

The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

First day back

Fort Recovery Middle School principal Holly Wermert gives a high-five to fourth grader Mia Schoenlein as she gets off the bus Tuesday morning. Fort Recovery Local Schools students returned to the classroom Tuesday.

Gulley: Start to school was generally smooth

Issue with internet at jr-sr high has been the biggest early hurdle

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

The 2025-26 school year started smoothly. Mostly. Jay School Corporation superintendent Jeremy Gulley reported to Jay School Board about the first week-plus of school during its meeting Monday, noting positive feedback along with internet and HVAC difficulties.

Gulley referred to responses from parents to surveys that were sent out. Rating various issues from one (worst) to five (best), responses of four or five hovered around the 80% mark on each question. (More than 250 parents filled out the survey.)

Eighty-seven percent of parents rated the first day of school as a four or a five overall. The corporation's lowest marks came for in-person registration, with 78.9% rating it a four or a five and 8.2% rating it a one.

Gulley explained two of the challenges of the school year thus far have been internet access for students at Jay County Junior-Senior High School and heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) issues at multiple buildings. He said it seems that the internet system at the junior-senior high was stressed when students returned to classes on Aug. 7.

He added that staff is continuing to work to find where the fault in the system was occurring and that students may be gradually allowed onto the system in an effort to isolate the issue.

Portable units are being used in the preschool at the General Shanks building, West Jay Elementary School and the junior-senior high until HVAC issues can be permanently resolved.

See **Start** page 2

Transition plans keep developing

Schoonover hired to train to become fiscal officer

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — More plans to transition village leadership roles are in motion.

Following an executive session Monday, Fort Recovery Village Council hired Jennifer Schoonover as fiscal officer trainee.

Schoonover, a Fort Recovery resident who has served as grant administrator and assistant fiscal officer since July 2020, has about 20 years of experience in government work. Her previous employment includes working at the park district and auditor's office in Miami County as well as at the Ohio Department of Transportation.

Schoonover will begin in the new role Oct. 1. She'll begin training at that time to take over fiscal officer Roberta Staugler's position after her retirement June 1. The village will also look to fill the assistant fiscal officer job.

See **Plans** page 5

Blight, procedure discussed

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Portland City Council discussed blighted properties and department head attendance during their meeting Monday, with some council members also questioning agenda policies.

Council member Ron May brought up the issue of blight, saying he has tried to get the topic on the agenda and that it has been removed by Mayor Jeff Westlake twice. He suggested creating and building up a fund to help deal with blighted properties.

Westlake said he has talked with Ceann Bales of Jay County Development Corporation about potential grants for blight removal and was in contact with a crew that was in the process of fixing up such a structure.

May questioned why the issue has been removed from agendas, with Westlake responding that that he would like to have council members come to him with such questions first. He said sometimes items seem to cause drama and do not lead to productive meetings.

"I guess this isn't a city council meeting then," said May.

May pushes for creation of fund, questions removing items from agenda

The question was then addressed to city attorney Wes Schemenaur, who agreed that it is the council's meeting and that the mayor is the presiding officer. He said he would research the issue further.

Council member Ashley Hilfiker questioned if residents have had items rejected from the agenda. Clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips said no residents have been turned away.

Hilfiker also asked that department heads be required to attend council meetings, particularly when expenditures are being approved, saying she feels it would help with questions and eliminate confusion. Westlake said he would bring up the idea at his next department head meeting.

In other business, the council:

•Heard a reminder from the mayor that the Tri-State Gas Engine and Tractor Association Show officially begins today. McClung urged caution with heavier traffic and more golf carts on the streets.

•On the recommendation of the city's tax abatement advisory committee, approved a tax abatement for Priority Plastics on a \$3.5 million investment in new equipment.

•Heard resident Jim Wasson ask about paying for sewage treatment for water that is used on his garden. He also thanked city employees for their work to keep the city's parks looking nice.

See **Council** page 2



Tribune News Service/Chicago Tribune/Armando L. Sanchez

Train derails

Police, firefighters and Chicago Transit Authority employees help passengers make their way to the platform while walking along a set of tracks Monday at the scene where a CTA train was derailed at the Howard station. No injuries were reported and the cause of the derailment was not immediately known.

Deaths

Rita Leggett, 92, Bryant
Details on page 2.

Weather

The high temperature Monday in Jay County was 86 degrees. The low was 66.

Tonight's low will be in the lower 60s.

Expect partly cloudy skies Thursday with a high around 80. Thursday night's low will drop into the 50s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The Friends of Jay County Public Library will hold their annual book sale beginning Thursday. The sale will be open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. to noon Saturday.

Coming up

Thursday — Results from the JCHS boys tennis match against Alexandria-Monroe.

Friday — Coverage of Jay County Commissioners' special meeting.

Saturday — A feature from the Tri-State Gas Engine and Tractor Association Show.



House GOP lines up for redistricting

By CASEY SMITH and WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana’s entire House GOP congressional delegation pledged support Monday for President Donald Trump’s plan to craft new federal district maps in an attempt to pick up one to two additional Republican seats in 2026.

Meanwhile, Indiana House Republicans that would actually have to draw new boundaries met privately on the north side of Indianapolis —

and it’s still unclear where the caucus may land on the politically-charged proposal.

House Speaker Todd Huston told the Indiana Capital Chronicle after the roughly two-hour meeting that “we had a good conversation” but did not give details about where the caucus stands, overall.

“We’re still talking, and we’ll work on all this together,” Huston said.

He said there was no timeline for the caucus to make any decisions and declined to

comment on whether a special session seemed likely or not.

Other state lawmakers were mum — with several declining to speak to the Indiana Capital Chronicle following the meeting — but members of Indiana’s GOP congressional delegation all jumped on board within hours.

“Democrats have proven they will use every tool available to them to gain and keep power. For years, Republicans have idly stood by while the Left has weaponized government against us,” U.S. Rep. Marlin Stutz-

man wrote Monday on X. “It’s time for us to drop the gloves. At this moment, our state has the opportunity to give conservative Hoosiers the representation in DC they deserve. I stand with President Trump, it’s time to redraw Indiana’s congressional map!”

Stutzman’s northeastern seat is probably the most isolated from any redistricting threats, though some worry that cracking deep-blue Indianapolis into several districts could erode the safe margins Republicans currently have in other seats.






Obituaries

Rita R. Leggett, Bryant, May 14, 1933-Aug. 17, 2025. Services will be at noon Saturday at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 W. Washington St., Geneva.

