

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Nava died in Saturday crash

A Portland man died Saturday as the result of a car accident in Jay County. Ricardo Nava, 43, was pronounced dead after being ejected from his vehicle, which entered a ditch along U.S. 27 north of Portland and flipped multiple times. His car landed on top of him.

Nava was driving south on the highway between county roads 200 West and 300 West about 9:22 p.m. Saturday, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report. A witness, Rachal Hamilton of Portland, told police she was driving in front of Nava and that he was following too closely behind her vehicle. She sped up to put distance between herself and Nava's vehicle. That's when she saw Nava's 2007 Buick Rendezvous swerve several times and go into the ditch. She told police Nava's car flipped at least three times.

Nava was ejected from the driver's side window of his vehicle. He suffered severe head trauma and died on the scene, according to Jay County Coroner Michael Brewster. Results from an autopsy Monday are pending.

## County altering rules for trucks

**400 South set to be designated as truck route**

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

Rules for operating trucks on some county roads may be changing. A portion of one rural road may be designated as a truck route.

Jay County Commissioners agreed Monday to move forward with amending the county's truck ordinance. They also opened applications for the position of county highway superintendent.

Commissioners recently discussed amending the current truck ordinance to accommodate local farmers. They reviewed a map of county roads Monday with Bob Howell, interim superintendent of Jay County Highway Department.

Past commissioners Chuck Huffman and Mike Leonhard and commissioner Chad Aker adopted a truck route ordinance in May 2019. The ordinance was amended to include another portion of county road 200 West in August 2020. Currently, semitrailers, trucks and truck-tractors are not allowed on the

following portions of county roads:

- Como Road between Indiana 26 and Indiana 67
- County road 100 North between U.S. 27 and county road 200 West
- County road 200 South between U.S. 27 and Indiana 67
- County road 200 West between Mt. Pleasant Road and county road 400 South as well as between county road 300 North and Indiana 67 South
- County road 250 West between county roads 900 South and 800 South
- County road 300 East between Indiana 26 and Division Road
- County road 400 South between Indiana 1 and Indiana 67 as well as between Como Road and U.S. 27
- County road 500 North between county roads 750 West and 650 West
- County road 500 South between Indiana 1 and Indiana 67 as well as between county roads 1150 West and 1225 West
- County road 750 West between county roads 300 North and 400 North, county roads 450 North and 400 North and between Indiana 18 and county road 550 North
- County road 1150 West between county road 500 South and Dunkirk city limits
- Division Road between the eastern edge of the City of Portland and county road 300 East

See Trucks page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Final ride

Oaklee Overman, 3, takes one of her last rides down the slide Sunday at Ambassador Pool in Fort Recovery. Less than 10 swimmers occupied the pool that afternoon during its last day open, leading staff to close the facility for the season a few hours early.

## Jay Schools increases wages

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

Jay School Board on Monday increased wages for support staff, held a public hearing on its budget and approved the sale of the former Judge Haynes Elementary School.

Superintendent Jeremy Gulley presented the board with proposed changes to wages for support staff. It called for an increase in the minimum wage to \$13 per hour from the current \$11 for aides and custodians and \$14 from the current \$12 for secretaries. In addition to those bumps, all current support staff will receive a \$1 per hour raise.

"It is self evident that local and regional employers have raised their wages of the course of the past two years," Gulley said in a document presented to the board and read at the meeting. "We must do the same to stay competitive and

attract and keep good people to serve the students within our schools."

Board members Ron Laux, Phil Ford, Donna Geesaman, Chris Snow and Vickie Reitz unanimously approved the raises. Mike Shannon and Jason Phillips were absent.

Any raises for teachers will come through the collective bargaining process, which Gulley noted will begin soon.

See Schools page 5

one member voting against, one abstaining and one absent.

After discussion at their Aug. 9 meeting, council members agreed to move forward with the following proposal:

- A 7% raise for the mayor
- A 3% raise, as requested, for clerk-treasurer Tina Elliott
- No increase for city council members

•7% raises for city employees except for the police department's office/clerical position

Introducing the issue again Monday, Mayor Jack Robbins acknowledged the council chambers that was overflowing with attendees, many of them city employees, and offered the opportunity for comment.

See Raises page 5

## Vote on Dunkirk raises falls short

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — Council had seemed to come to an agreement on the details of a salary ordinance at its last meeting.

By Monday, that was no longer the case.

Dunkirk City Council on Monday failed to pass its 2023 salary ordinance on a split vote with



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Reading time

Arya Castillo reads her book in the library at East Elementary School of Portland.

### Deaths

Ricardo Nava, 43, Portland  
Barbara Gordon, 82, rural Redkey  
Homer Butcher Jr., 96, Portland  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 81 degrees Monday. The low was 65.  
Tonight's low will be 57. Expect sunny skies Wednesday with a high of 83.  
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Voters went from having no choices for the Jay School Board District 1 seat to two this morning. Both Mike Foreman and Chad Bricker filed to run this morning for the seat that represents the City of Portland. It is currently held by Chris Snow, who is ineligible to run for it after moving out of the city.

### Coming up

Wednesday — Results from tonight's JCHS volleyball match against Winchester.

Friday — A feature story from the Tri-State Antique Engine and Tractor Show.









# Be careful around golf carts this week

**By DIANA DOLECKI**  
Special to The Commercial Review  
The pink flowers are in full bloom. That can only mean one thing. It is time for the annual Tri-State Antique Engine and Tractor Show.

## As I See It



lany there is an explosion of golf carts. I am always amazed that there aren't more accidents involving the carts. They are prone to stopping or turning at the drop of a dime. This can be dangerous as the people in the carts don't always use hand signals. They also forget that a car or truck can't stop as quickly as the carts. If you are reading this,

please watch out for the carts.

