

Dunkirk plans to increase rates, wages

Council OKs 3% hikes for water/sewer, 2% raises for employees

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — Water and sewer rates will be increase in 2026.

So will wages for city employees. Dunkirk City Council gave initial approval to 3% increases to water and sewer rates and 2% raises for employees at its meeting Monday. The council, absent president Jesse Bivens, discussed the water and sewer rates, which were also raised by 3% last year, which was in line with the city's long-term utility plan. Council member Christy Curts suggested another 3% raise.

"I'd rather see it go up a little bit every year than a whole bunch in one year," she said.

The increases would push the minimum water rate to 25.54 per month from the current \$24.80 and the minimum sewer rate to \$17.90 per month from the current \$16.87.

Council members Dan Watson, Donna Revolt, Randy Murphy and Curts unanimously approved moving forward with the increase.

Mayor Jack Robbins brought up the employee raises, saying the 2026 budget process is going to be difficult given uncertainty regarding the amount of funding that will be available following significant changes made to tax policy by state officials this year.

"This is probably, as mayor, this is going to be the toughest budget I've dealt with," he said. "We're looking for a lot of answers with SB1 (now Senate Enrolled Act 1) and what's gonna happen in the next three years."

See **Increases** page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Project underway

A closed road sign sits along the side of Seventh Street in Portland just west of its intersection with Eighth Street on Tuesday. Construction workers began drilling into the bridge on Seventh Street over the Salamonie River this week, with bridge work to continue for the next 120 days.

Department budget OK'd for 2026

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Jay/Portland Building and Planning's budget for next year is ready.

The department's inter-local joint board approved its 2026 budget and lease agreement Monday.

Jay/Portland Building and Planning — its cost is split evenly between the city and county — proposed a \$217,090.90 budget for next year, a \$6,872.51 increase from the current year, according to assistant director Pati McLaughlin. She attributed the increase to rising health insurance costs as well as incorporating a 3% raise for employees as suggested by county officials.

Jay County Commissioner Duane Monroe recalled a discussion with Jay County auditor Emily Franks, saying she had felt

Inter-local board approves 3% increase from current year

more comfortable with departments across the board incorporating a 2% raise for employees. (Jay County Council OK'd suggesting department heads incorporate 3% raises into their budgets, with Franks noting the county can advertise the budget higher but not lower than its final amount. Council's budget review is slated for Sept. 3.) Other questions quickly surfaced about what raises Portland and Jay County were hoping

to give employees, with anywhere from 2 to 4% increases proposed by county and city officials.

McLaughlin noted the inter-local board sets its annual budget, and Jay County Council and Portland City Council have the option to either accept or deny it. Discussion turned to disagreements with council members on budget totals in years past. Board member and Jay County Council member Faron Parr talked about how simi-

lar departments in surrounding counties have more employees and require a larger budget.

"We're saving the county \$100,000 a year (that) all these others counties are spending, at least," he said. "It's a great deal for the city and the county."

Board members Faron Parr, Duane Monroe, Ron Laux, Mike Aker and Jerry Leonhard approved the budget.

Also Monday, McLaughlin noted there were no changes in the department's lease agreement renewal with Portland for its office space at Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St.

The one-year contract with the City of Portland divides and charges rent evenly among tenants, coming to at least \$350 per month.

See **Budget** page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Pageant performance

Kenzie Huey and Jenna Dues bump hips Sunday during a performance for the Miss Jay County Fair Queen Pageant. Contestants as well as the 2024 court members danced on stage while judges deliberated.

State tuition frozen

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana's 15 public colleges and universities will freeze in-state undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees for the next two academic years, Gov. Mike Braun announced Monday morning.

The Republican governor called the move a "historic" step toward making higher education more affordable.

The freeze applies to all flagship and regional campuses across the state and will keep costs flat through the 2026-2027 academic year.

That includes Ball State University; Indiana State University; Indiana University's Bloomington, East, Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, Kokomo, Northwest, South Bend and Southeast campuses; Ivy Tech Community College; Purdue's West Lafayette,

Rates will not go up for next two academic years

Indianapolis, Fort Wayne and Northwest campuses; University of Southern Indiana; and Vincennes University.

It marks the first time since at least 2010 that more than two Hoosier campuses have simultaneously frozen tuition — and the first time ever that all state colleges and universities have done so at once, according to Braun's office.

"A month ago, we challenged our state's public higher education institutions to find efficiencies, eliminate redundancies and identify ways to

streamline services without compromising quality," Braun said in a statement. "The commitment made by all of Indiana's public colleges and universities puts students and parents first and demonstrates to the rest of the country that Indiana is a leader in providing a high quality education at an affordable price."

Schools can still raise rates for room and board, however, and some institutions will additionally raise attendance costs for international students.

See **Frozen** page 5

Deaths

Colleen Norris, 80, Pennville
Lorene Huss, 83, Geneva
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 93 degrees Monday. The low was 76.
Tonight's low will be in the lower 70s. Rain is expected Thursday with a chance of thunderstorms and a high of 90.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Our annual Jay County Fair preview special section will be included in Thursday's newspaper. It will include information about the fair queen and her court as well as schedules and other details for grandstand and Farmer's Building entertainment and a 4-H livestock schedule.

Coming up

Thursday — Coverage of next week's Redkey Town Council meeting.
Friday — Results from the Jay County Summer Swim Team vs. Wells Community.
Saturday — New judge's stand in place at the Jay County Fairgrounds grandstand.

Increase ...

Continued from page 1

Senate Enrolled Act 1 made various changes to tax policy that resulted in most local government units expected to see less of a funding increase than they would have previously. (Estimates in April projected that Dunkirk would receive about \$180,000 less over a three-year period than under the previous system, though late changes were made to the legislation.)

Robbins noted that there is a meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday at Jay County High School with state officials regarding Senate Enrolled Act 1.

"I would like to be able to tell a dollar amount to what's gonna happen to the city of Dunkirk in the next three years, but I don't know what it's going to be," he said. "I'm hoping that it's not what they're saying. I'm hoping they're going to change that."

Given the uncertainties, Robbins suggested a 2% raise for all employees for 2026.

Watson spoke in support of the suggestion, noting that the city gave larger raises in the last couple of years. Employees received 7% raises in 2024 and 5% raises this year.

Council members unanimously approved moving forward with 2% raises for 2026.

Both the water/sewer rate increases and the employee raises will need to be approved via ordinance before going into effect.

Clerk-treasurer Kara Lowe also floated the possibility of shifting all department heads and firefighters to become salaried employees.

In other business:

- Council approved the following: the sale of a 1979 Ford truck to Brad Dues of Portland for \$6,250 and a 2015 Dodge Durango and a Jeep to Danielle Cassity for \$2,610.50 and \$655, respectively, all of which were the high bids; a \$500 sponsorship for the capital campaign to refurbish the gym

floor at West Jay Community Center; a \$200 sponsorship for Jay County Cancer Society's Cancer Cruise; waiving permit fees for Dunkirk Historical Society for a shed and planned installation of a refurbished First State Bank clock at its site at the former train depot; waiving admission fees for Dunkirk City Pool for the city's Independence Day celebration on Saturday, July 5; purchasing a new alarm system for the water department's chlorine room from Spear Corporation for \$5,684; and payment of claims totaling \$274,161.72.

- Curts noted that fireworks for Independence Day will be held at dusk on Saturday, July 5, at Dunkirk City Park. In case of inclement weather, they will be rescheduled for July 6.
- Council agreed to start the process of creating a non-reverting fund for the fire department in order to save money for equipment needs. Funds from fire pro-

tection contracts — Dunkirk has agreements with Knox, Jackson and Richland townships in Jay County and Niles Township in Delaware County — would go into the new fund. That money, which totaled \$14,451.06 in the most recent contracts, currently goes into the city's general fund.

- Pam Robbins reported that West Jay Community Center is partnering with East Central Indiana Regional Planning District to host an "Internet Smarts" course at 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 25, at the community center. The course is free and open to the public.
- New Jay County Development Corporation executive director Ceann Bales introduced herself to the council.
- Murphy said the city's street department has ordered stop signs for the intersection of Washington and Broad streets. The council recently voted to make the street a four-way stop.

