



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Jay Co. native died in Blackford collision

**By BAILEY CLINE**  
The Commercial Review

A Jay County native died Tuesday in a motorcycle accident in Blackford County.

Aaron Moles, 52, a rural Pennville resident, was pronounced dead at the scene after the motorcycle he was driving struck oncoming traffic about 6:15 p.m. on Willman Road.

Moles had been driving a motorcycle on the road between county roads 100 South and 200 South when he lost control while driving north through a curve, according to a release from Blackford County Sheriff's Office. He entered the south-bound lane of traffic and crashed into an oncoming vehicle.

An autopsy was conducted Wednesday morning at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie. Moles sustained fatal blunt force trauma injuries to his chest and lower body, according to Blackford County coroner Zach Crouch.

Indiana State Police were requested to assist with the ongoing investigation, the release said.

## Court upholds block on buffer

*Judges say law is too vague*

**By CASEY SMITH**  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

A federal appeals court upheld a lower court's injunction blocking Indiana's widely debated 25-foot police buffer zone law, ruling that the statute is "unconstitutionally vague" and "susceptible to arbitrary enforcement."

In a decision issued Tuesday, a unanimous Seventh Circuit panel found the law lacks clear standards for police conduct, allowing officers to criminalize behavior based solely on personal discretion.

"The Fourteenth Amendment will not tolerate a law subjecting pedestrians to arrest merely because a police officer had a bad breakfast — no matter how bitter the coffee or how soggy the scrambled eggs," Judge Doris Pryor wrote for the court.

The law, passed in 2023, makes it a Class C misdemeanor to knowingly approach within 25 feet of a law enforcement officer after being told to stop.

Supporters at the time said some situations become more volatile when people are too close to the officers.

See **Upholds** page 2

## Back to school

Jay School Corporation students returned to their classrooms Thursday for the first day of the 2025-26 school year.

Pictured above, Bloomfield Elementary School principal Ben Dues takes a selfie with students arriving Thursday morning.

At right, second grader Hensley Davison grins after departing the bus Thursday morning at East Elementary School in Portland to a greeting from teacher Amy Klopfenstein.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

# Putin and Trump planning to meet

**Bloomberg News**  
Tribune News Service

Kremlin said Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump are finalizing details for a meeting within the next few days, even as the White House insisted that the Russian leader still needed to agree to meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

The U.S. and Russia have agreed on a venue for a meeting between their leaders, to be disclosed later, and "we are starting to work on specific issues," with the aim of holding the talks next week, Kremlin foreign policy aide Yuri Ushakov told reporters Thursday.

But a White House official cautioned that the U.S. would not set a meeting unless Putin agreed to meet with Zelenskyy, and that no location had been set.

## Kremlin aide says U.S., Russia are 'starting to work on specific issues'

Putin on Thursday told reporters he didn't object to meeting Zelenskyy under the right conditions, though he said they don't exist now.

Still, the Kremlin sought to build momentum for a meeting by suggesting plans were being completed a day after Putin met with Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff for nearly three hours of talks in the Kremlin. Trump has threatened to hit purchasers of Russian oil with secondary tariffs unless Putin agrees to a truce by Friday as the U.S. pushes for a deal to

end the war that's now in its fourth year.

After returning to the White House on a pledge to bring the war to a rapid end, Trump has voiced growing frustration over Putin's refusal to accept a ceasefire following six phone calls between them since February. Trump said Wednesday he didn't regard the latest developments as a "breakthrough," though the first summit meeting between the two leaders since 2018 would imply they've made progress on a resolution.

The worry for Zelenskyy and his European

allies is that Putin may persuade Trump to concede too much in reaching a settlement. They also have a multitude of doubts about how any agreement might be enforced and what security guarantees Ukraine will receive.

Zelenskyy said he and European allies discussed "various formats" of peace talks with Trump during a call on Wednesday, including "two bilateral and one trilateral" meeting between the three presidents. "Ukraine is not afraid of meetings and expects the same brave

approach from the Russian side," he said in a post on social media.

Putin told reporters the United Arab Emirates could be a suitable venue for the summit with Trump, during Kremlin talks with UAE President Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Thursday.

Russia didn't respond when Witkoff raised the prospect of a trilateral meeting involving Putin, Trump and Zelenskyy, according to Ushakov. The Kremlin wants to focus first on talks between Putin and Trump, he said.

Zelenskyy said he and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz "coordinated our positions" during a phone call Thursday, and national security advisers from Ukraine, the U.S. and Europe will hold an online meeting later to align positions.

See **Meet** page 2

### Deaths

**Virginia Kelley**, 87, Portland  
**Linda Cline**, 81, Pennville  
**Sandra Byrd**, 81, Jamestown, Kentucky  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

The high temperature was 77 degrees Wednesday in Jay County. The low was 64.

Tonight's low will be in the upper 60s. Expect mostly sunny skies Saturday with the high climbing into the upper 80s. Highs will be in the 80s through at least Wednesday.

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 Saturday in the parking lot at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, and Dunkirk City Park.