Though I don't care for ancient tractors, I am in the minority. People come from miles away and even from other countries to attend this show. I think that part of the reason I am not fond of tractors and other farm equipment is that they remind me of when I was a child.

We had an orange tractor that required a crank to start it. I am so thankful that I was too little to have a hand in it. It was always Mom and Grandma engaged in the ritual. It involved one turning the crank while the other did something that

involved a lot of curse words.

The whole process took anywhere from a few minutes to what seemed like forever. It left both women frustrated and angry. I was always afraid that they would kill each other. Thankfully, they both lived through it many, many times.

After one of the tractor battles Grandma wanted to go to the back field. I have no idea why. The grass had grown tall and she missed the path. She and the tractor tried to ford a deep ditch that was surrounded by thorn trees. It didn't go over well. At one point, Grandma and

the front of the tractor were almost vertical. Mom and I were convinced that they were going to land upside down. By the grace of God she managed to get the tractor on more level ground before it injured her.

My uncle Norman lived close by when we first moved to the farm. One sunny day he decided that I was old enough to drive the tractor. He put me in the driver's seat. He sat on the wide fender. He held his young son in his lap and off we went down the neighbor's long drive. He did grab the steering wheel a couple of times when I got too close to the

edge of the lane. We survived my first and last tractor lesson.

It seems to me that all the old tractors, engines and other odds and ends are of no value except for the stories they have buried inside them. The stories are what live on long after the things themselves have found a home in the junk heap.

For some people, the show, sales and old friends are like a treasure hunt as they search for that one item they need to complete a project. As a resident of Portland, I wish you a safe and happy visit. And please do be careful around the golf carts.

# Struggling wife at wits' end with her husband

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been together for 12 years and our relationship has started to suffer. We no longer have dates, we don't spend any time talking with each other unless it's about the kids, and the intimacy has faded.

A year ago, I asked him to go to a counselor with me. I asked him to be the one to set it up, as I'm always in charge of doctor appointments, bill paying, etc. I wanted him to show he was "all in" to help fix our marriage. I have reminded him to do it several times, but he hasn't.

He claims to love me and to want our marriage to thrive, yet he does nothing. Now that the intimacy is completely gone, he all of a sudden wants to work on things. Go figure. I feel hurt and

## Dear Abby



rejected and like throwing in the towel, but we have built a life together and I do love him. I don't think therapy will work because I'll feel like I manipulated him to get there by withholding the intimacy.

I feel sad and defeated. The man I married is gone, replaced by this person who is just going through the motions and using me to take care of his kids and clean his house. Please advise.  
— ON HOLD IN ARKANSAS

DEAR ON HOLD: Ask your doctor for a referral to a psychologist and make an appointment — for YOURSELF — for help rebuilding your sagging self-esteem. Because you long ago assumed the role of organizer-arranger in your marriage, it was unrealistic to expect your husband to suddenly pick up the ball. He may not know how. Once you are stronger emotionally, schedule those sessions with a licensed marriage and family therapist, as you have all the other appointments during your marriage. Your relationship with your husband does need work, and this is the path to repairing it.

DEAR ABBY: My fiance and I have a child together. I'm 31, and he's 16 years older. Sometimes I don't know if our relationship will work out in the long run because he's so stubborn and set in his ways. I'm more laid-back and easygoing.

What is bothering me the most right now is his mother constantly asks him for money. It's not just for little things; it's for roof and furnace repair and problems with her water heater, washer/dryer, stove and A/C. She's married, and her husband works. He should be able to provide her with the things they need for their house.

It's not like my fiance is rich. He isn't. I have tried talking to him about it, but it just ends up

in an explosive argument. It's like, why should I even try to save for our family's future and the things we need for our house if he's going to keep giving it to his mother every time she asks? Please help. — ALL FOR MAMA

DEAR ALL: You wrote that YOU are trying to save for your family's future. Is your fiance giving his mother money that you have been earning, or is it his? If it is his, he can do with it as he pleases — at least until after the wedding. If he is fiscally responsible, he should also be trying to save for the future. However, if he isn't, recognize that the pattern he has established may not be a sound one for you and your child, and plan accordingly.

# Marriage licenses

Donald E. Cosner III, 28, Pennville, and Sydney N. Cosner, 24, Celina, Ohio

Barbara M. Hilty, 21, Bryant, and Marcus K. Schwartz, 21, Decatur

Brea L. Burcham, 26, Pennville, and Charles C. McClain, 27, Pennville

Katelyn A. Beougher, 22, Pennville, and Eric D. Smitley, 24, Pennville

Phillip J. Corwin, 42, Pennville,

and Jenna L. Kahn, 37, Pennville Zachary D. Craig, 23, Portland, and Kaitlyn L. Staver, 21

Colton A. Herriford, 20, Pennville, and Kristy Robbins, 20, Pennville

Morgan L. Kelch, 24, Shelby, Ohio, and Tyler J. Lykins, 26, Shelby, Ohio

Joseph R. Peace, 27, Vaughnsville, Ohio, and Mary C. Welling, 26, Portland

Michael L. Flowers III, 20,

Dunkirk, and Stephany N. Schuelke, 23, Clarksville, Tennessee

Sean M. Hatzell, 33, Redkey, and Emilee P. Kirby, 30, Redkey

Aria M. Hovis, 22, Portland, and Alejandro D. Vasquez, 24, Portland

Nina G. McShane, 22, Portland, and Hunter J. Mills, 20, Portland

Mattie S. Coblentz, 20, Portland, and Jonas H. Schwartz Jr., 23,

Bryant

# Community Calendar

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

## Today

**BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE** — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

**THE LANDING** — A 12-step program for those in sixth through 12th grade will meet at 5:55 p.m. each Tuesday at 2nd Chance at Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 703-0777 or (260) 726-5273.

