

The Commercial Review



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Smokin’ start

The Jay County High School football team charges onto the field for the first time in the 2025 season Friday night for their game against the Blackford Bruins. The Patriots scored the game’s first 23 points and rolled to a 56-6 victory. They will have an extra day to prepare for the first road game as they will visit New Castle at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Firm will draft a plan

MSS hired for work related to safety building

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

It starts with a plan. Jay County Commissioners on Monday agreed to move forward with architectural firm MSS Engineering for drafting plans for a safety building in Jay County.

MSS Engineering offered the lowest bid, \$119,000, out of six companies offering proposals for the work.

County officials have discussed building a multi-faceted facility for years to serve as a hub for Jay Emergency Medical Service, Jay County Health Department and Jay County Coroner’s Office. Department heads have shared concerns with commissioners about their current buildings, with JEMS and the health department asking for more square footage and the coroner’s office looking for a more accessible building. Currently, the coroner’s office is located in Jay County Courthouse, while the health department is on Arch Street in Portland and the EMS building is on Creagor Avenue adjacent to IU Health Jay.

Commissioners agreed in May to seek bids for the architectural design portion of the project. The following architectural firms submitted proposals for the project: Elevatus Architecture up to \$193,500, RQAW Corporation at \$210,000, Peterson Architecture at \$195,000, American Structurepoint up to \$331,500, MartinRiley at \$203,000 and MSS Engineering at \$119,000.

(MSS Engineering has also been preparing designs for Jay County Solid Waste Management District’s planned new building on Tyson Road, noted commissioners president Chad Aker.)

See Plan page 2

Jenner confirmed as commissioner

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education voted unanimously Friday to appoint Secretary of Education Katie Jenner as the next commissioner of higher education, further cementing Gov. Mike Braun’s plan to streamline oversight of education from kindergarten through college.

Jenner will assume the role Oct. 11, succeeding Chris Lowery, who is stepping down after more than three years in the position. She will simultaneously continue leading the Indiana Department of Education and serve in Braun’s cabinet.

“I’m just so thrilled to continue serving the state of Indiana and ensuring education across K-12 and

GOP appointee will oversee both K-12 and higher education agencies

higher education is as aligned as possible for our students, parents and families and our state ahead,” Jenner said after the vote, held in Indianapolis.

Commission leaders noted that existing higher education staff will remain in place, and that any structural changes would require legislative action.

Dan Peterson, the CHE board chair, said the move provides “continuity, clarity and consistency” across the state’s education vertical.

“There’s so much inter-action already between K-12 and higher ed, from dual credit to the college core to 21st Century Scholars,” Peterson said. “Those programs are only as effective as the ability of students and parents to really understand how to take advantage of those opportunities. So this move ... makes a ton of sense.”

Lowery, who began preparing his transition “months ago,” praised the choice.

“Katie Jenner has been a

good friend for more than a decade ... this is someone whose life is devoted to education,” he told commissioners at the Friday meeting. He called the consolidation “a logical next step” after Braun created a more “unified” education structure in state government earlier this year.

But not all commissioners were immediately comfortable with the merger of K-12 and higher education oversight.

Board member Pepper Mulherin said she wasn’t

yet sold on combining the two roles but ultimately voted yes.

“I love the work that Secretary Jenner has done with K-12 education,” Mulherin. “I’m not one for blurring the lines ... I’m still struggling. I still like K-12 as its own entity, versus higher education.”

Jenner said her immediate focus will be listening and learning before making any changes.

“My first priority is to dig into some of the good things that the commission has going on right now,” she told reporters after the vote. “We’re not going to spend time admiring the problem. We’re going to really get after solutions, and we’re going to move quickly to do everything we can to support Hoosiers.”

Debate gets complicated quickly

By REID FORGRAVE
The Minnesota Star Tribune
Tribune News Service

WILLMAR, Minn. — This regional agricultural center is a study in contrasts. Flags adorn city streets welcoming people to Willmar in five languages, including Spanish, Somali and Karen, and 29 different languages are spoken in the diverse public school district.

On the city’s outskirts sits the county jail, one of only a handful in Minnesota with federal contracts to house detainees from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. It now holds more than any other in the state.

Sitting outside adjacent stalls in the Kandiyohi County Fairgrounds’ horse barn on a steamy recent morning, a man and a woman embodied how immigration politics hits differently in

Views in Minnesota city come with some nuance

this west-central Minnesota county of 44,000 people.

The two shared many concerns: about big-city crime in their rural area, about an uncertain future for kids and grand-kids, about how mass deportation could hurt the tight labor market here.

Where they diverged was the topic dividing much of America

during President Donald Trump’s second term: immigration.

The man, a 71-year-old retiree and three-time Trump voter named Russ Steinhaus, applauded Trump’s increased immigration enforcement. He said illegal immigration costs America more than it can afford.

The woman, a sixth-grade math teacher in Willmar named Courtney Lee who voted for Kamala Harris, feared students could be hurt by family separations.

Here, immigration views come with nuance.

The biggest supporters of Trump’s policies readily admit immigration has driven local growth; the biggest detractors see how demographic changes have jarred longtime residents.

See Debate page 2



Tribune News Service/The Minnesota Star Tribune/Elizabeth Flores

Street signs in different languages hang over the sidewalks Aug. 7 in Willmar, Minnesota. Twenty-nine different languages are spoken in the diverse public school district.

Deaths

Janice O’Conner, 80,
Dunkirk
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 76 degrees Sunday. The low was 54.

Tonight’s low will be in the mid 40s. Expect mostly sunny skies Wednesday with a high in the lower 70s. Highs are expected to be in the low to mid 70s through the weekend.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The American Red Cross is holding two blood drives today. One will be from 9 a.m. to 1 a.m. at Mount Taber Community Church, 216 W. Pleasant St., Dunkirk, with the other from 2 to 7 p.m. at Bryant Wesleyan Church, 209 S. Hendricks St., Bryant. All those who donate in August will receive a \$15 e-gift card.

Coming up

Wednesday — Coverage of next week’s Dunkirk City Council meeting.

Thursday — Details from the Jay County volleyball match against Winchester.



Obituaries

Janice O’Conner
July 3, 1945-Aug. 20, 2025
Janice O’Conner, 80, Dunkirk, went to her eternal home in heaven on Aug. 20, 2025.
Janice was born July 3, 1945, in Berea, Kentucky, to John and Elsie (Jordan) Black. She grew up near the Abington and Richmond, Indiana, area and graduated from Richmond High School in 1963.
She married Stephen W. O’Conner on July 19, 1963. Together they resided in

Dunkirk, Indiana, for 58 years. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and friend. She was a member, junior church teacher and Deaconess of the First Baptist Church of Dunkirk.
Janice unconditionally loved her family and provided nurturing support until her passing. Her hobbies included walking, cooking, crocheting, making crafts and reading.