Obituaries

Colleen K. Norris, Pennington, Sept. 25, 1944-June 22, 2025. Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, June 26, at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.






Lorene Huss, Geneva, Aug. 2, 1941-June 23, 2025. Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, June 26, at Church of the Living God, 8472 S. 800 East, Union City.

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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Thursday 6/26	Friday 6/27	Saturday 6/28	Sunday 6/29	Monday 6/30
				
91/74	92/73	86/71	88/72	87/69
Thursday looks like sunny skies with a 60% chance of rain. Heat index values may reach the upper 90s.	Heat index values will continue to swell into the upper 90s Friday, when there's a 50% chance of showers.	Saturday's forecast shows a 70% chance of showers with heat index values in the mid 90s again.	Mostly sunny with a slight chance of rain. Otherwise, highs in the upper 80s.	Another 70% chance of rain is expected Monday with a higher chance later in the day.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 5-25-42-44-65 Power Ball: 20 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$140 million	Daily Four: 5-4-4-6 Quick Draw: 1-2-4-5-14-19-20-22-23-24-32-36-37-38-46-52-69-75-78-80 Cash 5: 6-11-12-19-22 Estimated jackpot: \$415,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$326 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 7-3-4 Pick 4: 6-4-6-4 Pick 5: 6-6-1-5-4 Evening Pick 3: 3-6-8 Pick 4: 0-8-6-9 Pick 5: 4-2-1-8-0 Rolling Cash: 7-12-21-26-32 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 1-1-0 Daily Four: 7-0-7-9 Quick Draw: 8-13-16-19-22-27-35-39-41-42-44-45-47-50-54-57-65-67-73-77 Evening Daily Three: 0-3-2	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.61 July corn.....4.64 Sept. corn4.75	July beans10.53 Wheat 5.03
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.62 July corn.....4.59 Oct. corn4.19	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.35 July corn4.37 Beans10.28 July beans10.23 Wheat4.99
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.55 July corn4.55 Beans10.53	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.56 July corn4.56 Beans10.28 July beans9.84 Wheat4.88

Today in history

In 1876, Gen. George Custer and his troops were killed in the Battle of Little Big Horn.

In 1924, Rosalind P. Walter was born in Brooklyn, New York. Known as "Rosie the Riveter" for her work on fighter planes at the Vought Aircraft Company in Stratford, Connecticut, Walter was involved in a range of philanthropic activities and supported of public television programming. One of her famous

imageries is the "We Can Do It" patriotic poster.

In 1947, the Diary of Anne Frank was published, just five years after her 13th birthday.

In 2007, Dunkirk City Council OK'd moving forward with a grant application for the construction of a new fire station and base for Jay Emergency Medical Service. (The new facility was constructed at its current site on county road 400 South.)

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today
7 a.m. — Jay County Board of Health, health department, 504 W. Arch St., Portland.
6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.

Monday
9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, audito-

rium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
3:45 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District Board, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland.

Tuesday
7 p.m. — Salamonias Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center.

Budget ...

Continued from page 1

It requires Portland to cover maintenance for permanent structures, such the parking lot, heating, cooling, plumbing and electrical fixtures. Tenants are responsible for utilities, small repairs and the

cost of shared items such as cleaning supplies.

Other tenants in the building include Jay County community coordinator Darlesia Lee, Jay County Chamber of Commerce, Jay County Development Corpora-

tion and Jay County Visitors and Tourism Bureau.

Parr, Monroe, Laux and Aker — Leonhard abstained because he also serves on Portland Board of Works — approved the lease agree-

Capsule Reports

Bids received

Jay County Commissioners took various bids for the owner-occupied rehabilitation program under advisement Monday.

The program — it was created using a \$1 million Office of Community and Rural Affairs grant received for taking part in the Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program (HELP) planning process for federal coronavirus relief dollars — aims to make necessary repairs or upgrades to residents' homes in the county. Work could include roof, water heater or heating ventilation and air conditioning unit replacements, electrical work or upgrades to make a home more accessible.

The following contractors made offers to com-

plete work on a number of homes to be rehabilitated: All Circuit Electrical of Bryant, Dave's Heating & Cooling of Portland, Mooreland Roofing and Construction of Richmond, Mustard Seed Remodeling of Portland and Fortitude Design and Consulting of Evansville.

Also Monday, commissioners Duane Monroe and Doug Horn, absent Chad Aker, signed a letter of intent for Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition to apply for a Department of Mental Health matching grant for national opioid settlement funds. Coalition director Kimbra Reynolds noted the organization can apply for up to \$500,000, with hopes to apply for funding to cover capital expenses for The Vision on Votaw recovery home.

Felony courts

Methamphetamine

Several Indiana residents were sentenced to serve time for possession of methamphetamine.

Dylan M. McKibben, 30, 3039 67 West, Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 348 days in Jay County Jail and given credit for 174 days served. McKibben was assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of his plea agreement, two Class A misdemeanors for possession of marijuana were dismissed.

In a separate case, McKibben also pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 5 felony. He was sentenced to three years

in Indiana Department of Correction with all of his sentence suspended and placed on probation for three years. He was assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee.

David E. Franks, 63, 1206 North Franklin St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but two days of his sentence suspended and given two days credit for time served. Franks was placed on probation for 363 days, fined \$100, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee.

See page 5

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FR announces fourth nine weeks honor roll

Fort Recovery Middle School announced its fourth nine weeks honor roll.

Sixth graders making the list with straight A's were Easton Diller, Tyce Dilworth, Heidi Dues, Kayla Dues, Leonard Fall-er, Addison Fortkamp, Rachel Fortkamp, Wade Gaerke, LaMicheal Heitkamp and Blake Homan.

Also Conner Homan, Walker Link, Anna Niekamp, Violet Roessner, Addison Schoenlein, Garrett Siefring, Kaitlyn Stammen, Tyler Steinbrunner, Peyton Weitzel,

Zoey Wendel, Hailey Wenning, Natalie Wenning, Evan Willmann and Georg-ia Wuebker.

Sixth graders earning a spot on the list with A's and B's were Rhett Albers, Lillian Alig, Heather Bertke, Rachel Boeckman, Ziva Brown, Aaron Brunswick, Kelly Casillas-Sanchez, Rozlyn Diller, Calan Fortkamp, Gavin Gaerke, Mitchell Geier and Hailey Grisez.

Also Joshua Grube, Riley Guggenbiller, Wesley Heitkamp, Maverick Huelskamp, Ellee Kremer, Hannah Link, Brandon Martinez, Whitley Over-

man, Theodore Schmitz, Adaley Shuttleworth, Kolten Timmerman, Xavier Tobin, Marcus Wenning, Riley White, Lucas Winner and Rihan-na Wuebker.

Seventh graders mak-ing honor roll with straight A's were Kyle Andrews, Alexandra Bihn, Molly Boeckman, Logan Gaerke, Skylee Grafmiller, Mason Grisez, Miley Hardwick, Lauren Hart and Alex Heitkamp.

Also Mason Jutte, Cam-den LeFevre, Quinn McCain, Eloise Niekamp, Katelyn Siefring, Aubrey Stammen, Rayla Staugler,

Makayla Wehrkamp, Aubrey Wendel, Kenzie Wendel, Julia Westgerdes, Mya Will and Gavin Will-mann.

Seventh graders on the list with A's and B's were Mason Alig, Jacob Bergman, John Bihn, Wil-low Blossom, Lukas Brackman, Brooke Dil-worth, Carly Fortkamp, Omar Garcia-Carrasco, Brayden Grisez, Kendall Grube and Jesse Homan.

Also Jayce Honeycutt, Tucker Huntsman, Ryan Jutte, Victoria Jutte, Isla Kaiser, Chloe Knapke, Eli Kremer, Owen Lamm, Tori Noggler, Branston

Pohlman, Aubrey Post, Addalyn Roessner, Koby Timmerman and Rielle Wendel.