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

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

CR almanac

Thursday 8/21	Friday 8/22	Saturday 8/23	Sunday 8/24	Monday 8/25
 77/58 Mostly sunny skies are in the forecast for Thursday when the high will be around 77.	 80/60 Friday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a low around 60 at night.	 81/57 Mostly sunny again on Saturday with highs in the low 80s.	 76/52 Sunny skies are expected on Sunday when the low may dip to 52.	 72/48 Monday's weather looks like mostly sunny skies with the low hitting 48.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 15-46-61-63-64 Power Ball: 1 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$643 million	Daily Four: 0-0-5-7 Quick Draw: 3-8-13-14-18-22-25-26-31-33-34-40-49-58-61-66-70-73-77-79 Cash 5: 7-14-33-40-41 Estimated jackpot: \$184,500
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$216 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 4-0-2 Pick 4: 0-7-0-6 Pick 5: 8-5-8-7-7 Evening Pick 3: 6-3-8 Pick 4: 8-5-2-4 Pick 5: 2-1-1-5-4 Rolling Cash: 5-7-17-25-31 Estimated jackpot: \$229,000
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 5-7-7 Daily Four: 3-5-7-1 Quick Draw: 5-7-12-13-17-18-21-22-30-31-37-41-46-52-58-59-68-70-74-77 Evening Daily Three: 4-4-5	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.03 Sept. corn4.01 Oct.. corn3.90	Sept. beans10.20 Wheat 4.76
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.16 Sept. corn4.16 Oct. corn4.01	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.86 Sept. corn3.81 Beans.....10.19 Sept. beans10.15 Wheat4.76
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....3.86 Sept. corn3.86 Beans10.20	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....3.96 Sept. corn3.96 Beans.....10.11 Sept. beans9.86 Wheat4.46

Today in history

In 1794, the Battle of Fallen Timbers occurred on the Maumee River near what is now Toledo, Ohio.

In 1866, the National Labor Union asked the U.S. Congress to mandate eight-hour workdays.

In 1914, the German army captured Brussels amid its invasion during World War I.

In 1920, the National Football League (then known as American Professional Football Association) was formed at a meeting in Canton, Ohio. Jim Thorpe served as the organization’s first president.

In 1975, U.S. space-craft Viking 1 was launched by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on a trip to explore the surface of Mars. It landed on the planet nearly one year later.

In 2020, Jay County High School’s girls soccer team defeated Heritage in a 5-0 victory. Jay County Patriots Gaby Bilbrey and Mara Bader each scored goals for the team’s win.

—The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Today
3:45 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners special session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.

Monday
9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

Tuesday
6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, Morgan park, 50 Mooney St.

Start ...

Continued from page 1 (Gulley noted that it is possible that the HVAC and internet problems at the junior-senior high could be connected.)

The board also held its public hearing on the 2026 budget, with no comments from the public. The \$42.65 million proposed budget would be up by 2.8% from the current year and includes \$23.9 million in the education fund, \$11.64 million in the operation fund, \$7 million in the debt serv-

ice fund and \$20,000 in the rainy day fund.

Business manager Shannon Current also projected slight budget deficits in the education and operation funds for 2025, which would put them at balances of \$8.23 million and \$6.43 million, respectively, at the end of the year.

In other business, the board:

- During the Patriot Pride moment, honored Jay County FFA members Kendall Schemenaur and Maddie

Clark, who won the Indiana FFA natural resources demonstration at state convention this year. Their project involved tapping maple trees on the junior-senior high property for sap.

- Accepted the resignations on instructional assistants Brooklyn Jenkins and Kimberly McDavid.
- Approved the following: leaves of absence for Rachel Fallor and Autumn Brown; the hiring of Chelsea Boyd as front office secretary at

the junior-senior high; and various extracurricular positions, including Ashlynn May as girls tennis coach and Sophia Fugiett as FFA advisor.

- Received proposed updates on board policies. They are to be voted on at the September meeting.
- Accepted an \$845.96 donation from Dennis and Christine Rodgers for a special needs chair at West Jay Elementary School.

Groups clash over medical debt

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Testimony on Monday set the stage for an interim committee to find a balance between growing medical debt weighing down Hoosiers and allowing hospitals and other health care providers to collect what’s owed.

Organizations representing Hoosier consumers, as well as those handling collections, came to the Indiana Statehouse to have their say before the Interim Study Committee on Courts and the Judiciary.

The group of legislators, the chief justice and several lay members used Senate Bill 317 as a general guide for discussion, which narrowly

died earlier this year. It would have limited some medical liens on a primary residence and wage garnishment.

Sam Snideman, of the United Way of Central Indiana, said Indiana is 11th highest in the country for residents with medical debt in collections.

“We need coordinated solutions that address the high costs of health care and patients’ ability to pay, while also protecting patients who do have medical debt from burdens like adverse credit events, wage garnishment and liens that make it challenging for them to break out of the cycle of financial instability,” he said.

Erin Macey, director of the Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute, said both the insured and uninsured grapple with medical bills they can’t afford.

She said Indiana law protects about \$217 a week from wage garnishment, which hasn’t been increased since 2009. Since then, though, costs for rent, food and car payments have risen steeply.

“This isn’t just dollars and cents. It’s human impact,” Macey said. “Improving our exemption laws will help the unfortunate many who are taken to court over medical debt keep their heads above water while they’re paying off their bills.”

Council ...

Continued from page 1

- OK’d a brief street closure for a house to be moved from 209 Lincoln Ave. to about a block away on Penn Street. (Portland Street Department superintendent Matt Shauver said his staff will provide assistance with blocking traffic and clearing the path as needed.) Also approved the closure of a half block of Hayes Street adjacent to Race Street from 1 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30.
- Received updates from clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips following a conference she attended last week. She noted upcoming changes to labor laws, funding from the state, public works projects and other tax issues.
- Heard from Phillips that the draft of the 2026 budget is being finalized and will be sent to council members. A public hearing on the budget is slated for Sept. 15, with a vote on adoption planned for Oct. 6.
- Hilfiker thanked local police for their presence at arrival and dismissal from school and the street and parks department for their work this summer. She expressed concern about cars parking on sidewalks.

SERVICES

Saturday
Leggett, Rita: noon, Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

Aug. 30
Shilt, Donald: 11 a.m., Tribute Funeral Homes, 1000 N. Broadway St., Greenville, Ohio.

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Contact Lindsey at:
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The Commercial Review

Book sale begins Thursday

Books, books and more books are for sale. The Friends of Jay County Public Library will host its annual book sale this week from Thursday through Saturday. The sale will be available in the Community Room from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. to noon Saturday. Scanners won't be allowed this year.

Also, the Friends of Jay County Public Library is collecting school supplies from August through November. Plans are to create Christmas donation packages for teachers to restock their classrooms before the holidays and start the new year with fresh supplies. Donations may be dropped off at the library during normal business hours through Nov. 29. Acceptable items include tissues, paper, notebooks, cleaning wipes, folders, crayons, markers, pencils and other supplies.

Taking Note

The library will also have tractor and engine-themed take-and-make crafts — in celebration of the Tri-State Antique Gas Engine and Tractor Show this week — available for children in preschool through sixth grade on Friday.

Series continues

The Muncie Three Trails Music Series continues this weekend. Its next concert, a performance by Vanessa Collier, opens at 7 p.m. Aug. 23 at Brown Family Amphitheater at Ball State University. Dates for other shows are as follows: •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.

Wonderful World

The wonderful world of Walt Disney is on display at Arts Place. A collection of Disney artwork is available for free to view now through Aug. 22 in the Hugh N. Ronald Gallery in Portland. The exhibit is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday. For more information, call (765) 726-4809, email visualarts@myartsplace.org or visit myartsplace.org.