She is survived by her loving husband of 62 years, Stephen W. O’Conner; sister, Kathy (Black) Pothier (husband: Tony); brothers, Henry Black (wife: Nikki) and Robby Black (wife: Angela); daughters, Melinda (O’Conner) Murdock (husband: Robert) and Kim O’Conner; son, Bryon O’Conner; grandchildren, Samantha Murdock, Jessica Murdock-Thorne (husband: Chris), Kyle Murdock (wife: Brandy), Sydney Harris and Thomasina O’Conner; and great-grandsons,

Aiden Gonser and Elias Thorne.
She was proceeded in death by her parents; siblings, Johnny, Linda, Mark, Michael, Pat (Tweety) and Ted; son, Stephen A. O’Conner; granddaughter, Chantelle O’Conner; and great-grandson, Damien Gonser.
Visitation for Janice O’Connor will be from 10 a.m. to noon on Friday, Aug. 29, 2025, at Doan and Mills Funeral Home, 790 National Road West, Richmond, Indiana. Funeral service will be at noon Friday, Aug. 29, 2025, at Doan & Mills Funeral

Home and conclude with grave services at Earlham Cemetery.
Condolences may be sent to the family via the guest book at doanmillsfuneralhome.com.
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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Wednesday 8/27	Thursday 8/28	Friday 8/29	Saturday 8/30	Sunday 8/31
 74/53 Mostly sunny on Wednesday when the temperature may hit the lower 70s.	 73/53 Another day of mostly sunny skies with a low around the lower 50s.	 71/46 Friday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with lows in the upper 40s.	 72/49 Mostly sunny on Saturday. The low may again hit the lower 50s.	 76/53 Sunday's weather looks like mostly sunny skies with a high in the mid 70s.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$750 million	13-18-20-22-24-27-31-32-34-43-47-53-59-64-68-72-76 Cash 5: 3-6-7-33-37 Estimated jackpot: \$273,500
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$253 million	
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 3-3-2 Daily Four: 6-9-1-6 Quick Draw: 3-4-9-10-21-26-34-37-38-44-49-51-55-56-58-68-62-69-71-72-78 Evening Daily Three: 9-1-4 Daily Four: 0-1-4-0 Quick Draw: 7-11-12-	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 8-4-1 Pick 4: 2-6-0-6 Pick 5: 0-4-4-9-1 Evening Pick 3: 0-2-5 Pick 4: 2-0-4-4 Pick 5: 9-0-2-8-2 Rolling Cash 5: 1-4-23-30-31 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.04 Sept. corn.....4.09 Oct. corn3.97	Sept. beans10.23 Wheat4.85
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.19 Sept. corn4.19 Oct. corn4.09	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.89 Sept. corn3.89 Beans10.20 Sept. beans10.18 Wheat4.82
The Andersons Richland Township Corn3.94 Sept. corn3.94 Beans10.23	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.04 Sept. corn4.04 Beans.....9.98 Oct. beans9.88 Wheat4.52

Today in history

In 1682, astronomer Edmond Halley observed the comet that was later named after him.

In 1791, James Rumsey and John Fitch were each granted a federal patent for the steamboat. They were rivals who were fighting over claims to the invention. Fitch had demonstrated a steamboat four years earlier.

In 1883, the volcano Krakatoa began to erupt in Indonesia. The eruption would lead to 36,000 dead.

In 1936, Egypt became a sovereign state after 50 years of British occupation as the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty was signed.

In 1966, the Namibian War of Independence began when the South African Defense Force attacked members of the South-West Africa People's Organization. Namibia gained its inde-

pendence from South Africa in 1990.

In 1968, the Beatles song "Hey Jude" was released. It was Billboard's song of the year and was 10th on the chart's list of biggest songs of all time in 2013.

In 1972, Loyd Thurston of Shelbyville won the old fiddlers contest at the TriState Antique Engine and Tractor Show.

In 1978, Albino Cardinal Luciani was elected pope, taking the name John Paul I. He died of a heart attack just 33 days later.

In 2020, Christopher S. Jackson, 36, of Portland was found dead in the southwest area of Loblolly Marsh Nature Preserve in northern Jay County. He had been missing for three days. His death was ruled a suicide.

—The CR

Citizen’s calendar

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

Wednesday
6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building 131 S. Main St.


Sept. 2
5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.
7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St.
7 p.m. — Salamonia Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center.

SERVICES

Friday
O’Conner, Janice: noon, Doan and Mills Funeral Home, 790 National Road West, Richmond.

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

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Continued from page 1
Waves of immigration — from Mexico, east Africa, Myanmar, and Central and South America — have changed the face of Willmar; the county seat and home to half the county’s population. It’s now one of the most diverse cities in greater Minnesota.
Many locals simultaneously decry illegal immigration while expressing sympathy for the hard-working immigrants who have made their lives here — legally or not.
At the horse barn, Steinhaus, who’d just returned from riding his Harley to Sturgis, drew a line between legal immigration, which he supports, and illegal immigration, which he’s “dead-set against.” He blames illegal immigration for increased crime and government spending.
Yet he knows illegal immigration props up this agricultural economy.
“If they were all deported, we’d probably be in trouble with getting labor,” Steinhaus said.
In the stall beside him, Lee said problems with the immigration system have been evident for years, with an onerous process to legally immigrate leading to a spike in illegal immigration.
“It’s different when you actually sit down and work with these communities,” she said. “You can’t fault somebody trying to find a better life for themselves.”

A place to fit in
When Jenny Groen left her hometown of Willmar, she assumed she’d never move back. She wanted a diverse community, and when she graduated from high school in 2001, Willmar was not that.
“Our city had just completely changed,” said Groen, area programs manager for Arrive Ministries, a resource center for refugees and immigrants. “We wanted a place our kids belong and fit in.”
What had been a dying downtown now bustles with multicultural businesses — Chaw’s Asian Market a few blocks from Mubarak Food & Grocery, Somali restaurants a stone’s throw from Mexican and Honduran restaurants.

But some longtime residents tell Groen they fear the new downtown.
She sees a theme: Fear toward new immigrants in general is accompanied by an embrace of specific immigrant families. The same people railing against illegal immigration change their tune talking about an immigrant neighbor.
Albertsen, the pastor of the Hispanic church, came to the U.S. from Argentina legally in 2011 to study at Luther Seminary in St. Paul. He became a U.S. citizen a month before Trump’s inauguration.
He said some congregants have admitted the scale of national deportations is worrisome.
They “only thought criminals would be deported,” he said. “You don’t think those you care about would be in any danger. Unfortunately this is happening, even when it’s not happening in our area.”
Willmar is the rare small town whose population has increased with every census since 1880. James Miller, president of the Willmar Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce, attributes recent growth to immigration. Locals say the constant influx of new immigrants here has ceased under Trump.
“You’ve got a lot of opposites at play here,” he said. “From the business community standpoint, it’s how do we fix immigration so it works the way it should? So that these families who want to come here, who want to work, who want to better their families, have that opportunity to do so the right way and in a way that isn’t onerous.”

‘Rules for a reason’
Surrounded by chain-link fences and concertina wire, the Kandiyohi County jail sits just across Highway 71 from the ice rink and Willmar Senior High School. Most county residents asked by the Minnesota Star Tribune did not know their county housed more ICE detainees than any jail in the state.
At the fair a few miles away on the banks of Foot Lake, the smell of funnel cakes and bacon swirled as carnival rides revved up for the day: the Screamer, the Sizzler, the Tilt-a-Whirl. Nearby was a parent’s worst

nightmare: a carnival game whose prize was a live goldfish.
Donna Schmitt, 70 of New London, sold red “Make Minnesota Great Again” hats and shirts at the county Republicans’ booth.
Schmitt was happy deportations have increased under Trump, but stressed that she isn’t against legal immigration. She has friends who immigrated legally and became U.S. citizens. Illegal immigration isn’t fair to them, she said.
“There are rules for a reason,” Schmitt said. “Just because someone has lived here for 10 years, they’ve always known they are illegal.”
Willie Gonzalez, a founder of the Latino Community Association of Willmar, set up his mechanical bull near the fair entrance: \$5 for unlimited rides. Although the area overwhelmingly voted for the presidential candidate promising mass deportation, Gonzalez believes his neighbors see Latinos as part of what makes Willmar great.
“I’ve talked with a lot of white, conservative Trump voters around this fair,” he said. “A bunch of them said some version of, ‘We don’t want illegal immigration; we think the guys who commit awful crimes need to be deported. But the guy who doesn’t have his papers, he works hard and he raises his family and he’s been here 10 years — he’s OK.’”
At the 4-H llama and alpaca show, Gary Stai, 72, who raises livestock north of Willmar, watched 10 of his grandchildren show animals. Stai was born and raised here. Every fall, he hauls dirt from the sugar beet piler plant and works with Hispanic immigrants. He leans right politically, though he can’t name a modern politician he actually likes. He doesn’t love America’s direction: Smartphones are making kids dumb, government spending is reckless, Trump tariffs could hurt farmers.
He draws a line between the bad immigrants and the good ones — a line that isn’t drawn at their legal status. Immigrants who bring drugs to America? Stai wants them in Salvadoran prisons.
“But the ones who are here to better themselves,” he said, “I welcome them.”