Eighth graders earning a spot on the list with straight A's were Jenna Bertke, Chloe Brockman, Anthony Evers, Hope Evers, Brinley Fortkamp, Stetson Fullenkamp, Kayla Gaerke, Claire Grube, Addyson Heitkamp, Gavin Heitkamp, Yoselin Juarez-Gomez, Addison Jutte, Carter Kaiser, Courtney Overman, Alexander Roessner, Lydia Will and Lana Wuebker.

Eighth graders making

the honor roll with A's and B's were Kaiser Albers, Tenley Albers, Allison Bergman, Kali Brunswick, Kale Diller, Bentley Dil-worth, Emmitt Dues, Jordan Dues, Crew Fortkamp, Landon Gahret, Ella Hahn and Ethan Homan.

Also Julia Homan, Brynn Huntsman, Andrew Martinez, Isaac Niekamp, River Overman, Kayden Ranly, Andrew Rehmert, James Shuttleworth, Bryce Siefring, Gunnar Thomp-son, Jett Tobe, Ben Vogel, Emily Weidenhammer, Mara Wendel, Claire Wen-ning, Vincent Wenning and Reid Willmann.

Old flame tries to turn up the heat once again

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 48-year-old woman. When I was 17, I hooked up with this guy who was part of my friend group. I knew he had a crush on me, so I decided to have sex with him in his car. It meant nothing to me, but everything to him.

He has tried to reach me over the years. If I was married, he was single. After my first hus-band died, I did meet up with him briefly. I guess I shouldn't have done that. I asked him if he wanted to date, but he was mar-ried. (His marriage didn't last long.) Then he was upset that I

met a wonderful man and was dating.

That wonderful man and I are now married, and my old high school hookup is pouting and upset. He's declaring his love for me and insisting that I leave my husband for him. I'm not going

to do that. Is the fact that he is still in love with me after 30 years romantic or creepy? — GOT HISTORY IN TEXAS

DEAR GOT HISTORY: It appears your old high school hookup hasn't grown emo-tionally since those days. What is going on in his head isn't romantic; it is disre-spectful.

His unwillingness or inability to move forward in his own life is somewhat creepy. Say that when you tell him to quit bothering you and your husband and get on

with his own life. After that, if necessary, block him.

.....

DEAR ABBY: My stepdau-ghter-in-law and I had words sever-al months ago. Within a few days, I received an apology, and I apologized to her for my response. Since then, she has blocked me and told a mutual friend she won't be coming to family gatherings, which she rarely attended anyway. We recently attended the funeral of a close family friend. She came, but I noticed she seemed unusu-ally quiet and uncomfortable.

She barely spoke unless spoken to but did hug me goodbye. Should I ask her why she blocked me or let it go? — CON-FOUNDED IN TEXAS

DEAR CONFOUNDED: Your stepdaughter-in-law is start-ing to thaw. If I were you, I would let sleeping dogs lie.

.....

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

Local residents make dean's lists

Several Jay County locals made the dean's list at Ball State Univer-sity for the spring semester.

Portland residents on the list include Mara Bader, Aidan Blair, Ezekiel Corwin, Anna Davidson, Caleb DeRome, Maggie Dillon, Kaitlyn Ellsworth, Ryne Goldswor-thy, Madison Hambrock, Joske Herndon, Garrett Hime, Janae Jacobs, Liberty Keller, Hannah Laux, Azael Navarro Garcia, Mor-gan Reier, Brooke Retter, Chloe Ruiz, Kyle Sanders, Sophia Sax-man, Natalie Wehrly and Jordan Wickey.

Dunkirk residents earning a spot

Vore. Bryant residents earning a spot on the list were Erika Heitkamp, Lindy Mercer, Molly Muhlenkamp and Zoey Shaneyfelt.

Ridgeville residents on the dean's list were Bella Denton, Coleton Coffman, Amelia Donnelly, Landon Friend, Maycee Moyer, Benjamin Oliphant and Mitchell Winner.

Rose-Hulman list

A Jay County resident recently made the dean's list at Rose-Human Institute of Technology.

Gage Sims earned a spot on the list for the 2024-25 spring quarter at the Terre Haute college.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

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

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Center for

Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

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

COMMUNITY REIN-FORCEMENT AND FAMI-LY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evi-dence-based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpa-tient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

PORTLAND EAGLES — Will meet at 6 p.m., on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month

at the Eagles' lodge, 320 N. Meridian St., Portland.

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

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

Thursday

LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES — Free and confidential consultations with a lawyer are avail-able from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics includ-ing divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant-landlord issues, bankrupt-cy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating should sign up in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

SMART RECOVERY — A group for those strug-gling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feel-ings and behavior, and liv-ing a balanced life meets at 11 a.m. each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Out-patient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

CELEBRATE RECOV-ERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Sec-ond Chance At Life Min-istries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda

Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 5:30 p.m. at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Centre, 200 N. Park St., Portland.

Friday

PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addic-tion Support Team recov-ery 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 ANONY-MOUS — 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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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

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How much have we really changed?

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from June 24, 2015. Jack wrote this piece following the June 17, 2015, shooting at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in which a white supremacist killed nine churchgoers. The memories Jack shares and questions he poses are worth revisiting from time to time.

By **JACK RONALD**
The Commercial Review

The ugliness of it was casual, and that made it even uglier. Growing up in Jay County in the middle of the last century, my generation was awash in casual racism. It was something we inherited from those who went before us, but by the 1960s it was also something we knew made no sense. Stop by a coffee shop in, say, 1963 and you were almost certain to hear “the N word,” casually. No big deal. Ours was a generation that found bigotry infested our childhood games. A couple of weeks

Back in the Saddle



ago, I wrote a column about a game of tag; and I'm still bothered by the fact that part of the ritual before each game involved the phrase, “Round as a moon, dark as a coon.” Ours was a generation that routinely said, “Eeny, meeny, miney, moe, catch a (Fill in the blank) by the toe” at recess time at elementary school. A few years later, some smarter parents were insisting on the word “tiger” in its place. And yet, here we were in the white bread American Midwest, with no more than a handful of black families to encounter in our everyday lives. What was your opportunity for

interaction with an African-American when you were growing up in Portland in the 1960s? Her name was Wanda Watkins. She was a sweet and smart kid who lived on West Water Street, and I think her family attended the A.M.E. Church that once stood on East Water next to what is now Jay Community Center. What was your opportunity for interaction with an African-American when you were growing up in Dunkirk during the same period? It might have been George Miller, a biracial kid who attended Dunkirk schools for a time while he was living with his grandmother. He later went on to a distinguished — and I mean distinguished — career as an astrophysicist. But in those days, he was just a black kid with red hair and freckles. Beyond school, there were a handful of A.M.E. families. Ruth Nelson and her sister, India Evans, did housekeeping for a

number of families, including mine. And Ruth is a permanent part of my childhood memories. She was like an extra parent. While there was no tension, while there was no overt bigotry, there remained this hard-to-explain undercurrent of disparagement. Maybe some of it had to do with the division between rural and urban. We, after all, were hayseeds. Despite the presence of a handful of families, most of us associated African-Americans with the big city. But the real answer is that the Civil War wasn't over. The Union had won on the battlefield, but the Reconstruction Era and the first half of the 20th century belonged to the South. Jim Crow was alive and well. Every day's papers brought news of civil rights workers being harassed or beaten or murdered. And in a very real way, the South — the hateful principles

that led the Confederacy to war — set the tone for small town Midwestern America in that era. Hollywood had glamorized it with “The Birth of a Nation” and “Gone with the Wind.” So small town Indiana was ripe territory for George Wallace and Lester Maddox and the vestiges of the Klan that still hung around. That was then. This is now. But how much has changed? That seems a valid question in the wake of last week's horrific church slayings in South Carolina. Have we made any progress? Have we cast off the infestation of casual bigotry? Or are we, when you peel back the niceties, not all that far from where we were a few generations back? I'd like to hope that the Jay County of today is different from the Jay County of my youth. But I think all of us need to ask ourselves whether that is actually true.

