nature of the original version of the reporter's column, interactions must remain professional on both sides and can never turn physical."

In a statement, Inquirer editor and senior vice president Gabriel Escobar said, "Marcus is an experienced and accomplished columnist who offers sharp and illuminating commentary grounded in his observations. You are free to disagree with what he says, but a physical assault is unwarranted and untenable and we are taking this matter very seriously."

The Sixers' upcoming games are at the Los Angeles Clippers on Wednesday and at the Los Angeles Lakers on Friday. The Sixers then host the Charlotte Hornets on Sunday night before back-to-back home games against the New York Knicks and Cleveland Cavaliers next Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively.

ESPN reported that Embiid will lose \$1,063,778 in pay during the suspension.

Without Embiid, who arguably is the league's most dominant player when healthy, the Sixers have gotten off to a disappointing 1-5 start. Fellow perennial All-Star Paul George, the team's prized offseason acquisition, also missed the Sixers' first five games before making his season debut Monday against the Phoenix Suns.