**A BETTER LIFE - BRI-**

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

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

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS** — Will meet at 7 p.m.

each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

## Wednesday

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

**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 at Harmony Cafe, 121 N. Meridian St.

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

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

**STRESS AND ANXIETY CLASS** — Meets each Wednesday at 2nd Chance at Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-9625 or (260) 703-0534.

**Thursday 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.

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

**A BETTER LIFE - BRI-ANNA'S HOPE** — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Thursday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal.

LIVE IN CONCERT

*The Nelons*



Date: Saturday, August 27, 2022

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: First Church of the Nazarene - 920 S. Shank St. Portland, IN Free will offering



WWW.THENELONS.COM

# Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

## Saturday's Solution

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

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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# Could party flip shake up election?

To the editor:  
One of the most pleasing benefits of being a carrier for The Commercial Review is getting to meet new people.  
Earlier this year I took over a route from the semi-retired Daniel Chase. This particular route covers Walnut Street and includes the Persimmon Rehabilitation Center. It was at this facility that I met, among others, David Johnson.  
David and I struck up a friendship almost from the first day we met. David strikes

## Letters to the Editor

me as being well-read and informed as to what is going on in the world. I take my copy of each Sunday's New York Times for him to read once I am finished doing so.

To get to the point of this let-

ter, David and I were having one of our frequent discussions, and the subject for this letter arose. David said it was his belief that in 2024 a former Republican governor and senator from the state of Ohio was going to switch his party affiliation and run for president as a Democrat. David stated further that he believed this well-known politician would take members of the Republican party along in his intended quest.

Needless to say, I was amazed

at David's seemingly clairvoyant insight.  
I did a quick Google search when I got home that evening and found two instances where my friend's prognostication proved the reality. In 1912, Teddy Roosevelt became disenchanted with then President William Howard Taft's leadership and political direction.  
Teddy elected to run for a third term (it was legal then). He founded the Bull Moose Party and tossed his hat into the ring.

The second time was when a former Democrat turned Republican chose to run for president. That fellow's name was Donald J. Trump.  
David's insight may prove prescient, but at this juncture in history, allows for quiet but deliberate rumination.  
My name is Michael Kinser and I helped David organize his thoughts and drafted and typed this letter for him.  
Michael Kinser  
David Johnson  
Portland

## America abandoned Afghanistan's women

By TYLER MICHALS  
Chicago Tribune  
Tribune News Service

### Tyler Michals

America's exit from Afghanistan was going to come eventually. Presidents Barack Obama and Donald Trump both declared their intentions to extricate the U.S. from its "forever war." The American public by and large ratified this position.

In the end, though, both former presidents balked when confronted by push-back from the Pentagon. Then, in April 2021, President Joe Biden declared that he was the fourth president to preside over the war in Afghanistan, and refused to "pass this responsibility on to a fifth."

Unfortunately for Biden, his execution of the withdrawal, which wrapped up at the end of August 2021, was shambolic. Scenes of Kabul International Airport being mobbed by thousands of Afghans desperately fleeing the Taliban only added to the misery.

A single horrific suicide bombing killed more than 100 people, including 13 American soldiers — the last Americans to die in the long, futile fight to bring democracy to Afghanistan. All 13 were posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.

This debacle wasn't an inevitability, but rather the result of an unnecessarily hasty retreat that felt more politically calculated than methodically thought out. The current administration seemed to make a point of withdrawing American troops by an arbitrary, and much-publicized deadline prior to Sept. 11, which marked the 20th anniversary of the worst act of terrorism in the nation's history. American military assets — \$7 billion worth — were left behind during the mad scramble.

The retreat emboldened the Taliban and crushed the morale of the Afghan army, which crumbled with remarkable speed. It was a fitting capstone to have the same regime that America ousted two decades earlier return to power without skipping a beat. The Taliban claimed to be reborn with a more modernized viewpoint, though hardly anyone took such claims seriously.

That skepticism was vindicated when it became clear that the Taliban's new incarnation was effectively as bad as the original. In May, the Taliban's Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice issued an order compelling women to wear clothing from head to toe in public, with only their eyes visible. Worst of all, in an about-face that should arouse the international community's revulsion, girls have been forbidden from attending school beyond sixth grade.

Education is one of the keys to power, which is why the Taliban cannot tolerate educated women. But it is an especially cruel twist of fate that, after having once been allowed to study openly, the schoolhouse gate is now being closed shut.

Underground schools have emerged for girls who merely want to learn, but this is no substitute for a proper education. Besides, under Taliban rule, it's dangerous to dream. In 2012, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Malala Yousafzai was a schoolgirl when she was nearly killed after a Taliban assassination attempt over her pro-education advocacy.

Afghan women who lived through the original Taliban rule are now returned, once more, to a state of powerlessness. For those who came of age during the American occupation, it must be startling to witness how quickly a society can relapse into despotism. After being abandoned by America, a feeling of hopelessness will likely set in. Who else is going to come to the rescue? The question seems to answer itself.