Tax changes are mixed bag

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

As is its right and duty, the U.S. Senate now has messed with the Trump administration's “big, beautiful,” tax-and-spending bill that just squeaked through the House. Here's our hot take on some of the Senate's work in progress, as viewed not in terms of what is ideal but in the context of what the House already passed. We're all for limiting the “no-tax-on-tips” deduction to \$25,000 per person. We didn't like the campaign promise in the first place and its application to servers at fancy joints who make very good money is especially unfair on those employees who don't receive tips. Same deal with the smart idea to limit “no tax on overtime” to \$12,500 (or \$25,000 per couple). That's not fair either, but it's certainly better to make sure only lesser paid folks get the benefit. And while plenty of seniors do not need a bigger \$6,000 tax break (in lieu of President Donald Trump's promises not to tax Social Security), that amount is pegged about right to make a difference in the lives of the people who need it without offering anything of life-changing significance to wealthier Americans. We suspect that will be expensive but can live with that. And it made sense for the Senate version to limit another wacky Trump giveaway, no tax on car loans, to new vehicles. It limits the cost of the \$10,000 tax break, helps workers in dealerships and factories, and gets more cars with advanced safety features and gas mileage on the road. It also will be harder to game than the House version, applicable to any car. We're all for a permanent modest increase in both the standard deduction and the child tax allowance, being as temporary increases with expiry dates invariably represent sleight of hand to our minds. We're all for reducing the tax on university endowment income (to 8%); the House version, which went as high as 21%, was mere Trumpian punitiveness and would

Guest Editorial

have harmed the sector immeasurably. Arguably, the current 1.4% rate for endowments is too low, given the legitimate concerns about the expansion of the national debt. But we'd be happier if a more comprehensive look at all nonprofit tax breaks was taking place; there's no reason to single out universities beyond ideology or revenge, neither of which should be part of tax policy. The Senate should consider that. We favor raising the cap imposed by Trump in the so-called SALT deduction, not least on the grounds of fairness, given that nobody should have to pay taxes twice on the same money earned. Property taxes have been rising, and some tax relief is only reasonable. In the House, the cap went to \$40,000, albeit with income restrictions, but the Senate draft kills that increase. Trump's initial actions were about punishing blue cities and he caught up too many middle-class Americans in his dragnet. That needs to change and we're confident a compromise can be found. Finally, here's something else to like in the Senate version. Sen. Thom Tillis, R-North Carolina, has been pushing a plan to claw back revenue from the \$15.2 billion litigation finance industry, wherein investors finance lawsuits in order to get a piece of any future award or settlement. This can be a really nice ca-ching for investors, even in downtimes in other markets, but it is deeply problematic for big cities as it encourages lengthy lawsuits and also drives up the cost of settlements at taxpayer expense since the actual injured party inevitably gets less of the payout. We're all for the Senate's proposed 41% levy on litigation finance — if only because it should curtail this practice by making it less attractive.



Be a contributor to goodness

By **KAREN TOLKKINEN**
The Minnesota Star Tribune
Tribune News Service

A bit of Minnesota died June 14. A myth, a belief in ourselves, a belief about ourselves. We believed we were better than this. That despite our differences, the growing political anger, the rising tendency to see each other as the other, we were still, fundamentally, Minnesotans. We would get through this because Minnesotans are good people. We try to do the right thing. We have that corny Midwest goofiness and we bring kids fishing and we say “ope” and “uff da” and eat too many Pronto Pups at the State Fair. We thought things like the Great Minnesota Get-Together would really bring us together; that all these touchstones would remind us that no matter what, we are one people. We endure drought together and help each other stack sandbags in times of flood and hold fundraising dinners when neighboring families suffer loss or illness. Yet around us, mutual trust has been steadily eroding. Parents are pulling their children out of public school because they think they'll be indoctrinated into believing that they're girls when they're really boys, or into using a litter box instead of a toilet. Statewide high-speed internet access has delivered a double-edged sword, creating opportunities in rural areas, but also turning us against our neighbors by stoking suspicion and hatred. There are Minnesota pastors who fancy themselves members of the Black Robe Regiment because apparently preaching the word of God isn't enough. They want to turn Christianity into a religious dictatorship, as if Christ didn't really

mean it when he said his kingdom is not of this world. We saw U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber of Minnesota berating Gov. Tim Walz during a U.S. House oversight panel on sanctuary states (which Minnesota is not), and it was sad to witness the loathing of one Minnesotan for another. Maybe that's the way things are done in Washington, but it seemed a metaphor for how far civility has deteriorated at home. Still, there was reason to hope. So many people are working for the betterment of our state. The Braver Angels holding bipartisan meetings around Minnesota, teaching us how to talk about thorny issues with people with different opinions; the evenly divided Minnesota House figuring out how to work together after a rough start; the many ways rural and urban people have reached out to each other. But now we've had an assassination, and a howl of anguish is building up inside me, because I don't know what's next. Is the killing of state Rep. Melissa Hortman and her husband and the attempted killing of state Sen. John Hoffman and his wife the culmination of all this boiling internecine rage? Will this bloodshed shock us all back into reality, and make us realize how close we are coming to utter destruction? Will it force us to acknowledge our own flaws as well as judging those of others? Or is it simply the prelude to the next stage of violence and hatred in our state?



We stand at a precipice. Some are trying to seize the narrative, to twist public opinion for their own purposes. They lay the risk of violence completely on the opposing party, but both sides harbor people capable of violence. There have been attacks and threats against both sides and by both sides around the country. Trump himself escaped two assassination attempts in 2024. Minnesota has enjoyed relative peace for generations. But in recent years, political differences have divided families, and when families split, society can't be far behind. It is widely acknowledged that the capacity for political violence has ratcheted up everywhere. I was happy to see that one Facebook page I follow, Rocks and Cows of Minnesota, which keeps its followers in a perpetual state of anti-DFL fervor, fell silent for a time on Saturday, and when it began posting again, they dismissed the suspected gunman as a “whackjob” and added they were glad to hear that the Hoffmans are in recovery. This is the type of solidarity we need, not just now but permanently. Attack policy, not people. Instead of blaming the other party for this assassination, which appears to be the work of one person, let's demonstrate caring and concern for each other despite our differences. We can counter violence by taking sober-minded, positive action. On Saturday, my husband and I planted native plants on the edge of our hayfield, the first step of a project we hope will help sustain our region's vanishing insects and plants. It felt great. Hopeful. Strong. We can't control what other people do, but we are not helpless. Each of us can contribute our own bit of goodness to this place we call Minnesota.

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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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IEDC board replaced

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation's board make-up will look different at Wednesday's meeting following Gov. Mike Braun's decision to replace the eight-member panel with nine new appointees on Monday.

In a release, Braun touted the expertise of his chosen men and women, saying they brought "experience from across the spectrum of Indiana's economy" and aligned with the commerce secretary's mission to grow wages and build new job opportunities across the state.

"I spent my life building a business here in Indiana, and I know that having an entrepreneurial, high-energy team in your corner makes all the difference. These appointments to the IEDC Board embody the Freedom and Opportunity agenda for IEDC: they hail from communities all around our state, bring experience from across the range of Indiana's key industries, and each of them knows the importance of growing wages and creating job opportunities for Hoosiers because they've done it in their own communities," Braun said in a statement.

The governor first shared the decision with reporters on Fri-

Braun names nine newcomers to lead state organization

day, saying that more information would be forthcoming.

The new members include:
•Gus Olympidis, Valparaiso, who owns Family Express Convenience Stores.

•John Gregg, of Sandborn, a former Democratic House Speaker of the Indiana General Assembly and attorney. (Gregg ran for governor in 2012 against former Gov. and Vice President Mike Pence. He, again, ran in 2016 against eventual winner former Gov. Eric Holcomb.)

•George Thomas, Granger, an entrepreneur and executive with ties to Adorn, Duo-Form, Lakota Trailers, Misty Harbor Pontoons and Viaggio Pontoon Boats.

•Billie Dragoo, Indianapolis, the founder and CEO of Repu-

Care, a "workforce solutions provider."

•David Fagan, Portage, with the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150.