### Coming up

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

**Tuesday** — Coverage of Monday's Jay County Commissioners meeting.

**Wednesday** — Results from the JCHS and FRHS girls golf teams.





Obituaries

**Virginia Kelley**  
*Feb. 25, 1938-Aug. 8, 2025*  
Virginia Ann Kelley, age 87, of Portland passed away on Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2025, in Per-simmon Ridge Healthcare.  
She was born in Portland on Feb. 25, 1938, the daughter of Isadore and Emma Braun. She was married on Oct. 16, 1967, to Keith Kelley and he passed away on June 14, 2015.  
Virginia was a Portland High School graduate and worked as a phone operator and at Jay Garment Corp. She enjoyed reading and was involved with Jayland Trotting Association.  
Surviving are one daughter, Shari Jacobs (husband: Brandon) of Dunkirk, and a grandson Cody Jacobs.  
She was preceded in death by a daughter, Carrie Kelley.  
There will be no services at this time.  
Baird-Freeman Funeral



Kelley

Home is handling the arrange-ments.  
Memorials can be made to Jayland Trotting Association or Jay County Cancer Society.  
Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

**Linda Cline**  
*July 18, 1944-Aug. 6, 2025*  
Linda Cline, age 81, a resident of Pennville, passed away on Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2025, at The Waters in Dunkirk.  
Linda was born on July 18, 1944, in Portland, Indi-ana, the daughter of Isaac and Imo-gene (Miller) Lan-ders.  
Linda attended Portland High School and was a homemaker. Linda attended the Collett Church of the Nazarene.  
She married Keith Cline on Oct. 13, 1963, and he passed away on May 10, 2025.  
Survivors include:  
Two daughters — Karen Gar-



Cline

ringer (companion: Robert), Pennville, Indiana, and Becky Cline, Pennville, Indiana  
Three sons — Robert Cline (wife: Christina), Huber Heights, Ohio, Jeff Cline, Pen-nville, Indiana, and Steve Cline, Pennville, Indiana  
Two brothers — Perry Lan-ders (wife: Donna), Bedford, Indiana, and Paul Landers (wife: Vicky), San Antonio, Texas  
One sister — Carla Sue Pacheco (husband: Sam), Gilbert, Arizona  
Several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.  
Linda was preceded in death by her husband, Keith Cline; her parents, Isaac and Imogene Landers; and a great-grand-daughter, Allison Garringer.  
Private services will be held at the Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Port-land. Burial will follow at IOOF Twin Hill Cemetery in Pen-nville.  
Memorials may be directed towards Asera Care Hospice.  
Condolences may be

expressed at williamson-spencer.com.

**Sandra Byrd**  
*May 14, 1944-Aug. 1, 2025*  
Sandra (Fiely) Byrd, 81, of Jamestown, Kentucky, passed away peacefully on Aug. 1, 2025.  
She was born to Harold and Freeda (Smith) Fiely on May 14, 1944.  
She was a 1963 graduate of Port-land High School. On June 10, 1964, she mar-ried Carl Byrd and he died in October 2024.  
Sandy was a homemaker and cherished friend to many. She sold Avon products for many years, decorated memorable cakes, hosted neighborhood Yahtzee tournaments and loved playing rummy. She will be remembered for her warmth, laughter and sense of fun.  
Survivors include a daugh-



Byrd

ter, Tracy, of Jupiter, Florida; and a son, Carl Byrd III (Lisa) of Georgetown, Kentucky; and a granddaughter, Katalina. Other survivors are a sister, Cindy (Mike) Muhlenkamp of Celina, Ohio; a brother-in-law, Donald Clott of Portland; and Sandy's longtime friend, Teena Watson of Portland.  
Preceding her in death was a sister, Patricia (Patty) Clott of Portland.  
There will be no services. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.  
The family encourages gath-ering friends, playing a game of rummy and raising a glass to a life well-lived.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
*The Commercial Review pub-lishes death notices for those with a connection to our cover-age area free of charge. They include the name, city of resi-dence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services. There is a charge for obituar-ies, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortu-ary services.*

CR almanac

Saturday 8/9	Sunday 8/10	Monday 8/11	Tuesday 8/12	Wednesday 8/13
<b>89/70</b>	<b>90/70</b>	<b>89/70</b>	<b>86/70</b>	<b>84/67</b>
Tempera-tures will climb into the upper 80s under mostly sunny skies.	Mostly sunny skies are in the forecast for Sunday, when the high may hit 90 degrees.	The high will be in the upper 80s. There is a 20% chance of showers and thunder-storms.	There's a 50% chance of rain on Tuesday with thunder-storms also possible.	Wednes-day has a 40% chance of showers with a slight chance of thunder-storms.

Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> 15-27-43-45-53 Power Ball: 9 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$482 million	Daily Four: 8-3-2-8 Quick Draw: 3-6-12-16-17-25-27-28-33-35-39-42-45-50-51-54-58-61-62-78 Cash 5: 2-7-31-34-41 Estimated jackpot: \$90,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$166 million	<b>Ohio</b> Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 1-6-3 Pick 4: 0-5-1-6 Pick 5: 4-1-3-1-2 Evening Pick 3: 1-4-0 Pick 4: 9-3-5-6 Pick 5: 0-0-2-1-7 Rolling Cash: 3-7-22-23-27 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 5-0-1 Daily Four: 4-8-4-8 Quick Draw: 9-14-16-23-36-38-40-42-47-48-49-53-54-55-60-69-71-72-73-79 Evening Daily Three: 2-2-3	

Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.10 Sept. corn .....4.12 Oct. corn .....3.89	Sept. beans .....9.46 Wheat ..... 4.86
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.07 Sept. corn .....3.97 Oct. corn .....3.92	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....3.92 Sept. corn .....3.82 Beans.....9.61 Sept. beans .....9.56 Wheat .....4.86
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....3.87 Sept. corn .....3.87 Beans.....9.46	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.07 Sept. corn .....4.02 Beans.....9.56 Sept. beans .....9.26 Wheat .....4.57

Today in history

In 1896, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings was born in Washington, D.C. A journalist, short story writer and novel-ist, Rawlings wrote “The Yearling” in 1938, securing her a Pulitzer Prize.	In 1955, Tokyo Telecommunications Engineering started selling transistor radios in Japan. About three years later, the company rebranded to its current name, Sony. —The CR
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Citizen’s calendar

<b>Monday</b> 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, audi-torium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Port-land. 3:45 p.m. — Jay Coun-ty Election Board, vot-ing room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Port-land. 4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, communi-ty room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. 6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery School Board,	community room, high school, 400 E. Butler St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St. <b>Tuesday</b> 5:30 p.m. — Portland Board of Zoning Appeals, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 6 p.m. — Ridgeville Town Council, fire sta-tion, 302 N. Walnut St.
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New method planned for Medicaid

By **WHITNEY DOWARD**  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Over the course of a decade, Indi-ana’s per-enrollee costs for certain Medicaid recipients are expected to surge by 43% and 72% for lower-income and elderly Hoosiers, respec-tively.

That’s according to an analysis by the Family and Social Services Administration shared on Wednes-day by Secretary Mitch Roob, who is leading the agency for a second time. Another agency leader also provided an update on state child care costs during an hours-long quarterly fiscal update.

Expenses for Healthy Indiana Plan enrollees could grow from \$2.9 billion in 2017 to \$7.5 billion in 2027 — while per-enrollee costs grow from \$7,403 and \$10,599, or 43%.

“Now, that’s a lot of money, but those dollars are primarily funded through the hospital assessment fee,” Roob said. “So, candidly, the General Assembly is less concerned about the cost-growth trajectory.”

The same can’t be said for elderly Hoosiers in fee-for-service pro-grams or enrolled in Pathways for Aging. Those costs will increase from \$4.2 billion to \$11.3 billion. That per-enrollee growth is project-ed to increase by 72% from \$12,261 in 2017 to \$21,077 in 2027.

“We’re going to have to focus on ‘How do we create a care model that we can afford for this patient popu-lation?’” said Roob. “Because we can’t afford that amount.”

Over that same time frame, state Medicaid appropriations are expect-ed to more than double from \$2.1 bil-lion to nearly \$5 billion. By 2030, one in five Hoosiers is projected to be at retirement age when they’re more likely to rely on government pro-grams like Medicaid.

The surge in Applied Behavior Analysis therapy and reliance on attendant care services — for both the elderly and disabled — also inflates the state’s Medicaid costs. Roob noted that Federally Qualified Health Centers and hospitals have

also grown more expensive, “even as our health care outcomes as a state have not moved nearly as much.”

In the past, Roob said the agency typically budgeted by estimating how much services would cost and accounting for various funding streams. The gap between expenses and revenues would then be closed by the state’s general fund.

In 2023, the state contributed nearly \$3 billion, or just over 16% of FSSA’s \$18 billion budget. The \$4 bil-lion in 2025 was nearly 21% of the \$20 billion budget.

But, going forward, the agency will work backwards by assuming the state would only contribute 2%, shrinking the overall budget.

“When the revenue forecast came out ... the General Assembly said, ‘You’re going to have to make do with \$250 million less. And we put together a plan to get there,” Roob said. “... (We) ended Medicaid advertising; we’re reducing admin-istrative contracts.”

Upholds ...

Continued from page 1  
Members of the press and the public argue the so-called “buffer zone” limits their ability to hold law enforcement account-able, especially when it comes to public record-ings.  
The Reporters Commit-tee for Freedom of the Press and a coalition of

media organizations — including the Indiana Broadcasters Association, the Society of Profession-al Journalists, The Indi-anapolis Star and others — sued in November 2023 to block the law.  
U.S. District Court Judge James Sweeney II, of the southern district, issued a preliminary

injunction in September 2024, agreeing that the law was likely void for vague-ness under the Fourteenth Amendment.  
The Seventh Circuit affirmed in its Tuesday ruling. Justices largely focused on the statute’s failure to guide officer dis-cretion.  
“Without such guid-

Capsule Reports

**Veered off**  
Damage was estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000 after the vehicle a Bryant woman was driving veered off Boundary Pike and struck a pole about 1:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Katlin M. Schoenlein, 20, was driving a 2014 Ford F-150 north-west on the road near county road 400 South when she went off the side of the road, according to a Jay County Sheriff’s Office crash

report. The truck Schoenlein was driving went into a ditch and hit a utility pole owned by Brightspeed Internet.  
The truck she was driving was towed.