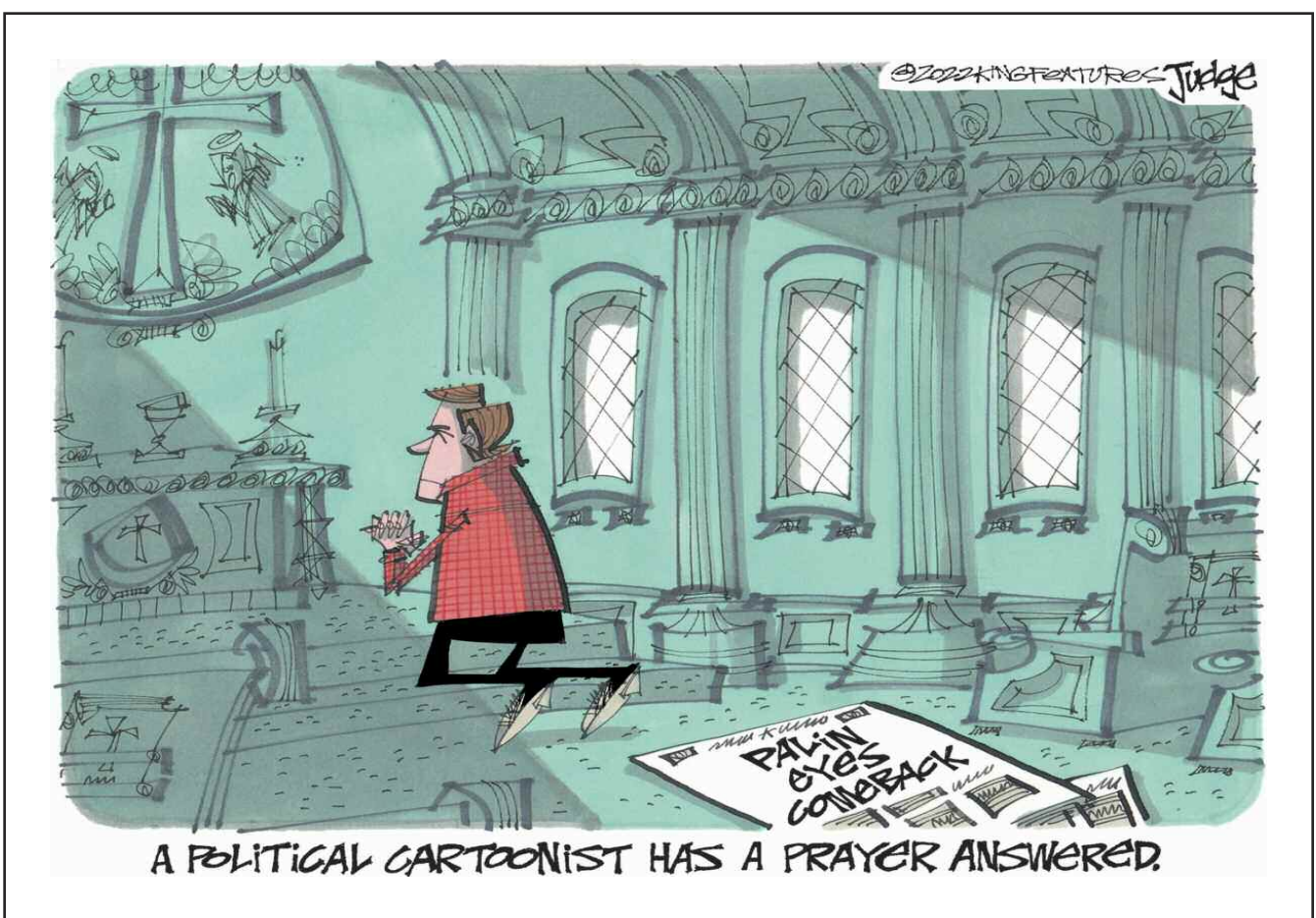
In 2002, Hamid Karzai, the first president of democratic Afghanistan, attended George W. Bush's State of the Union address. He was flanked by Dr. Sima Samar, who was the minister of a new agency in the Afghan government — the Ministry of Women's Affairs. Agency officials were around long enough to see millions of Afghan women educated and participating in every professional field. But, seeing no reason to keep it around, the Taliban disbanded the agency immediately upon reassuming control.

It's too late for Biden to redo America's withdrawal from Afghanistan but it isn't too late to make amends for the abandonment of ordinary Afghans, particularly women.

Speaking before the United Nations in September 2021, the president pledged that the U.S. would hold the Taliban accountable "when it comes to respecting universal human rights." The Taliban have responded by thumbing their nose at the democratic world.

While the international community dithers, schools for girls that were once a testament to the future hopes of Afghanistan will sit vacant — as empty as a broken promise.

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*Michals is a practicing attorney in Chicago.*



## Indiana will be among last

By MARK BENNETT  
Tribune-Star (Terre Haute)  
HSPA Infonet

### Mark Bennett



There's an opportunity for more people in Illinois to participate in democracy and their communities. Voting is becoming more accessible in the Land of Lincoln this month. That chance will arrive in their mailboxes. Every registered voter in the state should receive an application to vote by mail. It will offer the option of voting by mail permanently, or for just the upcoming Nov. 8 midterm election.

Voting by mail isn't new in Illinois, but the choice for a voter to receive a mail-in ballot permanently is new. The Illinois General Assembly made that option a law in 2021, and the mailing of applications for permanent vote-by-mail status began Aug. 10. The law requires local election authorities — the county clerk's office in most cases — to notify all registered voters of the permanent vote-by-mail option no more than 90 days nor fewer than 45 days before an election. That's a good step for civic engagement in Illinois.

It also stands in contrast to Indiana, where voting by mail is more restricted and turnouts are among the nation's lowest. "I do think that if people are on the permanent status, it also reminds them to vote, which could affect turnout in a positive way," said Kathy Kenny, vice president of voter service for the nonpartisan League of Women Voters of Illinois, which has 41 local chapters around the state.

"I think, with vote-by-mail being easier to access, we have higher turnouts," Kenny added.