•Greg Gibson, Terre Haute, a commercial real estate developer with a background in the hospitality and food service industry as well as trucking, excavation, coal, solid waste landfill development and waste industry advisory services. (Gibson also co-founded Spectacle Entertainment in a bid to bring a casino to Terre Haute. He launched Lucy Luck Gaming after his co-founder faced federal charges in an ongoing investigation in which one former lawmaker has pleaded guilty.)

•Richard Waterfield, Fort Wayne, the CEO and board chairman of Waterfield Enterprises and Waterfield Asset Management as well as the founder and managing principal of Waterfield Private Equity Funds.

•Chris King, Shelbyville, the executive vice president of Runnebom Construction and a professional engineer who specializes in infrastructure design and construction as well as land entitlement and project execution.

•Don Lamb, Lebanon, a farmer and the director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture.

Frozen ...

Continued from page 1
The tuition freeze came at Braun's request, just weeks after he signed Indiana's next two-year state budget, which takes effect July 1.

Under state law, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (CHE) must issue tuition recommendations within 30 days of the budget's approval. Typically, each university system sets its own tuition schedule, which is approved by CHE. But last month, commissioners instead announced their unanimous support for the governor's recommendation to implement the 0% increase. It was the first such recommendation ever made by the higher education panel.

"While the Commission, along with our institutions and other partners, have leveraged policies, programs, and partnerships to keep our colleges and universities affordable, we all recognize the economic challenges our fellow Hoosiers have faced over the past several years," said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery. "In the spirit of seeking to maintain Indiana's national leadership in affordability, the Commission is in full support of

Gov. Braun's recommendation for a 0% tuition increase."

The announcement also comes amid growing national concern over the cost of college and rising student debt. While Indiana's tuition rates are generally lower than other states, scrutiny about affordability has increased.

CHE officials reported last year that nearly 70% of Hoosier undergraduates receive some form of financial aid — but out-of-pocket expenses remain a barrier, particularly for first-generation and low-income students.

Facing a weak state revenue forecast, state agencies and universities — were hit with funding cuts of at least 5%, plus an additional 5% reduction in reversions.

Braun defended the freeze, however, noting that state colleges and universities are well-positioned to absorb reductions.

"Out of all state entities, our higher education institutions are in the best financial position to weather these cuts, as state funding represents just one of the revenue streams — and institutions hold strong financial reserves," Braun said in May.

Felony courts

Continued from page 2

He was also ordered to submit to an evaluation within 30 days of his sentencing for substance abuse counseling. As part of his plea agreement, a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia was dismissed.

Jordan M. Moreillon, 23, 3126 South Grant St., Muncie, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 545 days in Jay County Jail with all of his sentence suspended and given 168 days credit for time served. Moreillon was fined \$25, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. He was also ordered to submit to an evaluation within 30 days of his sentencing for substance abuse counseling. Moreillon was placed on probation for one year. As part of his plea agreement, a Level 6 felony for maintaining a common nuisance and a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana were dismissed.

Jason W. Hensley, 50, 114 West McNeal St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 5 felony. He was sentenced to five years in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for time served. Hensley was fined \$1, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of his plea agreement, two Level 6 felonies for unlawful possession of a syringe and maintaining a common nuisance, as well as a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia, were dismissed.

Resisting law

A Muncie man was sentenced to six years in prison for resisting police.

Matthew E. Waters, 44, 1814 E 20TH St., Muncie, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to resisting law enforcement, a Level 5 felony. He was sentenced to six years in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for time served. Waters was assessed \$189 in court costs. He was recommended for purposeful incarceration, meaning upon completing a substance abuse treatment program, the court would consider modifying his sentence.

As part of his plea agreement, a Level 5 felony for battery on common nuisance and means of a deadly weapon and a Level 6 felony for

criminal recklessness were dismissed, and a habitual offender enhancement was withdrawn.

Criminal mischief

A Redkey man was sentenced to jail after pleading guilty to criminal mischief.

Chase H. Louck, 32, 20 East Logan St., pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to the Class B misdemeanor. He was sentenced to 180 days in Jay County Jail with all but 20 days suspended and given six days credit for time served. Louck was fined \$1, assessed \$189 in court costs and placed on probation for 180 days.

As part of his plea agreement, a Level 6 felony for residential entry and a Class A misdemeanor for battery resulting in bodily injury were dismissed.

Narcotics

Two Indiana residents were sentenced to prison for possession of narcotics.

Emili A. Smith, 24, 112 W. Third St., Ridgeville, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of a narcotic drug, a Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to 18 months in Indiana Department of Correction with 12 months of her sentence suspended and given credit for time served. She was assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of her plea agreement, the following charges were dismissed: four Level 6 felonies for possession of methamphetamine, obstruction of justice, maintaining a common nuisance and unlawful possession of a syringe.

Tharl H. Pinkston II, 35, 511 W. McDonald St., Hartford City, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of a narcotic drug, a Level 5 felony. He was sentenced to five years in Indiana Department of Correction. Pinkston was fined \$1, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of his plea agreement, the following charges were dismissed: a Level 4 felony for unlawful possession of a firearm by a serious, violent felon, two Level 5 felonies for possession of methamphetamine and possession of a narcotic drug, and two Level 6 felonies for maintaining a felony for common nuisance and unlawful possession of a syringe.

HEALTHCARE

How to conduct a skin care self-exam

Time spent soaking up the summer sun is one of the things that makes the season so appealing. Warm outdoor air has a calming effect that can make anyone feel more relaxed and comfortable.

As good as warm summer sun can feel, overexposure to the sun can be dangerous. The World Cancer Research Fund reports there were more than 330,000 new cases of skin cancer diagnosed across the globe in 2022. A significant percentage of skin cancer cases can be prevented, and prevention is a multifaceted process that includes skin care self-examinations. Self-exams do not take up much time, and individuals can speak with their physicians about how frequently they should check their skin for signs of skin cancer. The U.S. National Library of Medicine offers the following instructions for how to conduct a skin self-exam.

• **Choose the right time to examine your skin.** The USNLM recommends conducting a skin exam after bathing. Women who routinely conduct breast self-exams can check their skin at this time as well.

• **Use a full-length mirror.** It's not always easy to examine skin throughout the body. But signs of skin problems can occur anywhere on the body, including areas that might be hard to see without help. If possible, conduct a self-exam of the skin in front of full-length mirror in a brightly lit room.

• **Identify what you're looking for.** The USNLM notes you should be looking for any new skin markings. This includes bumps, moles, blemishes, and changes in skin color.

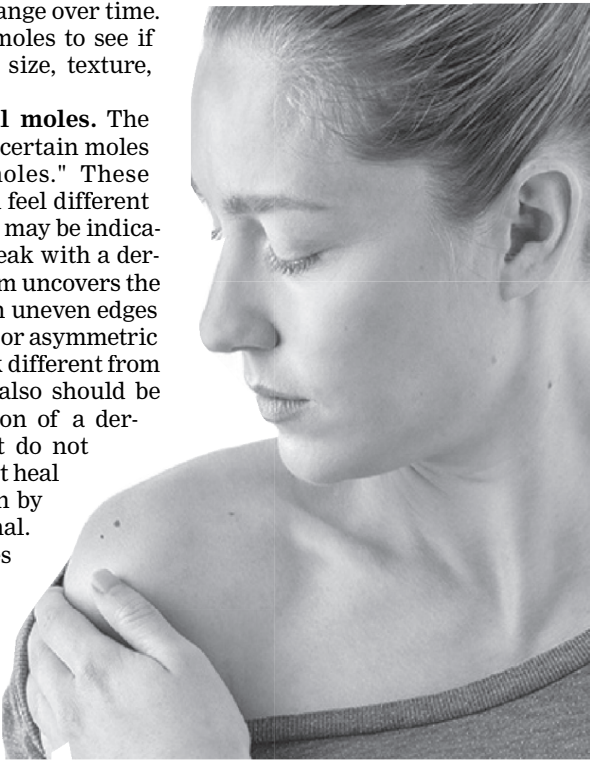
• Pay close attention to preexisting moles. A potential sign of skin cancer

includes moles that change over time. Examine preexisting moles to see if they have changed in size, texture, color, and shape.

