

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Staff celebration

Katie Loy, an agricultural teacher at Jay County Junior-Senior High School, gets hyped up after winning a point during the student vs. staff volleyball tournament in the auxiliary gym on Tuesday. The night included tournaments of cornhole, euchre and volleyball, while other students and staff shot hoops and played board games.

Energy bill advances

Legislation to boost nuclear clears committee

By **LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ**

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana legislation boosting early forays into nuclear power earned utility company support on Tuesday, but passionate opposition from ratepayer groups. It advanced from committee on a bipartisan 10-3 vote.

With demand on the rise, Hoosier political and energy leaders are increasingly eyeing emerging technology — small modular nuclear reactors, or SMRs — as a possible solution.

The United States hosts no operational SMRs. Across the globe, only China and Russia have functional ones. Some want Indiana to lead, but nuclear development is pricey.

Sen. Eric Koch, R-Bedford, told the House's energy committee that he hopes to "incentivize earlier deployment by removing what I understand to be the single-biggest barrier."

His Senate Bill 424 would offer public utilities bringing SMRs to Indiana a path to recover pre-construction costs — including anticipated spending — from their customers before they obtain certificates of public convenience and necessity from the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission.

Included are expenditures for design; engineering; environmental analyses and permitting; federal approvals, licensing and permitting; equipment purchases and more.

See **Advances** page 2

Layoffs begin mission to end education dept.

McMahon says staffing cuts are a first step

By **NIELS LESNIEWSKI and JOHN T. BENNETT**

CQ-Roll Call
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — Education Secretary Linda McMahon said Tuesday that large-scale staffing cuts at her department are a step toward ending its operations, as ordered by President Donald Trump.

"His directive to me, clearly, is to shut down

the Department of Education, which we know we'll have to work with Congress to get that accomplished. But what we did today was to take the first step of eliminating what I think is bureaucratic bloat," McMahon said on Fox News.

The announced reduction in force would cut nearly 50% of employees, according to a statement from the department.

If the Trump administration's plan is implemented, the number of Education Department employees would go from over 4,100 down to about 2,200, with roughly 600 leaving voluntarily while others are laid off.

See **Layoffs** page 2

Union asks for Indiana facility to be repurposed

Plans are to retire coal-fired plant in '28

By **JOSEPH S. PETE**

The Times (Munster)
Tribune News Service

The United Steelworkers union is asking NIPSCO to consider converting the Michigan City Generating Station on the Lake Michigan lakefront to gas or battery to save the jobs.

Merrillville-based NIPSCO has long-standing plans dating back to 2018 to retire the coal-fired plant by 2028 as it phases out coal-fired electricity generation company-wide. Michigan City has been discussing tearing it down to open up more of the lakefront to public use.

The USW hopes to save the 125 union jobs and \$5 million in annual tax revenue, noting it helped save the NIPSCO maintenance center in LaPorte from closure in 2002. The union applauded LaPorte County officials for getting NIPSCO to agree in a rate-case settlement to study turning the

plant into a combined cycle gas turbine or gas peaker generating plant as well as to study some other greener power generation project somewhere else in LaPorte County.

NIPSCO should invest in power generation in its own service territory, USW Local 12775 President Ryan Baker said.

"As you invest in new generating capacity, whether it's gas-fired, battery storage, wind or solar, build it and operate that generation in your service territory so that folks here who are paying NIPSCO rates benefit from jobs and tax revenue," he said in a statement.

NIPSCO is committed to the closure, but is studying conversion and other power generation options in LaPorte County, spokeswoman Jessica Cantarelli said.

The environmental group Just Transition NWI calls for the plant's decommissioning but would like to see green power generation added in Michigan City.

"We believe renewable power generation should be built here in LaPorte County to retain the impacted workforce and family-sustaining union jobs to protect our local economy, utilizing local initiatives like the NAACP Michigan City Branch 3061-B's Soul Power solar jobs training program," executive director Ashley Williams said.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Sparkle and swing

Nevaeh Wellman, Maisey Keller and Kaylynn Clark of Just Treble sing and dance after a costume change in their competition show, "Madeline," during a farewell performance for their 2025 shows Monday at Jay County Junior-Senior High School. The JCHS show choirs will close their competition season Saturday at the Columbia City Cup.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 68 degrees Tuesday. The low was 47.

Tonight's low will be in the upper 40s. Skies will be mostly sunny Friday with a high in the lower 70s and winds gusting to 30

miles per hour. The low will be in the upper 50s, with rain expect to begin after midnight Friday. There is a chance of showers and thunderstorms throughout the day Saturday. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

A legislative update with State Reps. J.D. Prescott (R-Union City) and Matt Lehman (R-Berne), and State Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle) is scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday, March 15, at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

Coming up

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

Saturday — Photos from the Jay County junior high swim team.

Tuesday — Coverage of Saturday's legislative update in Dunkirk.



Advances ...

Continued from page 1
Once the IURC gives a utility permission to start spending, the company would be able to request approval of a rate schedule to pass those costs on to customers. Regulators would have to approve if they find the costs reasonable in amount, consistent with their best spending estimate, and necessary to support SMR development.

A utility could recover 80% of approved costs under the resulting rate schedule within three years at most. It would defer the remaining 20% for recovery as part of its next general rate case.

Indiana Michigan Power — one of the state's "big five" investor-owned, regulated monopolies — featured heavily in discussion.

Two of the state's largest incoming data centers, for Amazon Web Services and Google, will be in I&M territory. President and CEO Steve Baker said tax incentives and other economic development efforts are drawing more big customers and big loads into Indiana.

"Our customers are concerned about our ability to supply these loads and do that in a sustainable sort of way," Baker told the committee.

I&M is "considering" an SMR at its coal-fueled Rockport power plant, he said, which is set to shutter in 2028 by federal consent

decree. A state-funded Purdue University report last year found the plant is among eight Indiana coal plant sites well-suited to SMR development.

Several representatives from Spencer County, which hosts the plant, said the legislation would ensure a major property tax contributor, charitable giver and employer stays in their community.

That prompted Rep. Matt Pierce, D-Bloomington, to remark later, "I can understand why, from the perspective of the locals, they would certainly want to have that project built, particularly if the cost of the project is borne by people outside of their area."

Ratepayer advocates maintained opposition.

"Say no, no, to subsidizing financially healthy, investor-owned utilities (and) tech behemoths who have deep, deep pockets," Citizens Action Coalition Executive Director Kerwin Olson said.

Utility could recover 80% of approved costs

Olson expected I&M to begin its cost recovery asks once the bill becomes law — although an SMR wouldn't come online at Rockport until at least 2036, in the utility's estimate.

