

The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

### At state today

The Jay County High School Marching Patriots are competing today in the Indiana State Fair Band Day competition. JCHS was set to take the track at 1:18 p.m. for the preliminary round of the competition. Preliminary awards will be at 4 p.m., with finals to begin at 8 p.m.

## Deal not renewed

*Commissioners vote 2-1 against renewal of contract with ECIRPD*

**By BAILEY CLINE**  
The Commercial Review

Jay County will not renew its contract with East Central Indiana Regional Planning District.

Jay County Commissioners voted 2-1 against entering into another two-year contract with East Central Indiana Regional Planning District during their meeting Wednesday.

East Central Indiana Regional Planning District's current contract with the county expires this month.

The organization's duties for the county over the last two years have included hiring a commu-

nity coordinator — the role is currently occupied by Jay County resident Darlesia Lee — to work out of Portland's Community Resource Center and attend local meetings to learn more about the county's needs as they relate to grants.

The original contract with East Central Indiana Regional Planning District came in conjunction with commissioners eliminating funding for the community developer position through Jay County Development Corporation. It was part of a contract between the county and JCDC.

According to the \$200,000 contract approved in August 2023, the organization would provide administrative support and services related to economic development projects, identify and work with consulting firms, assist commissioners in vetting and identifying projects, work with local officials and be available for meetings as needed.

See **Commissioners** page 2

## Foundation hits GIFT VIII target

The match has been fulfilled.

The Portland Foundation announced Thursday that it has completed its \$750,000 unrestricted endowment matching grant opportunity through the eighth phase of Lilly Endowment Inc.'s initiative, Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT VIII).

"The Portland Foundation is grateful to the donors who made gifts as well as Lilly Endowment Inc. for the opportunity to further build its unrestricted endowment," said foundation executive director Doug Inman in a press release. "Unrestrict-

ed endowment is important because it creates the opportunity for the Foundation to make a bigger impact in the Jay County community through its competitive grant-making and provides the Foundation the opportunity to address the ever-changing needs of the community."

The matching effort saw 124 donors make 171 gifts totaling \$375,000 to fulfill the two-to-one match from the Lilly Endowment.

Through GIFT VIII, the Lilly Endowment has awarded matching fund grants totaling \$133.8 million to community foundations serving all 92 of Indiana's counties.

## Democrats are suing ICE

**By SETH KLAMANN**  
The Denver Post  
Tribune News Service

Twelve Democratic members of Congress filed a federal lawsuit Wednesday against Immigration and Customs Enforcement, alleging that ICE has illegally blocked congressional access to detention facilities.

In the suit, led by U.S. Rep. Joe Neguse of Colorado, the lawmakers allege that ICE is violating a federal law that allows members of Congress to enter detention centers for unannounced visits. As lawmakers have made more of those visits amid ICE's mass-deportation program, several have been denied access under a new policy requiring seven days' notice.

That policy runs counter to a federal law first adopted in 2019, the lawmakers argue.

"Blocking members of Congress from oversight visits to ICE facilities that house or otherwise detain immigrants clearly violates federal law — and the Trump administration knows it," Neguse, the fourth-ranking member of the House

*A dozen legislators allege ICE is violating federal law regarding detention centers*

Democratic caucus, said in a statement. "Such blatant disregard for both the law and the constitutional order by the Trump administration warrants a serious and decisive response, which is why I'm proud to lead the lawsuit we proceeded with earlier today."

The suit was filed in federal court in Washington, D.C. It names ICE and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which oversees ICE, as well as Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and ICE's acting director. In addition to Neguse, the lawmakers are Adriano Espaillat of New York, Bennie G. Thompson of Mississippi,

Jamie Raskin of Maryland, Robert Garcia of California, J. Luis Correa of California, Jason Crow of Colorado, Veronica Escobar of Texas, Daniel S. Goldman of New York, Jimmy Gomez of California, Raul Ruiz of California and Norma Torres of California.

An email sent to ICE spokespeople was not immediately returned Wednesday.

Crow, who supported the legal requirement that congressional members get uninhibited access to the facilities, attempted to visit the privately run ICE detention center in Aurora earlier this month.

See **ICE** page 2



Tribune News Service/New York Daily News/Evan Simko-Bednarski

### To a halt

Manhattan Transit Authority workers gather Thursday morning after subway trains in New York City were halted for the second time in three days because of a technical issue. An MTA spokesperson told the Daily News that West 4th St. was experiencing "power problems," and repair crews were on site.

Deaths

Donald Shilt, 88,  
Winchester  
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 89 degrees Wednesday. The low was 71.  
The low will dip into the lower 50s tonight with winds gusting to 20 mph. Skies will be mostly sunny on Saturday with a high in the mid 70s.  
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available from 9 a.m. to noon today in the shopping center at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, the parking lot east of Redkey Post Office and the parking lot south of Salamonina Fire Station.

Coming up

**Saturday** — Results from JCHS at Indiana State Fair Band Day.  
**Tuesday** — Coverage of the Jay County Junior-Senior High cheerleaders at the state fair.  
**Wednesday** — Details from next week's Jay School Board meeting.

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# Obituaries

## Donald Shilt

*March 5, 1937-July 25, 2025*

Donald Warner Shilt, age 88, of Winchester, Indiana, formerly of Greenville, Ohio, passed away peacefully with his beloved wife by his side on Friday, July 25, 2025.

Don was born on March 5, 1937, in Piqua, Ohio, the only child of Hurshel and Viola (Warner) Shilt.

At just 4 years old, Don lost his father, a loss that instilled in him a deep sense of responsibility. From a young age, he took on the role of “man of the house,” a title he wore with pride and dedication throughout his life.

By the age of 9, Don was working odd jobs around town to help support his mother. In 1946, the family received only \$27 per month from his late father’s Social Security. Determined to help, Don began working for local painters at age 13, eventually earning the “Dutch Boy of the Year” award for his hard work

and talent. At 16, he started his own painting business and bought his first truck. He also worked part-time for the street department and water board in Gettysburg, Ohio.

Don ultimately left high school to care for his mother, who was blind for the last 40 years of her life — a testament to his loyalty and compassion.

Don’s career path reflected his tireless work ethic and heart for service. At 18, he began working full-time in a factory paint department, later joining the state highway department. His journey in law enforcement began with the Greenville Police Department, where he worked nights as a beat cop. In 1965, he transitioned to the Darke County Sheriff’s Department, marking the beginning of a long and devoted law enforcement career. That same year, Don began play-



Shilt

ing Santa Claus — a role he cherished and fulfilled with joy for over 30 years.

In October 1969, Don was featured in Front Page Detective magazine alongside Sheriff Jim Irwin for his involvement in solving the Coppess Apple Orchard homicide. He helped bring closure to a case that led to the arrest of four individuals one year later.

In the late 1970s, Don stepped away from law enforcement and accepted a position with the Ohio Department of Transportation as maintenance superintendent, managing 43 employees. He later transferred to the utilities permit section in Sidney, Ohio, overseeing eight counties. After 32 years of public service, he “retired” on April 30, 1988.

However, Don wasn’t one to slow down. A few years into retirement, he accepted the role of bailiff for Judge Lee Bixler and Judge Jonathan P. Hein. He served faithfully until October 2001, when he officially retired.

In 1993, Don’s mother Viola passed away at the age of 99. A few years later, Don met Debbie Collins at Walmart. They began dating and were married on April 3, 1999. Together, they shared 26 years of love and partnership. They were members of the Sunlife Broadcasting Network (Jimmy Swaggart Ministries).

Don is survived by his loving wife, Debbie Shilt; his stepson, Chad Laughman; and a few cousins. He was a proud member of nearly every lodge and club around Greenville — though his favorite by far was the “Liars Club,” where he could showcase his lifelong love for pranks and shenanigans. Making people laugh was his true hobby — just like his father before him — because he believed laughter could make life’s troubles a little lighter.

A celebration of Don’s life (and his shenanigans) will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 30, 2025, at Tribute Funeral

Homes, Greenville Campus. Burial will follow in Gettysburg Cemetery, where he will be laid to rest beside his beloved mother. There will be no visitation prior to the service.

The family invites all who attend to bring their favorite story or memory of Don to share during the celebration.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Don’s memory may be made to AseraCare Hospice, 4427 Garwood Place, Richmond, IN 47374.

Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting [tributefuneralhomes.com](http://tributefuneralhomes.com).

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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				
Saturday 8/2	Sunday 8/3	Monday 8/4	Tuesday 8/5	Wednesday 8/6
<b>77/54</b>	<b>80/62</b>	<b>80/63</b>	<b>79/63</b>	<b>80/64</b>
Expect a high in the mid 70s under mostly sunny skies.	The forecast calls for mostly sunny skies with a high around 80.	Expect partly cloudy skies with a high in the 80s. There is a 20% chance of rain.	The forecast calls for partly cloudy skies with a 40% chance of rain and a high of 79 degrees.	There's a chance of rain on Wednesday under mostly sunny skies.