• **Look for unusual moles.** The USNLM characterizes certain moles as "ugly duckling moles." These unique moles look and feel different from nearby moles and may be indicative of skin cancer. Speak with a dermatologist if a self-exam uncovers the presence of moles with uneven edges or differences in colors or asymmetric shapes. Moles that look different from one side to the other also should be brought to the attention of a dermatologist. Moles that do not stop bleeding or will not heal also merit examination by a skin care professional.

When the time comes to conduct the exam, the USNLM recommends following these steps:

- Look closely at your entire body, both front and back, in the mirror.
- Check under your arms and on both sides of each arm. Be sure to examine the backs of your upper arms, which can be hard to see.
- Bend your arms at the elbow, and examine both sides of your forearm.
- Examine the tops and palms of your hands.
- Examine the front and back of both legs.
- Examine your buttocks and between your buttocks.
- Examine your genital area.
- Examine your face, neck, the back



of your neck, and scalp. Use both a hand mirror and full-length mirror, along with a comb, to see areas of your scalp.

- Examine your feet, including the soles and the spaces between your toes.

- Ask a person you trust to help examine hard-to-see areas.

Skin cancer poses a formidable threat, but many cases of the disease are preventable. Routine skin self-exams are a vital component of skin cancer prevention.

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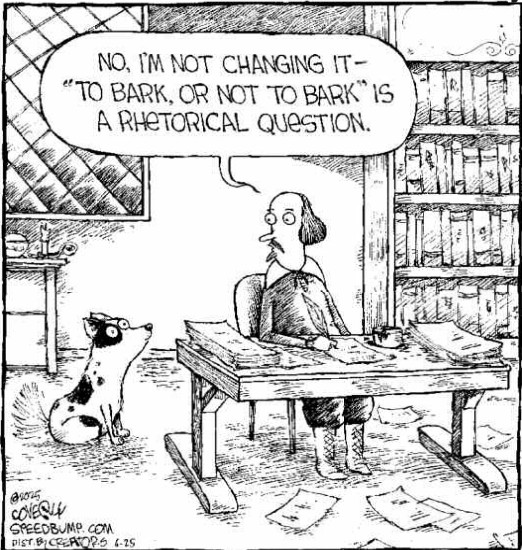
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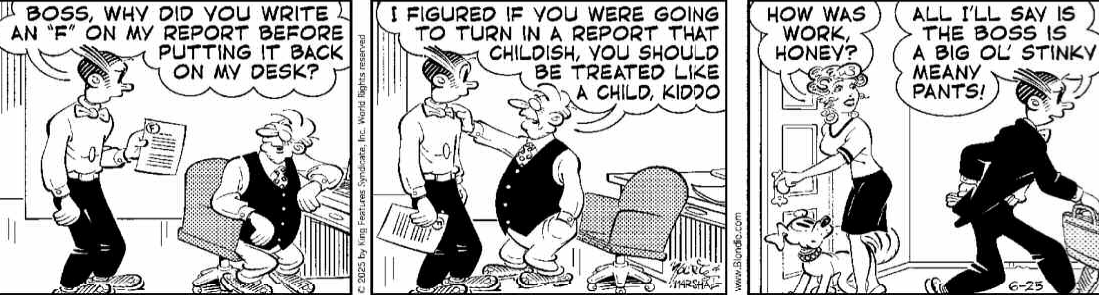
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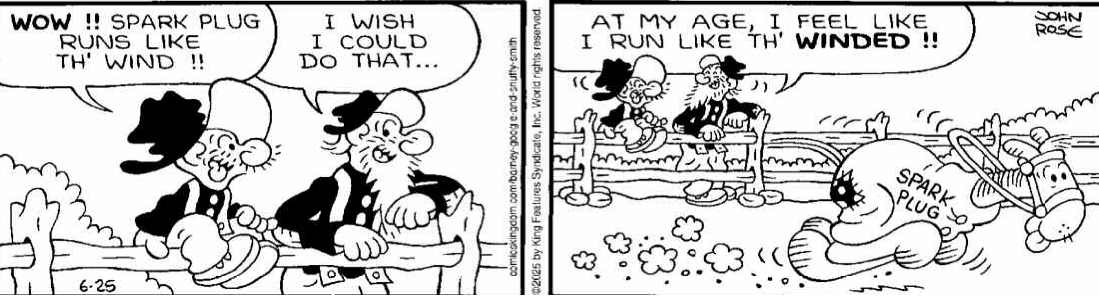
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The theory of probabilities

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

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

WEST
♠ J 10 9 7
♥ A 7
♦ J 4 2
♣ Q 8 3 2

EAST
♠ Q 3
♥ 9 6 4 3 2
♦ Q 10 7 5
♣ 10 5

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

The bidding:
South 3 NT West North East
Pass Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead — jack of spades.
Bridge is a game of probabilities. You make a certain bid because you think it has a better chance to succeed than any other bid. You make a certain play because you think it is more likely to work than any other.

But a probability is not a certainty. All you can do in bridge is rely on the percentages and hope for the best. You may be wrong in a particular case, but in the long run you'll be right more often.

All of which leads to the proper play of today's deal, which is strictly a matter of percentages. Let's say

you win the spade lead with the king and play the king of hearts. West takes the ace and returns a spade to your ace.

You have eight certain tricks and two ways to try for a ninth. You can cross to dummy with a diamond and take a club finesse. If the jack wins, you are home. You have about a 50-50 chance of making the contract this way, but in the actual deal, this approach would fail.

The alternate line of play is to cash the A-K of clubs and then play the jack. This approach succeeds if the clubs are divided 3-3 or if either the queen or ten falls when the A-K are led. The diamond king provides the entry to dummy if the club nine becomes a trick.

Some knowledge of percentages is required to know which of the two lines of play has the greater chance of success.

The second approach is much better. The clubs will break 3-3 about 36% of the time while a singleton or doubleton queen or ten will occur in approximately one deal out of three. The combined chance of the clubs dividing 3-3 or otherwise favorably divided comes to about 70% — 20% better than the finesse.

Playing the A-K-J of clubs is therefore the superior line of play and succeeds in the actual deal.

Tomorrow: A challenge: Try to make it.
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6-25

CRYPTOQUIP

Y V MAYV FXPU NKW TKCX
HNAXVYFX ZIW VMYHBU XINCTA?
Y MAYIB YM'V YI MAX TXIXPZK
FYVHYWYMU.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU'RE SHOPPING FOR ACCESSORIES TO KEEP YOUR CAR CLEAN, YOU MIGHT PICK A FLOOR-MAT FORMAT.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals V

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Pit
5 Bar bill
8 Hendrix hairdo
12 Unsigned (Abbr.)
13 Moody music
14 Former queen of Jordan
15 Fireplugs
17 Pot starter
18 Self-evident truth
19 Trombone parts
21 Marshy areas
24 Red — beet
25 Marathoner's tempo
28 Conn of "Grease"
30 Mets' div.
33 Outback bird
34 Imposed a levy on
35 Sailor
36 Standard
37 Pro votes
38 Bygone fleet
39 Eggnog ingredient

41 Revue segment
43 Italian brandy
46 Thread holder
50 Dryer fuzz
51 Engine fluids
54 "Beetle Bailey" pooch
55 Part of TNT
56 One stinging insect
58 Paradise in "On the Road"
59 Defeat

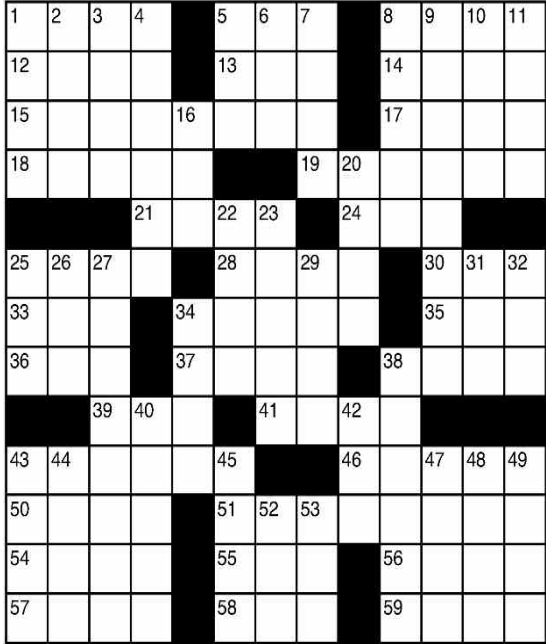
3 California city
4 Cloth
5 X, at times
6 Invoice fig.
7 Em-ployer
8 Diarist Nin
9 Sugar pastes used in cake
10 Memory method
11 Raw minerals
16 "I love," in Latin
20 Deposited
22 Aussie greeting

23 Casino box-cars
25 Zing
26 Docs' bloc
27 Small raisins
29 Cubicle fixture
31 Long. crosser
32 Hosp. areas
34 Pack (down)
38 Minnesota's capital
40 "Gimme five!"
42 Oahu or Maui (Abbr.)
43 Radiate
44 Oscar winner
45 Deeds
47 — account (never)
48 Elevator name
49 D-Day carriers
52 British singer Rita
53 Corn product

Solution time: 23 mins.