"If they make a filing in 2025 or 2026, whatever they file for, this bill says they have to recover that by 2029 — for a project that may never, ever happen," Olson said. "... Where are the provisions that require the utilities to refund customers their money?"

Koch previously said his proposal contains "important consumer protections."

Under Senate Bill 424, costs exceeding the IURC's best estimate wouldn't get passed to ratepayers unless regulators deem the spending "reasonable, necessary, and prudent" in supporting reactor development.

Expenditures for canceled or abandoned projects wouldn't be recoverable without the same "reasonable, necessary, and prudent" finding. Even so, a utility

wouldn't earn returns in such cases unless regulators also find the decision was "prudently made for good cause," that profit is "appropriate ... to avoid harm" to the utility and its customers; and that costs will be offset or reimbursed through other, listed means.

Olson and others weren't convinced.

"I think 'reasonable' and 'prudent' are my least favorite words in the English dictionary; (they're) written by lawyers for lawyers," Olson said. He noted that the legislation doesn't define those terms. His other concern: "It's the 'shall' provisions. The bill is littered with, 'The utility shall recover,' (and) 'The commission shall approve.'"

Delaney Barber Kwon, the community and government affairs manager for Indiana Conservation Voters, asked the committee to consider alternative ways to support SMR development, like tax credits, public-private partnerships and more.

Joe Rompala, representing Indiana Industrial Energy Consumers Inc., similarly requested that lawmakers pursue other forms of cost recovery, like the partnership-heavy pilot program in Senate Bill 423. The trade organization includes more than 20 of the state's largest energy consumers, he said.

Sam Carpenter, executive director of the Hoosier Environmental Council, noted that Virginia has capped SMR development cost recovery totals to just \$125 million over five years and limited rider increases for the typical residential customer to \$1.40 monthly.

Disagreements abounded over the legislation's timing.

Pierce, the Bloomington Democrat, said SMR is "not quite proven" and that Indiana should wait for the technology to get better and cheaper. Advancing Koch's proposal now, he said, would make ratepayers into "guinea pigs for this experiment called an SMR."

But I&M's Baker previously feared that if Indiana moves too slowly, it may struggle to compete for power-needy economic development projects. Baker said I&M wants to ensure that "we're not too far in front, but we're not so far behind that we don't have the ability to act on this."

The legislation earned a full-throated endorsement from Energy and Natural Resources Secretary Suzanne Jaworowski, one of Gov. Mike Braun's cabinet appointees.

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This story was edited for length. For the full version, visit indianacapitalchronicle.com.

CR almanac

Friday 3/14	Saturday 3/15	Sunday 3/16	Monday 3/17	Tuesday 3/18
76/59	71/48	51/30	51/39	68/53
Friday's weather calls for mostly sunny skies, with a high chance of rain late.	Rain is expected Saturday with a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Sunday has a slight chance of rain. Otherwise, temperatures may dip to the 30s.	Sunny skies are expected Monday when the high will be around 51 degrees.	Tuesday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with highs in the mid 60s.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$353 million	Evening Daily Three: 7-7-6 Daily Four: 9-5-2-5 Quick Draw: 1-2-7-8-9-16-27-31-34-36-44-49-52-53-54-55-57-62-76-77
Mega Millions 1-19-26-38-69 Mega Ball: 15 Megaplier: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$277 million	Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 6-1-1 Pick 4: 4-3-1-7 Pick 5: 9-2-0-2-1 Evening Pick 3: 8-0-8 Pick 4: 9-5-2-6 Pick 5: 4-4-5-6-1 Rolling Cash: 11-13-20-21-23 Estimated jackpot: \$130,000
Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 0-1-2 Daily Four: 1-4-9-0 Quick Draw: 6-9-11-13-16-26-33-34-35-38-40-44-46-47-51-55-63-67-69-80	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.54 April corn4.64 May corn.....4.70	April beans10.08 Wheat 5.12
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.80 April corn4.75 May corn.....4.80	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.64 April corn4.68 Beans.....9.94 April beans9.98 Wheat5.16
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.75 April corn4.75 Beans10.04	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.60 April corn4.65 Beans.....9.81 April beans9.86 Wheat5.12

Today in history

In 1794, Eli Whitney patented the cotton gin, a machine meant to remove seeds from raw cotton.
In 1852, the Uncle Sam cartoon appeared in the New York Lantern weekly for the first time.
In 1868, the United States Senate began its first impeachment trial for then-president Andrew Johnson.
— The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 6 p.m. — Jay County Plan Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.	Monday 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 6 p.m. — Jay County Country Living Advisory Board, 1194 E. 200 North, Portland.
Friday 9:30 a.m. — Redkey Town Council special session, park cabin, 50 Mooney St.	

Layoffs ...

Continued from page 1
Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-Louisiana, chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, said he had spoken with McMahon about the announced staffing cuts as part of what McMahon has termed the "final mission" for the department. Cassidy said he had been assured that the cuts would not impair "statutory obligations."

"This action is aimed at fulfilling the admin's goal of addressing redundancy and inefficiency in the federal government," Cassidy posted on social media.

McMahon said on Fox News that the department would meet mandates, including for programs such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA, although she could not immediately identify what that acronym stood for, noting it was only her fifth day on the job.

She said the goal was to eventually get more money flowing to the states though block grants and other means with fewer federal requirements.

McMahon's acknowledgment that shuttering the Education Department would require congressional approval has not assuaged Democrats, who widely panned the announcement.

Connecticut Rep. Rosa DeLauro, the ranking Democrat on both the Appropriations Committee and the subcommittee that oversees the Education Department's spending, called the staffing cuts "illegal."

"The Department of Education — created by an act of Congress, funded by appropriations bills passed by Congress and signed into law — ensures that, no matter the wealth their family does or does

not have, or whether they have a disability or other disadvantage, every single child has the opportunity to obtain an education," DeLauro said in a statement. "Today's staff eliminations are illegal, and they are a slap in the face to the dedicated public servants who work to make sure American children have access to a quality education."

While the House voted 217-213 on Tuesday to pass a stopgap spending bill through the end of fiscal 2025, the Senate has not yet taken up the measure. The Education Department announcement is another factor for Democrats to consider in deciding whether to vote for the continuing resolution.

The top Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee, Sen. Patty Murray of Washington, said in a statement Tuesday night that McMahon and Trump "know they can't abolish the Department of Education on their own but they understand that if you gut it to its very core and fire all the people who run programs that help students, families, and teachers, you might end up with a similar, ruinous result."