Lotteries	
<b>Powerball</b> 4-15-35-50-64 Power Ball: 8 Power Play: 4 Estimated jackpot: \$410 million	Daily Four: 4-9-2-1 Quick Draw: 1-6-11-12-14-16-17-22-28-29-39-44-55-56-60-64-66-67-70-76 Cash 5: 7-13-14-21-38 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$140 million	<b>Ohio</b> Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 0-9-9 Pick 4: 7-2-8-0 Pick 5: 0-2-5-7-1 Evening Pick 3: 7-8-8 Pick 4: 2-8-8-3 Pick 5: 3-2-4-8-1 Rolling Cash: 5-7-21-26-38 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 1-2-2 Daily Four: 0-1-2-1 Quick Draw: 4-5-8-11-15-20-22-24-31-36-38-45-47-51-56-70-72-76-80 Evening Daily Three: 9-0-8	

Markets	
<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.40 Sept. corn .....4.42 Oct. corn .....3.97	Aug. beans.....9.91 Wheat ..... 4.94
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.32 Aug. corn .....4.32 Sept. corn .....4.22	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.09 Aug. corn .....4.09 Beans.....9.82 Aug. beans.....9.82 Wheat .....4.99
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....4.21 Aug. corn .....4.21 Beans.....9.91	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.37 Aug. corn .....4.37 Beans.....9.71 Aug. beans.....9.41 Wheat .....4.69

## Today in history

In 1972, The Jay County 4-H auction set a record as Penny Snyder’s grand champion hog sold for \$1.47 per pound, breaking the previous record of \$1.05.

In 1998, the Jay County High School Marching Patriots finished second in the Music In Motion band contest at Anderson.

They scored 75.3 points to trail Franklin Central (79).

In 2013, the Portland Rockets fell 11-10 in 12 innings to Louisville Star Drywall in the opening round of the National Amateur Baseball Federation regional tournament in Louisville, Kentucky.

— The CR

## Citizen’s calendar

<b>Monday</b> 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.	Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St. 7 p.m. — Salamonia Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center.
<b>Tuesday</b> 4 p.m. — Jay County	

# Commissioners ...

Continued from page 1

East Central Indiana Regional Planning District had been working with Jay County since at least September 2022, when commissioners agreed to pay a \$6,000 fee to participate again with the regional planning district. (Prior to 2022, the county hadn’t been participating in the district since March 2017. Then-commissioner Chuck Huffman pointed to grant writers the county already employed, including then community developer Ami Huffman and emergency management agency director Ralph Frazee, both of whom have since left their roles.)

Regional planning district director Bill Walters talked with commissioners Wednesday about projects the organization is working on currently, including plans to pursue various Community Crossings grants for paving roads and streets in Jay County municipalities as well as grants for Redkey Morgan Park and building work in Dunkirk.

Some of its other efforts have included working with consulting firms Egis of Indianapolis and Kleinfelter Consulting to spend about \$1 million allocated for the county’s owner-occupied rehabilitation program, which has resulted in renovations to about 55 homes in Jay County. (Commissioners approved additional bids for the project on Wednesday.)

Walters and commissioners president Chad Aker talked about other ongoing efforts, such as networking, workforce retention and attracting new businesses to the community.

“Two years ago, when we came in here, you didn’t have any of these things on the table, it was all conversation going back,” Walters said. “A lot of things have happened in the two years, there was some rough spots, hammering things out, details, but it’s just communication, having a talk. We’re not going to get everything ... it’s just finding that little line where we can keep pushing forward a little bit at a time, and I think you guys have made good progress in the last two years.”

Aker said he believes the county has had a good working relationship with the organization. Commissioner Doug Horn questioned whether the county needed two organizations — Jay County Development Corporation and East Central Indiana Regional Planning District — doing similar work.

Aker pointed to the planning district’s larger number of grant writers and connections with the region. He also noted Jay County Develop-

ment Corporation hasn’t filled the former community developer role. He reminded commissioners about a 60-day out-clause in the contract.

“We want to be beneficial, if we’re not beneficial to the county, providing you a benefit, we shouldn’t be here,” said Walters.

Answering a question from Horn, Walters said the organization — it currently participates with Delaware, Grant, Blackford and Jay counties — has taken in about \$1 million and, in turn, secured about \$15 million in grants.

Commissioner Duane Monroe, who appeared via video call at Wednesday’s meeting, said he’s in support of continued participation with the regional planning district but not in support of another two-year contract.

Commissioners Horn and Monroe then voted against approving a new contract, with Aker dissenting.

Walters told commissioners the planning district would continue working with Kleinfelter Consulting to finish out the owner-occupied rehabilitation program. (The work per grant guidelines must be completed by the end of September.)

In related news, commissioners also approved another round of bids for the county’s owner-occupied rehabilitation program.

Following a recommendation from Egis, the county will spend \$113,787.08 on at least eight more homes. That leaves approximately \$5,000 remaining of the program’s funding, with an Egis representative noting the leftover dollars leave a “cushion” in case of unexpected expenses.

A majority of the program’s dollars came from a \$1 million Office of Community and Rural Affairs grant. The program was intended to make necessary repairs or upgrades to Jay County residents’ homes, with work to include roof, water heater or heating ventilation and air conditioning unit replacements, electrical work or upgrades to make a home more accessible.

Walters estimated the county made renovations to approximately 55 homes over the course of the program.

Commissioners also tabled a decision on whether to move forward with architectural plans for building a public safety facility on the western edge of Portland. Aker noted the county received the following costs from architectural firms: Elevatus between \$129,000 and \$193,500, RQAW Corporation at \$210,000, Peterson Architecture at \$195,000, American

Structurepoint up to \$331,500, MartinRiley at \$203,000 and MSS Engineering at \$119,000. (QTM did not submit an estimated price.)

Aker suggested moving forward with architectural designs. Horn and Monroe both voiced concern about funding the project, which would provide a larger space for Jay County Health Department, Jay Emergency Medical Service and Jay County Coroner’s Office.

Monroe said while he’s not against the project, he also disagreed on current plans to build the facility on the county’s 68 acres along Votaw Street on the west side of Portland. He suggested expanding the current Portland base instead, with Aker noting the property is owned by IU Health.

Commissioners Horn and Monroe voted to table the proposals, with Aker dissenting.

In other business, commissioners:

- Designated Jay County Development Corporation to handle the request for proposals process for development of the county’s 68 acres in Portland.
- Heard a request from Jay County High School students Adam Kessler and Chris Bell and Jay County Council member Cindy Bracy to install flashing lights or make other signage adjustments along county road 700 East as it approaches Indiana 26.
- Approved the following: a \$75,000 contract with Jay County Humane Society for animal control services in 2026; a roughly \$14,400 contract with Leap Managed IT for information technology services; utilizing Schneider Geospatial (also known as Beacon) for geographic information system (GIS) and web-based property information services; LifeStream Services to purchase two buses for \$290,012 — most of the cost is paid for through state funds; purchasing approximately \$1,500 worth of equipment and supplies in order to refurbish two defibrillators and install them on the second and third floors of Jay County Courthouse (currently there is only one defibrillators in the building); Jay County Health Department’s annual application for a state bioterrorism grant; and three Jay County Assessor’s Office employees to spend three nights at an August summer conference in Fort Wayne.
- Heard a monthly financial breakdown from Jay Emergency Medical Service director Gary Barnett. JEMS had \$130,235.81 in expenses and \$66,875.95 in income.
- Received a corporate partner award from LifeStream Services in commemoration of its 50th anniversary.

# ICE ...

Continued from page 1

He told The Denver Post last week that he wasn’t allowed in, and he said he and other lawmakers were exploring legal options.

In a statement Wednesday, he wrote that “oversight is a fundamental responsibility of Congress.”

The suit alleges that all 12 lawmakers involved had sought and were denied access to facilities, either in person or through advance notification. The House members argued that oversight was more important now, as ICE’s arrests have increased significantly and the agency has sought to open additional facilities, including in Colorado.

“Concerns regarding poor conditions in ICE facilities predate the current administration, but recent news reports suggest that detention condi-

tions have drastically deteriorated as the number of individuals in ICE custody has risen,” the lawsuit says.

“In some cases, detainees are being denied medical care, forced to sleep on the floor in overcrowded cells, and severely underfed, with potentially deadly consequences.”

SERVICES

Aug. 30

Shilt, Donald: 11 a.m., Tribute Funeral Homes, 1000 N. Broadway St., Greenville, Ohio.

Service listings provided by

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# Widow ready to mingle

DEAR ABBY: My husband passed away four months ago. I miss him terribly, but I'm ready to move on. I want to begin dating, but I don't know how to go about it. Some may say it's too soon, but I couldn't care less what people think.

I have my eye on several men I think may be interested, but they're not paying much attention to me. I think they're hesitating because they know how recently my husband died and they think it's too soon. How can I let them know I'm ready without coming on too strong?

Also, how can I go about meeting new men? I go places and see lots of men who are attractive, but I haven't got the nerve to approach them. Some of them may be married, and I don't want to wreck anyone's marriage. I'm 65, so it isn't easy to meet someone in my age group.

I am not looking for a husband, just a friend and companion. I have everything I need except someone to love and care for me. Online dating isn't an option for me. Can you please give me some of your excellent advice? — VERY LONELY WIDOW

DEAR VERY LONELY: Please accept my condolences for the loss of your husband. You have now become a member of a

Dear Abby



club that nobody wants to join.

It's important for your mental health that you do some things to help you fight depression. Staying busy and exercising at least 30 minutes a day are both very effective. You may also be able to push the dark clouds away and meet new people by volunteering for causes you care about.

You mentioned that online dating isn't an option. If the reason for that is a lack of computer literacy, start taking some lessons. Online dating sites provide an avenue for widows and widowers to meet eligible people of both sexes. One caveat, however: You wrote that you are looking for someone to love and care for YOU. Do not go into ANY relationship without accepting that it will be a two-way street, or it won't work for either of you.

DEAR ABBY: My grandpa

has expressed to me that he wants me to inherit all of his investments, including his 401(k) and his personal accounts. I am the only family member taking care of him. His wife passed away two months ago. He has expressed his wishes to me verbally. (I have recorded him stating this.) He does not want my sister or his other family members to inherit anything.