Sister tires of alcoholic

DEAR ABBY: My sister-in-law is her alcoholic husband's enabler. He has health conditions that make walking difficult. He falls down often and can't make it to the bathroom. Being drunk all the time (he consumes a fifth of vodka every two days) also prevents him from getting the surgery he needs.

My SIL buys his liquor for him. She says if she doesn't, he will drive himself, endangering others. She has tried talking with his doctors, friends, family, priest and rehab facilities. He won't go or listen. Taking care of him is wearing her down. He needs a medical facility that also treats addiction. Desperate to help her, I took her to an Al-Anon meeting so she could get support, but she found it "boring." I realize this is out of my control, and I'm finding it hard to listen and sympathize when she complains. What now? — ENABLER'S SISTER-IN-LAW

DEAR S.I.L.: Your sister-in-law definitely could use some help. While I have mentioned AA and Al-Anon often in my column, another support resource I have heard good things about is called SMART Recovery. It is a space where loved ones of those who are struggling with addiction can find understanding, support and a plan to regain control of their own lives. She can locate a Family and Friends meeting by visiting smartrecovery.org/family. If she gives it a try, she may feel more comfortable there.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 60-year-old retired woman, happily married with a positive

mindset. I am very active and stay current on world events.

I have noticed over the past few years that many of my friends only want to talk about themselves. I was taught that a conversation should be an opportunity for both parties to engage in talking and listening, but now it seems like when we get together for a meal, they go on and on about themselves or people I don't know. Then, at the end of the meal, they'll finally throw in a "How are you?" I find this extremely rude. I should be able to get a word in edgewise during a conversation. What can I do so these long-winded friends won't leave me frustrated? — LISTENING PATIENTLY IN NEW YORK

DEAR LISTENING: Older people who talk only about themselves may do it because their "universe" has shrunk, and they have little else to talk about. The next time you are in this situation, really listen to what those friends are saying. If I am right, spend less time with them and concentrate on enlarging your social circle to include folks with whom you have more in common.



Dear Abby

Sorority news

Zeta Alpha chapter of Delta Theta Tau sorority met Thursday, August 14, 2025. Attending were Sharon Hammers, Denise Selvey, Bonnie Seward, Connie Louck, Jackie McCollum, Linda Lowe, Kathy Nelson, Sue Ann McLaughlin, Lois Nauman, Mary Miller and Susan Louck. We welcomed our

guest Elizabeth Shultz. She is our scholarship recipient attending college to study assisting students with sign language education. May she have a successful education. Apple dumplings may be available soon. Our chapter will help host the province convention in October. We will also participate

in the bake sale in November at Jay County High School. Hostesses Sue Ann McLaughlin and Denise Selvey served delicious snacks. The evening concluded with Linda Lowe as our Lucky Lady and Susan Louck winning the Pot of Gold.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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.

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

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

AL-ANON FAMILY

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

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

Thursday

STITCH AND CHATTER QUILT CLUB — Meets from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center. Show and tell is at 1 p.m. The club is open to all ages and is for anyone who wants to sew. Bring unfinished projects and a sewing machine. For more information, call Nan Weesner (260) 766-9334.

SMART RECOVERY — A group for those strug-

gling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feelings and behavior, and living a balanced life meets at 11 a.m. each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland. **CELEBRATE RECOVERY** — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

EN AVANT CLUB — Meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SUICIDE GRIEF — Meets from 1 to 2:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month. The support group serves to help individuals who have lost a loved one to suicide. To register, contact Stephanie Patterson at (260) 251-3259.

ORGAN TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the IU Health Blackford main conference room.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1.

Friday

PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. To learn more information, please call (260) 251-3259.

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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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Rate does not apply to special sections.

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It was time to correct a mistake

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Aug. 23, 2005. Jack loved trees. One of my favorite Jack phrases from an editorial was when he referred to some tree and limb removal in town as a "full-scale arboreal assault." He also loved Portland Rotary Club's annual project that involves tree planting. Think about planting a tree in his memory.

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

I dug the hole in the wrong place.

As Mother Nature has reminded me.

More than 20 years ago, we moved into our house in Portland.

That's a long time. Once, more than halfway around the globe in Kazakhstan, I mentioned to a retired New York Times corre-

Back in the Saddle



spondent and a former Associated Press honcho that I'd lived for more than 20 years in the same house my parents lived in when I was born. They pronounced me "un-American" based upon current trends of hyper-mobility.

At any rate, I dug the hole in the wrong place. It was 1981, as I recall.

We weren't moving very far, just down the street, in fact. And Connie's parents had given us a sapling of a birch tree, one called a Heritage Birch.

So, when we moved, it was easy enough to bring along.

I re-planted it, as little more than a switch, in the wrong place, probably two or three feet too close to the house.

We were reminded of its too-closeness about ten years ago, when it was big enough to start depositing leaves in the gutter.

To further complicate things, any birch is what's called a "trash tree" by the experts.

I doubted that term the first time I heard it — from Ken Ritter, son of Everett and Dorothy Ritter of Portland — but then he showed me how ash trees, Dutch elders, and certain others create a mess around their trunks. (His degree from Purdue and his background in natural resources probably played a role as well.)

But, once you plant a tree — even too close to the house —

you're pretty much stuck. It took more flexibility than I could muster, so soon after digging the hole, to admit that I'd dug the darned thing in the wrong place.

Years passed. (Imagine one of those scenes in an old movie with calendar pages flying by and you'll get the right effect.)

And the tree grew.

Instead of being a whip or a sapling, it was suddenly more than a foot in diameter.

And it was beautiful. All birches are known for their interesting bark, but this one was extraordinary.

Then, last January, Mother Nature stepped in.

As might be expected, the birch tree too close to the house took a serious hit. We couldn't get out of our front door after the ice storm had passed. Too many limbs and branches blocked our way.

It wasn't the only tree on our lot to take a hit, of course.

Ashes, maples, pin oaks, red buds, ornamental pears took a real beating.

But when the trimming and chain-sawing was done, we thought the birch — a gift, mind you, from my wife's parents, who are now gone — was safe.

Not so.

On Sunday, road-weary and sunburned, we rolled into the driveway from vacation to find an August storm had taken off another huge branch, probably one weakened by the January storm.

There was no damage to the house, but the tree's days are numbered.

There seems no other choice but to take it down.

And plant a replacement.

In a better spot.

The reflection on fatherhood hits home

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

When comedian Mike Birbiglia asked actor Bob Odenkirk whom he's jealous of, the Chicago-area native gave an answer that left the podcast host speechless.

"Anyone who has little kids at home," Odenkirk said.

"There's no question," he continued. "I knew what I was doing when I had kids growing up. I was being a dad. I mean, that was my job. And I didn't have to ask myself, 'What am I doing here? What do I do? And how can I be a part of this world? How can I be meaningful today?'"

"I understood my purpose."

That likely wasn't what Birbiglia expected the "Breaking Bad" and "Better Call Saul" star to say.