SERVICES

Friday
Wayman, Ida 11 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

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Colorectal cancer is most preventable

By THOMAS STEWART

March is Colorectal Cancer Month and an important time to bring awareness to one of the most preventable types of cancer. Studies show that Colorectal Cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States and affects both men and women of all ethnicities.

It's important to talk with your healthcare provider and get screened.

What is colorectal cancer?

Colorectal cancer is cancer that forms in the colon or rectum. Most colorectal cancer begins with a growth (or polyp)

Your Health Matters



on the inner lining of the colon or rectum. These polyps can change over time (often many years) and become cancerous. If a polyp becomes cancerous, it can grow into the wall of the colon or rectum and spread to other areas of the body. The stage of the cancer depends on how deeply it has grown into the wall and if it has spread, and the extent of the spread.

What are some risk factors of colorectal cancer?

Colorectal cancer is typically associated with older adults, however, the occurrence in adults younger than 50 years old is on the rise. Because of the rise in younger adults being diagnosed with colon cancer, it is recommended that average risk adults begin getting screened at the age of 45. People at a higher risk, such as those with family history of colon cancer, are encouraged to get screened at a younger age.

While some factors cannot be controlled, like getting older and family history, some lifestyle factors can also increase

the risk of developing colon cancer. These factors include a lack of physical activity, a diet low in fruit, vegetables and whole grains, a diet high in red meat or processed meat, being overweight or obese, and excessive alcohol consumption or smoking.

What are symptoms of colorectal cancer?

Many people experience very subtle or no symptoms at all of colon cancer which is why screening is so important. Some symptoms include fatigue, weakness, weight loss, abdominal pain, changes in bowel movements and rectal bleeding.

Many of these symptoms can be related to other healthcare conditions so it is important to check with your healthcare provider and get screened regularly.

The survival rate for colorectal cancer found in an early stage is about 90%, according to the American Cancer Society.

What are the types of colon cancer screenings?

While a colonoscopy is considered the most effective type of screening for colorectal cancer there are other types of screenings. These screenings or detection tests include stool testing,

radiological imaging and flexible sigmoidoscopy, but a colonoscopy is the only test that can view the entire colon for polyps.

Adopting healthy lifestyle habits such as eating a healthy diet, avoiding tobacco and heavy alcohol consumption, along with staying active can reduce your risk of developing colon cancer along with many other health conditions. Make sure to talk with your healthcare provider about when you should get screened.

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Thomas Stewart is a family medicine provider at IU Health Blackford primary care office.

Lack of commitment puzzles partner's dad

DEAR ABBY: I am concerned about my daughter. She's in a nice relationship, which seems good. They have two beautiful sons, ages 4 and 2, good jobs, a nice home and nice families who show a lot of support. We are always there for one another.

My concern is that my daughter's partner will not move forward with an engagement and proposal of marriage. A few years ago, I mentioned marriage to him, and he answered, "Soon." His parents also said the time will be coming soon. I heard from someone that he said there has been a lot of divorce in his family, and that's what is holding him back.

I feel for my daughter. While her sister and cousins are getting married, she is sitting idle. I don't really know how she is feeling because I try not to butt in, but this is hurting my wife and me, and possibly her. Should I say something again or stay out of it? She would be a beautiful and happy bride. — EMPATHETIC DAD IN ILLINOIS

DEAR DAD: Sorry to be a grump, but it's time to think

Dear Abby



realistically. There is a lot more to this than what a beautiful and happy bride your daughter would make. Has she considered what would happen to her and the children if something unforeseen happened to her partner? Who would be legally empowered to make medical and financial decisions for him? Her? His parents? Has he considered what the outcome of his stalling could be, two children later?

Talk with your daughter and make sure she understands the implications of what's going on. Yes, she and her partner are happy. Bless them for that. But it's possible neither of them is thinking pragmatically and, for the

sake of her and the children, that should change.

DEAR ABBY: My wife died five years ago. I waited for four years before getting back in the dating scene. My girlfriend was divorced six years ago. Her ex-husband lives in a different state. She refuses to tell him about our relationship because she says she doesn't want to hurt his feelings.

Her ex calls and texts her all the time. I like her a lot, and our relationship has been great in every way. I just can't get over her not telling him. I have talked to her about this, but she refuses to tell him. Should I be worried about this? — EX ISSUE IN MICHIGAN

DEAR EX ISSUE: I think so. This woman may be legally divorced from her husband but is not emotionally, which may be why she's reluctant to tell him. She may also be less invested in your relationship than you are. Ask her whether she would want to know if her ex met someone and started a relationship.

Then ask the reverse question because, if you are serious about her, the current situation is unfair to you.

DEAR ABBY: I returned from an errand this morning, and my husband was across the street from our house wearing only a robe, naked underneath and talking to the wife of our neighbor. I'm fuming because I feel it was totally disrespectful to me as well as inappropriate, and he should have dressed himself first. What do you think? — MORTIFIED IN ARKANSAS

DEAR MORTIFIED: I agree with you. If your husband was hanging out across the street talking with your neighbor's wife, he should have had on a pair of shorts underneath his robe.

DEAR ABBY: I was out to dinner this evening. A father and his two sons (10 and 6) were seated at the table next to ours. As soon as they sat down, the father began berating the 10-year-old's performance at a sporting event. He called him "worthless" and a

"piece of dog sh-t." It continued throughout the entire meal.

I felt bad for the boy and was horrified at the way his father was treating him. I wanted to take the father aside but didn't know if it would make him abuse his son even more. What advice do you have for situations like this? — SITTING BY IN COLORADO

DEAR SITTING BY: It's counterproductive when parents become overly involved in their children's sports activities. Clearly, the public shaming this father was giving the boy wasn't helpful encouragement. That said, you were wise to remain silent for the reason you stated. If you had tried to intervene, it would have embarrassed the abuser, and it might have made things worse for the boy.

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Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second

Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY HEALTH JAY HOSPITAL OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of each month in Indiana University Health Jay Hospital Conference Room B. The group is for ostomy and intestinal diversion patients and their friends and family to offer mutual support and learn about the latest products and information.

JAY COUNTY TRAILS CLUB — Will meet at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center.

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. To learn more information, please call (260) 251-3259.

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.

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

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

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

MARCH SPECIALS

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Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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

Handling of school incident is a disgrace

To the editor:
Recently, my daughter's friend, who is like a daughter to me, was grabbed high up on her inner thigh by a male student against her will.

This happened in a classroom.

She informed the teacher and his response was disgraceful.

I called the high school when I found out about all of this and spoke to the principal. He assured me that this would not be tolerated and an investigation will be done into the male who touched her.