Should I honor his wishes and accept it all? My sister, who calls him occasionally, thinks she should get half of his estate when he passes. (It could be five or 10 years from now.) Should I honor his wishes or split it 50-50 to keep the peace? — EYE TO THE FUTURE IN TEXAS

DEAR EYE: I am very glad you wrote. Although you have your grandfather on tape expressing his wishes about the distribution of his estate, it is CRUCIAL they be discussed with an attorney who specializes in estate planning! Those wishes should be put IN WRITING and notarized so there will be no confusion about his intentions or his reason for apportioning his estate the way he is doing. Your sister will be furious when she gets the news, and you may need legal protection, so be prepared.

# Registration now open for MusicWorks

MusicWorks' registration is open.

The music instruction program runs from Sept. 1 through May 1, teaching students how to read music, proper playing techniques and the fundamentals of music theory. Registration is \$25. Classes are \$560 for students and \$640 for adults, and \$80 for instrument rentals. Monthly payments are available.

To sign up, visit [myartsplace.easybooking.site](http://myartsplace.easybooking.site). The deadline to register is Aug. 25. For more information or questions on how to be involved, please contact Arts Place by calling 260-726-4809 or emailing [jcc@myartsplace.org](mailto:jcc@myartsplace.org).

## Believe concert

You better believe it. Brother Believe Me will perform Aug. 14 at Hudson Family Park.

A group of experienced musicians, Brother Believe Me reproduces a wide range of musical genres with compelling accuracy and energy, according to a press release from Arts Place. Their set list, which includes a mix of songs from the 1970s, '80s and today.

Brother Believe Me's performance marks the final free show of the year in the Hudson Family Park Amphitheatre concert series.

## Fire up DWNTWN

It's almost time to ignite downtown Muncie. Fire Up DWNTWN, an event organized by Muncie

## Taking Note

Downtown Development Partnership and Ivy Tech of Muncie, is slated for 1 to 10 p.m. Saturday. The summer festival will feature live music, hot air balloons, fiery spectacles, interactive art and entertainment, craft vendors and food trucks.

Liquid Fire Iron Pour will light up the evening with fiery artistry as metal artisans work on their new project, "Pedestrian Ironworks." alongside DWNTWN IDOL second-round elimination performances.

## 'Annie' auditions

She's not just another orphan. Jay County Civic Theatre will host auditions next week for its performance of "Annie."

Auditions are slated for 6 to 8:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at Jay County Campus of Arts Place.

Rehearsals are slated for this fall, with performances scheduled for 7 p.m. Dec. 4, 5, 6, 12 and 13, and 2 p.m. Dec. 14.

For those interested but unable to attend auditions, contact co-directors Rachel Tebbe or Ray Cooney in advance to make other arrangements. For more information, email [info@jaycountycivic.org](mailto:info@jaycountycivic.org).

# Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email [news@thecr.com](mailto:news@thecr.com).

## Today

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.

SOFT SHOULDERS — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place at Swiss Village in Berne. For more information, call (260) 589-3173.

CININNATUS LEAGUE — Will meet at noon Friday, Aug. 1, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

## Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call

(260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

ROAD RIDERS FOR JESUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month in the West Walnut Church of Christ fellowship hall, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland. (Please enter from the door facing the alley on the north side of the building.) For more information, call (260) 726-8463.

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](http://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.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Portland Place, 430 W. Lafayette St. For more information, call (800) 589-1121.

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

CAREGIVER SUP-

PORT GROUP — Will meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Portland Place, 430 W. Lafayette St. For more information, call (800) 589-1121.

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday 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.

## Tuesday

COMPASSIONATE

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# Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

## Thursday's Solution

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

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.

# Don't Wait, Act Now!

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# How did we get to where we are?

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

This week's column is a brief, statistical description of the Indiana economy's changes over the past quarter century.

Our descriptor is Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the current market value of goods and services produced in this state by the businesses, organizations and governments located here.

By and large, it is also a statement of the market activity of Hoosiers, recognizing that many people travel to and from other states where they work or live. Not included are the non-market activities like housework and getting dressed. We all participate in these activities which are of value to ourselves and others.

**Morton J. Marcus**



In 1998, Indiana accounted for 2% of the nation's GDP; by 2023, this figure was down to 1.8%. Over those years, the nation averaged 4.6% GDP growth while Indiana managed 4% annually.

(Readers, please excuse the apparently small percentage differences; they can be of great significance. For example, if Indiana matched that 4.6% national

growth rate, our 2023 GDP would have been \$67.4 million greater or 13.5% higher than what we actually achieved.)

Our best performing industry of any consequence was Farming, which went from 0.4% of the nation's farm GDP to 1.4%, growing by 3% compared to a national decline of 2%. But with farming, individual years often reflect nothing more than international production differences, whatever the cause.

There were impressive gains in Motor Vehicles, Bodies, Trailers and Parts, where we advanced from 1.9% of the nation's output to 3.4%, outpacing the nation with our 6.5% growth to the U.S. 4.2% increase. Indiana went from

7.9% of the industry's output to 12.9%.

But, although we outperformed the nation, the industry itself was in decline relative to the full economy, going from 1.4% to 0.6% of total GDP. RVs were hot, but not compared to the diverse Professional and Business Services and Finance, Insurance and Real Estate sectors that together advanced from 29% of GDP in 1998 to 34% in 2023.

The hardest-hit general category nationally was Manufacturing, which went from 15.8% to 10.2% of GDP and from 30.8% in Indiana to 25.9%. Yes, we outperformed the nation in growth (3.3% vs 2.8%), but advancing in

a relatively declining industry is not necessarily worthy of commendation.

The national policy of restoring Manufacturing to its prior position of international dominance appeals to Hoosier politicians, but may be betting on the wrong horses. Our prior glory was probably a benefit of the Civil War and railroad development north of the Ohio River. Being the Crossroads of America may not be of future consequence, except at this moment for Warehousing and Storage.

Marcus is an economist formerly at the IU Kelley School of Business. Email him at [mortonjmarcus@gmail.com](mailto:mortonjmarcus@gmail.com).

## GOP missed its shot at real reform

**Bloomberg Opinion**

Tribune News Service

Every decade since the 1970s, Congress has tried and failed to reform Medicaid, the health entitlement for the poor.

Republican lawmakers' latest effort — as part of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act — appears to be no different. Instead of addressing the program's core deficiencies, the party instead fixated on shrinking it. The likely result? Needless disruption and little in the way of serious savings or reform.

All told, the bill seeks to cut about \$1 trillion from federal Medicaid spending over a decade. This savings largely would be achieved through a series of technical changes that nonetheless would be costly and difficult to implement, and thus may not fully materialize.

The most substantial amount in theory would come from adding "work requirements" for beneficiaries. Starting next December, Medicaid recipients under age 65 will need to work, seek employment, go to school or volunteer 80 hours a month, with exemptions for pregnant women, parents with children under 14, the "medically frail" and others. The goal is to save money by shrinking the pool of enrollees — without cutting benefits for those still eligible or dramatically increasing the uninsured rate.

Accomplishing such a delicate task is, you might say, aspirational. States will need to update creaky IT systems and retrain staff. They'll have to coordinate with the managed-care companies that administer Medicaid plans and communicate changes to a population that's known to move and change jobs frequently. To show they're working in good faith and not simply snatching benefits from the poor, officials ought to establish pathways to vocational and other programs that put recipients in compliance with the new rules. They likewise should work with local employers to help those who've lost coverage find alternatives.

Preparation of this sort is improbable, and not just because it's laborious.

Thanks to Medicaid's funding model, most states have little incentive to strictly comply with work requirements. Since its inception in

