

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## COVID level back up to high

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

The local COVID pattern resembles a roller coaster.

After two weeks with a low community level, Jay County shot back up to high in Thursday's update from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The local community level had been low for 19 consecutive weeks before jumping to medium in mid-July. It moved to high July 28 and then back to medium for the first two updates in August. It then dropped to low for two weeks before jumping back to high this week.

### Jay County recorded at least five coronavirus-related deaths in August

The bump corresponds to an increase in new cases of COVID-19 recently, including 16 Monday. That was the most in a single day since Feb. 9. There were a dozen new cases Aug. 22 — that ended a streak of 19 consecutive

days in single digits — and 11 on Aug. 25.

Jay County's average cases per day is up to 6.1 for August, which is still lower than the 7.31 it had in July.

And after not having a coron-

avirus related death for about five months, the county recorded at least five in August. (Data from the last week remains preliminary.)

COVID-19 hospitalizations in Indiana have been steadily

between 600 and 700 for the last month. (The number had been below 150 in April after reaching a peak of more than 3,000 in January.)

More than half of the counties in Indiana had high community levels of COVID-19 this week, with Blackford, Delaware and Randolph counties joining Jay on the list. Thirty-six, including Adams and Wells, were medium while only six were low.

In Ohio, Darke County had a medium community level while Mercer County was low.

See High page 2

## Three bid for former Sheller property

*Fifer, Miller and Barnett made offers to purchase from city*

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

The bids are in for a long-discussed industrial property on the south side of Portland.

During its meeting Thursday, Portland Board of Works opened three bids for the former Sheller-Globe south building.

The board also approved a contract with an engineering firm for a multi-million dollar project at the city's wastewater treatment plant.

Bids for the former Sheller-Globe property at 510 S. Bridge St. were accepted through the end of August.

Those bids had to be a minimum of \$46,000 (the average of two appraisals) with 10% of the total bid provided in earnest money and also include an outline of plans for the location with a projected timeline for renovations and estimated costs.

The bids were as follows:

- \$61,000 from T.J.'s Bicycle Shop, owned by Tim Miller, to use the building for storage.

- \$50,000 from Fifer Services, owned by Chad Fifer, to install a sawmill, with plans for further expansion such as a furniture production.

- \$46,000 from Brad Barnett for storage for his business, Barnett's Auto Parts & Wrecker Service, load transfers and to section it off for multiple other businesses.

Portland Mayor and board of works member John Boggs noted that the T.J.'s bid did not include the required earnest money.

Board members Jerry Leonhard and Boggs, absent Steve McIntosh, took the bids under advisement. They will be reviewed by city attorney Wes Schemenaur before the board meets again to take action on them.

See Bid page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Sophomore celebration

Jay County High School sophomore Cayden Buckland (10) fist bumps Carter Link after assisting on Link's goal that put the Patriots ahead of Norwell 3-0 Thursday. Buckland scored his first career goal earlier in the game. For more on the JCHS win — its fourth in a row — see page 8.

## IU Health announces plan for post-ban

By WHITNEY DOWNARD  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana University Health said Thursday it was prepared for the state's near-total abortion ban to take effect on Sept. 15, and its physicians across the state are ready to follow the law.

"We're going to continue to provide abortion care — legal abortion care — in our state through our health system for our patients who need it. We know that abortion is safe, it is evidence-based and we will continue to provide that care within the parameters of the new law," said Dr. Caroline Rouse, the medical director of maternity services at Riley Maternity Tower.

As the Indiana General Assembly passed the state's near-total abortion ban on Aug. 5, leaders at Indiana University Health, or IU Health, met to create a game plan for the system, which has 689 locations in 43 cities around the state.

Under the law, physicians may only perform abortions if the patient's life or health is at risk or



if there is a fatal fetal anomaly. There is confusion in the law on whether those exceptions are limited to 20 weeks. The law provides rape and incest victims 10 weeks to obtain an abortion.

Using the same sort of incident command structure initiated during the emergency outbreaks of infectious diseases like Ebola and COVID-19, a group of 60 senior

leaders at the healthcare entity identified 80 issues in need of answers.

Five weeks later, the health system announced its plans to adapt to the state's new abortion needs, anticipating a surge in demand for maternal-fetal services.

Dr. David Ingram, the executive vice president of IU Health who served as incident commander over the planning effort, said he felt the state's largest health system needed to quickly formulate a plan following the ban's passage.

In particular, a requirement that all abortions occur within a hospital or ambulatory surgery center means IU Health will need to expand its abortion capacity, since most abortions previously occurred in outpatient clinics. Most of Indiana's abortions — about 55% — are now done with medication, with the rest using suction to dispel the fetus.