The popularity of voting by mail surged in 2020, when many states expanded access to that method of casting ballots amid precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Forty-six percent of Americans cast mail-in votes that year, compared to less than 25% in 2016. In 2020, Indiana opened mail-in voting to all registered Hoosiers for that year's delayed primary, but reverted to most of its restrictions for the general election. Nonetheless, nearly half a million Hoosiers voted by mail then.

Illinois adopted no-excuse absentee voting in 2009, offering any regis-

tered voter the opportunity to vote by mail. Turnout in 2020 among eligible voters (those eligible regardless of their registration status) stood at 67% in Illinois, 29th best in the nation, according to the United States Election Project at the University of Florida. Indiana's eligible voter turnout was 61.4%, ninth-lowest.

Of course, the integrity of voting by mail grew controversial as former President Donald Trump repeated false claims of widespread voter fraud, which have been disproved by election officials of both major parties in multiple states and by federal and state courts. When asked if she was confident of Illinois' vote-by-mail security, Kenny said, "Absolutely," and cited the value of electronic poll books to detect duplicated ballots by a voter. Voter fraud cases are rare. "We have a hard enough time getting people to vote once," Kenny said.

County clerks in Clark and Edgar counties aren't yet sure whether the added option of permanent mail-in voting status will boost turnouts.

"I hope it does," said Laurie Lee, Clark County's clerk-recorder since 2018. "The end goal is that voter turnout is increased." Applications for permanent mail-in voting hadn't yet gone out to Clark Counties as of Wednesday, but "it will be very soon," Lee said. In Edgar County, clerk-recorder Augie Griffin wondered if younger generations of voters will take advantage of the opportunity to permanently vote by mail. "I don't know that putting them on a permanent vote-by-mail basis, whether that will increase turnout," Griffin said.

The permanent vote-by-mail applications should be mailed to Edgar County registered voters soon. "Our election vendor has indicated that notices will be mailed within a week," Griffin said. "The notice will

be posted on our website, [www.edgar-countyillinois.com](http://www.edgar-countyillinois.com)."

Approximately 1 in 5 voters in Clark and Edgar counties voted by mail in June's midterm primary election — 19.1% in Clark, 20.8% in Edgar. Voters from both parties utilized that option, considering that only about 350 total voters in each county chose Democratic Party ballots, and more than 560 total mail-in ballots were cast by voters of both parties combined in this summer's primary.

An effort to offer a permanent vote-by-mail option for elderly and disabled Hoosiers was introduced in a Senate bill by Sen. J.D. Ford in last spring's 2022 session of the Indiana General Assembly. The proposal by Ford — a Democrat representing parts of Hamilton, Marion and Boone counties — died in the Senate Elections Committee. Republicans hold super-majorities in the Senate and House.

"It's very frustrating that even such a modest step in voting access is a bridge too far for the Indiana General Assembly," Julia Vaughn, executive director of Common Cause Indiana, said Thursday.

As of January, 16 states — some blue, some red, some purple politically — and the District of Columbia offered permanent mail-in voting status to registered voters at some level. Those include Alabama, Arizona, Connecticut, D.C., Delaware, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Eight states allowed it for disabled voters. Three allowed it to disabled and senior voters. Six offered it to all voters; generally blue Illinois has now joined that list.

The number could grow, figures Kathy Kenny of the League of Women Voters of Illinois. "Once several states have permanent vote-by-mail status, I suspect other states will want that as well," she said.

If so, Indiana will likely be among the last to do so.

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*HSPA Infonet is a content-sharing service for newspapers that are members of Hoosier State Press Association.*

# The Commercial Review



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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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We welcome letters to the editor. Letters should be 700 words or fewer, signed and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit letters for content and clarity. Email letters to [news@thecr.com](mailto:news@thecr.com).



# Raises ...

Continued from page 1

After a few moments of silence, water department superintendent Dace Mumbower said he felt it was unfair that the police department's office/clerical position would not be getting any raise. (That position had been a point of contention as police department raises implemented early this year has pushed its hourly wage ahead of those of city department heads.) Mumbower suggested giving the police office/clerical position a smaller raise as well as bumping up department head raises to keep them ahead.

Council member Bryan Jessup responded in frustration, saying he would abstain from any vote on a raise.

"I'm not voting on a pay raise, yes, no, nothing," he said. "You get one side happy, the other side complains, back and forth. I'm tired of it. I'm abstaining."

Council made no changes to the proposal it had settled on at its last meeting. When that proposal came to a vote, it was 2-1

***'I'm not voting on a pay raise, yes, no, nothing. You get one side happy, the other side complains, back and forth. I'm tired of it. I'm abstaining.'***

—Bryan Jessup, Dunkirk City Council

with Tom Johnson and Kevin Hamilton in favor, Christy Curts against, Jessup abstaining and Jesse Bivens absent. That left it one vote short of the three required for approval.

No further action was taken on the salary ordinance at the meeting. (Council could vote again on the same raise sugges-

tions with Bivens in attendance.) It will be on the agenda again for the Sept. 12 meeting.

Curts explained after the meeting that she had previously said she was not comfortable with a 6% raise but that she would be willing to vote for it. She said she is not willing to vote in favor of 7% raises.

In other business, council:

- Learned from Robbins that the city was unable to apply for Community Crossings grant money from Indiana Department of Transportation for Quincy Place because the streets had inadvertently been left off of the city's asset management plan. (The plan grades all roads based on their condition and is required in order to receive such grant money.) Instead, the city will apply for funding to pave all of Lincoln Avenue and part of Angle Street this year, with plans to apply for Quincy Place in 2023.

- Heard from Pam Robbins of West Jay Community Center that new flooring is being installed this week at the facility. She noted that The Dunkirk Foundation and Dunkirk Industrial Development Corporation provided funding for the project.