"Don't blink!" is the kind of advice new parents shrug off. We all think we understand what it means, but we don't really comprehend the fleeting nature of our kids' childhood while we're in it.

It would be lovely to be happy to be tired, to be glad of tidying yet to be done. Of bills to pay and dinners yet to be made, hair to be brushed, socks to be folded. Not to rush through rocking a child to sleep in hopes of stealing back a moment for ourselves.

In the moment, we don't realize that rest will come — quiet, too — when it's over.

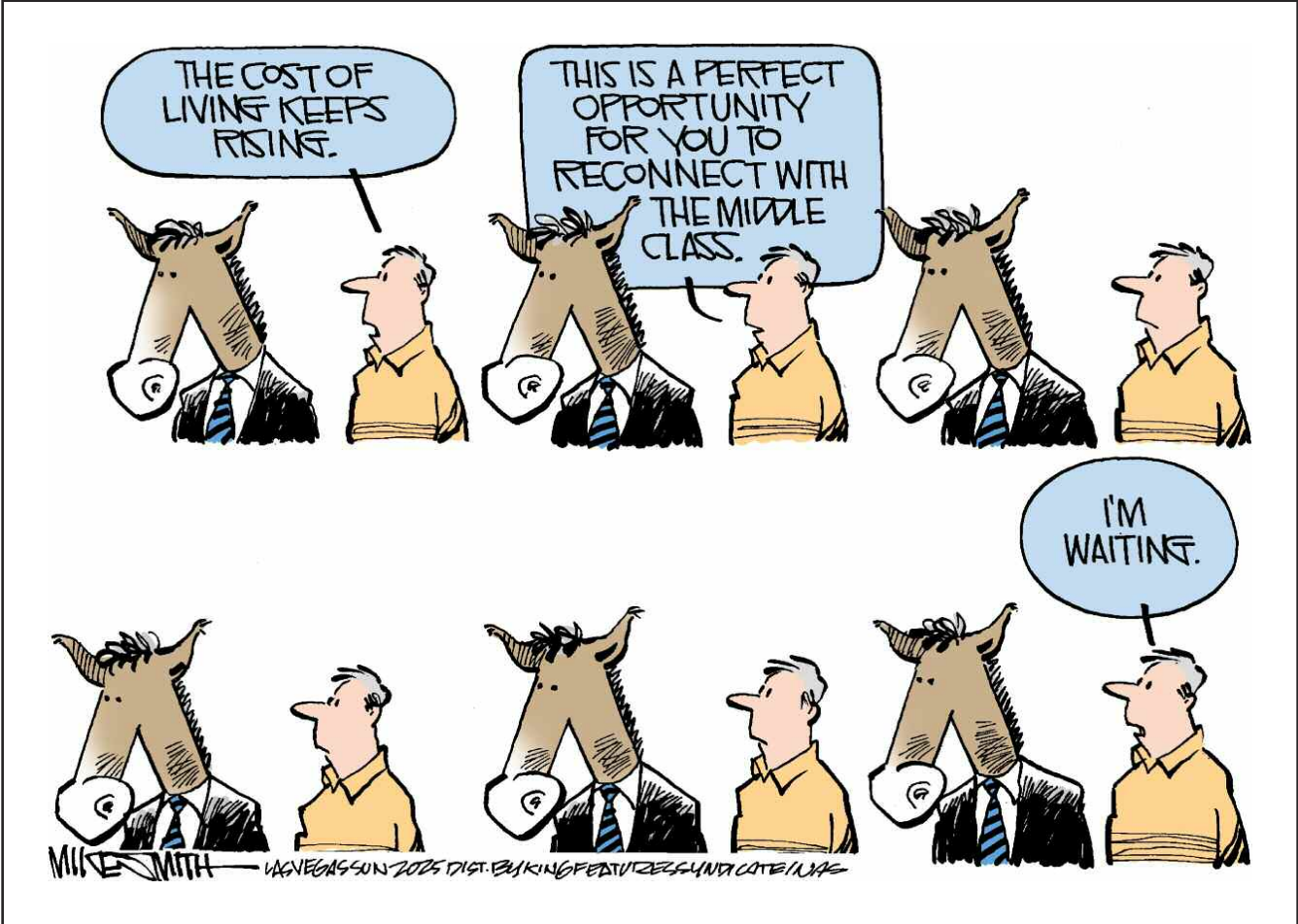
Odenkirk offers valuable perspective for those of us raising young kids, and nostalgic camaraderie for those of us whose kids are grown. And, even for those of us who don't have children, Odenkirk's message is a reminder that it's our relationships — and, often, our self-sacrifice — that matter more than the money we make and the accomplishments we achieve.

In a society obsessed with productivity, parenting offers a rare shot at meaning that isn't tied to accolades and recognition. We would do well to value that more — not just in our words and the sentiments we express on social media, but in the policies we support and the way we structure work and family life.

We're not saying being a parent is the only path

Guest Editorial

... even for those of us who don't have children, Odenkirk's message is a reminder that it's our relationships — and, often, our self-sacrifice — that matter more than the money we make and the accomplishments we achieve.



‘Made in America’ is misunderstood

By SHELDON H. JACOBSON
Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

The president supports purchasing goods that are "made in America." To encourage this, President Donald Trump has imposed tariffs on imports from literally every country that the U.S. does business with, with 10% to 15% as the floor baseline. His hope is that tariffs would push more companies to move their manufacturing and production operations state-side, which he believes would reduce the \$1.2 trillion trade deficit in goods (in 2024).

Yet the aspirational goal of buying goods made in America is misguided and largely an unreachable myth.

Many well-known American companies rely on importing their consumer goods. Apple imports the majority of its iPhones, with China accounting for 80% of its manufacturing capacity. With 155 million iPhone users in the U.S., and iPhones holding over 57% of the smartphone market, Americans' love affair with iPhones is here to stay, independent of where they are assembled.

Nike manufactures nearly all of its athletic shoes and sportswear abroad, with Vietnam, China and Indonesia as their primary factory locations. It is difficult to attend a college football game without seeing the Nike swoosh somewhere on the field, given that the company sponsors the majority of top-ranked college football teams. Its presence at March Madness is also indisputable, sponsoring 60% of the men's and women's teams that participated in the 2025 tournament. None of these teams are prepared to boycott Nike because it manufactures its products overseas.

Wrangler, the company known for its jeans, makes most of its clothing items overseas. For those intent on buying items made in America, they do make a few lines domestically (the 27406 and 1947 collections). Another popular jean manufacturer,

Sheldon H. Jacobson



Levi-Strauss, also manufactures the majority of its products overseas.

The reason that such iconic all-American companies have moved their production capacity to China, Vietnam, Bangladesh, India and Mexico, among others, is cost. Labor costs in these countries are significantly lower than in the U.S. Given that American consumers are highly price sensitive, they demand lower prices. Since consumer spending is 70% of the nation's gross domestic product, which now rests at around \$30 trillion, anywhere costs can be reduced to keep prices competitive is an opportunity that companies have exploited, and they will continue to do so.

Yet all the companies listed manufacture nondurable goods, which have short shelf lives. Indeed, measuring "made in America" only at the most basic or lowest level of consumption is misleading.