## Guest Editorial

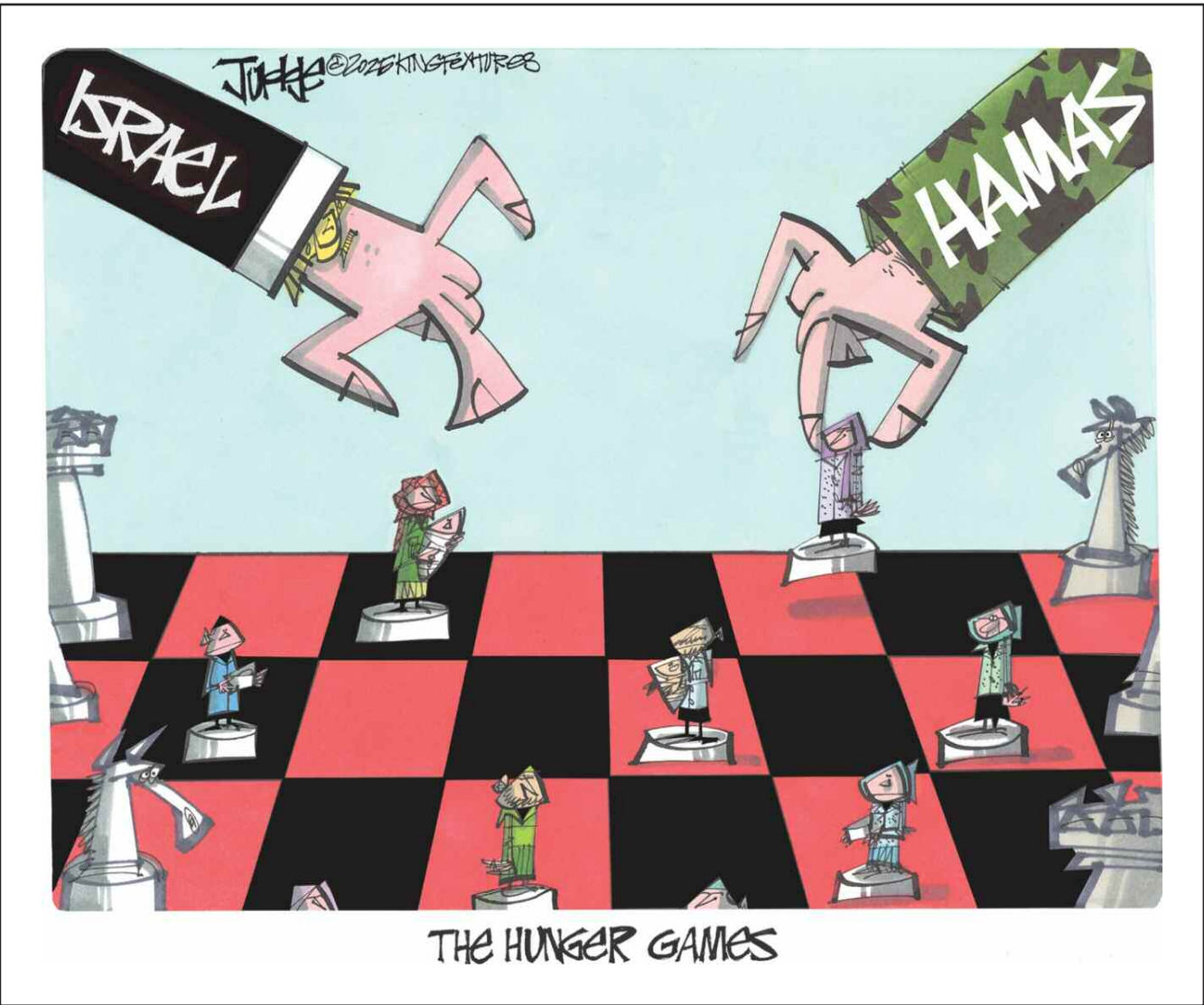
1965, Medicaid has offered a federal "match" for state spending on public aid, without a cap. For each dollar a state spends, it gets \$1 to \$9 from the federal government. By enforcing work rules — and thus lowering their Medicaid spending — states stand to cut off their biggest source of funding, at the risk of yanking away their residents' health care. Far better to create workarounds.

For these reasons, work requirements are unlikely to generate hoped-for savings. They'll also hassle the poor while failing to address the perverse incentives of the open-ended federal match that has made Medicaid one of the fastest-growing federal programs, with expenditures soaring to more than \$800 billion from about \$40 billion in 1985.

Proposals that seek to eliminate the open-ended match have long been debated but remain unpopular. So-called block grants, for example, would allocate a fixed amount of money to states each year. Although that would curb runaway spending, it would be perilously inflexible in times of need — say, when enrollment rises during recessions, disease outbreaks or natural disasters.

One idea that deserves more attention is something of a hybrid. It involves maintaining the uncapped federal match for mandatory benefits and eligibility categories — that is, the core services and populations required by federal law — while setting limits on matching for states' optional expansions. A split along these lines would make states, rather than federal taxpayers, responsible for spending they choose to incur.

The good news is that the One Big Beautiful Bill has started a long-overdue conversation on Medicaid reform. The bad news is that, as things stand, the cuts the law has imposed are likely to result in disruptive yet ineffective change. Congress still has a chance to do the right thing.



## Business leaders have role to play

By **SARAH BONK** and **KARA REVEL JARZYNSKI**

The Fulcrum

Tribune News Service

What do a sausage maker and an insurance giant have in common? A growing concern about the divisions fracturing American society — and a willingness to do something about it.

At Johnsonville, recent research with The Harris Poll found that 82% of Americans agree there's too much outrage in the country and wish we could "turn down the temperature." The company's "Keep It Juicy" campaign, voiced by actor Vince Vaughn, encourages Americans to reclaim everyday joy and civility.

Meanwhile, Allstate, one of the nation's largest insurers, has launched a three-year initiative with the Aspen Institute to strengthen trust in communities. Their message is clear: "Strong communities, businesses, and relationships are built on trust."

These efforts reflect a broader trend: companies are no longer sitting on the sidelines while the social fabric unravels. From brand campaigns to cross-sector partnerships, more business leaders are investing in solutions — in their workplaces as well as communities — to rebuild trust, civility, and social cohesion.

And there's good reason to act. In a 2024 study, SHRM found that U.S. employers collectively lose more than \$2 billion each day due to lost productivity and absenteeism caused by toxic workplace behavior. These numbers reflect a larger national crisis: Americans are exhausted by division, and it's showing up at the office, in customer interactions, and on company balance sheets.

While individual company initiatives are an important start, broader public solutions are also needed. One business-friendly response is the federal Building Civic Bridges

## Guest Opinion

Act (BCBA), which would support local initiatives that help Americans connect across differences and heal our social and political divides.

This bipartisan bill, recently reintroduced in the 119th Congress, has been endorsed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Business Roundtable, Indiana Chamber of Commerce, and U.S. Hispanic Business Council. Business for America has rallied support from well-known brands like Cummins, ECOS, REI Co-op, Salesforce, and Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. The legislation would fund research-backed, community-based programs that strengthen civic connections and teach skills like active listening, respectful dialogue, and conflict resolution.

When it comes to ROI for business, the BCBA would generate a ripple effect far beyond civic nonprofits. It could help address three growing challenges:

First, frontline workers are increasingly subjected to the emotional fallout of polarization. According to the Harvard Business Review in 2022, 78% of frontline employees and managers say abusive behavior from customers has increased in recent years. SHRM reports that U.S. workers collectively experience 171 million acts of incivility every day — leading to burnout, low morale, and turnover. Reducing societal hostility helps protect employees and customer-facing operations alike.

Second, workplace culture itself is at risk. The political climate has

seeped into our breakrooms and Slack channels. A 2024 SHRM survey found that 71% of U.S. workers report having polarizing, political, or controversial conversations at work and 87% of employers are concerned about managing divisive political beliefs. Left unaddressed, these rifts lead to toxicity, disengagement, and lost talent.

Third, division is not just bad for workplace dynamics — it's a barrier to policy progress and economic growth. In a 2024 Gartner report, U.S. business leaders ranked political polarization as the second-highest emerging risk after generative AI. When Congress is gridlocked, the issues that matter to business — from workforce development to supply chains to climate resilience — stagnate. Bridging divides is not just a cultural issue; it's a competitiveness issue.

Fortunately, Americans are ready for change. Nearly 80% say that, given the opportunity, they would help reduce divisions in the country. What they need are the tools and spaces to do so. The Building Civic Bridges Act would provide just that.

Whether through ad campaigns, community partnerships, or public policy, business leaders have a role to play in restoring civility and trust. As Johnsonville suggests, it's time to turn down the temperature. As Allstate reminds us, where there's optimism, there's opportunity. And as Congress considers the BCBA, we urge more business leaders to raise their voice in support. Because the future of business — and American prosperity — depends on it.

Bonk is a civic entrepreneur and the founder/CEO of Business for America.

Jarzynski is the executive director of Resolutionaries.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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# Millions helped cover losses

*Critics say programs are part of the problem*

By **SUSANNE RUST**  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

The federal government has paid California dairy farms more than \$230 million to subsidize losses in milk production resulting from bird flu, records show, an amount that the dairy industry expects to climb higher as more claims for damages are processed.

The H5N1 bird flu has swept through more than 75% of California's 1,000 dairy farms since August 2024, sickening cattle and leading to steep dropoffs in milk production.

Farmers were able to get relief under a U.S. Department of Agriculture program known as the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program, or ELAP. The program usually provides assistance for farmers impacted by wildfires, drought and flooding but was opened up for dairy farmers last year as bird flu began ravaging their cows.