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ARES ELI ECRU
MONTANAN ARON
END NOVENA
OOHED SAVE
TRAM MOMENTUM
OER BORON ABA
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Yesterday's answer 6-25



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AI ...

Continued from page 8
At Hendrick Motorsports, the winningest team in Cup Series history, AI is being used both to look ahead and to look back.
The team now works closely with Amazon Web Services (AWS) — a relationship that began after Prime Video sponsored one of its cars. The partnership has accelerated Hendrick’s use

of AI across several key areas.
One of those is visual communication. Engineers are now generating images to help share ideas, whether they’re pitching a new part or breaking down a technical strategy. That ability to visualize complex concepts instantly helps everyone stay aligned and efficient.
Hendrick is also leveraging its four decades of data.

The team can now go back and test old strategies, setups and decisions using AI to predict how past insights might inform future success.
“We’ve had a long history in the sport,” Gray said. “Not only can we look forward, but we can also look backward, back-test all the information we have, and see how that predicts the future.”

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County Summer swim vs. Wells Community – 6 p.m.
Portland Rockets at Muncie Chiefs – 7 p.m.

Thursday
Jay County Summer swim at South Adams – 6 p.m.

TV schedule

Today
7 p.m. — USL Championship soccer: Tampa Bay Rowdies at Indy Eleven (ESPN2)
7:10 p.m. — MLB: New York Yankees at Cincinnati Reds (FSDN Indiana)
8 p.m. — NBA draft (ESPN)
9 p.m. — FIFA Club World Cup soccer: Inter at River Plate (TNT)

Thursday
2:10 p.m. — MLB: Philadelphia Phillies at Houston Astros (NBC)

2:15 p.m. — MLB: Chicago Cubs at St. Louis Cardinals (FSDN Indiana)
3 p.m. — FIFA Club World Cup soccer: Juventus at Manchester City (TNT)
7 p.m. — WNBA: Los Angeles Sparks at Indiana Fever (FSDN Indiana)
8 p.m. — NBA draft round 2 (ESPN)
3 p.m. — International Friendly women soccer: United States at Ireland (TBS)

Local notes

Registration open
Registration for the 35th annual Flat 50 Plus bicycle ride in Adams County is now open. To register, visit RunSignUp.com.
There are rides ranging from 20 to 100 miles long.
The event will be held at 7 a.m. Saturday, June 21. It will start at Bellmont High School and will have stops in Willshire, Geneva and Monroe with refreshments.
.....
To have an event listed in "Sports on tap", email details to sports@theocr.com

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40 NOTICES

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90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 3563 E 600 N, Bryant IN
Saturday Morning
JUNE 28th, 2025
9:30 A.M.

GUNS AND AMMO
(4) Stack On gun safes; Ranger Model 34 - 22 cal bolt action rifle; Savage Model 220 - 410 single shot; ARMI JAGER Model 8P874 - 22 cal semi-auto rifle; ; Bowlan & Brenner muzzle shotgun; Remington Model 788 - .308 cal bolt action rifle with scope; Remington 870 Wingmaster TB 12 ga pump shotgun; Auto Ordnance Model 1911 A1 US Army 45 acp semi-auto pistol; Barnett Crossbow with scope; Recruit Recurve crossbow with scope; AMMO: 20 gauge & 16 gauge slugs; 20 gauge & 12 gauge shot gun shells; 410 shot gun shells; 243 Remington; Black Powder and other ammo not listed.

INDIAN ARTIFACTS
Over 100 lots of artifacts to include Arrowheads of various sizes, Birdstone, Megalodon Teeth, Pestle, Pendants, Horn Stone Blade, Deflowering Tool, Spearheads, Butterfly Banner Stone, Gorgets, Drillheads, Pipe Ends, Hafted Stone Blades, Axes, Scapers, and various Indian Stones. ARTIFACTS WILL BE SOLD BOTH LIVE AND ON LINE

90 SALE CALENDAR

USING HI BID. AUCTIONEERS NOTE:
Artifacts will be sold beginning at 9:30 a.m. Guns will start selling at approximately 12:30 p.m. Guns will not be on site until day of auction. Hand guns will be registered thru local FFL dealer. For more information contact LOY REAL ESTATE & AUCTION at (260) 726-2700.
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Loy Auction
AC#31600027 Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112
Kaden Khayyata AU12400069
Eric Robbins AU2014000129

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 925 West Race Street, Portland IN
FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 11TH, 2025
5:30 P.M.

REAL ESTATE
Single story home with approximately 1036 square feet of living space situated on a 52' x 136' lot. Home features include 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom. A new water heater was installed recently. Property also offers a 12' x 14' deck and a detached garage with approximately 720 square feet. This property will make a great starter home or rental investment property. Terms of Sale: 10% nonrefundable deposit day of auction and balance at closing. Closing to be no later than 45 days from date of auction. Buyer to assume taxes due and payable in May 2026

90 SALE CALENDAR

and thereafter.
expense. Sale of Real Estate is subject to approval of the Jay Circuit Court. For more information or private showing contact GARY LOY, Auctioneer and (260) 726-5160 or KIM LOY, Real Estate Broker at (260) 726-2700.
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SATURDAY JUNE 28th, 2025
TIME 9:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 346 E 400 N, Portland, IN
TRACTOR - EQUIPMENT - GUNS

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ANTIQUES - MISC

90 SALE CALENDAR

2 and 3 Gallon Crock Butter Churns. Horse Shoes. RR Anvil. Stop-light. Coca Cola Chest Cooler. Coca Cola Carrying Cooler. Bronze Horse Figure. Cross Cut Saw. Miniature Tricycle and Child's Wagon. Old Kitchen Cabinets. 3 Cushion Sofa w/ Matching Love Seat. Over-sized Recliner. Rocker Recliner. 2 Person Bicycle and Other Bicycles. OWNER: Charles Anderson Estate by Darlene Anderson