You are where you’re supposed to be

By OLIVIA SMITH
The Commercial Review

Everyone is on their own path — learning, stumbling and growing in different areas of life.

It’s easy to look at where someone else is and think, “I should be there too.” But the truth is, comparison steals the beauty of our own journey. Your path was never meant to look exactly like someone else’s, and that’s not a flaw — it’s a gift.

This summer taught me

*You’re
On Your
Own, Kid*



that lesson in a personal way.

Among most of my friends, I was the only single person. They were all kind about it, constantly checking in to make sure I

didn’t feel left out or uncomfortable. Honestly, I thought the whole situation was kind of hilarious. I kept cracking jokes about being the “designated single friend,” mostly because there really wasn’t anyone to date back home anyway.

But as the summer stretched on and my friends naturally turned their attention more toward their relationships, I started to question myself. Doubts crept in:

Am I really OK? Is something wrong with me? Should I be doing more to prepare for a relationship while I’m single? Before long, I was caught up in overthinking and romanticizing what wasn’t there.

That’s when I realized something important: God had placed me in this season of singleness for a reason. If I had been dating someone, I wouldn’t have had the same freedom to spend time with family, drop everything to help

friends move or be emotionally available for people who needed me. What I once saw as a lack was actually an opportunity — an invitation to grow, serve and be present in ways I couldn’t have if my attention had been elsewhere.

And that’s the bigger truth we often forget: whether it’s singleness, career, finances, school or any other area of life, not being “where others are” does not mean you are

behind. It simply means your story is unfolding differently. God knows what He is doing with your life. He places you exactly where you need to be — not a step too soon or too late.

So the next time you’re tempted to compare, remember: their path is theirs, and yours is yours. Don’t beat yourself up for not being where they are. Trust that you’re exactly where you’re supposed to be.

Feelings make it hard to move forward

DEAR ABBY: I’m struggling with something that feels both silly and painful. I’ve developed intense feelings (maybe even “limerence”) for a man I know, and no matter how hard I try, no one else seems to compare. I have tried dating apps, looking at younger guys, older guys, conventionally attractive guys. Nothing clicks. I keep thinking, why can’t I just lower my standards? Or, why can’t I find others attractive when I know logically this person isn’t the only man on Earth?

Am I broken? Am I too fixated on a type? Am I missing out on good people just because they don’t give me butterflies? I know I can’t (and maybe shouldn’t) wait around for this one guy, but opening myself up to others feels impossible when they all feel so “meh” or even repulsive in comparison. How can I break out of this mental trap? I’m 30, so I feel I need to figure this out. — STUCK IN MY HEAD AND HEART

DEAR STUCK: The kind of intense attraction you feel for this man does not necessarily lead to a lasting relationship. Not once in your letter did you mention that he has indicated he has feelings for you, or even knows who you are.

At the age of 30, you are a

*Dear
Abby*



little old to be waiting around for someone who may never come around. A way to break out of what you call the “mental trap” would be to start concentrating on other things and live your life. Put the fantasy of romance aside for a while, and you may meet some wonderful people and form relationships that are reciprocal.

.....

DEAR ABBY: My sister is struggling with severe mental health issues, and so is her live-in boyfriend of 6 1/2 years. She thinks everyone she’s ever had contact with was involved in human trafficking her throughout her childhood. Abby, we grew up safe and privileged on a farm, but my sister had some severe trauma starting in our late teen years. We are now in our mid-40s. She refuses treatment and thinks there is nothing wrong with her.

Everyone in our family except

for our mom has distanced themselves from her, including her three adult children. We all love her, but if we try to help, she creates destructive delusions regarding our lives, too. She’s always been a handful but has gone downhill since she has been with her boyfriend. Neither one of them can work, and she is trying to get on disability. He already is. They barely get by. Abby, what can we do to help? It is painful to see her this way when medicine could help, but she refuses. — LOSING HOPE IN ILLINOIS

DEAR LOSING HOPE: Medicine might help, IF your sister were willing to accept that kind of intervention. Because she isn’t, and she and her boyfriend are barely getting by, it might be wise to seek the help of a social worker. If there is a department of mental health in your sister’s county, consider contacting someone there and asking for help with this problem.

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DEAR ABBY: I’m a 37-year-old guy who has a younger female friend, “Kim,” who lives out of state. I care for her very much, although not romantically. My problem is, I’ve allowed trauma caused by a previous relationship

to negatively impact my friendships now. I was cheated on and have trust issues. This caused a lot of problems with my out-of-state friend. (We used to live near each other, but I moved away.)

Kim and I aren’t speaking right now, and sometimes I wonder if she’ll ever talk to me again. This has had an impact on other friendships as well. I want to stop letting this affect my relationships and make amends with my friends, especially Kim. What would be the best way to do this? — WOUNDED IN WYOMING

DEAR WOUNDED: Talking with a licensed mental health professional might help you become less defensive so you don’t drive more people away. For former friends who haven’t blocked your calls or emails, an honest explanation and a sincere apology might be the way to mend fences. As for Kim, you may be able to reopen the lines of communication by writing her a letter telling her how much you miss her friendship and conveying a similar message.

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DEAR ABBY: I’ve been married more than 20 years. This afternoon, my husband came home and told me our neighbors

had invited him out to dinner to thank him for helping them with their yard work yesterday. Usually, I’m at work in the afternoon, but today was my day off. When I asked him if I was included, he said, “No. Just me!” I felt bad but didn’t show it.

My husband came home a few hours later and began talking to our adult son about their evening as if I wasn’t there. When I asked why he didn’t tell them I was home and would’ve come along, his response was, “I KNEW you would somehow make it my fault that you didn’t come!” I told him it didn’t look right that he was tagging along while his wife was left behind. Am I overreacting? — MRS. LEFT OUT

DEAR MRS. LEFT OUT: Your neighbors were wrong to invite your husband out and exclude you. But what happened after that makes me wonder if something more is wrong in your relationship with your husband. (“I KNEW you would make it my fault,” etc.) If this is a symptom of a larger problem, you and your husband should discuss it with the help of a marriage and family therapist. Your doctor or health insurance company can refer you.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

Monday

PORTLAND BREAK-

FAST 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.

THE LIFE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy, as well as help with the needs of the family. The center is located at 1209 S. Shank St., Portland. Hours are 1

to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

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.

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

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

Tuesday

JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 8 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Richard’s Restaurant.

COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they devel-

op 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 – BRIANNA’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.

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday’s Solution

5	8	4	7	3	1	2	9	6
6	1	2	8	9	5	4	3	7
7	9	3	2	6	4	5	1	8
9	3	8	6	5	7	1	4	2
1	5	7	4	2	9	8	6	3
2	4	6	1	8	3	9	7	5
3	7	5	9	1	2	6	8	4
8	2	1	3	4	6	7	5	9
4	6	9	5	7	8	3	2	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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GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

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or (260) 726-8141

United Way thanks for kickin’ in

To the editor:
On behalf of Brianna’s Hope, Boy Scout Troop 202, Girl Scouts, Community Centers in Dunkirk, Pennville and Portland, Jay County Cancer Society, Special Olympics, Jayland Emergency Fund, Homeless Shelter, Jayland Partners, JRDS, Second Harvest Food Bank, Youth Service Bureau and disaster relief, the United Way thanks you for being a part of the 2025-26 Campaign Kickoff at Portland Golf Club.
The Campaign Kickoff Day was packed with breakfast; a

Letter to the Editor

benefit golf outing, with the hole in one sponsor Patriot Auto Sales and Service; family fun night with Emerick Rental donating the bounce house; live music with Ken Bantz; and an ending with fireworks donated by Southern Thunder.