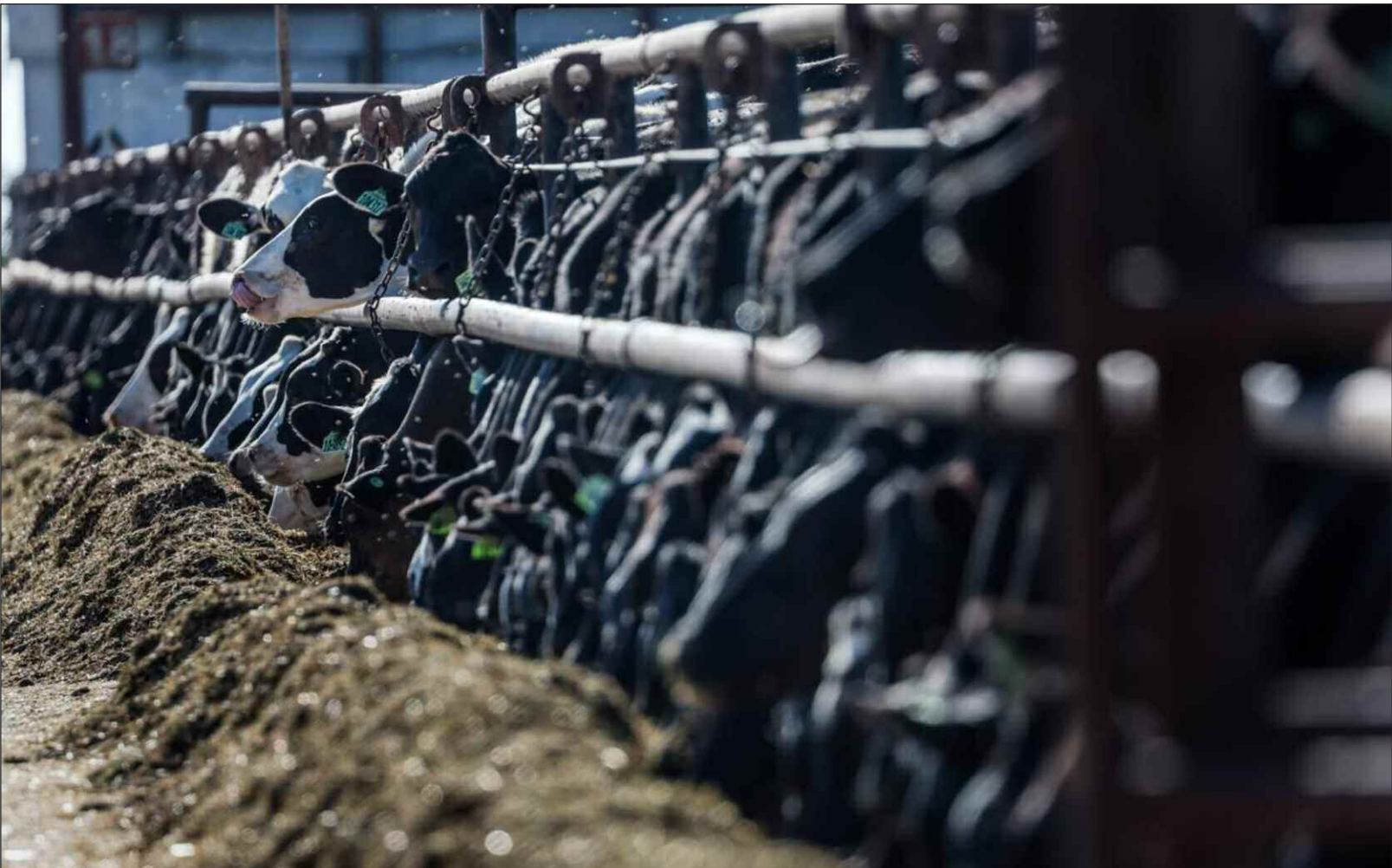
U.S. Department of Agriculture records show that 644 payments were made to 359 California dairy farms between November 2024 and June 2025 totaling \$231 million. The average per farm payment was about \$645,000, and ranged from \$2,058 to the Pereira Dairy Farm, in Visalia, to \$4.4 million to Channel Islands Dairy Farm, in Corcoran.

Those payments are expected to go much higher, however, as more claims are submitted and processed. Many of the payments issued in May and June were for outbreaks in 2024, suggesting there are more to come.

The relief payments were obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request by Farm Forward, a nonprofit group that advocates against factory farming. The group asserts that the subsidies help prop up industrial-scale dairy operations that perpetuate the spread of bird flu.

"These are mega industrial operations that are fueling an outbreak," said Andrew deCoriolis, Farm Forward's executive director. "Bird flu spreads in exactly the kinds of environments that we're paying to preserve."

Anja Raudabaugh, the chief executive of the industry's largest state trade group, Western United Dairies, said the payments have "ensured our dairy communities and their workers stay



Times News Service/Los Angeles Times/Robert Gauthier

Cows gather to eat at a Kings County dairy farm on June 17. The H5N1 bird flu swept through more than 75% of California's 1,000 dairy farms in the last year, sickening cattle and leading to steep dropoffs in milk production.

employed and healthy. Until we get approval of a dairy cow vaccine, weathering this storm has only been possible with the assistance of the milk loss payments."

Jonathan Cockroft, managing partner of Channel Islands Dairy Farms, said while the payments helped with the roughly 30% drop in milk production his farm experienced, his losses exceed the \$4 million he received.

He said the virus caused cows to abort their pregnancies, and often prevented them from getting pregnant again. A dairy cow that doesn't give birth doesn't produce milk. In other cases, he said the udders were so scarred by the disease that the cows were unable to produce milk at levels prior to infection.

"There's a whole other version I'm not sure the public understands, which is the huge impact on reproduction," he said.

He also noted many animals died — especially when the outbreak first hit last fall, and the newness of it combined with the blazing heat of the Central Valley felled 10% to 15% of many California herds.

Joey Airosso, a dairy farmer in Tipton, received a \$1.45-million subsidy for an outbreak at his farm last October.

He said the outbreak has cost him more than \$2 million "just on milk income and that does not include the over \$250,000 of extra care costs" required to treat cows with medicines, extra staffing and veterinary consultations.

And it doesn't cover the cost of the cows that died — which can't produce milk or be sold for meat. The average dairy cow costs about \$3,500, Cockroft said.

Jay Van Rein, a spokesperson for California's Department of Food and Agriculture, said the loss payments are "the most realistic way for producers to recover and to avoid huge disruptions in the food supply of these products."

USDA officials didn't immediately respond to a request for comment, but a former top USDA official who left the agency in January said it was important to provide dairy farmers relief once the agency identified H5N1 bird flu in a handful of Texas herds in March 2024. By then the disease had been spreading for weeks, if not months, making containment to one state impossible.

"This was a once-in-a-lifetime event, and we knew that we were going to need to support producers, and we knew that the quicker we could get some assistance out to them to help them test, the better off we were going to be, and the faster we'd be able to bring the infection under control," he said.

Farm Forward's DeCoriolis and others, however, say these programs perpetuate an agricultural industry designed around containing hundreds, if not thousands, of genetically similar animals into confined lots — veritable playgrounds for a novel

virus. He also noted the federal relief programs don't come with any strings attached, such as incentives for disease mitigation and/or biosecurity.

Angela Rasmussen, a virologist at the University of Saskatchewan's Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization in Canada, said handing out subsidies to farms without trying to understand or investigate the practices they are using to quash the disease is a mistake.

"What are they doing on the farms to prevent reinfection?" she said.

The USDA payments were based on a per cow milk production losses over a four-week period. According to Farm Forward's data, several farms received more than one subsidy. While roughly half received just one payment, 100 farms received two payments, 58 received three, 19 received four and two received six separate payments.

At one farm in Tulare County, four USDA payments were submitted once a month between November 2024 and February 2025. At another, payments stretched from December 2024 to May 2025.

Rasmussen said the multiple payments most likely stemmed depending on specific circumstances at the dairies involved.

Cockroft of the Channel Islands Dairy said he and other farmers have seen waves of reinfection and milk tests that remain positive for months on end. He

said he knew of a farm that was in quarantine for nine months.

When herds are quarantined, animals are not allowed to be transferred on or off site. In California, a farm is under quarantine for 60 days after initial virus detection. It can't move out of quarantine until tests show its milk is virus-free — for three weeks in a row.

Van Rein, the state agriculture spokesperson, said the average time under quarantine is 103 days. He said that of the 1,000 herds in California, 940 are not under quarantine; 715 of those had previously been infected and released from quarantine.

A quarantined farm can still sell milk, however, even if the milk tests positive. Pasteurization has been shown to kill the virus.

The relief payments are another sign of how the U.S. government supports the agricultural industry, which is considered by some to be vital to the national interest.

"We've decided politically that this is an industry that we want to support, that was hit by something that obviously wasn't their fault, and we're going to help them, because it was a disastrous thing that hit the industry," said Daniel Sumner, an agricultural economist at UC Davis. "If we thought about these payments as we're using our tax money to help somebody who's in need, because their family is poor, that's not the case."

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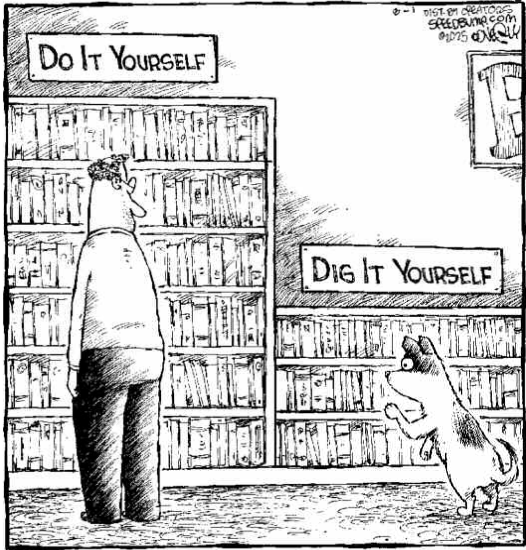
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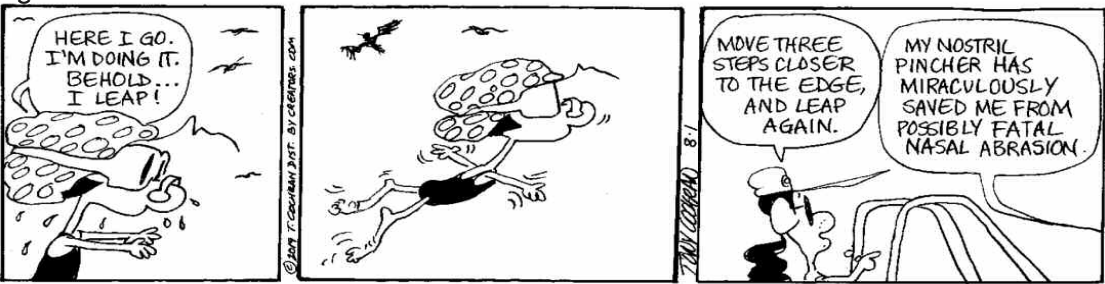
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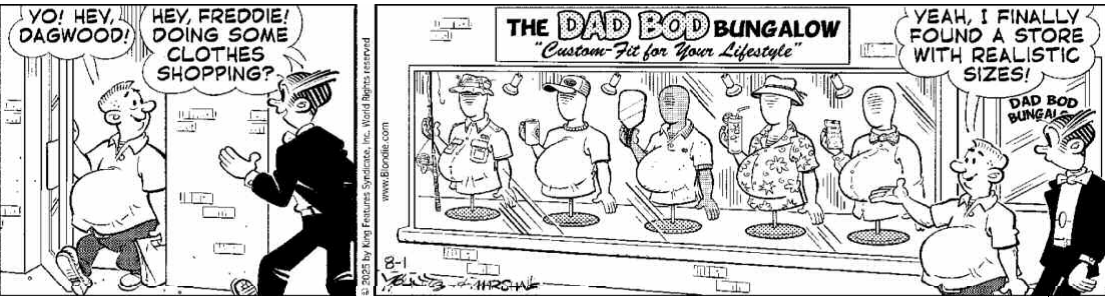
Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has gone: North 1♦, East 1♠, South 1♥, West 2♠. What would you bid with each of the following five hands? 1. ♠AQ5♥985♦863♣10842 2. ♠72♥KJ96♦K4♣AQJ87 3. ♠QJ93♥KJ6♦5♣A9862 4. ♠—♥KJ76♦AQ93♣AJ743 5. ♠KQ6♥AJ5♦J843♣AJ9

1. Pass. When your partner opens the bidding with one of a suit, you are required to keep the bidding open with six or more points. However, this obligation is suspended if the intervening player overcalls the opening bid. Since this assures that partner will get another turn to bid, there is no necessity to enter the fray with flimsy values in order to keep the bidding alive.