- Set the city's trick-or-treat hours for 5:30 to 8 p.m. Oct. 29. The hours will coincide with a trunk-or-treat event at Dunkirk City Park. A fall festi-

val, which will include a chili cook-off, cake walk, hayrides, pumpkin painting, a scavenger hunt, a costume contest and refreshments, is also scheduled for noon to 5 p.m. Oct. 29.

- Approved payment of an invoice for \$6,790 from Shumaker Heating and Cooling of Hartford City for installation of a new generator at Dunkirk Fire Department. (The other half of the invoice will be paid by the county, which shares the building for Jay Emergency Medical Service.)

- Raised the spending limit for department heads to \$1,000 from the current \$500. (Other purchases require board of works or council approval.)

- Accepted an offer of \$100 from the city's American Legion post for the purchase of an out-of-service firetruck. Council had expressed a willingness to donate the truck, but city attorney Wes Schemenaur said it was not legal to do so.

- Approved waiving garage sale fees for the Indiana 167 Rummages Sept. 9 and 10.

# Schools ...

Continued from page 1

The board's public hearing on its proposed 2023 budget passed without comment.

The budget is proposed at \$36.9 million, which is up about \$1.4 million (3.9%) from the current year. It includes \$20.1 million in the education fund, \$10.4 million in the operations fund, \$5.5 million for debt service and \$894,709 in pension debt service.

The board is expected to consider the budget for adoption at its Sept. 19 meeting.

In her financial update, Shannon Current reported that surpluses of \$526,000 in the education fund and \$305,390 in the operation fund are expected this year. That would bring those fund

balances to \$6.2 million and \$3.3 million, respectively.

Board members also approved the sale of the former Judge Haynes building to The Portland Foundation for \$35,000.

Gulley explained that The Portland Foundation late last year had introduced a proposal for a day care and early learning facility in the building. At that time, the school board had authorized donating the building for that purpose. However, progress toward that proposal has stalled. Since then, the building has been put up for sale but no valid offers had been received with the exception of a \$35,000 offer from The Portland Foundation.

The board unanimously approved accepting The Portland Foundation's offer.

In other business, the board:

- Honored the Jay County Junior High School cheerleaders during the Patriot Pride moment. They were recognized for their efforts to help out following the Indiana State Fair competition, including rolling up mats and pulling a trailer down the grandstand track.

- Accepted a series of resignations, including Amber Yadon as junior-senior high school assistant principal/dean, Katelyn Warner as an eighth grade English teacher, Courtney Klosterman as a third grade teacher at East Jay Elementary School and

Megan Chalfant as a second grade teacher at West Jay Elementary School.

- Approved a series of hires, including Bradley Milleman as assistant principal/dean at the junior-senior high school, Michelle Christensen as a junior high English teacher, Darren Turner as a fifth grade teacher at East Jay Elementary School, Lexi Pease as a third grade teacher at East Jay Elementary School and Emily Muhlenkamp as a physical education/technology instructor at Redkey and West Jay elementary schools.

- Heard a request from Glen Coblenz of CB Development, which is planning a condominium development on county road 75 South near the

high school, for an easement to run a sewer line along Indiana 67 on junior-senior high property. Coblenz said digging would be minimal, with boring slated for the bulk of the underground line. The school board will consider the request for possible action at its Sept. 19 meeting.

- Approved the following: a contract with Hillside Therapy Services for certified occupational therapy assistant services; a contract with Rehabilitative Services for physical therapy services; a series of extracurricular assignments; leaves of absence for four staff members; bus driver contracts (with the new raises reflected); and an adjunct teacher contract form, a form sub-

mitted by Kim Anderson and a contract with Anderson to teach art classes this year.

- Accepted a \$310, 200 Employability Skills Innovation and Implementation Grant to be used to implement software designed to improve college and career readiness and a \$9,285.21 Indiana Early Literacy Intervention Grant that will be used to continue the Waterford Early Learning Program in elementary schools.

- Learned the corporation received a letter of recognition for safety through the National Sheriffs' Association and Saint Leo University Center for Alternative Pathway Programs School Safety Recognition Initiative.




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## Local ...

Continued from page 8  
Elizabeth Barnett had 10 digs, six kills, two aces and an assist in the defeat. Brenna Bailey had a team-high 15 digs.

### JCHH wins two

Jay County's junior high volleyball teams opened their seasons Monday with wins over Blackford. The eighth graders rolled to a 25-12, 25-11 victory while the seventh graders pulled out a three-setter, 23-25, 25-19, 15-10.

Lucy Mace and Erin Aker racked up 13 and 12 points, respectively, to lead the Patriot eighth graders. Trinity Glassford had seven kills and Ella Rigby put up six assists.

Amelia Heath's 10 points, including four aces, two kills and one block paced the Jay County seventh grade squad. Brenna Ruble and Mikayla Bishop each had nine points.

## Impromptu scrimmage

Some miscommunication in Muncie led to the Burriss Owls not making the trip to Jay County High School on Saturday morning for their scheduled game against the Patriot girls soccer team. JCHS coach Kendra Muhlenkamp, in a huddle explaining to her players that they would instead play a short intra-squad scrimmage, said she was disappointed they didn't get the opportunity to bounce back from their loss Thursday to Heritage. But, she told them, "You guys are still here. Your fans are still here. You still love soccer." Pictured during the scrimmage, exchange student Alba Badojz Dominquez (12) pushes the ball up the field in front of Myra Lopez.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Work ...

Continued from page 8  
Ehlinger's long been known for his cerebral approach to the game. It was his natural leadership ability and premium football IQ that earned him a shot in the NFL.