In the past year, there was an investigation into a male staff member searching a female student inappropriately, a staff member being dismissed and charged for allegedly touching himself in a classroom full of students and a volunteer teacher banned from school property after being arrested on multiple felony charges.

So I don't put anything past the staff at this point.

The victim in this situation made a statement and

Letters to the Editor

her seat was moved in the classroom so she was no longer sitting beside the male student involved in the incident. This was not enough. She was then switched to a different class period so that she isn't in the male's class anymore.

As far as I know, nothing was done about the teacher.

Why is she the one being punished and the male who sexually harassed/assaulted her is being able to go on like nothing happened?

This is a complete disgrace of what once was a great school system and has become a building full of everything wrong in the world.

My business and I have donated a lot of money to JCHS the past few years but that all ends now.

Donald Cooke II
Portland



Club helps heal divides

By JAKE HARRIMAN
The Fulcrum
Tribune News Service

Alice Garcia never planned on a military career, but a schedule change in high school set her up for an unlikely stint in the Army Junior ROTC program.

"The only elective that was available after my schedule change was Army JROTC," she recalled. At the time, she saw it as merely another class, but her mom helped her look at it in a different way. Her mom told her that when she was in high school, women weren't allowed to be cadets — so she had to be a 'sponsor' for the male cadets. "You should be thankful that you get to be a cadet in JROTC," Garcia's mother explained to her.

Seeing the opportunity that the program offered came at the right time, as Garcia's instructors recognized her growing leadership skills. "One of the instructors mentioned, 'You seem to be catching onto this Army thing. Have you thought about the military?' And I immediately said, 'No, I have to go to college, that's non-negotiable for my family,'" Garcia said.

But learning that military service meant a scholarship opportunity changed things, and with the encouragement of her father, who served in both the Air Force and Army, she took the leap and applied to West Point.

The military experience she gained in the following years gave her firsthand insight into how individuals can come together with a shared goal, regardless of how vastly different their backgrounds may be.

"We're used to people from all over the country ... not looking alike and being diverse in their opinions, but we all have to come together for a common mission," she explained.

From San Antonio to Korea, Garcia witnessed the military fostering unity and emphasizing cooperation. When she eventually decided to leave the military, the transition back to a civilian posed its challenges, and the stark divisions along political, racial, and economic lines became clearer than ever.

She immediately felt that her leadership skills gained in military service had a purpose beyond the armed forces. "It's almost in a lot of ways like finding your purpose again after the military," she recalled. "Instead of defending the country from external forces,



Jake Harriman

you're defending it from internal forces."

Like many veterans before her, Garcia searched for meaningful and impactful ways to serve her community. At first, she engaged in an organization for other young professionals in San Antonio, Texas, but she felt she was being called to do more. Through connections with friends and classmates from West Point, Garcia found her way to +More Perfect Union.

Garcia soon realized what she was actually searching for: Less talk for the sake of talking and more genuine dialogue, listening, and building relationships that break free of ideological lines.

"It was not just about talk; it was actually bringing people together to speak to each other and to have those interactions," she said. "It wasn't about debating; it was about understanding."

It's not surprising that one of Garcia's most successful initiatives at +More Perfect Union has been the "Coffee Club," a series of informal gatherings designed to encourage open discussions among people from different backgrounds.

In these events, people across the political spectrum are brought together not to debate policy — but to talk about issues that they can find common ground on. Questions Garcia may bring to the table include: What is hope? What is mercy? What is the American dream?

"In an hour, people who originally came in with different points of view are hugging each other ... they're just connecting with people again, and it is really kind of a beautiful thing to see," she explained.

This approach, Garcia explains, proves that while many of us can get caught up in the whirlwind of policy and political figures, when we get down to core values, we often want the same things — no matter who we choose to vote for.

The Coffee Club events take place at locally-owned shops in San Antonio, followed by community service projects or volunteer work. This multi-pronged

Garcia soon realized what she was actually searching for: Less talk for the sake of talking and more genuine dialogue, listening, and building relationships that break free of ideological lines.

approach — pairing conversation with local action — helps members feel more involved and integrated into their communities.

Garcia draws from her military experience when moderating discussions, which can be difficult — yet healing — for both sides. "In the Army, you have to work with people who don't think like you, who come from different walks of life. You learn to see beyond the uniform and respect the person."

Veterans are uniquely prepared to help bridge these divides in the civilian world, Garcia explains. "We're trained to operate in diverse environments, to lead teams with people who don't always agree, and to focus on mission over personal differences," she said. "If you don't have real conversations with people, if you only see them through the lens of what the news or social media tells you, then it's easy to fall into division."

"It's not just about veterans leading veterans; it's about veterans leading communities," she noted. "And not in the 'command and control' sense, but in the way that helps people work together, even when they disagree."

Garcia's service to the country and her fellow citizens didn't end when she hung up her uniform. Instead, it evolved into a new kind of mission — one that's every bit as important and in many ways even more challenging.

"The military gave me the tools, but this is where I get to use them," she said. "This is about protecting the country in a different way."

Harriman is the co-founder of +More Perfect Union.

We can always improve on past

By MORTON J. MARCUS

Sometimes, we advance by going back and erasing what we did in the past.

I'll do that many times as I compose this column. What I write (actually, what I type) ... that's it. I just went back and changed write to type.

Let's start over. We often advance by going back and eliminating the past. It's not because the past was wrong, but because we changed our minds. Marijuana was evil and the Indiana General Assembly joined the federal and other state governments in banning its sale.

Now, many states have discovered gold in weed. Via the holy transubstantiation of smoke or gummies to state revenues, our legislature may bless the production, distribution, sale, possession and use of marijuana. Evil is vanquished and prosperity (always a product of wisdom) advanced.

(The failure of proposed legislation does not preclude future consideration. Remember, we still haven't faced the inevitable shortfall of our means from our desires.)

But I digress from the larger picture. The penny is going to disappear. It's not a tragedy, but thousands (millions?) of words will be written in sadness and disapproval.

I don't care. It is one of the consequences of inflation which is what we call the devaluation of money. The value of the penny is less than the cost of producing it. Today the penny, tomorrow the nickel. Can the dime be far behind?

Our great-grandchildren are unlikely to use the expression, "a penny for your thoughts," as most readers don't recall the "show us your Larks" or "Lucky Strike goes to war" slogans.

The quarter might survive into the next century, but there is no reason

Eye on the Pie



to believe it will. Prices then might be expressed as \$45.3 meaning \$45 dollars and three quarters. But that might be rounded up to \$46 and \$45.1 would be rounded down to \$45.