2. Two clubs. This follows the general principle of naming a five-card suit before a four-card suit (provided you have enough points to do so). Your plan is to bid hearts next so that partner will know you have only four of them, as well as a strong hand.

3. Double. Game is by no means certain, so the best chance for a significant plus score lies in trying to exact a penalty from the opponents at one spade doubled. If partner passes, indicating a normal opening bid, you are likely to collect 500 or 800 points. If you play "negative" doubles in this situation, your best action would be to pass and hope partner reopens with a double, which you could then pass for penalties.

4. Two spades. Game is virtually certain, and slam is just around the corner. The best way of expressing this is by a cuebid. Two spades implies excellent support for diamonds and interest in reaching a game or slam. If partner is weak in spades, which would mean he is strong elsewhere, a slam can almost surely be made.

5. Three notrump. This is a quantitative bid showing 16 or 17 points, balanced distribution (usually 4-3-3-3) and scattered high-card strength. Since that is exactly what you have, you can best transmit this message by leaping directly to three notrump.

Tomorrow: Try the impossible.  
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8-1

CRYPTOQUIP

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Bio stat 4 Basra resident 8 Pacific nation 12 ICU pros 13 Apportion 14 Laundry unit 15 Model Naomi 17 — Domini 18 Braces (oneself) 19 Chou En — 21 Golf peg 22 Jordan's neighbor 26 Goofed 29 "What-ever" 30 French vineyard 31 Heath 32 Greyhound vehicle 33 Lure 34 Actress Hagen 35 Marry 36 Pizza serving 37 Write sloppily 39 "Rugrats" dad 40 He gives a hoot

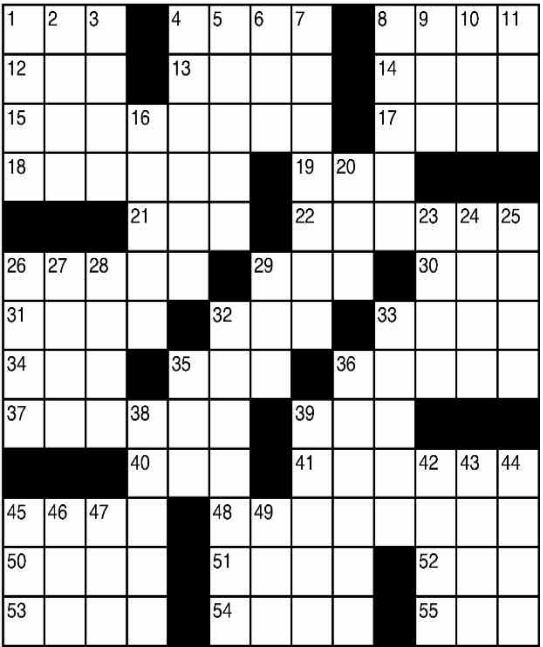
41 Nobel-winning Mother 45 Slightly open 48 Blue-flowered herb 50 Dryer fuzz 51 "Ars Amatoria" poet 52 High tennis shot 53 Pool site, for short 54 Gladys Knight's backup 55 Govt. lender

2 Bitty biter 3 Salinger title girl 4 Sauntered 5 Della or Pee Wee 6 Part of NATO 7 Sit-up targets 8 Talent 9 Physics particle 10 Painter Vermeer 11 Altar promise 16 Falk of "Co-lumbo" 20 Bat wood 23 Anti-oxidant berry

24 Guitarist Clapton 25 Mando-lin's kin 26 Flightless birds 27 Campus mil. group 28 Crowd noise 29 Wet dirt 32 Hotel staffer 33 Book jacket write-up 35 URL part 36 Spirited horses 38 Main artery 39 Vegas area 42 "Electric" creatures 43 Neatnik's bane 44 Jessica of "Dark Angel" 45 Olympic gymnast Raisman 46 Comic Carrey 47 Man-dela's org. 49 Bird (Pref.)

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claw foot organ stool;  
cedar chest; lightning  
rods with balls; Roseville  
vases; Hull Pottery;  
primitives; Fenton bas-  
ket; Ball blue canning  
jars; tomato cages; min-  
now buckets; Snowba-  
bies; and other items not  
listed.

**TOOLS**  
Ryobi miter saw; Black  
& Decker 20V weed  
eater; push mower; 10i  
radial arm saw; Black &  
Decker jig saw; 6v bat-  
tery chargers; welding  
helmet & jacket; bicycle  
jacks;  
and other items not list-  
ed.  
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AU12400069



# Sharpe done with ‘First Take’

**By CHUCK SCHILKEN**  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

LOS ANGELES — Shannon Sharpe will not be returning to ESPN, according to a person with knowledge of the situation who is not authorized to publicly discuss it.

The development comes weeks after the former NFL star settled a \$50 million lawsuit that accused him of rape. Attorney Tony Buzbee, whose firm represented the woman who filed the civil lawsuit against Sharpe earlier this year, announced the settlement on July 18 in a statement posted on Instagram.

Sharpe’s legal team said at the time that Buzbee’s statement should be considered the “final word” on the matter. Terms of the settlement have not been disclosed.

The lawsuit was filed on April 20 in Clark County in Nevada. Sharpe’s accuser sought damages for claims of assault, sexual assault, battery, sexual battery and intentional infliction of emotional distress after multiple alleged non-consensual sexual encounters in her Las Vegas apartment between October and January.

The sports media personality has denied the allegations. He announced days after the lawsuit was filed that he was temporarily stepping away from his duties as a commentator on ESPN’s “First Take” but would return in time for the 2025 NFL season.

At that time, an ESPN spokesperson said in a statement emailed to The Los Angeles Times that “this is a serious situation, and we agree with Shannon’s decision to step away.”

# Hayes ...

Continued from page 8

The Pirates, of course, may not be done making moves. The MLB trade deadline is 6 p.m. ET Thursday, and pitchers David Bednar and Mitch Keller are high on the wish lists for contending teams.

**Post-Gazette analysis**

The prize of the trade is Stafura. Stafura’s a highly regarded position-player prospect — which the Pirates need more of — who has had solid production in Low-A. He’s added 18 doubles, a top-10 mark in the Florida State League, and nine triples,

second most in the FSL. His bat is developing, which you’d expect given he was drafted out of Walter Panas High School in Cortlandt Manor, N.Y., but it’s certainly shown promise.

Rogers and Hayes were due to make roughly the same amount of money this year, though Rogers is on an expiring contract. The Pirates could look to flip Rogers to a team that needs a reliever at the deadline.

Per a source, Hayes will be replaced on the major league roster in the short term by Jared Triolo. Triolo provides the Pirates with similar defense, as he won a Gold Glove as a util-

ityman last year. However, the Pirates are now looking for their third baseman of the future — if they hadn’t been already. Hayes was under contract through 2030 but was batting .236 with two homers and 36 RBIs.

The Pirates have struggled offensively with Hayes. Without him, they have the opportunity to find a third baseman with more offensive upside and can reinvest his contract to do so. While Hayes’ defense will be missed, this move both adds a solid prospect in Stafura and gives the Pirates more flexibility as they construct their roster for 2026 and beyond.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

## Blocked out

Mya Kunkler of the Jay County High School volleyball team blocks a shot during one of the Patriots’ three scrimmages at Fort Recovery on Wednesday. Kunkler led JCHS with 73 total blocks in 2024.

# Sports on tap

## Local schedule

**Today**  
Portland Rockets in NABF World Series vs. Lombard Orioles at Lee Pfund Stadium and North Central Field – 6:30 p.m.

**Monday**  
Jay County — Girls golf at South Adams Invite – 9 a.m.  
Fort Recovery — Boys golf at Tri-Village – 5 p.m.; Girls golf at Tri-Village – 9 a.m.