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Indiana Code § 6-1.1-20-3.1 that the Board of School Trustees of the Jay School Corporation (the “School Corporation”) did, on June 16, 2025, make a preliminary determination that (a) a need exists for the School Corporation to complete various improvements to the Jay County Jr-Sr High School building and athletic grounds, including, but not limited to, the following: (i) certain architectural and school safety improvements including, but not limited to, roofing, security upgrades, sidewalk and masonry repairs; (ii) certain functional improvements including, but not limited to, updating the former TV studio, band and choir rooms, wrestling rooms and kitchen, (iii) certain mechanical improvements including, but not limited to, replacing the pool dehumidification unit, water mains and building HVAC controls, (iv) certain electrical improvements including, but not limited to, the replacement of the main electrical switchgear and related panels, (v) certain outdoor athletic improvements including, but not limited to, a rebuilt tennis court, a rebuilt track, and upgrades to extend the useful life of the football stadium and baseball dugouts, and (vi) other related acquisitions (including real property if desired), improvements, upgrades, equipping, and renovations in connection therewith (collectively, the “Project”); and (b) to the extent permitted by law, to take all of the necessary steps to finance all or a portion of the costs of the Project by issuing one or more series of general obligation bonds (the “General Obligation Bonds”) and/or entering into a proposed lease or leases or amendment or amendments to one or more existing leases (collectively, the “Lease”) between one or more Indiana nonprofit school building corporations, as lessor (collectively, the “Building Corporation”), and the School Corporation, as lessee, relating to all or any portion of the school facilities operated by the School Corporation. The Building Corporation, as lessor, will issue one or more series of first mortgage bonds secured by and payable from the lease payments under the Lease (the “First Mortgage Bonds” and together with the General Obligation Bonds, the “Bonds”).
The total maximum original aggregate principal amount of the Bonds will not exceed \$18,285,000. The maximum term of each series of the Bonds issued will not exceed 20 years, and the maximum term of the Lease with respect to each series of First Mortgage Bonds will not exceed 22 years. Based on the estimated maximum average interest rate that will be paid in connection with the Bonds of 5.50% per annum, the total interest cost associated therewith, including any capitalized interest that may be paid by the School Corporation or the Building Corporation on all or a portion of the Bonds, will not exceed \$13,870,966. Including interest costs, the maximum annual principal and interest to be paid by the School Corporation on the Bonds and the Lease is \$5,620,000, and the maximum total principal and interest to be paid by the School Corporation on the Bonds and the Lease over the term of the Bonds and the Lease is \$38,400,000, not taking into account any funds of the School Corporation or the Building Corporation available for capitalized interest.
As required by Indiana Code § 6-1.1-20-3.1(b)(1), the following information was available to the public at the public hearings on the preliminary determination: (i) the School Corporation’s current and projected annual debt service payments divided by the net assessed value of taxable property within the School Corporation, which is 0.49%; and (ii) the sum of the School Corporation’s outstanding long term debt plus the outstanding long term debt of other taxing units that include any other territory of the School Corporation divided by the net assessed value of taxable property within the School Corporation, which is 3.84%.
The School Corporation’s current debt service levy is \$5,301.919 and the School Corporation’s current debt service tax rate is \$0.3835 per \$100 of assessed value. After the issuance of the Bonds, the estimated increase to the School Corporation’s debt service levy would be \$5,620,000 and the estimated increase to the School Corporation’s debt service tax rate would be \$0.3888 per \$100 of assessed value. However, due to the maturing of existing debt, the anticipated net increase to the debt service levy above the pay 2025 debt service levy is expected to be \$0. The estimated amount of the School Corporation’s debt service fund levy and debt service fund tax rate that will result during the following 10 years if the School Corporation issues the Bonds and/or enters into the Lease, after considering any changes that will occur to the debt service levy and debt service tax rate during that period on account of any outstanding bonds or lease obligations that will mature or terminate during that period, is as follows:

Payment Year	Estimated Total Debt Service Levy	Estimated Total Debt Service Rate
2025	\$5,301,918	\$0.3835
2026	5,301,918	0.3835
2027	5,301,918	0.3835
2028	4,588,925	0.3319
2029	4,153,152	0.3004
2030	4,138,988	0.2994
2031	4,118,959	0.2979
2032	3,619,848	0.2618
2033	1,935,905	0.1400
2034	1,936,288	0.1401
2035	1,934,419	0.1399

The purpose of the Bonds and/or the Lease is to provide for the Project.
Any owners of real property within the School Corporation or registered voters residing within the School Corporation who wish to initiate a petition and remonstrance process against the Bonds and/or the Lease must file a petition that complies with Indiana Code § 6-1.1-20-3.1(b) subdivisions (4) and (5) not later than 30 days after the publication of this notice.
Dated: June 18, 2025
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF THE JAY SCHOOL CORPORATION

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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Ivan Boeckman of the Fort Recovery Eels swims the backstroke leg of the 9-10-year-old 100-meter medley relay during a meet at Jay County on June 16. Boeckman was one of six Eels to win a trio of events during a three-team meet with Union City and the Celina Sharks on Monday. He topped the 50-meter backstroke, 50 freestyle and 100 individual medley.

Eels pick up wins against Celina, UC

FORT RECOVERY — The Eels picked up a win against South Adams and have been rolling ever since. The Fort Recovery Eels summer swim team picked up a pair of victories on Monday as they rallied for 922 points against the Celina Sharks (586) and the Union City Swim Team (319). The Eels (4-1) won nine relays and 29 individual events on the day. Six tankers claimed a trio of events. Hailey Wenning, Isla Kaiser, Rozlyn Diller and Liza Knapke all claimed three races for Fort Recovery. Wenning claimed the 50-meter freestyle, 50 backstroke and 100 freestyle for the 11-12-year-old girls division. Diller completed the sweep with first-place finishes in the 50 butterfly, 100 individual medley and 50 breaststroke.

In the 13-14-year-old age group, Kaiser took the top spot in the 50 freestyle, 100 individual medley and 50 breaststroke. Knapke hit the wall first in the 15-and-older girls 50 butterfly, 50 freestyle and 50 backstroke. On the boys side, Ivan Boeckman and Connor Homan both won a trio of events. Boeckman won the 9-10-year-old 50 freestyle, 50 backstroke and 100 individual medley, while Homan claimed the 11-12-year-old 100 individual medley, 50 breaststroke and 50 freestyle. Fort Recovery also got a pair of wins from Maddy Timmerman, Griffin Knapke, and Corbin Ranley while Vivian Diller, Sammi Vagedes, Owen Wenning, Lincoln Sutter and Quinten Reinhard each topped one event.

NASCAR teams use AI to find winning edges

By SHANE CONNUCK
The Charlotte Observer
Tribune News Service
CONCORD, N.C. — Margins in NASCAR have never been smaller. Whether it's the leveling effect of the Next Gen car or the evolving technological arms race among teams, the Cup Series has never been tighter. And as parity grows, so does the need to uncover even the slightest competitive advantage.

That's where artificial intelligence comes in. From performance analysis to data visualizations, AI is playing an increasingly pivotal role in how race teams operate across the NASCAR garage. Teams are using AI not just to crunch numbers, but also to make quicker decisions, generate strategic insights — and even rewrite the way they approach race weekends. “It just builds a little bit more each year,” said Josh Sell, RFK Racing's competition director. “We're doing more now than we were a year ago. And we'll probably be doing more a year from now than we are sitting here right now. It just continues to evolve.”

The rise of AI in NASCAR mirrors the broader tech world. Early large language models — or LLMs — were trained to answer basic questions. But now, they can cite sources, detect tone and reason through complex decisions. That opens up a new world for how teams evaluate everything from strategy calls to post-race feedback.

From performance analysis to data visualizations, AI is playing an increasingly pivotal role in how race teams operate across the NASCAR garage

For example, a full race's worth of driver and crew radio chatter can be fed into an AI model that not only identifies which calls worked and which didn't, but also interprets tone and urgency in real time. “Information is speed in this game nowadays,” said Tom Gray, technical director at Hendrick Motorsports. “He who can distill the information quicker and get to the decision quicker, ultimately, is going to have the race win. If you can control the race or make that decision that gets you in control of the race at the end, you're going to be win the one who wins.”

AI is also helping teams develop talent and streamline operations. Even if someone on the team isn't an expert in a particular field, AI can help them learn new skills faster. That's especially important in the highly specialized Cup Series garage — and it could help smaller teams close the gap with bigger operations. RFK Racing, now a three-car Cup Series team, is already seeing those benefits. AI helps reduce the

hours team members spend manually analyzing photos or videos. Instead of having a crew chief sort through everything, the software flags the most relevant material and delivers it quickly. On the technical side, the team is also using tools like ChatGPT to assist with software development, solving coding problems in various languages and freeing up engineers to focus on execution. “It's trying to figure out ways where, instead of having a crew chief spending three hours studying whatever it might be — photos, videos — if we can shorten that to an hour of really impactful time,” Sell said. “Looking at things that are important to them, not searching to find those things. That's the biggest gain we see, and certainly whether it's through the week or on race weekends, time is our limiting factor. “You have a finite amount of time from the time practice ends to when the race starts. What you're able to do to maximize the efficiency of that time is kind of a race in and of itself.” See AI page 7



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