In a free-market economy, new ideas for companies that are nurtured and grown in America are what should define "made in America." Indeed, it is the American entrepreneurial spirit that defines what is "made in America," not the actual operations and facilities that produce the products.

One place to look for future "made in America" companies is the number of patents issued in the U.S. Nearly 400,000 patents were issued in 2020, the largest number in history. However, the recent downward trend is a red flag for "made in America" companies yet to be launched.

Focusing on where companies are

launched, and how they succeed is what makes them American. New business applications have been surging, with 5 million such applications filed in 2023, providing some hope that "made in America" companies continue to be a priority.

And nowhere is such entrepreneurship being fostered and grown more than at American universities. Almost one-third of college students aspire to launch their own business. Where students study is also important, as they often launch their new business in the same state. This makes universities the ideal incubator for new businesses.

All such economic value is why efforts to remake higher education are misguided, destructive and will ultimately hurt not only universities, but everyone.

The president's dislike of DEI may be his publicly stated reason behind his attacks on higher education. Yet throwing the baby out with the bathwater will stifle American entrepreneurship and make everyone, across all socioeconomic groups, poorer.

Indeed, the president's approach in controlling higher education will provide headwinds to achieve his objective of economic growth and prosperity. Long after he has left office, the carnage of his actions will be felt for all.

"Made in America" is more than just about goods produced and services delivered. It is about companies launched, new innovations uncovered and inspired entrepreneurship. That is where the focus on "made in America" should be, and facilitating such an environment is what can "Make America Great Again."

.....

Jacobson is a professor in the Grainger College of Engineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. A data scientist, he uses his expertise in risk-based analytics to address problems in public policy.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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Trump urges leaders to be flexible

By HADRIANA LOWNKRON and JENNIFER A. DLOUHY
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Donald Trump urged Russia's Vladimir Putin and Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy to show some "flexibility" as the U.S. president accelerates his efforts to end the war in Ukraine and encourages the two leaders to hold a bilateral summit.

"I hope President Putin is going to be good, and if he's not, it's going to be a rough situation," Trump said Tuesday in an interview on Fox News. "I hope that Zelenskyy, President Zelenskyy, will do what he has to do. He has to show some flexibility also."

Trump's comments follow a

whirlwind stretch as the U.S. president pushes to bring Russia's war against Ukraine — now in its fourth year — to an end. Trump held a summit in Alaska with Putin last week and talks at the White House with Zelenskyy and European allies on Monday.

Trump spoke with Putin again on Monday and urged him to begin making plans for a bilateral summit with Zelenskyy — a sit-down that would mark the first time those leaders meet face-to-face since Russia invaded its neighbor in Feb. 2022. Trump said that if that meeting goes well, he'll look to follow up with a trilateral summit with Putin and Zelenskyy.

"I wouldn't say they are ever

going to be best friends, but they're doing OK, and we're just going to see," Trump said. "You know, they're the ones that have to call the shots."

The details of the plan, however, appear to still be in flux — with Trump acknowledging a time and location for a gathering had not yet been set, and Russian presidential aide Yuri Ushakov saying only that Trump and Putin had discussed the idea of direct talks with Zelenskyy.

A meeting between Putin and Zelenskyy could take place within two weeks, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz told reporters Monday.

French President Emmanuel Macron signaled the trilateral summit could happen within three weeks.

In Tuesday's interview, Trump by turns cast blame for the war on former President Barack Obama, his immediate predecessor President Joe Biden and Ukrainian efforts to join NATO. He said that he has a strong relationship with Putin, but emphasized that relationship means little if it doesn't translate into an agreement to end the war.

"We're going to find out about President Putin in the next couple of weeks — that I can tell you — and we're going to see where it all goes. It's possible that he doesn't want to make a deal," Trump said.

The tone of Monday's White House meetings was much improved from a February visit in which Zelenskyy bitterly

clashed with Trump. Zelenskyy said Trump agreed to participate in security guarantees as part of any peace deal and reserve discussion of territorial exchanges for direct talks between Zelenskyy and Putin.

Trump on Tuesday indicated there would be some form of security assurances, perhaps in the form of air support from the U.S., even as he reiterated that he would not allow Ukraine to join NATO. European countries would supply ground troops, Trump said.

"We're willing to help them with things, especially, probably you could talk about by air, because there's nobody that has the kind of stuff we have," the president said.

White House has restored database

By PAUL M. KRAWZAK
CQ-Roll Call
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — The White House has restored a website that shows how spending authority is parceled out to federal agencies throughout the year, but Democrats say some of the information that is required to be disclosed may still be missing.

The Office of Management and Budget restored the website on Friday night to comply with a court-imposed deadline. The Trump administration had shut down the site in March, shielding from public view its decisions on so-called apportionments — directives that control the flow of appropriated funds.

The restoration of the public spending database marked a victory for Democrats and two organizations that had sued the administration over its attempt to keep the database secret: Protect Democracy and Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington.

"It should never have required months in court for this administration to begin complying with a truly basic and straightforward transparency requirement," Sen. Patty Murray of Washington, ranking Democrat on the Appropriations Committee, said in a statement Monday. "OMB must now ensure every last bit of this important budget data that has been hidden is promptly made public, as the court has ordered, and that the data is posted within days, as the law requires, going forward."

Democratic lawmakers and Protect Democracy said they are scrutinizing

the website to see if any apportionments or related information are missing.

Rep. Brendan F. Boyle, D-Pennsylvania, said OMB Director Russ Vought and President Donald Trump "must immediately restore the full budget data and show the public what they have been doing with our tax dollars."

"I will not stop fighting to defend critical investments and protect American families from the Trump administration's corruption," Boyle, the ranking member of the House Budget Committee, said in a statement over the weekend.

Protect Democracy said in a statement Monday that it is "actively working to analyze the new apportionments to ensure all the information that OMB is required to provide is once again posted publicly online."

Protect Democracy, which describes itself as a nonpartisan, anti-authoritarian group, said public information about apportionments "is critical now as the Trump administration continues to illegally withhold funding from federal agencies — including funds agencies must spend by" Sept. 30, the end of the fiscal year.

The administration has argued that any funding it has withheld or paused has been within the law.

Cerin Lindgrensavage, counsel for Protect Democracy, said being able to see the apportionments "means we can finally see where OMB may have abused this tool to unlawfully delay spending potentially in preparation to unlawfully cut funds through a pocket rescission."



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

New speakers have been installed in downtown Fort Recovery. The effort was a project of Fort Recovery Merchants Association, which received a \$17,000 grant from Fort Recovery Community Foundation.

Plans ...

Continued from page 1

Schoonover's new position serves as the second job created this year to train employees intending to take over village management roles. Village council in April approved an amendment to the wage ordinance to create an assistant village administrator position.

Village administrator Randy Diller announced plans at that time to hire Aaron Rengers to fill the role beginning in May.

Since then, Rengers has been taking on various village responsibilities, including leading efforts such as renovating Ambassador Pool and establishing a Community Reinvestment Area. Diller is tentatively set to retire at the end of February.