Meet ...

Continued from page 1  
“Ukraine and Ger-many share the view that the war must be ended as soon as possible with a dig-nified peace,” Zelenskyy said. “The parameters of ending this war will shape the security landscape of Europe for decades to come.”  
Trump on Wednesday said there was a “very good chance” he’d meet with Putin. He continues to face critics who see a real risk that Putin is able to evade penalties even as he keeps up a war now in its fourth year.

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We have a busy schedule of *Special Sections* coming up!

Our special section featuring the

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SERVICES

Aug. 30

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## Mandy's donation

Mandy's Blessings recently donated \$3,500 to Jay County Cancer Society. Pictured from left are Tina Cavanaugh, Charlene Theurer and Pam Robbins.



Photo provided

## Last summer concert set for Aug. 14

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, appeals to all ages and musical preferences.

Brother Believe Me's performance marks the final free show of the year in the Hudson Family Park Amphitheatre concert series. Kids activities and food trucks will also be available.

### Series continues

The Muncie Three Trails Music Series is in full swing. Its next concert, a perform-

## Taking Note

ance by Blue Moon Marquee, opens at 7 p.m. Aug. 16 at Canan Commons.

Dates for other shows are as follows:

- Saturday, Aug. 23 — Vanessa Collier at Brown Family Amphitheater at Ball State University
- Saturday, Aug. 30 — Jennie Devoe at Canan Commons
- Saturday, Sept. 6 — Colby T. Helms & the Virginia Creepers at Brown Family Amphitheater
- Saturday, Sept. 20 — The Afro Peruvian Jazz Orchestra at

Brown Family Amphitheater  
All shows begin at 7 p.m.  
For more information, visit [munciethreetrails.com](http://munciethreetrails.com).

### Tall Cop

There's an upcoming educational opportunity to learn how to identify high-risk behaviors in youth.

Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition's "High in Plain Sight: Current Drug Trends" is slated for 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 29 at The Rock Church in Portland. The free, community focused event for adults will be led by officer Jermaine Galloway, also known as "The Tall Cop." Galloway will be sharing ways to prevent substance abuse by identifying possible high-risk behaviors in youth.

To register, visit [bit.ly/high-inplainsight2025](http://bit.ly/high-inplainsight2025).

# Grandma ignores request for child

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are blessed with a 6-month-old son, "Tyler." I'm now back at work three days a week. My mother and my mother-in-law offered to watch him one day a week, which we were grateful for. (I found a babysitter for the third day.)

I give my mom and my MIL gift cards to their favorite restaurants because each is giving up a day per week for us. My mom is very active and quite a bit younger than my MIL. Mom stays home with Tyler on the day she watches him (no errands, etc.).

I asked my MIL if, on the day she watches Tyler, she can also stay home and not drive around to the library, grocery store and retail stores. I explained it interrupts the baby's nap schedule, and, because she isn't as physically in shape as my mom, it worries me how she's wrangling the car seat, stroller, etc. She promised she'd just stay home and care for him and play with him.

Well, Abby, she completely ignored me. I came to pick him up, and she was not even home. I was furious because this isn't the only time I have caught her running all over town with my infant. My husband also has asked her to stay put for one day out of the week. The last time I picked up Tyler, I said, "If you can't stay home, we need to change this arrangement." Now my husband's side of the family is upset with me and thinks I was too harsh. What do you think? — NEW MOM IN MISSOURI

DEAR MOM: I think that because your mother-in-law ignores your instructions about not taking your baby with her while running errands, that you need to

## Dear Abby



find someone else to take care of him on the days she used to do it. This is not being "too harsh," it is protecting your little one. (No one said motherhood is easy.)

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend who is an accomplished cook. I am not. She's very generous and shares her efforts often, but anytime I have given her some of my better efforts, she has given me feedback like, "Adding some onion would really help this" or "Wow, you didn't skimp on the chili powder!"

I finally decided to reciprocate by inviting her to lunches out. Now it's, "This sauce tastes like it came out of a bottle, mine is much better" or "I tweaked my sister's recipe for this dish; I should give it to the chef." Frankly, I'm tired of her estimation of her talents. I never killed anybody with my cooking, and her remarks when we're at a restaurant diminish my enjoyment. Any nice way to get her to simmer down? — OUTDONE IN TEXAS

DEAR OUTDONE: I wonder if your friend's culinary talents are her only claim to fame. When she is critical of the food at the restaurants to which you take her, SMILE and say quietly, "Picky aren't we today? I think this is delicious!" It would be better than saying nothing and having a bad taste in your mouth.