As a rookie last season, he taught veteran Brett Hundley the playbook when the latter arrived

early in training camp. This spring, he even helped Foles brush up on the changes in the scheme since the veteran last played for Reich with the Philadelphia Eagles in 2017.

The questions have always been about size (he's listed at 6-foot-1 and 222 pounds) and arm strength. There's nothing he can

do about the former, but he sees significant progress with the latter.

His focus is on doing everything in his power to improve as a quarterback each day.

"Well, I think the roster spot and things of that nature — how the numbers work out — is completely out of my control,"

Ehlinger said. "So really my focus has been on what I can control, and what I can control is my mechanics and increasing knowledge of the game, soaking up information from Matt Ryan — probably going to be a Hall of Famer. I have a great opportunity to learn from two guys that have done it — and not becoming frus-

trated with the situation and knowing in the long run if I want to play in this league for 15 years, I should spend really the first three learning.

"I have a great opportunity to learn and soak up as much information as possible, while still developing physically and not being asked to play on Sundays."

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Today**  
Jay County — Boys soccer vs. New Castle — 5:30 p.m.; Volleyball vs. Winchester — 6 p.m.; Junior high cross country vs. Wes-Del and Delta at Delta — 5 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Girls golf vs.

Crestview — 4:30 p.m.; Cross country in Mercer County Meet at Coldwater — 5 p.m.; Volleyball at St. Marys Memorial — 5:30 p.m.; Middle school volleyball at St. Marys Memorial — 5:30 p.m.; Middle school cross country in Mercer County Meet at Coldwater — 5 p.m.

**Wednesday**  
Jay County — Girls golf vs. South Adams and Adams Central — 4:30 p.m.

### TV sports

**Today**  
1 p.m. — Baseball: Little League World Series (ESPN)

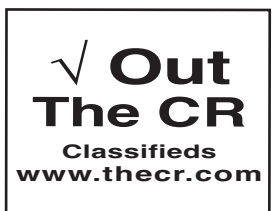
2:20 p.m. — Major League Baseball: St. Louis Cardinals at Chicago Cubs (Bally Indiana)  
3 p.m. — Baseball: Little League World Series (ESPN)  
5 p.m. — Baseball: Little League World Series (ESPN)  
7 p.m. — Baseball: Little League World Series (ESPN)

7:05 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Cincinnati Reds at Philadelphia Phillies (Bally Indiana)  
**Wednesday**  
1 p.m. — Baseball: Little League World Series (ESPN)  
3 p.m. — Baseball: Little League World Series (ESPN)

5 p.m. — Baseball: Little League World Series (ESPN)  
7 p.m. — Baseball: Little League World Series (ESPN)  
7:05 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Cincinnati Reds at Philadelphia Phillies (Bally Indiana); Chicago White Sox at Baltimore Orioles (FS1)

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N &amp; M Builders. please call 260-849-9012</p>	<p><b>250 PUBLIC NOTICE</b></p> <p><b>Public Notice</b> ORDINANCE NO. 2022-13 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 77 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED by the Common Council of the City of Portland, Indiana that Chapter 77, golf carts is hereby amended to add the following section: Section 77.11 Penalty Any person found to be operating a privately owned golf cart on a city street that is not registered pursuant to Section 77.10, above, shall be subject to a fine of \$50 for the first violation and an additional \$25 for each subsequent violation over the next 12 months. PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Portland, Indiana on this 15th day of August, 2022. CR 8-19, 20,23,24,25-2022 HSPAXLP</p>	<p><b>250 PUBLIC NOTICE</b></p> <p><b>Public Notice</b> STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY, SS: IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT 2022 TERM No. 38CO1-2208-EU-000034 In the Matter of the Unsupervised Administration of the Estate of: Alma Ruth Norris, Deceased NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION Notice is hereby given that Bruce A. Norris and Clell R. Norris, Jr. were, on the 16th day of August, 2022, appointed Personal Representatives of the estate of Alma Ruth Norris deceased, who died on 19th day of June 2022. All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred. Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 17th day of August, 2022. HINKLE, RACSTER &amp; SCHEMENAUR 121 W. High Street Portland, IN 47371 Attorney Jon Eads Clerk of the Circuit Court, For Jay County, Indiana CR 8-23,30-2022 HSPAXLP</p>	<p><b>130 MISC. FOR SALE</b></p> <p><b>SCRATCH PADS ARE BACK</b> 4 for a \$1.00 pick up at The Commercial Review Tuesday thru Friday 10am to 4pm.</p> <p><b>PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE</b> Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information.</p> <p><b>ALUMINUM SHEETS</b> 23"x30", .007 thick. Clean and shiny on one side..35 cents each or four for \$1.40, plus tax. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland 260-726-8141.</p> <p><b>APPLES FOR SALE</b> Menchhofer Farms 5679 Wabash Rd Coldwater, OH. 419-942-1502</p>	<p><b>200 FOR RENT</b></p> <p><b>INMAN U-LOC</b> Storage. Mini storage, five sizes. Security fence or 24 hour access units. Gate hours: 8:00-8:00 daily. Pearl Street, Portland. 260-726-2833</p> <p><b>LEASE SPACE</b> available, Coldwater, OH. 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# Sports



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Gage Sims of the Jay County High School boys tennis team connects with a volley at the net Monday during his 6-1, 6-4 victory with No. 1 doubles partner Sam Myers over Cam LaFuze and Corbin Richards of Union City. The Patriots lost 3-2 to the Indians, who are the defending sectional champions.

## JC falls to sectional rival

The Patriots will have some work to do to reclaim the sectional title they won two years ago.