Also Monday, council was informed of plans to shift the village to a new website domain.

Police chief Jared Laux noted the village was recently approved to switch from fortrecovery.org to a website with a .gov address. That will also include changing village employees' emails in order to match with the new address in the near future.

The switch serves as an effort to

improve cybersecurity in the village. Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine signed House Enrolled Act 96 on June 30, with the law to go into effect by the end of September. According to state cybersecurity office CyberOhio's website, HEA 96 outlines new standards directing local governments to create a cybersecurity program that "safeguards their data, information technology, and information technology resources to ensure availability, confidentiality, and integrity."

Council also heard Monday about a new speaker system installed in the downtown area.

Fort Recovery Merchants Association received a grant from Fort Recovery Community Foundation to install the new speakers, a roughly \$17,000 investment, explained Diller. The village contributed less than \$1,000 of its own funds to mount 18 speakers, which mainly run along the brick portion of Wayne Street near its intersection with Butler Street, onto street lights. Plans are to add two additional speakers soon.

The speakers can be controlled from a few spots in the village,

including Krenning Park and Fort Recovery Morvilius Opera House.

Also Monday, council learned commercial pool service Buddenbaum & Moore of Noblesville is conducting a free assessment on Ambassador Pool, which closed for the season on Monday.

Rengers noted the pool has a leak resulting in the village losing about 340,000 gallons of water a month. Once the assessment is complete, the village will create a committee to determine next steps for pool renovations. (The village received a \$450,000 grant in July 2024 from the state's capital budget to go toward renovations.)

In other business, council members Lucas Knapke, Scott Pearson, Greg Schmitz, Al Post and Cliff Wendel, absent Erik Fiely:

- Canceled its regular meeting scheduled for Sept. 1 (Labor Day).
- Paid \$1,324.75 to environmental consultant Eagon & Associates for ongoing work to find a viable site for a third well in the village.
- Approved adding \$937 in unpaid water bills to respective property tax bills.
- Appointed Thomas Shaw to Fort Recovery Cemetery Board.

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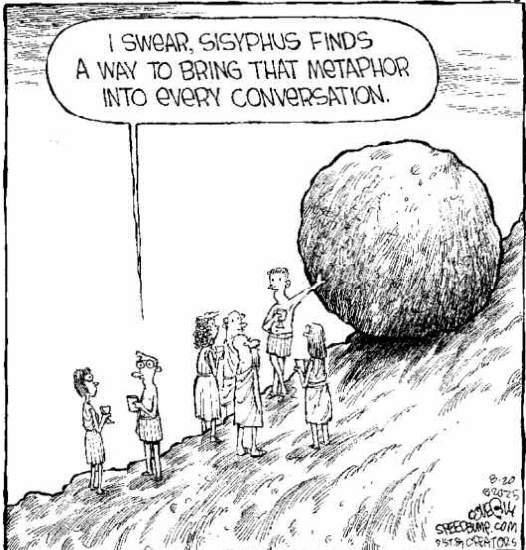
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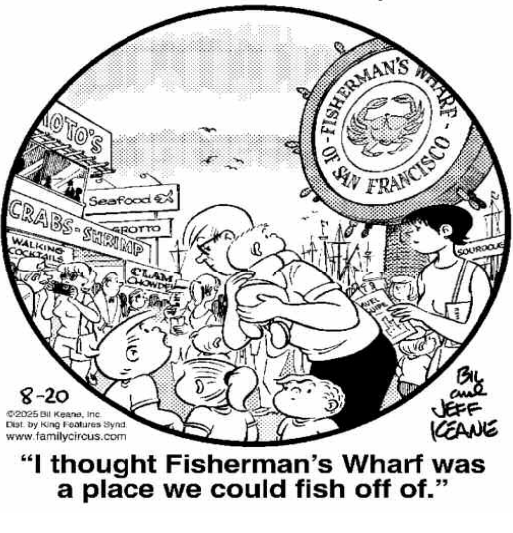
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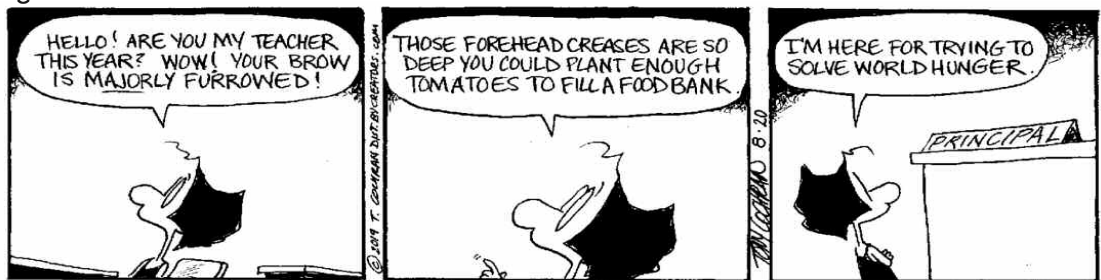
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



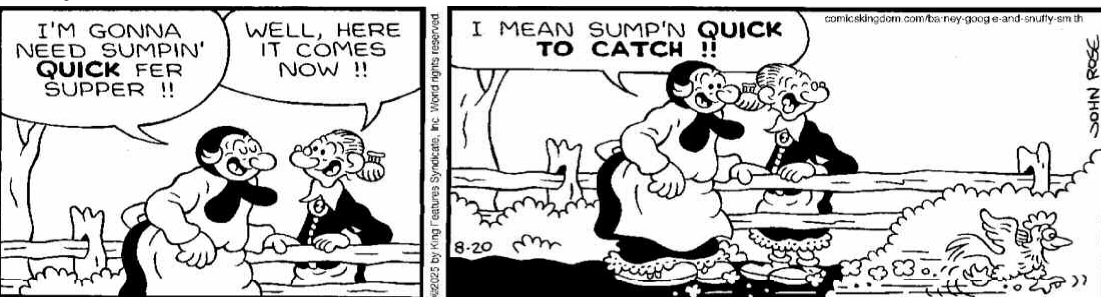
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

A valuable defensive signal

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K J 5
♥ Q 8
♦ 7 5
♣ A K Q 10 9 4

WEST
♠ A 7 3
♥ 9 7 5 3 2
♦ 18 6
♣ 7 5

EAST
♠ Q 9 4
♥ A K J
♦ 10 9 3 2
♣ 8 3 2

SOUTH
♠ 10 8 6 2
♥ 10 6 4
♦ A K Q 4
♣ J 6

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♦ Pass
3 ♣ Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — three of hearts.
Perfect defensive play is extremely difficult, and it would be next to impossible without the aid of many useful conventions that have been devised over the years.
One key defensive weapon, the suit-preference signal, is not used nearly as often as it should be. Although suit-preference signals are utilized mostly in suit contracts in a ruffing situation, there are times when this signal can be profitably applied to notrump play.