Our sponsors are amazing. Their generous donations made the day fun-filled.
A big shout out to all the volunteers and the Portland Golf Club for a great event.
Breakfast: M and M Market of Geneva, Troyer’s of Berne, Wal-Mart of Portland and Jay County Special Olympics Team Indiana.
Golf Outing: Hole Sponsors: Patriot Auto Sales and Service, The Anderson’s Grain of Dunkirk, First Bank of Berne, Runyon Racing Stables, Second Harvest Food Bank, Poet BioRe-

fining, IU Health Jay, Schmit Chiropractic, Jay County REMC, Joyce/Dayton, Denney Family and Funk-Kirby Family.
Prize Sponsors: Woodbury Family, Portland Golf Club, Wings and Rings, JaMar Appliance, Greazy Pickle, Pizza Hut, Arby’s, McDonald’s, Taco Bell, Jay County Solid Waste, Pink Barn, Richards Restaurant, Cooper Farms, WPGW, Denney Family and Patriot Auto Sales and Service.
Other special events happening this campaign will be the online auction in December and

the Splashing with a Passion: Peggy’s Plunge in February. We appreciate your support at the 2025-26 Campaign Kickoff and hope to raise \$140,000 and more to help those in need in our community.
United Way has been helping our community since 1958. Together we are building a brighter tomorrow for everyone. Live United.
Jane Ann Runyon
Executive director
Cindy Denney
Special event chair
United Way of Jay County

Utility prices nearing crisis

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com
It feels like every day there is a new request to raise electric rates or a new report on how much utility costs are growing. It’s become crisis level, and I consider it even more important than the debate over property taxes.

A recent NPR article said across the country, electricity prices have jumped more than twice as fast as the overall cost of living in the last year.
So, who’s to blame? If only it were that easy. There is no one culprit — instead it’s a handful of factors all colliding to create the highest summer bills I have ever seen. And that’s with a vigilant husband who controls the thermostat.

First, I’ll talk about what I have seen firsthand: lawmakers giving utilities more freedom each year to recoup costs from ratepayers and protect shareholders over consumers. I understand some of the requests from utilities, but customers never seem to win in the discussion.

These so-called trackers allow utility companies to adjust rates for specific costs outside of a normal base rate case before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. For instance, Hoosier power companies can recover costs related to transmission, distribution and storage system improvements. But there are many others.

That means that part of my bill is paying to upgrade an aging infrastructure. Think about it like you having to replace your roof after 30 years. But in personal finances you save for that — something utilities clearly haven’t done.

Hoosiers also haven’t fully embraced all forms of power. From coal and natural gas to solar and wind, all can add to the reliability and affordability of power in Indiana. But in some cases, legislators have limited or outright banned incentives or designations for renewable options. Instead, they are going all in for small modular nuclear reactors.

I fully support exploring nuclear, but the fact is it is likely decades away from coming to fruition and does nothing to help Hoosiers now. And yet that is where legislators focused much of their effort earlier this year.

Then there are those power-hungry data centers. They seem to be popping up everywhere. While only a few of them are partially active in Indiana, many others have been proposed. They create a very real threat to power in Indiana,

Niki Kelly



... in some cases, legislators have limited or outright banned incentives or designations for renewable options.

and I can’t see what advantages they bring to Hoosiers. They usually create a small number of jobs and long tax abatements limit their impact on the tax base.

The last thing I will mention is the rate game. Utilities come in and propose purposely high rate hikes. The Office of Utility Consumer Counselor opposes, and the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission approves a lower rate, but one that still adds to the burden.

This is one area where Gov. Mike Braun could have an impact. He likes to talk tough, and I hope he brings that same approach to his role over appointments on both agencies.

The agencies will have new leadership soon and he needs to make clear it’s time to start putting the consumer first — not utility shareholders. That’s harder than it looks when you see how much utilities spend in the political arena.

Beyond millions each year in direct donations to campaigns, utilities are among the top spenders on lobbying activities. And some of the state’s largest utilities also help fund the Indiana Economic Development Foundation.

There is no silver bullet. But a starting point would be for legislative leadership to clearly acknowledge the problem and commit to finding solutions.

Kelly, editor-in-chief of Indiana Capital Chronicle, has covered the Indiana Statehouse since 1999.
Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, non-profit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.



Stats don’t make people feel safe

By DAVID M. DRUCKER
Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

On an evening in late July, just blocks from the Washington, DC, rowhouse my wife and I share with our two boys, a shootout erupted between two groups of people. Injuries resulted; cars and homes were riddled with bullets and police determined more than 140 shots were fired.

With criminal activity like this still a daily fact of life in the nation’s capital — and with Americans nationwide often uneasy about their families’ public safety — Democrats are playing political Russian roulette by citing encouraging crime statistics to declare President Donald Trump’s takeover of DC’s Metropolitan Police Department wholly unnecessary.

The same goes for his flooding of the city streets with National Guard troops and federal law enforcement. A not-insignificant portion of the electorate in crucial 2026 midterm election battlegrounds might conclude that at least Trump is doing something and acting with in the law.

Yes, statistics prove crime is dropping, these same voters might acknowledge. But if conditions haven’t improved sufficiently to assuage voters’ concerns — if they feel unsafe — then citing crime stats to insist nothing at all needs doing is liable to push voters toward Trump, however imperfect his solution to the problem.

Similarly, just because FBI statistics released earlier this month showed the rate of murders, rapes, aggravated assaults and robberies dropping across the U.S., that doesn’t mean that they reached levels voters find acceptable. It’s not unlike the political risk of arguing to voters anxious about paying their bills that the economy is fine because the stock market is booming, unemployment is at historic lows and statistics show inflation is slowing.

“You never win in politics by telling people something’s not a problem when they feel it is. Democrats have long had a trust deficit on crime and public safety, and voters

David M. Drucker



start by being skeptical that they are willing to hold criminals accountable. Trump is well aware of this vulnerability and is masterful at exploiting it,” said Lanae Erickson, vice president for social policy, education and politics at Third Way, a centrist Democratic think tank in Washington.

I live on Capitol Hill and will have been here 20 years later this month. My wife has called the Hill home even longer. If we felt the neighborhood was prohibitively unsafe for our family, we would have followed many of our friends to the suburbs.

Over the past roughly 18 months, we have felt safer than during the crime spike that occurred at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and the two years-plus that followed, when DC was plagued by carjackings and other violent crime. Year-over-year stats compiled by the Metropolitan Police Department showing violent crime down 26% year-to-date would appear to fit our experience. (Some DC police officers are accusing the department of falsifying statistics, although FBI tracking seems to confirm the city’s official numbers.)

But a Washington Post-Schar School poll, conducted this past spring, suggests that many residents are still waiting for the district to feel as safe as it did before the pandemic — when affordable housing, not crime, topped their concerns.

As Democratic DC Councilman Charles Allen conceded in an email to constituents denouncing Trump’s law enforcement action in Washington, “If a crime happened to you, someone you love, or on your block, all the stats in the world are meaningless.”