# 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.

### 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.

### Sunday

A BETTER LIFE – BRI-

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

### Monday

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

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

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

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.

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.

JAY COUNTY DRUG PREVENTION COALITION — Will meet at noon the second Monday of each month at Jay County Campus of Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St, Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.

REDISCOVERING JOY — The support group of widows and widowers meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at R & R Fabrications, 601 E. Washington St., St. Henry, Ohio.

### Tuesday

COMPASSIONATE

CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

A BETTER LIFE – BRI-ANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

### Wednesday

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

# Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

### Thursday's Solution

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

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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## AUGUST SPECIALS



**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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## The Commercial Review



# Are centers the way to catch up?

By MORTON J. MARCUS

Manufacturing is not disappearing in the United States nor in Indiana. It continues to grow, but more slowly than other sectors of the economy. Manufacturing went from 15.8% of the nation's GDP in 1998 to 10.2% by 2023. This relative decline in Indiana was from 30.8% to 25.9%. We did outperform the nation in our rate of growth for manufacturing (3.3% vs. 2.8%). In 2023, the biggest manufacturing sector in Indiana was chemicals (which includes pharmaceuticals) with 6.9% of the state's GDP, followed by motor vehicles, bodies, trailers and parts at 4.5% of GDP, and then primary metals (steel and aluminum) at 2.5%. Together, these three indus-

Morton J. Marcus



tries (the Big 3), accounted for 49.6% of Indiana's manufacturing GDP in 1998 and 54.1% in 2023. While the Big 3 nationally accounted for 31% of manufacturing growth in that quarter century, they were 58% of the advances for Indiana's manufacturing. Many Hoosiers know something of another industry that once defined their town and our state — electronics. They know about RCA, Franklin Electric,

Western Electric, Delco and Magnavox, plus dozens of others that made computers and electronic products as well as electrical equipment, appliances and components. With such names, Hoosiers thought we were big time in the electronics industry. Despite industry closing and movements to other nations, in 1998, electronics in the United States accounted for 16.2% of manufacturing's GDP, larger than any one of the Big 3. By 2023, however, chemicals surpassed electronics nationally and electronics was down to 13.5% of the U.S. GDP. Similarly, in Indiana, electronics fell from 5.1% of manufacturing output in 1998 to 2.6% in 2023. Electronics across the nation was expanding by 4.5% annual-

ly, close to the 4.7% average expansion of GDP itself. But Indiana saw only a 1.1% average annual growth rate for electronics where total GDP grew by 4%. Electronics lagged the nation's growth by just 0.2%, but fell behind Indiana's GDP growth by 2.9%. What explains the difference? Were Hoosier electronics firms bought out by firms from outside our borders? Were our establishments mainly branch production facilities without the home office loyalties so important in corporate life? Those would be internal factors, not subject to state policies. Or were state tax and regulatory policies of consequence? Did we retard automation by failing to give tax credits for capital investments? Were we too much

the purists in our environmental considerations? Or were other factors at play? Did Big Labor put down the hammer on electronics firms with excessive wage and working condition demands? Were the owners of our companies too slow to recognize the shifts in product demand, not keeping pace with their competitors' designs and pricing? Whatever the reasons, Indiana is now trying to catch up with data centers and chip makers. Communities are asking, "Is this the right place for such investments?"

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## Fed was right to deny rate change

Bloomberg Opinion  
Tribune News Service

The Federal Reserve resisted pressure from the White House last week and left its policy rate unchanged. It was the right decision. As Chair Jerome Powell acknowledged, the case for a cut was a bit stronger this time than in June — and two of the Fed's policymakers, in rare dissents, voted to lower the rate by a quarter-point. For now, though, patience in relaxing the central bank's "modestly restrictive" stance still makes sense.

As Powell explained, the Fed is grappling with conflicting information and heightened uncertainty. Economic growth has slowed in recent months, the pace of hiring has cooled and data published after the Fed's decision showed that the unemployment rate edged up in July. Even so, inflation continues to run faster than the bank's 2% target (core inflation was 2.8% in the year to June), it's too soon to say how much the administration's new tariffs will push up prices, and last month's jobless rate of 4.2% still squares with policymakers' "maximum employment" mandate.

In other words, there was no urgency to alter course. At the Fed's next policy meeting, six weeks from now, things should be clearer.

While investors had expected no immediate change in the policy rate of 4.25% to 4.5%, many had hoped for a clearer signal of a cut next time. Yet, as Powell explained, it's impossible to know how the calculation will shift — whether the risk to prices from tariffs will outweigh the risk to jobs from a policy rate that's "modestly" higher than neutral. As things stand, the Fed had no good basis for hinting what it might do next time.