Which leaves us with the temptation of \$45.2, an opening for the bold commercial "We always round down!"

We already experience this at the gas pump with prices always one-tenth below the next cent. As if we pay any attention to that familiar posting \$2.959.

To "modernize," governments with strong political desires for change are proposing more than getting rid of pennies or other small change in their currencies. The data we have established to monitor progress or decline is under attack.

Again it is not new. Look at our country's constitution, in which one set of persons were counted as equal to three-fifths of another set. An official in this country recently proposed removing federal spending from Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

I think he seeks to have government spending considered investment and not consumption. But investment is counted in GDP. Yet the idea is not a right-wing fantasy. There are left-wing advocates for treating education spending as investment rather than consumption. Isn't it wonderful we can always improve on the past?

Marcus is an economist formerly with Indiana University's Kelley School of Business. Email him at mortonjmarcus@gmail.com.

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"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."
—Thomas Jefferson

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Asbury United Methodist
204 E. Arch St., Portland
Joe Boggs
(260) 726-8464
Services: 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.
asburyministries.org

Bellefountain United Methodist
440 S. 600 East
Pamela Freeman
Services: 9 a.m.

Bluff Point Friends
80 E. 650 South
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Boundary St. Paul
Corner of Treaty Line
Road and county road 300 East
Ava Gannon
(260) 726-2373
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Bryant Wesleyan
209 S. Hendricks St.
Paul VanCise
(260) 997-6231
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.
bryantwesleyanchurch.com

Calvary United Methodist
301 N. Main St., Dunkirk
Susan Durovey-Antrim
(765) 499-0368
Services: 10:30 a.m.
susan.duroveyantrim@inumc.org

Christ Chapel
2535 Wabash Road, Fort Recovery
(419) 733-1469
christchapel.fr.com

Church of the Living God (Miracle Missions)
8472 S. 800 East, Union City
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Church of God of Prophecy
797 N. Creagor Ave., Portland
Nanette Weesner
(260) 766-9334
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nanybell@yahoo.com

Church of the Brethren
Floral and Chicago avenues, Portland
Kevin McClung
(260) 729-7295
Services: 10 a.m.

Church of the Living God
South Broad Street, Dunkirk
Services: 7 p.m., 7 p.m. Friday

Collett Nazarene
450 South, 1 mile west of U.S. 27
Billy Stanton
(260) 251-2403
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Cornerstone Baptist
211 E. Main St., Portland
Wayne Ward
(260) 726-7714
Services: 10 a.m.

Cornerstone Church of Pennville
190 W. Main St., Pennville
David Davidson
(260) 202-9718
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Dunkirk Nazarene
226 E. Center St., Dunkirk
Tom Fett
(765) 768-6199
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Evangelical Methodist
930 W. Main St., Portland
Steve Arnold
(260) 251-0970
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

Fairview United Methodist/Jay County
2875 E. 200 South
Pamela Freeman
Lay leader: Beth Stephen
(260) 726-9184
Services: 10:15 a.m.

Faith Community
9560 W. 200 South, Dunkirk
Joe Schmit
(260) 251-5254
Services: 10 a.m.

Family Worship Center
200 E. Elder St., Portland
Ronald Willis
(260) 726-4844
Services: 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
thefamilyworshipcenter.org

Fellowship Baptist
289 S. 200 West
Hugh Kelly
(260) 726-8873
Services: 9 a.m., 11 a.m.
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
pastorkelly@fbc-portland.com

First Church of Christ
1049 Union City Road, Fort Recovery
David J. Nicholson
(419) 375-2860
Services: 10:30 a.m.
fcfcfortrecovery.org

First Community Baptist
341 S. Meridian St., Redkey
Everett Bilbrey Jr.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday

First Free Will Baptist
12369 W. 600 South, Dunkirk
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Services: 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m., 6 p.m. Wednesday

First Presbyterian
402 N. Ship St., Portland
Rev. M. Rex Espiritu
(260) 726-8462
Services: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 10:15 a.m.
firstpcportland.org

Fort Recovery Church of the Nazarene
401 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery
(419) 375-4680
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Kids vision and teen ministries: 6 p.m. Wednesday
frnaz@frontier.com

Fort Recovery United Methodist
309 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery
Rev. Carol McKay
(304) 617-0101
Services: 9 a.m.

Full Gospel Lighthouse Tabernacle
468 E. Washington St., Dunkirk
Robert Thomas
(765) 348-4620
Services: 6:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Thursday

Geneva First United Methodist
100 W. Line St., Geneva
Barry McCune
(260) 368-7655
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Geneva Nazarene
225 Decatur St., Geneva
(260) 525-8609
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.
Prayer meeting: 6 p.m. Wednesday

Gilead Church
County road 650 North, one-quarter mile east of Balbec
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Hickory Grove Church of the Brethren
Indiana 1 and Indiana 26
Earl Doll
(260) 731-4477
Services: 10:30 a.m.

High Street United Methodist
435 High St., Geneva
Rev. Joseph Hampton
(260) 368-7233
Services: 9 a.m.

Holy Trinity Catholic
7321 E. Indiana 67, Bryant
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Fr. Martin Sandhage
Services: 8 a.m., 4:30 p.m. Saturday

Hopewell of Life Ministries
County road 200 South, 2 miles east of Indiana 1
Rev. Ruth Funk
(260) 251-8581
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Catholic
506 E. Walnut St., Portland
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Fr. Martin Sandhage
(260) 726-7055
Services: 5:50 p.m. Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Kingsley Full Gospel
4030 S. 700 East, Dunkirk
Stuart Phillips
Services: 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday

Mary Help of Christians
403 Sharpshurg Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
(419) 375-4153
Services: 4:30 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.

Mount Tabor Community Church
216 W. Pleasant St., Dunkirk
Scott McClain
(765) 768-7273
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Mount Zion United Methodist
County roads 600 East and 200 North
Rev. Darrell Borders
(260) 726-4786
Services: 9 a.m.

New Beginnings Holiness Church of Blaine
4017 W. 200 South
Randy Smith
(260) 251-2406
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nbholiness.com

New Covenant Fellowship
1238 W. 450 South
Chuck Myers
(260) 251-0063
Services: 10:30 a.m.

New Life Ministries
415 S. Helen St., Portland
Dr. Kay Fairchild
(260) 223-2961
Services: 4 p.m.
drkayfairchild.com

New Mt. Pleasant United Methodist
5905 S. Como Road
Neil Butcher
(765) 499-7838
Services: 9 a.m.