## TV schedule

**Today**  
5:40 a.m. — AFL: Hawthorn Hawks at Adelaide Crows (FS1)  
7 a.m. — PGA Tour: Women’s British Open (USA)  
12:30 p.m. — PGA Tour: Women’s British Open (NBC)  
12:40 p.m. — MLB: Atlanta Braves at Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana)  
4 p.m. — Track and field: USATF Outdoor Championships (NBC)  
7 p.m. — ARCA Menards Series: Atlas 150 (FS1)  
7 p.m. — Banana Ball World Tour (ESPN)  
9 p.m. — MMA: Professional Fighters League (ESPN)

9:40 p.m. — MLB: St. Louis Cardinals at San Diego Padres (FDSN Indiana)  
11 p.m. — Leagues Cup soccer: Tigres UANL at San Diego (FS1)

**Saturday**  
5:35 a.m. — AFL: Brisbane Lions at Collingwood Magpies (FS1)  
7 a.m. — PGA Tour: Women’s British Open (USA)  
10 a.m. — Formula 1: Hungarian Grand Prix (ESPN2)  
12 p.m. — Horse racing: Saratoga Live (FS1)  
1 p.m. — PLL lacrosse: New York Atlas at Denver Outlaws (ABC)  
1 p.m. — PGA Tour: Women’s British Open (NBC)  
1 p.m. — BIG3 basketball: Detroit Amps at Ball Hogs (CBS)  
2 p.m. — Athletes Unlimited softball: Team Ocasio at Team Kilfoyl (ESPN2)  
2 p.m. — BIG3 basketball: Houston Rig Hands at Power (CBS)  
2:20 p.m. — MLB: Baltimore Orioles at Chicago Cubs (FS1)  
3 p.m. — Horse racing: Saratoga Saturday (FOX)  
3 p.m. — PGA Tour: Wyndham Champions (CBS)

3 p.m. — WNBA: Minnesota Lynx at Las Vegas Aces (ABC)  
4 p.m. — Athletes Unlimited softball: Team Lorenz at Team Corrick (ESPN2)  
7 p.m. — Banana Ball World Tour (ESPN2)  
7:15 p.m. — MLB: Atlanta Braves at Cincinnati Reds (FOX)  
9 p.m. — Leagues Cup soccer: America at Minnesota United (FS1)  
10:10 p.m. — MLB: St. Louis Cardinals at San Diego Padres (FDSN Indiana)  
11 p.m. — Leagues Cup soccer: Portland Timbers at Queretaro (FS1)

## Local notes

**Chamber to host**  
Jay County Chamber of Commerce will host its golf outing on Sept. 19 at 9 a.m. Participation costs \$250 per team with lunch included. A \$20 team mulligan golf ball can be purchased as well.

Sponsorships can be purchased as well. A lunch sponsorship will cost \$500, while a gold sponsorship will go for \$450. Hole sponsorships cost \$100 for members and \$150 for non-members.

The deadline to register is Sept. 12. For more info, call (260) 726-4481 or email amanda@jaycountychamber.com.

**Partnership announced**  
Ball State University will be partnering with Indy Eleven to provide free training for youth coaches in Indiana on Aug. 2.

The in-person training session will be at Michael A. Carroll Stadium in Indianapolis. It will be a one-hour workshop focused on building positive, youth development-focused coaching practices.

Those who attend will receive a ticket to the Indy Eleven soccer match and Professional Growth Points for those going for a teaching license.

**Tickets available**  
Jay County Junior-Senior High School is selling super and season tickets.

To purchase tickets, visit the high school’s office hours which are between 7:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Regular season tickets for individual varsity events will cost \$7, while admission to JV, freshman or junior high events will be \$6 for adults.

The Patriot Pass, which gets you into all high school and junior high events costs \$115. The Senior Patriot Pass for those 65 and older will be \$70.

Other deals are as follows:  
• High School Adult Super tickets - \$90  
• Senior Super Tickets - \$55

• Pre-Paid Sports Pass - \$60  
• Basketball season pass - \$60  
• Football season pass - \$25

**Outing scheduled**  
United Way will be hosting a golf outing at Portland Golf Club on Aug. 2.

Registration will begin at 11:30 a.m. with the teams teeing off at 12:30 p.m. Teams can register for \$250 each, with lunch included, at unitedwayjaycounty.org or by going to Portland Golf Club.

Prior to the golf outing, there will be a freewill pancake and sausage breakfast from 7:30-10:30 a.m.

After golf there will be a family fun night. It will cost \$40 for two adults and two kids to play nine holes and eat. There will be live music by Ken Bantz, a bounce house and fireworks.

**Next race set**  
The next race in the Adams County Challenge series is the Adams Memorial/Kekionga Greenway Gallup at 4:30 p.m. Aug. 13.

The race begins at the Riverside Center in Decatur. Registration forms can be found at adamscounty5kchallenge.com.

.....

To have an event listed in “Sports on tap”, email details to sports@thecr.com

### 100 JOBS WANTED

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

### 110 HELP WANTED

**HELP WANTED** Painting and Pressure washing in Fort Recovery 419-852-0309

### 130 MISC. FOR SALE

**SCRATCH PADS ARE BACK** various bundles sizes and XL pads. \$1.25 plus tax. Pick up at The Commercial Review Tuesday thru Friday 10am to 4pm.

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

### 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

## Public Notice

LEGAL NOTICE  
Notice is hereby given that Christopher Lee Revolt has filed a petition asking the City of Dunkirk to vacate and abandon a certain alley between Franklin Street and an alley bounded by Franklin Street and Main Street in the City of Dunkirk, Indiana. This matter has been scheduled for hearing before the Dunkirk City Council on the 11th day of August, 2024 at 7:00 o'clock p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 131 S Main Street, Dunkirk, Indiana. Any person may appear at the hearing and object to the proposed vacation and abandonment as provided by law.

Kara Lowe  
Dunkirk City Clerk-Treasurer  
CR 8-1-2025-HSPAXLP

✓

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The CR

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www.thecr.com

### 130 MISC. FOR SALE

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

**FOR SALE** Hay and Straw call 260-249-8458

### 190 FARMERS COLUMNN

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

### 200 FOR RENT

**LEASE SPACE** available, Coldwater, OH. Manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, distribution, offices, inside and outdoor storage. Easy access to major highways and railroad access with loading

### 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

## Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA  
COUNTY OF JAY . SS:  
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT  
38001-2507-JP-8  
Matildo Alvarez Jimenez, Petitioner  
Ana Floriel Jimenez Mendez Respondent  
NOTICE OF HEARING  
Matildo Alvarez Jimenez pro se, having filed a Verified Petition to Establish Child Custody, and the Court now finds the Petition should be set for hearing.  
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Verified Petition to Establish Child Custody is set for hearing at 9:00 o'clock A.M. on the 30 day of September, 2025, at Jay County Circuit Court, 3rd floor Courthouse, 120 N Court Street, Portland, IN 47371.  
DATED: 07/22/25  
Melissa Elliot  
Clerk, Jay Circuit Court  
CR 7-25,8-1-8-2025-HSPAXLP

### 200 FOR RENT

docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, www.sycamorespace.com

**TJ EXPRESS SERVICE, LLC** in Dunkirk, IN has 14,400 square feet of commercial storage space available for rent. Monday-Friday from 6:00AM-6:00PM. Feel free to call our office at 260-766-4331 or email customerservice@tjx-pservice.com

### 230 AUTOS, TRUCKS

**WE PAY CASH** for junk autos. We pick up at your location. 1-765-546-2642 or 1-765-857-1071. Slocumis Salvage

### 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

## Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA  
COUNTY OF JAY COUNTY  
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT  
CASE NO. 38001-2504-MI-9  
IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF MINOR:  
Everleigh Nipp  
Name of Minor  
Bailey Miller  
Petitioner  
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME  
Notice is hereby given that Petitioner, Bailey Miller, as a self-represented litigant, filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name on 4-29-25 to change the name of Everleigh Nipp to Everleigh Miller.  
The Petition is scheduled for hearing in the Jay County Circuit Court on 9-8-25 @ 8:30am, which is more than thirty (30) days after the third notice of publication. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections on or before the hearing date.

April 29, 2025  
Melissa Elliot, Clerk  
CR 7-18,25,8-1-2025-HSPAXLP

Visit Us  
At: thecr.com

### 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

## Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA  
JAY COUNTY, SS:  
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT  
CAUSE NO.  
38C01-2412-EU-000034  
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF RONALD E. DUNCAN, Deceased  
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JAY COUNTY, INDIANA  
In the Matter of The Estate of Ronald E. Duncan, deceased. Notice is hereby given that RUTH L. DUNCAN was, on the 4th day of December, 2024, appointed Administrator of The Estate of Ronald E. Duncan, deceased, who died on the 29th day of October, 2024. 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.  
Jon Eads  
Clerk of the Jay Circuit Court  
James S. Forcum (6917-05)  
FORCUM LAW OFFICE  
300 South Jefferson Street  
Post Office Box 430,  
Hartford City, Indiana 47348  
765-348-1858.  
CR 7-25,8-1-2025-HSPAXLP

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Find it Buy It  
Sell It!  
(260) 726-8141

### 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

## PUBLIC AUCTION

Located under cover in the Industrial Building at the Jay County Fairgrounds, Portland Indiana on Friday Afternoon

**AUGUST 8, 2025**

4:30 P.M.

OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS – MOBILITY SCOOTER – HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Daniel Dakota grandfather clock; Clark Jewel Lorain Oven Heat Regulator stove; Rally mobility scooter; 5 drawer chest; lighted glass curio cabinet; 4 pc. full size bedroom suit; Duncan Phyfe table with 4 chairs and extra leaves; Duncan Phyfe buffet; green painted bucket bench; camel back trunk with original tray; vintage dry sink; unusual Oak table (extends out with 3 large leaves that are stored within the table) with 4 chairs, very nice; vintage double bed; Pride electric hospital bed, like new; sofa; occasional chair; Oak bookshelves; White sewing machine; kitchen table with 4 chairs; hump back trunk; wood rocker; wooden cradle; (2) round one drawer lamp stands; Oak dropleaf table; (4) Oak wood chairs; wicker settee and 2 chairs; wood stool; gun cabinet; vanity dresser; Timex Watch display stand; 1 drawer lamp stand; two drawer stand with dough cabinet drawer; parlor lamp; hall tree; claw foot organ stool; cedar chest; mirror; floor lamps; pictures; pocket watches; 14K gold bracelet; wood ironing board; pitcher pump; wood high chair; lightning rods with balls; 7 gallon wood butter churn; art deco chandelier; rotary phone; #10 crown crock; #5 UHL crock; #6 crock; Cooks Grocery jug; #6 heart crock; #12 crock; #2 jug; assorted crocks; kerosene lamp with green shade; ash tray stand; metal kitchen chairs; platform scale; Roseville vases; Hull Pottery; primitives; Fenton basket; Cranberry vase; oil lamp; Sellers jars; unusual wood plant stand; Vera Bradley bags; TLC canvas bags; several pieces of white porcelain; copper boiler; milk cans; Ball blue canning jars; easel; ice tons; hand saws; lanterns; pulleys; Seyferts Pretzel jar; Pink Depression; old glassware; Carnival; glass jug; double rinse tub; galvanized watering can; large glass jars; pie plates; tomato cages; minnow buckets; Snowbabies; toy horses; plasticware; baskets; food processor; Hamilton Beach blender; pressure cooker; record player; DVD player; Fire King; baking dishes; utensils; beddings; towels; records; decorations; and other items not listed.

### TOOLS

Ryobi miter saw; Black & Decker 20V weed eater; push mower; 10" radial arm saw; aluminum extension ladder; fertilizer spreader; Black & Decker drills; step ladders; Black & Decker jig saw; 6v battery chargers; safety vests; shop vacs; extension cords; jack stands; welding helmet & jacket; bicycle jacks; shoves; rakes; and other items not listed.

## OWNER: ANDERSON FAMILY

LOY AUCTION AC31600027  
AUCTIONEERS

Gary Loy AU 01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131  
Aaron Loy AU11200112 Kaden Khayyata AU12400069

CR 8-1-2025



# 2025 Jay County girls golf preview



Pictured is the 2025 Jay County High School girls golf team. Front row from left are Sophia Reagan, Bailey Towell, Crystal Swartzentruber and Reny Lingo. Back row are assistant coach Marvin Buckner, Elizabeth Brunswick, Erin Aker, Alexa Ridenour and coach Carissa Allred. Not pictured is Annie Spencer.

### 2024 season

In the first season under Carissa Allred, the Patriots only managed a 2-10 record with wins coming against Heritage in the first dual match of the season and Yorktown. Maddy Snow led the Patriots on the season in both 9-hole and 18-hole contests at 48 and 100 strokes per event, respectively. Snow earned match medalist honors six times, finished sixth at the ACAC Tournament to make the second team All-ACAC and advanced to the regional for the first time after putting up an 87 at the sectional, which was good for eighth overall. Brooklynn Bright was the only other Patriot to secure match medalist honors at any point in the season, tying Snow with a 46 against Yorktown.

### Projected lineup

Erin Aker, Jr.  
Elizabeth Brunswick, So.  
Sophia Reagan, Fr.  
Alexa Ridenour, Fr.  
Crystal Swartzentruber, Fr.  
Reny Lingo, Fr.  
Annie Spencer, Jr.

### Top returner

Erin Aker  
60.4 strokes/9

### Key losses

Maddy Snow  
48 strokes/9, 2nd team All-ACAC  
  
Bailey Towell (injury)  
53.6 strokes/9  
  
Brooklynn Bright  
56.8 strokes/9

### Coach Carissa Allred says

*"We are a very young program this year. We have only one returning varsity player. So we've really worked hard this summer at getting the incoming freshmen ready for matches and invitationals, going over the rules, going over etiquette and just really getting them ready to make their debut come time for that first invitational. One thing that I am excited about is that we have grown as a team in my two years of being a coach. When I came in, we only had five girls. Right now, my roster sits at eight, but I do have one that's injured. But one of the things I look forward to the most is growing the program."*

### Fast facts

- Alexa Ridenour, Reny Lingo and Crystal Swartzentruber all competed on the junior high team as eighth graders, while Sophia Reagan, Elizabeth Brunswick (sophomore) and Annie Spencer (junior) will play competitive golf for the first time.
- This will be the second season under coach Carissa Allred. Jay County finished 2-10 under her with a sixth-place finish in the ACAC and the sectional.

## JCHS girls golf

Date	Opponent	Time
Monday, Aug. 4	S. Adams Invite	9 a.m.
Tuesday, Aug. 5	Bellmont Invite	8 a.m.
Monday, Aug. 11	Herit/Wood/S. Adams	5 p.m.
Tuesday, Aug. 14	Woodlan	5 p.m.
Monday, Aug. 18	Anderson	5 p.m.
Tuesday, Aug. 19	Adams Central	4:30 p.m.
Monday, Aug. 25	Bluffton	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, Aug. 28	South Adams	4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 2	Ft. Rec./Winchester	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 4	Muncie Central	4:30 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 6	ACAC Tournament	9 a.m.
Monday, Sept. 8	Monroe Central	4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 9	Wes-Del/Yorktown	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 11	Delta	5 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept.16	Southern Wells	4:30 p.m.
Home matches in bold		

### Matches to watch

**Monday, Aug. 4, at South Adams Invite**  
With four incoming freshmen and two more first-year varsity golfers, this opening invitational will act as a measuring stick for where they are at as a team.

**Saturday, Sept. 6, at ACAC Tournament**  
Along with crowning the Allen County Athletic Conference champion and impacting other conference honors, this tournament is the final 18-hole event Jay County will play at prior to the sectional.

# Reds acquire Hayes from division rival

By **NOAH HILES** and **COLIN BEAZLEY**  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
Tribune News Service  
SAN FRANCISCO — The Pittsburgh Pirates have traded third baseman Ke'Bryan Hayes to the Cincinnati Reds in exchange for left-handed reliever Taylor Rogers and minor league infielder Sammy Stafura, sources confirmed to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on Wednesday afternoon. MLB.com was first to report the news.  
Hayes' departure comes in his sixth major league season, all of them with the Pirates. He debuted in 2020 as a top-100 prospect, posting solid numbers in a pandemic-shortened season. The Pirates signed Hayes to an eight-year, \$70 million extension in 2022.

He won a Gold Glove award for the following season.  
Stafura, 20, was the Reds' second-round pick in 2023. He's batting .262 with four homers, 48 RBIs and 28 stolen bases in Low-A this season with an .804 OPS. He's listed at 6-foot, 188 pounds and considered the Reds' No. 9 prospect by MLB Pipeline.  
Rogers, 34, is 2-2 with a 2.45 ERA in 40 appearances out of the Reds bullpen. He's in his final year of a three-year, \$33 million contract he signed with the San Francisco Giants in 2022.  
Hayes entered Wednesday hitting .236 with two home runs in 369 at-bats, and that lack of power has been the story for the 28-year-old in Pittsburgh. His best year came in 2023, when he hit 15 homers with 61 RBIs. Otherwise, he never again hit double-digit home runs or 50 RBIs.  
There are also health concerns following Hayes. His 2024 season ended with a second injured list stint last August, as back problems were a continual issue. He entered this season hoping to finally shake off the injury bug, and to his credit, he has played in 100 games so far in 2025. But despite that and the defense at the hot corner continuing to be elite, the Pirates obviously felt it was best to move on from their first-round pick in 2015 and look for a new long-term answer at third base.  
See Hayes page 7

# Caitlin Clark's stalker sentenced to 2 years

By **CHUCK SCHILKEN**  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service  
A 55-year-old man was sentenced to 2 1/2 years in prison after pleading guilty to stalking and harassing Indiana Fever superstar Caitlin Clark.  
Michael Lewis of Denton, Texas, reached a deal with Marion County, Ind., prosecutors before pleading guilty Monday to one felony count of stalking and one misdemeanor count of harassment.  
Lewis will receive credit for the 197 days he has already served behind bars since his January arrest. He allegedly sent the then-22-year-old Clark hundreds of "threats and sexually explicit messages" via social media between Dec. 12 and Jan. 11.  
Days before his arrest, Lewis told police who were making a welfare check to his Indianapolis hotel room that he was in "an imaginary relationship." He continued to message the WNBA star after the police visit.  
"This resolution ensures that the defendant is held accountable for his

threatening actions, the fear he instilled, and the disruption he caused," Marion County prosecutor Ryan Mears said Monday in a statement. "... The victim will be able to have peace of mind while focusing on what matters to her."  
As part of the ruling, Lewis was ordered to have no contact with Clark and to stay away from Gainbridge and Hinkle venues in Indiana, as well as all events associated with the Fever or Indiana Pacers. He is also not allowed to have internet access while serving his sentence.  
Judge Angela Dow Davis also recommended that Lewis seek mental health treatment. According to WTHR-TV in Indianapolis, Davis frequently had to stop and correct the behavior of Lewis, who at one point prophesied the end of the world.  
It was similar behavior to when he first appeared in court after his arrest earlier this year. Davis repeatedly told him to "stop talking" because he was continuously interrupting the proceedings.



## 1/2 PAGE B&W AD:

- to run once from Aug. 1 through 16 for **\$150**  
(regular price – \$819)
- to run once from Aug. 19 through 23 for **\$200**
- to run once from Aug. 26 through 30 for **\$250**

**Run a second time Sept. 3 through 6 for \$100.**  
**Rate does not apply to special sections.**

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