Indeed, it's worth noting that the so-called neutral rate — the rate that neither adds to nor subtracts from aggregate demand — is itself in doubt. Many investors assume that once inflation is securely back to 2%, with the labor market at full employment, the policy rate can be trimmed over time to 3% (the median currently projected by the Fed for

### Guest Editorial

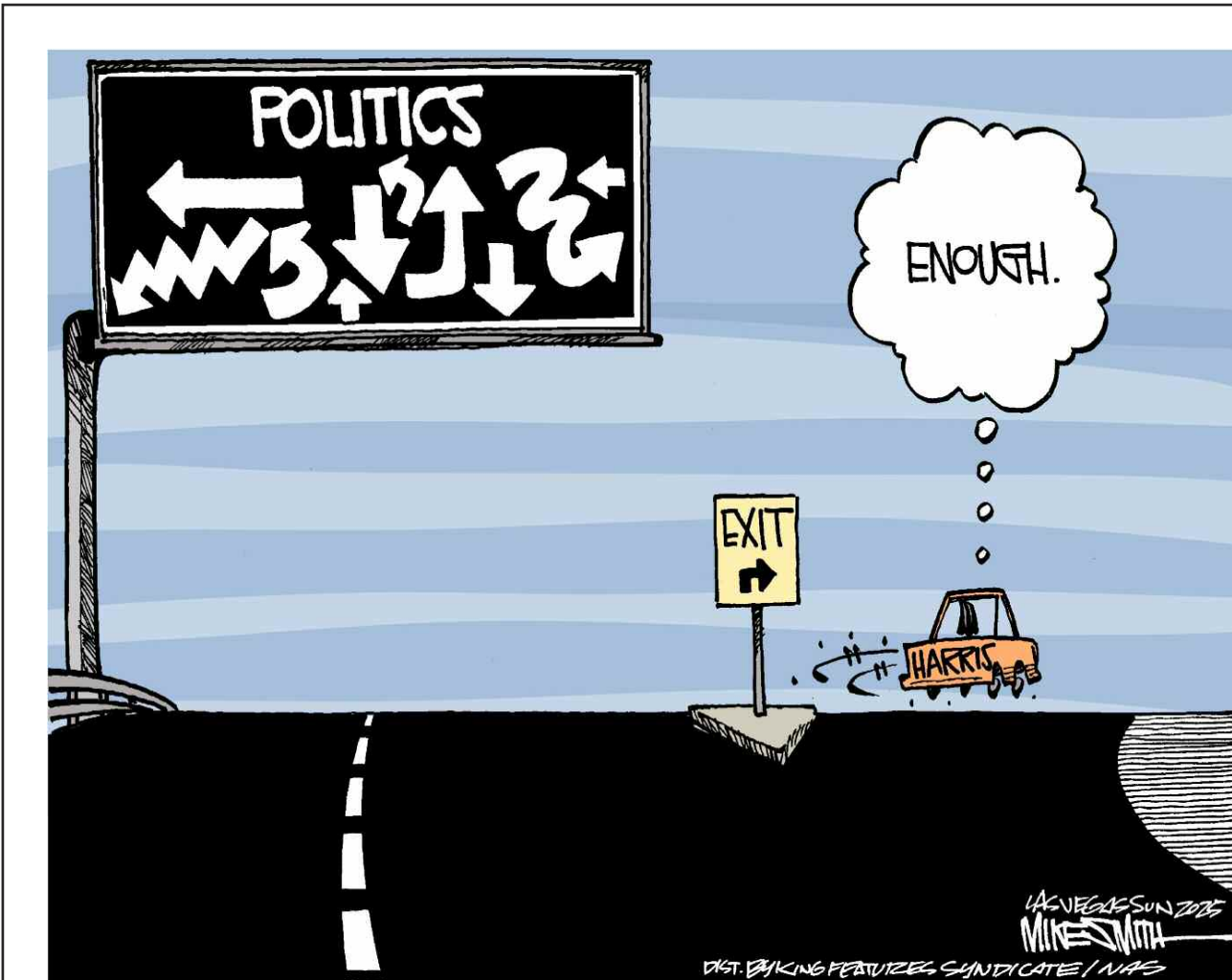
... there was no urgency to alter course. At the Fed's next policy meeting, six weeks from now, things should be clearer.

the "longer run," hence implicitly deemed neutral). They forget that policymakers disagree on what neutral actually means: In their most recent summary, the range of opinion ran from 2.5% to 3.9%. Time will tell just how far above neutral the current rate really is.

What matters is that, for the moment, demand is adequate and unemployment is low. This makes the White House's view — that tight money is throttling the economy and a cut in interest rates of three percentage points is needed — perplexing.

To be sure, medium- and longer-term rates are higher than before, making it harder to buy houses and cars, putting heavily indebted households under strain, and discouraging investment. But the crucial point is that a lower policy rate won't necessarily help and could easily make matters worse. If the Fed is suspected of suppressing its best judgment for political reasons, inflation expectations will rise and the longer-term rates that set the cost of credit will spike.

The next two months will reveal more about what's happening in the labor market and to what extent higher tariffs will raise prices. Right now, the Fed's judgment looks right and the administration would be wise to keep its criticisms in check.



## We could all use 'poptimism'

By STEVE HORTON  
Chicago Tribune  
Tribune News Service

The world is a pretty bleak place at the moment.