Noble Congregational Christian
1964 N. 800 East
Aaron Huey
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Oak Grove United Methodist
829 S. Indiana 1
Neil Butcher
(765) 760-9085
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Pleasant Hill
9945 N. 800 East, Union City
Bruce Bryan
(765) 964-3664
Services: 9 a.m., 6 p.m.
mypleasanthillchurch.org

Portland Church of Christ
1217 W. Votaw St., Portland
Bob Graham
(260) 726-7777
Bible class: 9:15 a.m.
Services: 10:20 a.m.
Bible School: 6 p.m. Wednesday
portlandcoc.com

Portland First Church of Nazarene
920 S. Shank St., Portland
Steve Cecil
(260) 726-8040
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Portland Friends
226 E. Main St., Portland
Herb Hummel
(260) 202-9732
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.

Praise Chapel Church of God
4527 E. 1000 North (Jay-Randolph county line)
Rev. Josh Canfield
(765) 584-7045
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Redeemer Lutheran
Malin and Elm streets, Bryant
Father Dan Layden
(260) 997-6787
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Redkey Faith Ministries
9811 W. Indiana 67, southwest of Redkey
Rev. Craig and Robin Cotherman
(765) 369-2920
Services: 10 a.m.
RedkeyFaith.org

Redkey First Christian
Union and Malin streets
Jeff Hammers
(765) 468-6172
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Redkey United Methodist
122 W. Main St.
Lori McIntosh
(765) 369-2085
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Redkey Church of the Nazarene
801 W. High St.
Fred Stevens
(765) 369-2676
redkeynaz.org
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

River of Life
722 W. Main St., Portland
Susan Hathaway
(260) 729-1095
Services: 10:30 a.m.

The ROCK
1605 N. Meridian St., Portland
Matt Ransom
(260) 726-7474
Services: 10 a.m.
matt@therockjc.org

Salamonia Church of Christ
3900 S. 600 East
Bruce Phillips
(260) 335-2017
Services: 9 a.m.

Second Chance at Life Ministries
228 S. Meridian St., Portland
Dave Keen (260) 251-8792
Mike Eads (260) 703-0733
Services: 10:30 a.m.

St. Joseph Catholic
1689 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 7:30 a.m. Sunday

St. Mary's Catholic
346 S. Broad St., Dunkirk
Rev. Kevin Hurley
Services: 5 p.m. Saturday, 5:30 p.m. Thursday

St. Paul Catholic
517 Meiring Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 11 a.m. Sunday

St. Peter Catholic
1477 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 9 a.m. Sunday

Sugar Grove Nazarene
3984 N. 550 West, Portland
Pastor Mike Heckman
(615) 517-1017
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Bible study: 6 p.m. Wednesday

Sugar Grove Church
County roads 600 South and 1150 West, Dunkirk
Scott McClain
Services: 9 a.m.

Temple Baptist
17920 Indiana 167, Dunkirk
John Elam
(765) 768-7708
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Services: 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday
7pillarsdirector@gmail.com
templebaptistin.com

The Church at Westchester
4487 E. 400 North
(260) 726-6311
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:35 a.m.
churchatwestchester.org

Trinity Lutheran
301 N. Wayne St., Fort Recovery
Robin Owen
(419) 375-4498
Services: 9 a.m. (contemporary service, fourth Sunday)
pastorrobino@gmail.com

Trinity ArchBridge Church
323 S. Meridian St., Portland
Dan Vore
(260) 726-8391
Sunday school: 9 a.m.
Services: 10:15 a.m.
portlandtrinity.com

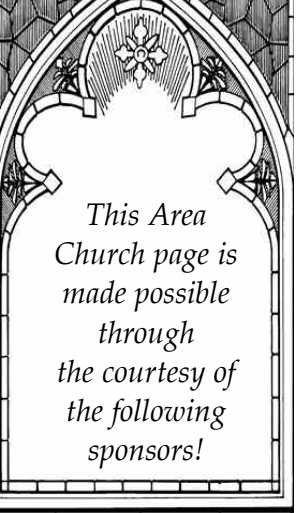
Union Chapel
6200 N. 375 West, Bryant
Interim Pastor Chris Kruchkow
(260) 849-0687
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

Union Chapel Church of the Nazarene
County road 900 North (Jay-Wells county line)
Fred Stevens
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Walnut Corner
County roads 200 North and 500 West
Steve Rogers
(260) 251-1113
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

West Walnut Church of Christ
204 W. Walnut St., Portland
Gil Alicea
(260) 726-4691
Services: 10 a.m.
westwalnutchurchofchrist.org

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Robin Owen
218 E. High St., Portland
(260) 726-8832
zionlutheranportland@gmail.com
Services: 10:30 a.m.



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It can't hurt to try

South dealer. East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ 8 5 3
 ♥ K 10 7 4
 ♦ A 9 2
 ♣ 6 3 2

WEST
 ♠ Q 7
 ♥ 3
 ♦ K Q 10 7 4
 ♣ A Q 10 9 4

EAST
 ♠ J 10 9 6 2
 ♥ 6 5
 ♦ J 8 6 3
 ♣ J 8

SOUTH
 ♠ A K 4
 ♥ A Q J 9 8 2
 ♦ 5
 ♣ K 7 5

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1♥ 2NT 3♥ Pass
 4♥

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

If you examine the layout of today's deal, it would seem that South must eventually lose a spade and three club tricks to go down the one in four hearts. Sooner or later declarer would have to try leading a club to the king in hopes that East had the ace, and that would be the end of that.

But given West's vulnerable two-notrump bid — the "unusual notrump" indicating at least five cards in both minors — South was reluctant to rest his fate solely on the slim chance that East had the ace of clubs. Accordingly, he looked for an alternative line of play that would add to his chances and eventually came up with one.

So he won the diamond king with the ace, ruffed a diamond, drew two rounds of trump ending in dummy and ruffed another diamond. Having thus eliminated the diamonds from his own hand and dummy, he cashed the ace of spades and then led the four!

The situation that South had hoped for now came to pass. West won the second spade with the queen and was endplayed. Whether he led a club or a diamond, declarer could not lose more than two club tricks, so the contract was home.

Declarer's line of play was a lot more than just a wild shot in the dark. He knew from the bidding and the early play that West was most likely to have started with five diamonds, five clubs, one heart and therefore two spades. If West's second spade was the queen, he would be in a losing position when the four of spades was led. Failing this remote but possible chance, South could still fall back on East's holding the ace of clubs.

It is true that West could have foiled declarer's plan by dropping the queen under the ace when South cashed that card. But this would certainly not be an easy thing to do since West had no way of knowing South's exact holdings in spades and clubs at that point in the play.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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 PXFAYTPL EPTS PLYXPO DKA

HKN? LK EAKM-OOPXP!