Trump on August 11 announced he was invoking the Home Rule Act of 1973 granting DC limited self-gover-

nance to assume command of the Metropolitan Police Department and deploy the National Guard and various federal law enforcement agencies to the city. The president suggested he might do the same elsewhere, although the legal basis for expanding these actions beyond Washington is questionable and carries some political peril.

“People believe their own feelings more than government statistics,” said Alex Conant, a Republican operative and cofounder of the Washington public relations firm, Firehouse Strategies. “Both sides risk overplaying their hands. But Trump has the advantage here.” Still, as a matter of pure, crass politics, Democrats are not in some box canyon requiring them to rubber-stamp Trump’s policy in Washington or approach to crime generally.

As Democratic strategist Dane Strother told me late last week, his party has strategic options for opposing Trump’s “theatrics.” His advice: validate voters’ insecurities, offer compelling explanations for why the president’s strategy is counterproductive and propose concrete alternatives. “Democrats must publicly support cracking down on crime — and who wouldn’t,” said Strother, who when not in DC spends time in California and Montana.

The bottom line is that Trump isn’t politically invulnerable.

His average job approval rating is a middling 45.5% and per the most recent YouGov survey for The Economist, voters rate his handling of crime about the same: 45%. With Trump’s penchant for stretching executive authority beyond the Constitution’s intent, and his excessive declarations of national emergencies putting many Americans on edge, those mediocre numbers suggest voters will listen to strong arguments that there are more effective ways to reduce crime and improve their quality of life.

Of course, those arguments must first be made.

Drucker is columnist covering politics and policy. He is also a senior writer for The Dispatch.

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We welcome letters to the editor, which are accepted by email only to letters@thecr.com. They should be 700 words or fewer; signed, with city/town of residence and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit for content and clarity.

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

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Chamber hosting several events

Jay County Chamber of Commerce has two ribbon-cutting ceremonies in the coming weeks.

The ribbon cuttings are set for:

•4:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30 — Optimist Club 50-year celebration in the Farmer’s Building at Jay County Fairgrounds (Celebration will run from 4 to 7 p.m.)

•1:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18 — Youth Service Bureau, 603 W. Arch St. (Open house will run from noon to 5 p.m.)

The chamber will also host its annual golf outing at 9 a.m. Friday, Sept. 19, at Portland Golf Club.

For more information, email amanda@jaycounty-chamber.com or call (260) 726-4481.

Training offered

ServSafe training will be available at John Jay Center for Learning in Portland.

The next session is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 23.

The certification course is open to all food service employees and emphasizes safe food- and beverage-handling practices to mini-

Business roundup

mize the risk of food-borne illnesses.

Additional sessions will be held on Tuesdays, Oct. 28 and Nov. 25.

For more information, or to register, call (260) 729-5525.

Job fair is Friday

The United States Postal Service will host a job fair on Friday, Aug. 29.

Sessions are also scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the following locations:

- Decatur — 213 Court St.
- Montpelier — 215 S. Jefferson St.
- Muncie — 501 W. Memorial Drive

Reserve champ

The American Cured Meat Championships honored Winner’s Meats of Osgood, Ohio, as reserve champion for Specialty Flavor Small Diameter.

Winner’s earned the

award for its chili cheese hot dog. Entries are judged on aroma, flavor, eye appeal, color and texture.

“The 2025 ACMC was our largest competition in more than a dozen years, so finishing in the Top Four was even more difficult than usual,” said Chris Young, executive director of the American Association of Meat Processors, in a press release. “Our judges were very impressed with the quality of the products that were entered this year. On behalf of AAMP and our members, we congratulate Winner’s Meats for their outstanding accomplishment.”

Collaborative created

Ball State University has established a new community collaboration facility in downtown Muncie.

The space in the first floor of the Columbia Theater Building, 306 S. Walnut St., will be used for immersive learning, design coursework and community collaboration. It will also house exhibitions, project showcases and other events focused

on community engagement via planning, historic preservation and design.

“We are grateful for this opportunity to deepen our connection with the Muncie community,” said Ball State president Geoffrey S. Mearns in a press release. “This project advances key goals of our strategic plan — including immersive learning, place-based collaboration, and regional revitalization — and reinforces our University’s long-standing commitment to Muncie and our region.”

Restructuring debt

Ardagh Group recently confirmed a transaction through which several of the company’s creditors will assume control from Irish billionaire Paul Coulson.

GlobalData reports that the agreement will reduce Ardagh’s \$4.3 billion debt through a debt-for-equity swap and includes \$1.5 billion in new capital to refinance existing debt and purchase Yeoman Capital. As part of the deal, Yeoman will receive \$300 mil-

lion to facilitate Coulson’s exit.

Ardagh owns and operates glass manufacturing facilities in Dunkirk and Winchester.

Nominate

Nominations are open for the Indiana Manufacturers Association 2025 Manufacturing Excellence Awards.

The awards honor Indiana companies and individuals for their contributions to the manufacturing industry. They are open to all manufacturers in Indiana.

Anyone can make a nomination by visiting indianamfg.com/2025-manufacturing-excellence-awards. The deadline is Sunday, Aug. 31.

EVP named

Dollar General recently appointed Donny Lau to become its next executive vice president and chief financial officer.

Lau, who previously worked for Dollar General for more than five years, most recently served as chief financial officer for Zaxby’s Franchising. He

will take over his new role on Oct. 20.

“I am excited to welcome Donny back to Dollar General as our next CFO,” said Dollar General CEO Todd Vasos in a press release. “Donny’s deep understanding of our business, culture and values and his impressive financial leadership and experience uniquely position him to drive excellence and create long-term shareholder value. I have full confidence in his ability to guide our financial organization forward.”

Awards set

Indiana Chamber of Commerce will host its annual awards dinner at 5 p.m. Nov. 5 at the JW Marriott Indianapolis.

Daymond John, founder of FUBU and a longtime star of “Shark Tank,” will be the featured speaker.

Individual tickets are \$195. For more information, visit indianachamber.com.

Does your business have news to share? Email us at news@thecr.com to be included in our weekly business roundup.

Target shifting strategy on order fulfillment

By **BROOKS JOHNSON**

The Minnesota Star Tribune
Tribune News Service

Target is revising a strategy to fulfill almost all digital orders from its stores, part of the incoming CEO’s strategy to improve in-store experiences for shoppers.

For nearly a decade, the Minneapolis-based retailer has built stores around the ability to pack and ship digital orders alongside in-store purchases. That includes online orders for local pick-up as well as deliveries.

The result has been a major boost in digital sales, but sometimes at the expense of on-shelf availability and worker strain.

“You’re juggling that digital business growth and working every day to maintain a great in-store experience,” Chief Operating Officer Michael Fiddelke told analysts on a conference call earlier this week. “And you’ve heard me say from the start of the year, bringing more consistency to that in-store experience is a key priority of ours.”

Target’s earnings report this week included this digital re-orienting as well as the announcement Fiddelke would become CEO when Brian Cornell steps down in February.

Target first tested the online pullback at a few stores in Chicago this year. Now it plans to stop fulfilling online orders with in-store inventory and staff members at stores in 30 to



Tribune News Service/The Minnesota Star Tribune/Davide Joles

Target on Lake Street in Minneapolis in 2020. The retailer is rebalancing which stores fulfill all digital orders, including boxed deliveries, and which will focus solely on the drive-up and pick-up business in addition to in-store shopping.

40 more markets also this year, Fiddelke said.

“We might say, ‘Actually, shut your pack station down and sit this one out’ because that allows you to focus exclusively on the drive-up business,” he said. “Or, importantly, the in-store experience in a store.”

The company didn’t immediately specify Friday which additional stores, including any in

Minnesota, would see the digital fulfillment change.

Since 2017, Target has built a “stores as hubs” business model that reduces the need for an expensive network of warehouses. That has kept costs low and boosted profits for digital sales, Fiddelke said, as the company constructed or remodeled stores with the digital hub in mind.