Around the globe, it doesn't seem much better. Amid all of this turmoil, with humanity seemingly at one of its lowest points, we could really use a Superman in our lives. In fact, we've never yearned for such a person to be real as much as we do now.

Instead, we got the next best thing: James Gunn's "Superman," a bastion of hope on the silver screen, about the best example of what analysts call "poptimism" that we're ever likely to find: optimism in pop culture in the face of doom all around us. See him stop wars! See him rescue kids and squirrels! See him take down a bald technocrat billionaire! (Whose look predates a couple of egg-shaped billionaires we're contending with now.)

And soon after, we've got Superman times four, with "The Fantastic Four: First Steps," featuring Marvel's beloved First Family. This one's an equally optimistic throwback story with the fabulous foursome up against Galactus, the devourer of worlds, who could be seen in this day and age as a metaphor for climate change.

In the recent past, superheroes on the big and small screen have tended to be quite dark and cynical, perhaps as a contrary response to the "hope and change" Barack Obama era. "The Boys" and "Invincible" are deliberately satirical and bloody. The "Spider-Verse" movies are on a yearslong cliffhanger with the hero captured

### Guest Opinion

by his dark alternate self. Even Superman was not immune: "Man of Steel" featured a dark blue suit and a neck-snapping climax.

It seems that as the world makes a running dash down a Slip 'N Slide toward fascism, much of our pop culture, from music and television to streaming and big-screen movies, is going hard toward bright and sunny, to shine a little light in the darkness, provide a much-needed escape and show all of us how things could be, if only we tried a little harder. Even shows such as "Ted Lasso" deal with the concept of toxic positivity or going too far toward being positive that you fail to deal with real problems.

In the yawning void that is the absence of Superman in our own world, and in between forays into fiction where he exists, it behooves us to act more like Superman in our own little corners of the world. What would the Fantastic Four or Superman do? Superman's three pillars these days (revised in the comics after it seemed a bit jingoistic to have him care at all about the American Way, whatever that is):

1. Truth. Seems in short supply these days, right? Lying and dishonesty are the name of the game, not only when you hear a politician open their mouth but in the

workplace, too. We could all do with quite a bit more honesty, even when it hurts.

2. Justice. It also feels like the cup has run dry here. Famous people with dozens of felonies fail to be punished in any significant way. Those with the best lawyers dodge serious charges after long trials. There's not much the average person can do when the system fails, other than speaking out collectively through protest.

3. A better tomorrow. The master speculative fiction writer Lois McMaster Bujold wrote, "Guard your honor. Let your reputation fall where it may. And outlive the bastards." We have to hope that eventually, the world will turn toward the better, if we would just live long enough to see it happen.

Seeing an uplifting film about an immigrant refugee who gets the job done or a fantastic foursome that watches over humanity makes us look for bright spots elsewhere in our current worldview. For example, the undeniable rizz of New York City mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani. It inspires us to try to look for silver linings wherever we can, no matter how tiny.

In the absence of much leadership from the resistance side of things against creeping authoritarianism, or many real-life role models or leaders who are interested in anything other than holding on to their own jobs, pop culture like "Superman" shows us the way.

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Horton is an author and writes movie essays for Rotten Tomatoes, Flood and Consequence, and lives near Chicago.

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# Dashboard launched

*New tool targets accessibility of climate data*

By DEVYN RAVER  
Purdue Ag News

The Midwestern Regional Climate Center (MRCC), with support from the United Soybean Board, has launched the Ag Climate Dashboard — a centralized digital hub offering streamlined access to integrated climate and agricultural data and decision-support tools for producers, advisors and researchers in the Midwest.

Designed to support on-farm decision-making, the Ag Climate Dashboard offers up-to-date weather data, National Weather Service forecasts, Climate Prediction Center outlooks, historical records and interactive tools for monitoring crop growth, pest threats, climate anomalies and extreme weather events.

The dashboard also connects users to regional ag climate products and a variety of state-specific resources. State-specific pages, such as Indiana's, link to tools and resources like the Purdue Mesonet and the Indiana State Climate Office.

"We want to provide as much clear, well-organized information to producers and advisors as possible so they can make confident management decisions, whether that's on their own farms or helping clients," said Austin Pearson, climatologist at the MRCC and Indiana State Climate Office.

By placing these tools in a single, easy-to-navigate platform, the dashboard allows users to make better-informed decisions and support profitability and yield.

The idea for the dashboard stemmed directly from farmers. "In 2023, we hosted workshops with farmers and one of the biggest takeaways was that while many ag climate tools exist, they aren't found in one location," Pearson said.

The dashboard hosts tools both developed by Purdue University and trusted external sources. For example, MRCC's Corn Growing Degree



Purdue Ag News

The Ag Climate Dashboard offers tools to help monitor extreme weather events in addition to crop growth, pest threats and climate anomalies. It also connects users to regional ag climate products and a variety of state-specific resources.