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHY DOES THAT COMEDIAN COME UP WITH SUCH BAD CHEMISTRY PUNS? BECAUSE ALL THE GOOD ONES ARGON.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals Y

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Maui souvenirs
 5 Un-talkative one
 9 Sounds of relief
 12 Words to a backstabber
 13 Block brand
 14 Word of denial
 15 Trattoria starter
 17 Plaything
 18 City in Ohio
 19 Ill will
 21 "People" rival
 22 Roulette spinner
 24 Duel prompter
 27 Bashful
 28 "Sad to say ..."
 31 Brooch
 32 Back talk
 33 Big bird of Australia
 34 Greek salad cheese
 36 Low digit

DOWN

1 Pencil
 2 Sicilian spouter
 3 — bitty
 4 Don a uniform
 5 Family
 6 Guitar master Paul
 7 Sales rep.
 8 Antlered animal
 9 Cuba, Jamaica, etc.
 10 Amusing antic
 11 Ocular woe
 16 Not neg.
 20 Pot pie morsel

22 Be a kvetch
23 Ballyhoo
24 Suntan lotion
25 Recline
26 Immunity providers
27 Trudge
29 Rock concert booster
30 Baltimore news-paper
35 Arles pal
37 "Be-witched"
39 Diarist Nin
40 British ref. work
41 Expose
42 Israeli carrier
43 Belongs
44 "Alternatively," in a text
45 Decorate anew
46 Celeb's aide
49 Cagers' gp.
50 Hamilton bill

Solution time: 24 mins.

S	A	A	B		N	E	A		N	A	D	A
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QB Daniel Jones finalizing deal with Colts

By PETER SBLENDORIO

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

NEW YORK — Call him Indiana Jones. Daniel Jones is reportedly finalizing a one-year contract with the Indianapolis Colts, with whom the former Giants quarterback will look to get his career back on track.

It's a \$14 million deal for Jones that can be worth up to \$17.7 million, according to NFL Media.

Jones, 27, now gets the chance to push third-year Colts quarterback Anthony Richardson, an elite athlete who has struggled with injury and inconsistency since Indianapolis drafted him with the fourth overall pick in 2023.

The Giants released Jones in November, less than two years into the front-loaded four-year, \$160 million contract extension he signed before the 2023 season.

The six-year veteran spent the rest of last season on the Minnesota Vikings' practice squad, then was added to the active roster for their 27-9 loss to the Los Angeles Rams in the wild-card round of the playoffs.

The Vikings reportedly showed interest in retaining Jones. However, Jones becomes the second quarterback Minnesota has lost this offseason, following last year's starter, Sam Darnold, who reached a three-year, \$100.5 million contract with the Seattle Seahawks on Monday.

The Colts, meanwhile, become the latest team to invest in Jones, whom the Giants' previous general manager, Dave Gettleman, drafted sixth overall in 2019 to be Eli Manning's replacement.

Jones went 24-44-1 as a starter with the Giants, leading them to the playoffs only



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Luke Hales

Daniel Jones (8) of the New York Giants in action against the Washington Commanders at MetLife Stadium on Nov. 3, 2024, in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

once as a 9-7-1 wild-card team in 2022.

He delivered perhaps the best performance of his career in the wild-card round of that postseason, beating the Vikings on the road, 31-24. The Giants were then blown out by the divisional round, 38-7, by the Philadelphia Eagles.

It was after that short postseason run that the Giants'

current general manager, Joe Schoen, signed Jones to his extension. Jones started only 16 games, and won just three, on that contract before the Giants benched, then released him last year.

Signing with the Colts presented Jones with the best opportunity to compete for a starting job.

Richardson, an elite athlete

with a rocket throwing arm, is 8-7 as a starter, but he has completed only 50.6% of his passes and has thrown more interceptions (13) than touchdowns (11) through two seasons. He has rushed for 10 touchdowns.

The 22-year-old Richardson was benched for two weeks last season after a Week 8 loss to the Houston Texans in which he completed only 10 of 32

passes and took himself out for one play because, as he explained after the game, he was "tired."

Jones has completed 64.1% of his pass attempts and thrown for 70 touchdowns, against 47 interceptions, in 70 career NFL appearances, including 69 starts. He has added 15 touchdowns on the ground.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Junior high wrestling in ACAC tournament at Adams Central — 5:30 p.m.

Friday
Jay County — Junior high swim in ACAC meet at Jay County — 5 p.m.

TV sports

Today
11:30 a.m. — College basketball: Duquesne vs. St. Bonaventure (USA)

12 p.m. — College basketball: ACC tournament (ESPN); Indiana vs. Oregon (BTN)
12:30 p.m. — College basketball: Big 12 tournament (ESPN2)
12:30 p.m. — Figure skating: World Figure Skating Championships (ESPN2)
1 p.m. — MLB Spring Training: Houston Astros vs. St. Louis Cardinals (FDSN Indiana)
2 p.m. — College basketball: Atlantic-10 tournament (USA)
2:30 p.m. — College basketball: ACC tournament (ESPN); Big Ten tournament (BTN)
3 p.m. — College basketball: Big 12

tournament (ESPN2)
5 p.m. — College basketball: Atlantic-10 tournament (USA)
7 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Pittsburgh Penguins (FDSN Indiana)
6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Big Ten tournament (BTN)
7 p.m. — College basketball: Big 12 tournament (ESPN2); ACC tournament (ESPN); Big East tournament (FS1)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Lakers at Milwaukee Bucks (TNT)
7:30 p.m. — College basketball: Atlantic-10 tournament (USA)
9 p.m. — College basketball: Big Ten tournament (BTN)

9:30 p.m. — College basketball: Big 12 tournament (ESPN2); ACC tournament (ESPN); Big East tournament (FS1)
10 p.m. — NBA: Sacramento Kings at Golden State Warriors (TNT)
Friday
12 a.m. — LIV Golf: Singapore (FS1)
1 a.m. — Formula 1: Australian Grand Prix (ESPN2)
11:30 a.m. — College basketball: Atlantic 10 tournament (USA)
12 p.m. — College basketball: Big Ten tournament (BTN)

1 p.m. — College basketball: SEC tournament (ESPN); American Athletic tournament (ESPN2)
2 p.m. — College basketball: Atlantic 10 tournament (USA)
2:30 p.m. — College basketball: Big Ten tournament (BTN)
3 p.m. — College basketball: American Athletic tournament (ESPN2)
3:30 p.m. — College basketball: SEC tournament (ESPN)
5 p.m. — College basketball: Atlantic 10 tournament (USA)
6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Big Ten tournament (BTN); Big East tournament (FOX)

7 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Philadelphia 76ers (FDSN Indiana)
7 p.m. — College basketball: ACC tournament (ESPN)
9 p.m. — College basketball: Big Ten tournament (BTN)
9 p.m. — LIV Golf: Singapore (FS1)
9:30 p.m. — College basketball: ACC tournament (ESPN)
10 p.m. — NHL: Utah Hockey Club at Seattle Kraken (NBC)
11:30 p.m. — College basketball: Big West tournament (ESPN2)
.....
To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@theocr.com.