Take this case where West leads a heart against three notrump. Declarer hopefully plays the queen from dummy, but East wins with the king and continues with the ace, West playing the deuce to indicate that he led from a five-card suit.
When East next cashes the jack of hearts, catching South's ten, West has a chance to use a suit-preference signal. Since his 9-7-5 are all equals at this point, the card he plays on the jack is, or should be, a signal to East.
If West were to play his lowest heart, the five, he would be asking his partner to return the lower-ranking side suit, in this case, diamonds. (A club shift is obviously out of the question.) If West were instead to play his highest heart, the nine, he would be asking his partner to return the higher-ranking side suit — in this case, spades.
Note that without a suit-preference signal to guide him, East would probably choose the safer-looking diamond return at trick four, allowing declarer to escape with nine tricks.
But after West signals for a spade return by playing the nine of hearts on the jack, East has no trouble shifting to a spade to defeat the contract two tricks.

Tomorrow: Probability becomes certainty.
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8-20

CRYPTOQUIP

UTDI SVBYF VMJ SDYY NVYZE
UTV DLJ PCQCMP ECSZ GDYJ
RVQCMJE ETVIE VN GJFCSCMJ?

RBYY-FVEJLE.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEBODY WERE REALLY TICKED OFF WHILE COOKING EGGS IN HOT WATER, THEY'D BE BOILING MAD.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals C

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Piece of work
5 Singer
8 Taj Mahal
12 Oxidation result
13 Equi-
14 Places
15 Fantastic deal
17 Conked out
18 — -Croat
19 Black Sea port
21 Tragic king
24 Sphere
25 Carry on
28 Flex
30 Mornings (Abbr.)
33 Lyricist
34 "Bless you!" trigger
35 Archipelago part
36 Prof's aides
37 Pronto
38 Related
39 Saloon

DOWN
2 Chaste
3 — utility
4 Not wobbly
5 Tease
6 Buckeyes'
7 Cellist Ma
8 Birch's kin
9 Returns
10 Some HDTVs
11 Verdi opera
16 Low digit
20 Nitwit
22 Lessons for tots
23 Detox center
25 Humorist
26 Football's
1 PTA and NEA, e.g.
Par-seghian
47 Poi base
48 "Manhattan Beach" author
49 Bygone jets
52 007 creator
53 —

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-20

Tuesday

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Roundup ...

Continued from page 8
The Patriots also got junior varsity wins from doubles partners Nick Snow and Jace Vance and Carson Westgerdes and Beckett Brandenburg.

Smith leads

SIDNEY, Ohio — Caleb Smith put together the best round for the Fort Recovery boys golf team as it defeated Fairlawn 161-183 at Shelby Oaks Golf Course on Monday.
Smith finished with a two-under-par 34 to earn the match medalist. He never shot worse than a bogey — he did so twice — while carding four pars, two birdies and an eagle on the par-5 second hole.
Reece LeFevre wasn’t far behind as he stayed even with a 36. He had one birdie, one bogey and seven pars.
Garrett Diller shot a career-best 44 to make up the third score for Fort Recovery (5-2), while Andrew Rehmert’s 47 rounded out the team’s final.
Luke Fortkamp and Carson Fullenkamp both shot 49s that didn’t impact the final score.
There was no JV score, but a trio played the course as Carter Fortkamp shot a 48, Hud-

son McAbee had a 49 and Will Westgerdes had 52 strokes.
Towell returns
The Jay County girls golf team got its top returning golfer from 2024 back off the injured list, but couldn’t manage to pull out the win as Anderson beat the Patriots 207-215 at Portland Golf Club on Monday.
In her return, Towell shot a 51 with one par and three bogeys. She had to sit out the first two dual matches and opening invitations to start the year after having surgery in the offseason.
Erin Aker put out the best score for the Patriots (1-3) as she shot a career-best 50. She made bogey six times, including the final four holes.
Elizabeth Brunswick set a new career low by carding a 52. Crystal Swartzentruber and Reny Lingo both shot 62s to round out Jay County’s team score.
Alexa Ridenour finished with a 64 that didn’t impact the final.
Golfing on the JV squad, Reagan Sophia and Taven Bentley both shot 63s, Alivya Schwieterman had a 69 and Annie Spencer finished with 70 strokes.

Lopez ...

Continued from page 8
“She could have got a goal in the first half, she got really upset about it,” Muhlenkamp said. “And I told her the reason why she missed that one is because she’s going to get one in the second half.”
With the victory secured, Lopez put the finishing touch on her stellar day, showcasing her unique combination of speed and control as she sliced her way to the goalmouth on the right side before careening into a pile of three Richmond defenders and shuffling the ball home to complete a hat trick.
The four goals in less than 10 minutes proved decisive, and Jay County goalkeeper Maleah Parsons kept a clean sheet with a pair of full-extension diving saves in the game’s waning moments.
Before the Patriots rolled through the second half, the Red Devils gave them plenty of resistance early on. Both teams generated their share of chances in a wide-open first half filled with through balls and coast-to-coast action.
Richmond’s best opportunity came with just under 15 minutes remaining in the half, but was denied when captain Emma Hatzell put her body on the line to stifle a point-blank opportunity.
The play — and the rest of Hatzell’s day anchoring the Jay County defense alongside Ariel Beiswanger, Raylah Newton and Tessa Frazee — was the culmination of a year of hard work and adversity, as Monday marked Hatzell’s first game back from a torn ACL that cost her almost all of last season.
“It was really tough, watching all the girls,” Hatzell said. “But they did amazing, and that’s what kept me going, just being able to be there for them. But therapy was very mentally straining, and when I finally got released, it was just like a

‘She had 13 goals last season, and I told her, her goal should be to triple that goal count.’
— Kendra Muhlenkamp, JCHS girls soccer coach

weight lifted off my shoulders. When I was finally able to be back out there, it’s like I’m brand new.”
With Hatzell and company securing the back line, the Patriots pressed for chances at the end of the first half. They nearly seized the lead seconds before the halftime horn, as Raylin Hummer pounced on a ball on the threshold of the Richmond goal but couldn’t make clean contact.
“At first, we were a little edgy,” said Parsons. “We didn’t know how to come together and talk, but towards the end, we got it together.”
All told, it was a successful day for the defending ACAC champs, and one that further solidified Lopez’s presence.
“She had 13 goals last season, and I told her her goal should be to triple that goal count,” Muhlenkamp said. “She’s got the capability to do it. After every game clicks away, she’s going to have that confidence to take whatever shot she wants, and that’s what I want for her.”
With three goals already in the bank, Lopez is well on her way to that lofty milestone. After sharing the spotlight with last year’s leading scorer Morgan DeHoff, the senior midfielder is gearing up for a prolific season for herself and the squad.
“I think really just trying to prepare myself mentally first and then physically, so I can pass it on to my teammates and then give them the confidence to do what I can do, so we can build as a team together,” Lopez said.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Thursday
Jay County — Boys tennis vs. Norwell – 5 p.m.; Volleyball vs. Delta – 6 p.m.; Girls soccer at Heritage – 6 p.m.; JV girls soccer at Heritage – 7 p.m.; Junior high football vs. Muncie Southside – 5:30 p.m.; Junior high soccer at Northside – 5:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys golf at Minster – 4 p.m.; Girls golf vs. Minster – 4:30 p.m.; Volleyball at National Trail – 5:30 p.m.; Middle school football at Versailles – 5 p.m.