“Some stores are built to fulfill,” Fiddelke said. “They’ve got a big back room. We can put a lot of pack stations in the back. They’ve got a manageable level of an in-store business, and they can support that digital demand in a market super well.”

That has apparently not been the case at every location.

Target is keen to revive its

brand proposition and excite its customers about the shopping experience as its sales continue to decline. And as competitor Walmart continues to lure more higher-income consumers alongside its usual budget-conscious crowd.

“Changing how we focus our store teams can help us make progress on a bunch of fronts,” Fiddelke said.

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Playing according to the odds

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

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

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

SOUTH
♠ A K 5 2
♥ K Q J
♦ A 9 6
♣ A K J

The bidding:
South West North East
3 NT Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead — jack of spades.
When all is said and done, bridge is essentially a game of probabilities. You make a certain bid because you think it has a better chance to succeed than any other bid. You make a certain play because you think it is better, percentage-wise, than any other play.
But probability, by definition, is not a certainty. All you can do in bridge is rely on the percentages and hope for the best. You might be wrong in a particular case, but in the long run you'll be right more often than not.

All of which leads us to the play of today's hand, which is strictly a matter of percentages. Let's say you win the spade lead with the king and play the king of hearts. West takes the ace and returns a spade, which you win with the ace as East follows with a second spade.
There are now two ways to proceed. You can cross to the king of diamonds and take a club finesse. If the jack wins, you have nine tricks. This approach offers about a 50-50 chance to make the contract. (In the actual deal, though, this line of play would fail.)
The alternate approach is to play the A-K-J of clubs. This will succeed if the clubs are divided 3-3 or if either the queen or ten falls as the A-K are led. The diamond king provides the entry to dummy if the nine of clubs becomes a trick.
The second approach is significantly better. The clubs will break 3-3 about 36% of the time, and a singleton or doubleton queen or ten will occur in approximately one out of every three deals.
The combined chance of the clubs breaking 3-3 or being otherwise favorably divided comes to about 70%. Playing the A-K-J of clubs thus has a much better chance of succeeding and is therefore the superior line of play.

Tomorrow: Just a little white lie.
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8-26 CRYPTOQUIP

SV EM ESAJSMH LEMCHB CY
RCEAC EM SM-QYTRH MHLRFEFHA,
S LYTJB RTUUHRC MEZSMU SC
“VJSUQC CSZHR.”

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TELEVISION CHARACTER WHO LIKES TO DISPROVE PEOPLE'S WILD, UNFOUNDED BELIEFS: ARCHIE DE-BUNKER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals G

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Elite alternative

5 Feeling down

8 Slender

12 Eternities

13 Season opener?

14 Mexican entree

15 Give up completely

17 Cake cooker

18 Body art, for short

19 Dawn goddess

20 Separated

21 NBC sketch show

22 2016 Olympics city

23 Exact moment

26 Smoothie fruits

30 Protagonist

31 "Awesome, dude!"

32 Title for Helen Mirren

33 Sketch

35 Tightly packed

36 Cen. parts

37 Old space station

38 Apollo's birthplace

41 Turf

42 Average guy

45 Acknowledge

46 Was conspicuous

48 Pickling herb

49 Chum

50 Cold War initials

51 Building wings

52 Monk's title

53 —noire

2 "The Music Man" setting

3 Tech news website

4 Red —beet

5 Thread holder

6 Barks

7 Dict. info

8 Brokerage account

9 Volcanic flow

10 Cake finisher

11 —Blanc

16 Monthly payment

20 Football filler

21 Hedwig, and others

DOWN

1 Nuisance

22 Roulette bet

23 Third degree?

24 "—the fields we go..."

25 Glass of public radio

26 Purse

27 Actor

28 Ambulance initials

29 "Didn't I tell you?"

31 ER workers

34 Tax-collecting org.

35 Queen of Carthage

37 Do-re-mi

38 Miami —County

39 Satan's forte

40 Lounge

41 Luminary

42 Guitarist

43 Evict

44 To be, in Arles

46 Suntan lotion letters

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Roundup ...

Continued from page 8
(Summit Country Day won the girls race with 68 points, while Versailles snagged the top spot in the boys race with 28.)
Makenna Huelskamp had the best finish of the day as her time of 21 minutes, 20.6 seconds had her cross the line in 14th place. Riley Heitkamp came in next for the girls at 42nd in 22:37.6.
Other scores for the girls

came from Madison Heitkamp (100th, 24:32.9), Kendall Ranly (160th, 26:45.1) and Claire Grube (179th, 27:54.2).
Alex Roessner and Reese Diller both finished in the top 100 for the boys. Roessner ran a career-best 17:52.4 to place 24th, while Diller's 71st-place finish came in 18:53.2.
Other scores for the boys came from Gavin Heitkamp (123rd, 19:50.3), Russell Hart (128th, 19:54.8) and Evan Diller (173rd, 20:56.2).

Tribe is fourth
The Fort Recovery junior varsity boys golf team finished fourth at the Midwest Athletic Conference meet at Portland Golf Club Saturday.
The Tribe shot a 204 for the fourth-place finish, while Minster topped the field with a score of 181.
Carson Fullenkamp led Fort Recovery with a 45, just five strokes behind MAC champion Cole McClung of Minster.

Kolton Thompson followed with a 51 and Kale Diller trailed with a 53. Will Faller and Owen Grieshop both shot 55s to round out the team score.
Will Westgerdes' 56 strokes did not impact the team final.

Three perfect
Three players from the Jay County Junior High School tennis team finished the day perfect as the Patriots hosted Winchester and Hagerstown on Saturday.
Finn Hemmelgarn led the way

winning four matches for Jay County. Tuck Hemmelgarn was also perfect, going 3-0, while Job Dirksen won both matches he played in.
Grace Huelskamp and Ellie Wiggins both matched Dirksen with two wins, but dropped a match.
Veronica Dirksen, Bentley Brunswick, Sawyer Hemmelgarn, Zayden Jester and Haruki Kato both went 1-2 on the day, while Lydia Hoevel dropped all three of her matches.

Improve ...

Continued from page 8
Running in groups was a common thread for Jay County throughout the day. For Williams, who led the team in extensive bonding as well as training throughout the summer, sticking together has become a mantra, literally and figuratively.
“We want them to use each other,” Williams said. “Because running can become such an individual sport, we want them to know that they’re still a team and there’s ways that you can use your teammates during races even though you’re running kind of for yourself. So, I think just building that trust and relationship throughout the season, throughout the summer, has really benefitted them in their races.”
On the boys side, junior Caleb Garringer didn’t have a teammate in close proximity, but that didn’t bother him as he cruised to 11th place with a 17:36.8.
“He’s just been a steady runner for us the last three years,” Williams said. “So we’re really proud of him

and I think he’ll continue to drop time this year as the season progresses. He’s kind of just finding his mellow spot and we were proud of his performance today too.”
Garringer appeared relaxed throughout the run, finding a steady pace and settling into 17th as the field strung out. He found himself ahead of large clusters of runners and continually marched forward, reaching 14th by the midway point before the 11th place result.
“I think being able to get ahead of that center pack so I didn’t have to get through all those people, and being able to get around and just having that straight line view of everyone in front of me, and just being able to go around them, that was very useful,” Garringer said.
Also notching a solid finish for the Patriots in the girls race was Brooklyn Byrum, who started slow, sifting through the field to around 25th before surging through the pack to a 15th place finish in 21:59.3.