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PUBLIC AUCTION
Saturday March 15th, 2025
TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 783 S 600E
Portland, IN.
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30 Acres in Section 21, Noble Twp., Jay County. Sold in parcels and combinations.
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Tract 2: 28 Acres with approx. 20 tillable, balance being wooded and road frontage on CR 600 E.
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90 SALE CALENDAR

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY, SS: IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NO: 38C01-2502-EU-000004
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF JANICE S. STUCKY (deceased)
NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that Herb Hummel was appointed as Personal Representative of the estate of Janice S. Stucky, deceased, on 2/19/2025, who died on the 15th day of January, 2025. All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated this Melissa Elliott CLERK
COLDREN, FRANTZ & SPRUNGER
Attorneys at Law
940 N. Meridian St.
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CR 3-6,13-2025 - HSPAXLP

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Public Notice
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY, SS: IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
2025 TERM
No. 38C01-2502-EU-000005
In the Matter of the Unsupervised Administration of the Estate of: **TIMMIE BELL, Deceased**
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that Deanna Cline was, on the 27th day of February, 2025, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Timmie Bell deceased, who died on February 5, 2025. All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 3rd day of March, 2025.
Melissa Elliott
Clerk of the Circuit Court, For Jay County, Indiana
HINKLE, RACSTER, SCHEMENAUR & LANDERS
121 W. High Street
Portland, IN 47371
Attorney
CR 3-6,13-2025 - HSPAXLP

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice
TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of the Superior Court of Jay County, Indiana, in Cause No. 38D01-2410-MF-000021 wherein PennyMac Loan Services, LLC was Plaintiff, and Shaun Hines was the Defendant, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and costs, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 17th day of April at the hour of 10:00 AM, or as soon thereafter as is possible at the Jay County Sheriff's Department 120 North Court Street; 3rd floor Courthouse; Portland, IN 47371 in Jay County, Indiana, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Jay County, Indiana. A part of the northwest quarter of Section 35, Township 23 North, Range 13 East, Jay County, Indiana, as shown on a survey completed by Farber Surveying, Inc., File #0123-06, dated January 24, 2023, being more particularly described as follows:
Commencing at the Northwest corner of the Northwest Quarter of Section 35, Township 23 North, Range 13 East, Jay County, Indiana; thence N 87 degrees 35 minutes 11 seconds E (assumed bearing), along the North line of said Northwest Quarter, a distance of 353.16 feet for the point of beginning of the tract herein described; thence S 02 degrees 19 minutes 50 seconds E, a distance of 134.99 feet; thence S. 87 degrees 35 minutes 11 seconds W, a distance of 176.56 feet; thence S 00 degrees 53 minutes 16 seconds E, a distance of 140.96 feet; thence S 88 degrees 58 minutes 09 seconds E, a distance of 398.78 feet; thence N 01 degrees 35 minutes 37 seconds W, a distance of 299.89 feet to the North line of said Northwest Quarter; thence S 87 degrees 35 minutes 11 seconds W, a distance of 221.84 feet to the point of beginning, Containing 2.08 acres, more or less.
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Parcel No. 38-06-35-200-001.000-022
CR 3-13,20,27-2025-HSPAXLP

Sports



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County Junior High School's Isabelle Byrum swims the butterfly leg of the 200-yard medley relay during Tuesday's meet against South Adams. The Patriots claimed all but two events to pull out a 154-93 victory to close the season.

Jay finishes strong against South Adams

The Patriots closed out the season in dominance.

The Jay County Junior High School swim teams had no trouble against the South Adams Starfires on Tuesday as the girls won 154-93 and the boys claimed a 136-61 victory.

Maria Laux, Gabby Gibson and Elly Bryum all were dual-event winners for the Patriot girls.

Gibson got the individual wins started for Jay County with a first-place finish in the 200-yard freestyle before claiming the 100 backstroke later in the meet.

Laux breezed through the 100 individual medley and the 400 freestyle for a pair of wins.

Elly Bryum's victories came in the 50 butterfly and the 100 breaststroke.

Other individual victories for the girls came from Kali Wendel in the 50 freestyle and Isabelle Byrum in the 100 freestyle.

The boys matched the girls with three dual-event winners. Ben Fischer secured wins for Jay in the 100 individual medley and the 100 freestyle. Grant Glentzer mirrored Gibson with wins in the 200 freestyle and 100 backstroke. Grady Warvel was the third Patriot to win two events, claiming the 400 freestyle and 100 breaststroke.

The only other individual win came from Lyle Beiswanger in the 50 butterfly.

Both teams won two relays as well. Both finished first in the 200 medley relay, while the girls came out on top in the 300 freestyle relay and the boys performed better in the 200 freestyle relay.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Grant Glentzer of the Jay County Junior High School swim team competes in the 200-yard freestyle during Tuesday's regular-season finale against South Adams. Glentzer won the event as the Patriot boys won the meet 136-61.

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Three Pats honored

The Patriots had a season full of peaks and valleys.

At the end of it, three hoopers were recognized by the conference.

The Jay County High School boys basketball team had two players make the All-Allen County Athletic Conference second team and another named as an honorable mention on Tuesday.

Tucker Griffin and Gradin Swoveland both made the second team along with Braylend Reber of Adams Central, Nolan Lambert of Bluffton and Woodlan's Oliver Adams and Drew Fleek.

Griffin led the Patriots (12-10, 3-3 ACAC) with 11.4 points per game and 3.3

assists per game. The senior transfer from New Castle finished the season on fire, scoring 99 points over the final six games, including a 23-point performance against Heritage to close out conference play.

Swoveland finished behind Griffin at 10.4 points per game. He was also second in rebounds, grabbing 99 boards on the year. He led JCHS with 24 blocks, 13 more than Cole Forthofer in second.

Jayden Comer was named to the honorable mention list as well.

The sophomore point guard finished the season averaging 8.9 points, 4 rebounds, 3.1 assists and a team-high 2.2 steals.

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