Day tool helps track crop progress and predict maturity, while the Pest Forecasting Map from the Iowa Environmental Mesonet alerts farmers to threats like alfalfa weevil. Within the dashboard, users also have access to the Climate Prediction Center outlooks for temperature and precipitation, interactive maps, crop and disease forecasting, fieldwork planning tools, and localized climate summaries — all designed to support timely, informed decision-making throughout the year.

"The forecasting tools help farmers understand what pests — whether weeds, insects or dis-

eases — could be an issue and when management is crucial," Pearson said. "I encourage users to get into the dashboard and explore, as new tools are frequently added."

Users can also consult climatologies through the platform to gain insights into historical weather patterns that may influence marketing and management strategies.

Beth Hall, director of the MRCC and Indiana State Climate Office, emphasized the broader vision of the project. "We're discovering that individual states provide tools that are limited geographically. While searching for information, we

found that there are missing tools — those that cover the full soybean production region. This inspires us to keep growing the dashboard to create a dynamic system that's helpful for both a small geographic area and the whole region."

Future enhancements will be guided by feedback from farmers and advisors. One requested addition is an irrigation planning tool, as several farmers are seeking region-specific guidance on how much water to apply to minimize waste. While isolated tools like this exist, they often lack the geographic specificity needed for practical field use.

Looking ahead, the MRCC plans to incorporate more interactive, user-friendly features, such as location-based maps that respond to ZIP code input, providing a customized experience for each user.

"This is just round one of the dashboard," Hall said. "We really wanted to provide people a taste and hopefully get them excited about the future. I envision more and more of our tools offering a greater user experience."

Additional information about the Ag Climate Dashboard can be found on the Midwestern Regional Climate Center's [mrcc.purdue.edu](http://mrcc.purdue.edu).

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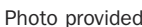


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The Jay County Summer Swim team handed out postseason awards following an undefeated regular season. Lincoln Clamme (far left) won the Jacqui Baxter Sportsmanship and Team Leadership Award. Next in line is Grace Sieg, who won the Rookie of the Year Award. Jay County named both Tucker Loucks and Josh Bennett (far right) recipients of the Most Improved Swimmer Award.

**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](http://adamscounty5kchallenge.com).

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*To have an event listed in "Sports on tap", email details to [sports@theccm.com](mailto:sports@theccm.com)*

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# Indians shoot well, place sixth

CELINA, Ohio — Three Indians posted career-best scores in an 18-hole event. Two more made their varsity debuts for a tournament.

Despite posting some of their best scores, the Indians couldn't climb into the top half of the standings.

The Fort Recovery High School girls golf team posted a 417 to finish sixth at the Gary Broering Invite at Mercer County Elks on Wednesday.

Last season, the Indians shot a 423, which earned them a second-place finish. Their 417 this season had them sitting sixth out of 10 teams. Fort Loramie took the top spot with a 390, while St. Henry and Minster followed closely with scores of 391 and 392, respectively. New Bremen (413) and Coldwater (414) both finished ahead of Fort Recovery as well, while Marion Local (451), Celina (466), Wapakoneta (478) and Parkway (551) all fell behind.

Olivia Knapke led the Indians with her best 18-hole round at 88 strokes. She made three pars on the 10th, 12th and 15th holes, all of which are par-4s. She also had eight bogeys. Knapke's score earned her a tie for ninth with Minster's Stella Mumaw, Hanna Lee of Wapakoneta and Fort Loramie's Kim Billing. (Lauren Heitkamp of Minster earned match medalist honors with an 81.)

Mallory Evers and Evvie Briner came in just behind her as they shot career-best scores of 100 and 104 strokes. Between the two, they made three pars and 16 bogeys.

Layla Armstrong made up the final score in her

## Local Roundup

first 18-hole event by carding a 114. She made par twice.

Georgia Wenning and Cora Pearson shot a 117 and 119 that didn't affect the final score.

### Scholarship awarded

The OHSAA recently awarded \$200,000 to recent high school graduates, including Fort Recovery's Kennedy Muhlenkamp, as part of the Scholar-Athlete Scholarship Program.

Award-winning student athletes were selected by their respective District Athletic Board based on a point system that rewards students for GPAs, class rank, community service, varsity letters and athletic honors.

While at Fort Recovery High School, Muhlenkamp competed on the volleyball, girls basketball and girls track teams.

She totaled 164 kills, 342 digs, 42 assists and 22 aces on the 2024 volleyball team that made its first regional appearance since 2020.

Muhlenkamp was the second leading scorer on the 2024-25 girls basketball team at 11.3 points per game, earning her a spot on the Second Team All-Midwest Athletic Conference.

She also competed on the 4x800-meter relay team that made it to the Division III State Tournament in 2023 that took 13th.



The Commercial Review/Ethan Oskroba

## Into the basket

Isaac Kunkler sinks a short range toss on the 2nd hole during the Portland Disc Golf Club's outing at the Hudson Family Park Disc Golf Course on Monday. The club plays the course on Monday evenings throughout the summer. Kunkler tied for fourth with a four-under-par.



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