TV schedule
Today
11 a.m. — U.S. Open tennis (ESPN2)
1 p.m. — Little League World Series (ESPN)
5 p.m. — Horse racing: Saratoga Live (FS1)
7 p.m. — U.S. Open tennis (ESPN2)

Local notes

Outing announced
The Adams Health Network Foundation will host the 12th Annual Golf Classic on Sept. 12 at Wabash Valley Golf Club.
There will be two shotgun starts at 7:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Breakfast, snacks and beverages will be provided, as well as a lunch in between flights.
The event raises funds for healthcare scholarships and local health initiatives in Adams County.
The deadline to register is Aug. 22. To register visit adamshospital.org/foundation. For more information, email kim.tormbley@adamshealthnetwork.org.

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@jay-countychamber.com.

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

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. 23.
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@theocr.com

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ZANE'S ANNUAL BARN SALE
840 W 100 N, Portland. August 17th thru August 24th.
Opening at 7am on the first day. 8am-4pm the rest of the week.
Antiques, Furniture, Primitives, Quilts, Buggy Wheels, Shop and Hand Tools, Household, Guns, Knives, Ammunition, Longaberger, Boyds Bears, Precious Moments. We have something for everyone. Can preview early but there will be no early sales.

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90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 1702 W Tyson Road, Portland IN
SATURDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 6, 2025 9:30 A.M.
REAL ESTATE
Tract 1 ñ 2 story home with approximately 2,048 square feet of living space situated on approximately 1.75 acres. 1st floor features include kitchen with floor to ceiling cabinets, dining room, living room, bedroom, full bathroom, and enclosed front porch. 2nd floor includes 3 bedrooms

90 SALE CALENDAR

and 1 half bathroom. Home is connected via an enclosed area to a 2 car garage with approximately 895 square feet and includes a pull down stairway accessing attic storage. Property also offers a 48' x 56' pole building with front and rear overhead doors, enclosed shop/office area, concrete floor, and 100 amp electrical service.
Tract 2 ñ One acre bare lot located just west of the home on Tyson Road.
Tract 3 ñ Forty-seven +/- acres of bare land located within the city limits of Portland. This property offers the rare opportunity to purchase land in Portland with both agricultural and commercial opportunities.

Tract 4 ñ Combination of Tracts 1 and 2.
Tract 5 ñ Entire package which includes house, pole barn and 50 acres. OPEN HOUSE: **SUNDAY AUGUST 10, 2025 FROM 1:00 P.M. TO 3:00 P.M.**

For more information or private showing contact **GARY LOY**, Auctioneer and (260) 726-5160 or **KIM LOY**, Real Estate Broker at (260) 726-2700.

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PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20th, 2025 TIME 9:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 2641 E 1100 S. Montpelier IN.
TRACTORS ñ CRAWLER
1968 JD 4020 D. w/ Quad-shift, Front weights, 4900 hours.
1967 JD 2510 w/ Front weights, 6800 hours.
Case 1030 Tractor w/ 3600 hours. New Holland GT-122A Lawn Tractor w/ deck and blade.
Wheelhorse 14HP Garden Tractor. JD

90 SALE CALENDAR

450-B Crawler Loader. TRUCKSñMOTORCYCLES-FARM EQUIPMENT
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TOYSñANTIQUES
JD, Oliver, Massey Ferguson, AC, Massey Harris Toy Tractors. (2) 110 lb Anvils w/ Stands. Corn Sheller. Misc Slate. (4) Steel Wheels. Radio Flyer Wagon.
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PUBLIC AUCTION THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 4th, 2025 TIME 4:30 P.M.
LOCATED: 506 N George St. Ridgeville, IN
GUN ñGUN SUPPLIESñAMMO
Taurus 357 Mag 6 Shot Revolver (3 Screw). 45 Cal ACP Pistol. H & R Sportsman 22 Cal 9 Shot Revolver. Ammo Reloader. Tumbler. Reloading Supplies. Large Lot of Lead. Large Lot of Gun Supplies.
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90 SALE CALENDAR

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Jay County boys tennis
picked up first win Monday,
see roundup below

JCHS volleyball hosts
sectional foe Delta today,
see Sports on tap

Lopez leads opener

Senior midfielder's hat trick powers Jay County over Devils

By **ETHAN OSKROBA**
The Commercial Review

In the first half, it was a game.

In the second half, it was a show: the Aixa Lopez show, to be specific.

The senior poured in three goals in a span of less than 10 minutes to spur the Jay County High School girls soccer team past the Richmond Red Devils in a 4-0 season-opening home victory on Monday.

"I would say I think I gained confidence throughout me and my teammates," Lopez said. "It really helped build momentum so we could score and keep scoring as a team."

Lopez's hat trick further solidified her as the Patriots' most lethal scoring option, with her speed, dribbling ability and scorching long-range shot making her well suited to build on her 13-goal campaign a season ago. All that bodes well for the Patriots, who will seek to repeat as Allen County Athletic Conference champions.

The Patriots got it together after the halftime break, with coach Kendra Muhlenkamp simplifying her formation and putting three forwards up top to pester the Red Devil defense.

The adjustment paid immediate dividends, with the Patriots dominating possession throughout the half before Lopez finally broke through with just under 25 minutes left in the game, sending a screamer from 25 yards out into the right side of the goal to give Jay County the lead.

Just over a minute later, Lopez produced a near-carbon-copy of her first goal to double the advantage, knifing through traffic and ripping another long-range shot into the top right portion of the cage.

The Patriots remained relentless as the game opened up fully, with London Lloyd springing Hummer open on the left side just a few minutes later. Hummer calmly beat her defender to the ball and slotted it into the vacated net as the keeper left her crease.

See **Lopez** page 7



Aixa Lopez exits the field moments after scoring her third goal of the game. Lopez's three scores in less than 10 minutes in the second half propelled the Jay County High School girls soccer team to a 4-0 victory over Richmond on Monday.

The Commercial Review/Ethan Oskroba

Jay Co. sweeps Argylls

FAIRMOUNT — During the season opener, the Patriots couldn't manage a single point over the first two matches.

Two days later, they walked away with all five.

The Jay County High School boys tennis team picked up its first win of the season Monday as it swept the Madison-Grant Argylls 5-0.

Paul Dirksen had one of the most dramatic wins at the No. 1 singles position. The freshman went down 4-1 to Luke Nelson before pulling out a 7-5, 6-1 victory.

Fellow freshman, Henry Dirksen, took care of business in the No. 2 singles match by beating Aaron Moon 6-2, 6-3.

Rounding out the singles was Clark Wellman, who earned a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Carson Chastain.

The sole varsity returners for Jay County (1-2), Kadyr Carpenter and Alex Miller, picked up their first win of the season at the No. 1 doubles position by taking down Eli Chastain and Leo Hood 6-2, 6-3.

In their second match together, No. 2 doubles duo Gabe Overton and Brock Wasson beat Levi Kirby and Malachi Kirby 6-2, 6-4.

See **Roundup** page 7



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