The second finisher for the Jay County boys was Max Klopfenstein, who came home 32nd with a time of 18:49.7.
Also competing for the Patriot boys were Caison Lloyd (48th, 19:38.6), Grant Glentzer (55th, 19:51.7), Alex Rivers (63rd, 20:11.9), Ethan Powers (101st, 22:49.9), John Cook (106th, 23:23.3) and Isaac Hawbaker (120th, 26:14.1).
Williams is expecting bigger and better things from an inexperienced boys unit as the season goes on.
“We’re just excited to see them grow,” Williams said. “We have a lot of new boys this year, so I think they’re just starting to figure it out and we’ll get to see them advance in the upcoming weeks.”
Additional girls were Alexis Sibray (31st, 23:16.8), Jessie Homan (39th, 23:38.6), Paityn Wendel (45th, 24:12.3) and Alyvia Muhlenkamp (83rd, 29:16.4).
The Patriots will be back in action Aug. 30 at the Taylor University Cross Country Invitational.



The Commercial Review/Ethan Oskroba

Jessie Homan (left) and Alexis Sibray of the Jay County girls cross country team run together during Saturday's Celina Rotary. Homan shaved off 20 seconds from her season opener, while Sibray cut 1:52.1 from her first race of the year. Homan provided the fourth score, while Sibray was fifth for JCHS.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Volleyball at Winchester – 6 p.m.; Boys soccer at New Castle – 7 p.m.; Junior high cross country vs. Delta/Wes-Del – 5 p.m.; Junior high football vs. Blackford – 5:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Middle school volleyball at Marion Local – 5 p.m.

TV schedule

Today
11:30 a.m. — U.S. Open tennis (ESPN)

7 p.m. — WNBA: Seattle Storm at Indiana Fever (ABC)
7 p.m. — U.S. Open tennis (ESPN)
7:10 p.m. — MLB: Philadelphia Phillies at New York Mets (TBS)
10:10 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Los Angeles Dodgers (FDSN Indiana)
Wednesday
11:30 a.m. — U.S. Open tennis (ESPN)
7 p.m. — U.S. Open tennis (ESPN)
8:40 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Los Angeles Dodgers (FDSN Indiana)

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@adamshospital.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.
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@thecr.com

90 SALE CALENDAR

2 DAY PUBLIC AUCTION

Located: Bubb Exhibition Hall at the Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 W Votaw St., Portland, IN

August 30, 2025 AT 9:30 A.M.

August 31, 2025 AT 12:30 P.M.

LONGABERGER BASKETS, POTTERY, WROUGHT IRON & ACCESSORIES

This 2 day auction offers an extensive Longaberger collection. Basket series include All American, Autumn Reflections, Christmas, Collectors Club, Easter Series, Father's Day, May Series, Mother's Day, Plaid Gathering, laundry, hamper, compote, and checkerboard are a very small sample of the 600+ baskets to be sold. Pottery include cannister set, cookie jars, crocks, planters, bowls, mugs and casserole. Wrought iron to include corner stand, quilt rack, bakers stands, treasures stand, snowman to name just a few. Live and online bidding will be offered on the first 150 lots each day. Live bidding only on the remaining basket lots each day. Visit Hi Bid for a listing of the items to be sold Live and On Line each day or contact the Auction Company. Pictures are available on Auction Zip - #12957.

Auctioneers Note: Doors will open at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday and 11:00 a.m. on Sunday for preview.

JUDY FULLER

Loy Auction

AC#31600027

Auctioneers

Gary Loy AU01031608

Travis Theurer AU11200131

Aaron Loy AU11200112

Kaden Khayyata AU12400069

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 - 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 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 - One acre bare lot located just west of the home on Tyson Road.

Tract 3 - 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 - Combination of Tracts 1 and 2.

Tract 5 - 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.

THE ESTATE OF MAX

90 SALE CALENDAR

& BERNICE MCCLURG Loy Auction

AC#31600027 Auctioneers

Gary Loy AU01031608

Travis Theurer AU11200131

Aaron Loy AU11200112

Kaden Khayyata AU12400069

PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20th, 2025

TIME 9:00 A.M.

LOCATED: 2641 E 1100 S. Montpelier IN.

TRACTORS - 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 450-B Crawler Loader.

TRUCKS-MOTORCYCLES-FARM EQUIPMENT

1968 Chevy C50 Single Axel Dump Truck.

2000 Chevy S10 ZR2 4x4 93,000 Miles.

1985 Chevy C30 Utility Truck w/ Boom Lift and Snow Plow.

2021 Harley Davidson 1200 Model 48 w/ 2300 Miles.

2009 Kawasaki KLX 250 S Dirt Bike w/ 708 Miles.

JD 55-A 3 Bottom Plow.

Oliver 565 4 Bottom Plow.

JD 7" Cycle Bar Mower.

JD 4 Row Cultivator.

New Idea 2 Row wide Picker. . JD 24T Square Baler.

Kelly 18ft Backhoe Bucket.

30 Ton Hyd Press.

Lincoln 225 Welder. . Merry Mac Shredder Chipper.

Rabbit Cages.

TOYS-ANTIQUES

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.

OWNER: James M Rob-

90 SALE CALENDAR

bins.

Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.

SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE

AC31800004 AUCTIONEERS

Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168

260-729-2229

Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040

260-726-5587

PUBLIC AUCTION THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 4th, 2025

TIME 4:30 P.M.

LOCATED: 506 N George St. Ridgeville, IN

GUN -GUN SUPPLIES-AMMO

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.

TRAILER-TILLERS-SHOP EQUIPMENT

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Stihl Mini Tiller.

Craftsman Rear tine Tiller.

Dewalt Power Miter Saw.

Delta Bandsaw. . Router w/ Stand.

Roller Stand.

Double Arbor Buffer.

Fishing Poles and Supplies. .

Consew Industrial Sewing Machine.

Sentry Small Safe.

ANTIQUES-HOUSE-HOLD-MISC

Toys and Miniatures.

Primitive Tools.

Cross Cut Saws.

Banjo.

Marlboro Sign.

Marlboro Top Ornate Sofa Table w/ End Tables and Coffee Tables.

Laser Printer.

2 and 4 Drawer Filing Cabinets.

Large Lot of Hardware.

OWNER: Friends Firearms by Flora Friend.

Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.

SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL

90 SALE CALENDAR

ESTATE

AC31800004 AUCTIONEERS

Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168

260-729-2229

Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040

260-726-5587

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO APPROVE THE TOWNSHIP'S CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of Pike Township, Jay County, Indiana, that the Board of the Pike Township Trustee will meet on September 9, 2025, at the Bluff Point Schoolhouse, 077 E 650 S, Portland, IN, at 6:00 p.m. to consider the adoption of the Township's Capital Improvement Plan.

Taxpayers appearing at the meeting shall have the right to comment. The Capital Improvement Plan as adopted will be referred to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF).

Tammy Horn

Pike Township Trustee

CR 8-26-2025-HSPAXLP

Public Notice

2381 E 200 N PORTLAND on 9/16/2025 @ 10:00AM

2005 CHEVROLET 1GNDT13S252287081 \$2,220.00

CR 8-26-2025-HSPAXLP

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Patriots improve

Four JCHS runners finish in top 15 at Celina Rotary Invitational

By ETHAN OSKROBA
The Commercial Review

Improvement is the name of the game in cross country. In a sport where seconds can feel like millennia, it can also be elusive.

But that wasn't the case for the Patriots on Saturday, where Jay County showed improvement across the board in both the boys and girls races.

"We're really proud," said Jay County coach Gabby Williams. "We had all of our kids drop times today from last week, so we couldn't really ask for more than that."