In an early showdown of sectional rivals Monday, the Jay County High School boys tennis team fell 3-2 to the visiting Union City Indians.

With the Patriots (1-4) and defending sectional champion Union City splitting the No. 1 and

No. 2 matches in both singles and doubles, it all came down to a three-set battle at No. 3 singles. The Indians' Parker Kerns outlasted Eli Dirksen 5-7, 6-4, 6-4 in a three-setter that spanned almost three hours to give his team the win.

Abraham Dirksen, Eli's cousin, by a 6-1, 6-4 scored a victory for Jay County over Owen Dowler at No. 1 singles. And at No. 1 doubles, the

Patriot pair of Sam Myers and Gage Sims topped Corbin Richards and Cam LaFuze 6-1, 6-4.

The Patriots dropped the No. 2 matches, with Simon Dirksen falling 6-1, 6-0 in singles action to Zack Fulk and the team of Luke Muhlenkamp and Austin Dirksen dropping a three-set match 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 to Brenna Hoggatt and Jake Thornburg.

Jay County won two out of three junior varsity matches.

Victories for the Patriots came from Isaac Miller at No. 1 singles by an 8-4 score over Colton Mills and Dylan Chalfant at No. 2 singles by an 8-3 score over Gabe Tapp.

JCHS is off until Saturday when it plays in the Muncie Central Invitational.

## Patriots earn W in ACAC opener

The Patriots found their offense in the second half.

Bouncing back from a season-opening defeat last week, the Jay County High School boys soccer team broke the game open in the second half Monday in a 4-1 Allen County Athletic Conference victory over the visiting Woodland Warriors.

Levi Muhlenkamp, who had the team's lone goal in its 4-1 season-opening loss to Muncie Central, powered the Patriots (1-1, 1-0 ACAC) with two goals Monday. Dylan Marentes and Carter Link added one goal apiece.

The game was tied 1-1 at halftime before JCHS racked up three second-half goals.

The loss dropped Woodlan to 0-4 overall and 0-1 in the conference. It opened the season with losses of 9-2 to Angola, 6-1 to Wayne and 4-2 to Norwell.

The loss dropped Woodlan to 0-4 overall and 0-1 in the conference. It opened the season with losses of 9-2 to Angola, 6-1 to Wayne and 4-2 to Norwell.

### Smith leads

Rosealynne Smith led the Jay County girls golf team Monday as it split with Bluffton and Monroe Central at Portland Golf Club.

The Patriots posted a score of 238. Bluffton won the three-team match while Monroe Central finished third.

Smith, a senior, was the only Patriot to record a par on the evening, playing even on the 119-yard, par-3 eighth hole at PGC.

Lilly King of Bluffton was the medalist with a 46.

Jay County is 1-4 on the season heading into a match against Allen County Athletic Conference rivals South Adams and Adams Central on Wednesday.

### FR golfers fall

St. John's put three scores in the 30s as it handed the Fort Recovery boys golf team a 159-189 loss Monday at Portland Golf Club.

Isaac LeFevre had six pars for the Indians, including four in a row on holes 10 through 13 at PGC. he finished with a team-best 42.

Jack Gerker of St. John's was the medalist with a 2-under-par 33. His teammates Collin Feathers (37) and Tyce McClaine (38) also broke 40.

Eli Lennartz followed LeFevre with a 47 for FRHS (3-3), recording one birdie in his round. Nate Jutte followed with a 48 and Alex Dues, Keegan Muhlenkamp and Reece LeFevre all shot 52.

In junior varsity action, Garrett Diller and Kyle Huntsman posted scores of 61 and 63, respectively.

### 'Dogs sweep spikers

CELINA, Ohio — The Jay County volleyball team slipped to 0-3 Monday with a 25-15, 25-7, 25-11 loss to the Celina Bulldogs.

The Patriots, who return home to play Winchester tonight, managed just nine kills, with Maggie Dillon recording three of them. Dillon also had six digs, second on the team to Brenna Haines, who finished with 10.

Joske Herndon had four assists and four digs. Jay County also dropped the junior varsity match 25-18, 22-25, 26-24.

See Local page 7

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## Ehlinger realizes there's work to do

By **GEORGE BREMER**  
The Herald Bulletin (Anderson) Tribune News Service

**WESTFIELD** — Few young players have the ability to honestly critique their own performance at the level of Indianapolis Colts quarterback Sam Ehlinger.

So when the 23-year-old was asked Saturday whether he would have been able to make the 50-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Dez Patmon — the highlight of a 27-26 preseason loss against the Detroit Lions — a year ago, he was typically introspective.

"That's a good question," Ehlinger said. "I'd like to think so, but I also know that I have made progress and continue to make progress on throwing. So, maybe."

That progress is largely the result of work with throwing guru Tom House. Fans who have arrived early for training camp practices this summer at Grand Park likely have seen Ehlinger and starting quarterback Matt Ryan going through an elaborate stretching routine.

Ehlinger's working with House at the suggestion of Indianapolis general manager Chris Ballard.

The early returns have been impressive.

Through two preseason games, Ehlinger has completed 84.6% of his pass attempts for 224 yards with four touchdowns and no interceptions. He's not a threat to unseat former Super Bowl MVP Nick Foles as Ryan's primary backup, but the 2021 sixth-round pick is attempting to force his way onto the 53-man roster.

"I think it's pretty rare for a guy — I mean, you can get better. You can get more accurate," Colts head coach Frank Reich said during a video conference call Sunday. "Sam has certainly done that, and there is no question about that in my mind — the accuracy in which he is throwing the ball. But what I'm really impressed at is how hard he is working on his body, on his delivery, on his upper body, his mechanics. And it was really all self-imposed."

See **Work** page 7

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