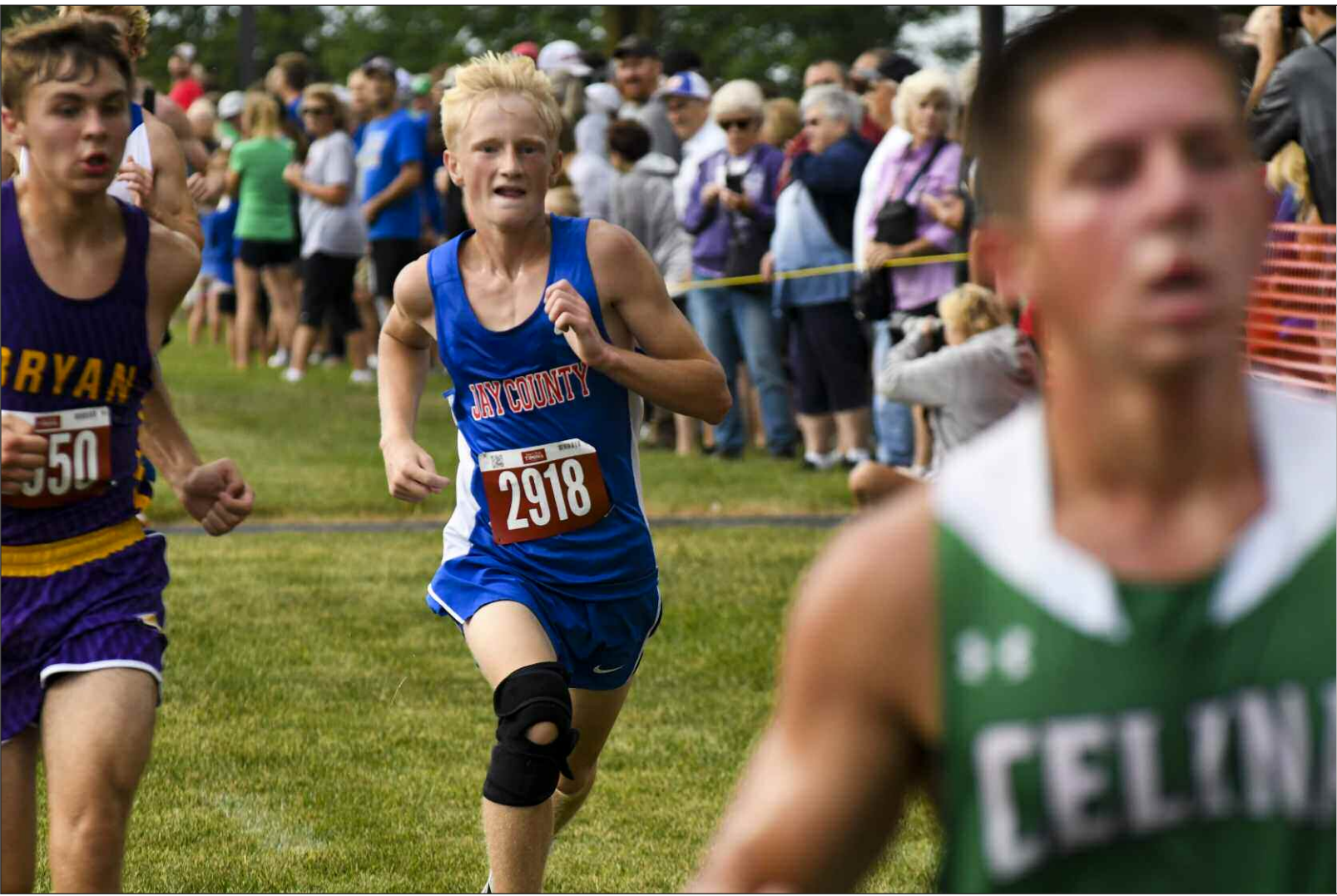
While Jay County High School cross country showed consistent progress in the Celina Rotary Invitational on the grounds of Wright State's Lake campus, the Patriots had plenty of headliners as well, with Caleb Garringer on the boys side joining girls Ava May, Abby Fifer and Brooklyn Byrum in the top 15 of their respective events.

May was the standard-bearer for the Patriots in the girls meet. After settling into 12th position early in the race, May pushed as high as 10th near the halfway mark. She continued to establish a rhythmic pace as she crossed the finish line 11th in 21:36.2.

May's desire to push through sparked her ability to fend off fatigue late in the race.

"I just want to be done sometimes," May said. "So the faster I go, you can't feel the pain as much, so I like to try to go faster."

For much of the run, May wasn't alone. Teammate Abby Fifer was going stride for stride with May throughout most of the event as the two deliberately ran side by side. While May broke away from Fifer at the



Caison Lloyd of the Jay County High School boys cross country team runs near the finish line during Saturday's Celina Rotary Invitational at Wright State University Lake Campus on Saturday. The Patriot teams finished fourth (girls) and seventh (boys) in the meet. Lloyd was 48th in 19 minutes, 38.6 seconds.

end, Fifer battled through the final portion of the run to finish immediately behind her teammate with a 21:51.9, good enough for 12th.

The time marked a significant improvement for Fifer, as well

as a catalyst for continued momentum.

"So far, compared to last year, I'm already on this course alone almost a minute ahead," Fifer said. "So my times so far have really improved and I

think this is going to be a great season."

May and Fifer's ability to run in tandem was symbiotic for the sophomore duo, and their chemistry off the course aided their performance on it.

"She's one of my good friends," May said of Fifer. "And it always feels better to run with somebody, so I like to run with her. You don't have to say any words, but you know what you're feeling."

See **Improve** page 7

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Patriot boys shutout Peru

Local Roundup

PERU — The Patriots didn't start the season the way they wanted as a draw kept them out of the win column.

They didn't have to wait any longer as they broke that barrier in game No. 2.

The Jay County High School boys soccer team picked up its first win of the season Saturday by beating the Peru Tigers 3-0.

It only took two minutes for either team to find the net, as Jay County (1-0-1) struck first when Raif Beiswanger found Elias Mueller for his third goal of the season. The Patriots put up a second score on Peru (2-1) Jacoby Penrod assisted Rockland Beiswanger with 12 minutes until half time.

Mueller scored the third goal in the second half by crashing the net on an initial shot.

The JCHS midfield and defense kept the ball from getting too close to the goal. Peyton Yowell only needed to record four saves to secure the shutout.

Huelskamp leads

WEST MILTON, Ohio — Fort Recovery's cross country teams competed in the Bob Schul Invitational over the weekend, with the girls placing 15th out of 22 teams with 380 points and the boys claiming 16th of 26 with a 421.

See **Roundup** page 7

Buccs waive Shilo Sanders

By RICK STROUD
Tampa Bay Times
Tribune News Service

TAMPA, Fla. — Shilo Sanders was ejected from Saturday night's preseason finale against the Buffalo Bills for throwing a punch.

Now the Buccaneers will fight on without him.

According to agent Drew Rosenhaus, Sanders was released by the Bucs Sunday as they began to trim their roster to 53 players by Tuesday's 4 p.m. ET deadline.

Rosenhaus told ESPN's Adam Schefter he is hoping Sanders will be claimed by another NFL team.

Sanders entered Saturday's game with one last extended chance to convince the Bucs he belonged. Injuries to the safety position meant he would get extensive playing time against the Bills.

But Sanders committed a pass interference penalty and was ejected from the game after throwing a punch at Bills tight end Zach Davidson after a second-quarter play.

"You can't throw punches in this league," Bucs coach Todd Bowles said after the game. "That's inexcusable. They're going to get you every time. You've got to grow from that."

Sanders, son of Pro Football Hall of Famer Deion Sanders, had four tackles and one quarterback hit in the preseason.

The Bucs also released receiver Rakim Jarrett, defensive lineman Mike Greene, outside linebacker Jose Ramirez, defensive linemen Eric Banks and Dvon J-Thomas, safety Will Brooks and offensive lineman Raiqwon O'Neal, the Tampa Bay Times confirmed.

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