Ingram, also the system's chief medical executive and neonatologist who specializes in newborn healthcare, said IU Health expect-

ed to see an increased demand for its neonatal services.

"We anticipate increased pregnancies in the state and with that we also know that about 10% of pregnancies lead to an admission to either a special nursery unit or to a neonatal intensive care unit," Ingram said.

But now, even before the ban, those intensive care units already ran at about 90-95% capacity, Ingram said.

"So that's something we need to think deeply about," he said.

Ingram said the abortion ban was "new territory" for many providers, who may feel increased anxiety and second-guess their medical decisions in fear of legal repercussions.

In response, he said IU Health would launch a 24/7 Rapid Response Team composed of clinicians, ethicists and attorneys to provide clarification to any doctor needing a second opinion, something other states have implemented following their abortion bans.

See Plan page 2

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 86 degrees Thursday.

The low was 64.

Tonight's low will also be in the mid-60s. Saturday's high will be 86. There is a chance of show-

ers and thunderstorms beginning in the evening. The chance of precipitation continues through Monday.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

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

### Coming up

**Saturday** — Results from tonight's JCHS football game against Southern Wells.

**Tuesday** — Renovated bowling alley in Dunkirk is scheduled to re-open.



# Bid ...

Continued from page 1  
Also in reference to the Sheller-Globe property, the board approved a contract totaling \$4,479 with IWM Consulting Group for a Phase I environmental study on the pump-house at the facility and a mercury investigation.  
The board also approved a contract with engineering firm Jones and Henry for the design of an equalization basin and pump-house at the city's wastewater treatment plant. The contract came in at \$723,000.  
The estimated \$10.8 million

construction project is required as part of the city's agreed order with Indiana Department of Environmental Management. (Portland City Council is expected to raise sewage rates by about \$15 a month for the average residential user in order to pay for the project.)  
Board members also approved an observation contract with engineering firm Beam, Longest and Neff for the Blaine Pike paving and sidewalk project that is scheduled for next year. The contract is

for \$47,000, with 80% of that to be paid by Indiana Department of Transportation and the remaining 20% by the city.  
The project involves paving the street from the railroad tracks just south of Water Street to the southern city limits and installing a sidewalk from near Water Street to Bittersweet Lane.  
Boggs also noted that he has talked with contractors about demolishing the Bailey Building at the southwest intersection of Main and Commerce Streets. Boggs said he intends

to ask Portland City Council for funding to demolish the building, on the west end of which is The Greazy Pickle bar and restaurant.  
The mayor said he's been told that The Greazy Pickle's owners have a report from a structural engineer that indicates what they would need to do to preserve their building if the Bailey Building, with which it shares a wall, is torn down.  
The request for funding from council, Boggs said, will be the first step of the process that will require negotiations and

agreements between the city and The Greazy Pickle.  
"It's going to be a challenge, but right now it's a hazard to public health," said Boggs. "We have to do something about it."  
In other business, Boggs and Leonhard:  
•Approved a reimbursement agreement with street department employee Jonathan Peterson for CDL training at a cost of \$5,073.20. If Peterson leaves city employment in less than three years, he will need to pay back a portion of the cost of the training.

# CR almanac

Saturday 9/3	Sunday 9/4	Monday 9/5	Tuesday 9/6	Wednesday 9/7
<b>86/65</b>	<b>81/62</b>	<b>82/60</b>	<b>81/59</b>	<b>82/60</b>
There's a 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms after 5 p.m. Otherwise, partly sunny.	Sunday's forecast shows a 50% chance of rain or thunderstorms with a high in the low 80s.	Labor Day has a slight chance of rain. Mostly sunny skies are expected, with a high of 82 degrees.	Another chance of rain in the afternoon and evening. Mostly sunny with highs in the 80s.	More rain is possible Wednesday, but unlikely. Mostly sunny, with a high near 82 degrees.

# Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$148 million	17-21-23-28-30-36-39-44-47-50-53-62-63-66-78-79 Cash 5: 1-11-28-36-40 Estimated jackpot: \$105,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$169 million	<b>Oho</b> Midday Pick 3: 8-6-2 Pick 4: 8-0-8-2 Pick 5: 9-3-7-7-2 Evening Pick 3: 9-4-9 Pick 4: 3-8-0-5 Pick 5: 3-6-7-8-3 Rolling Cash: 11-15-16-33-35 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Midday Daily Three: 6-0-1 Daily Four: 8-8-0-4 Quick Draw: 8-12-15-17-19-28-32-34-35-36-38-42-43-45-50-54-56-66-68-72 Evening Daily Three: 3-7-5 Daily Four: 5-4-8-7 Quick Draw: 2-7-13-16-	

# Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....6.80 Sept. corn .....6.70 Wheat .....6.55	Wheat ..... 7.45 Nov. wheat ..... 8.15
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....7.35 Sept. corn .....6.95 Oct. corn .....6.65	<b>Central States Montpelier</b> Corn.....7.15 Sept. corn .....6.50 Beans .....14.88 Sept. beans .....13.88 Wheat .....7.70
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn.....6.85 Sept. corn .....6.70 Beans .....13.83 Sept. beans .....13.83	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....6.69 Sept. corn .....6.29 Beans .....14.38 Oct. beans .....13.68 Wheat .....7.65

# Today in history

**In 31**, at the Battle of Actium, Roman forces led by Octavian defeated those of Mark Antony and Cleopatra off the western coast of Greece.  
**In 1666**, the Great Fire of London started in the house of the king's baker. Burning for four days, it destroyed a swath of the city that included about 13,000 homes.  
**In 1789**, the U.S. Department of the Treasury was formed with Alexander Hamilton as its first secretary.  
**In 1885**, a mob of white coal miners from Union Pacific Coal Company attacked their Chinese co-workers over a dispute in Rock Springs, Wyoming Territory. There were 28 Chinese workers killed and 15 wounded in what became known as The Rock Springs Massacre.  
**In 1901**, Republican vice presidential candidate Teddy Roosevelt first used the phrase "Speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far," in a public speech.  
**In 1945**, World War II ended with foreign minister Shigemitsu Mamoru and Gen. Umezu Yoshihiro of Japan signing their country's formal surrender on the USS Missouri.  
**In 1965**, Ernie Banks of the Chicago Cubs hit his 400th career home run in a 5-3 win over the St. Louis Cardinals at Wrigley Field.  
**In 2021**, no comments were presented during a Portland City Council special meeting to hear from the public regarding a proposed CB Development condominium project along the south side of county road 75 South near Jay County Junior-Senior High School.  
—The CR

# Citizen's calendar

<b>Tuesday</b> 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St. 7 p.m. — Salamonia	Town Council, School-house Community Center. <b>Wednesday</b> 5:30 p.m. — Jay County Council, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
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# V for victory

Claire Schmiesing hits a high V on Wednesday evening during the Jay County High School cheerleading program's clinic for kindergarten through sixth graders. The clinic concluded Thursday and participants will cheer during halftime of tonight's Patriot football game against Southern Wells.

# Plan ...

Continued from page 1  
Rouse, also an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, said she hoped the response team would decrease potential delays in care brought on by the law — though she acknowledged that other states had reported difficulties.  
"With new legislation like this, it can be really difficult to implement that into individual patient situations. The law is broad and patient situations are very specific and unique," Rouse said. "I worry that, potentially, the steps that (physicians) may take may be a little different than what they would have done prior to the law."  
Additional IU Health guidance to physicians included providing a medical screening exam for patients seeking an abortion due to rape or incest, two exceptions under the law, and referrals to appropriate social services agencies, such as the Department of Child Services.  
Treating an ectopic pregnancy, which can be fatal to the parent, is not considered an abortion if performed before cardiac activity is detected, typically around six weeks. Otherwise treating an ectopic pregnancy is considered an abortion, and must be documented as such, after that benchmark, Rouse said.  
"The additional documentation and reporting requirements are a time burden for providers and so that is certainly something that we have thought about as we're developing our processes and workflows," she said.  
The doctors said they didn't anticipate patients seeking abortion care from outside of Indiana but that the law didn't prohibit them from advising patients to seek a legal abortion in another state.  
Additionally, IU Health runs the only medical school in the state and one of the largest in the country with just over 1,400 students.  
But the majority of those residents, 85%, indicated that passage of the abortion ban negatively factored into their consideration for post-residency employment, Ingram said.  
The law also hinders the education

available to those in the OB-GYN residency program.  
"We do have a large OB-GYN residency program and given that the program needs to provide all access to the full spectrum of reproductive services, we've needed to make arrangements for out-of-state training for those who need it," Ingram said.  
Additionally, IU Health's recruitment efforts have been hampered, with out-of-state candidates dropping out of the process following the law's passage.  
"(The law) has certainly increased our workload but we know how important this is to preserving our promise to provide the best care for patients," Ingram said.  
However, that care will be much more expensive — both for parents seeking abortion healthcare and patients giving birth.  
"Services that are provided in hospital settings are definitely more expensive than outpatient settings so we do anticipate a rising cost from that perspective," Ingram said. "The second piece of increased costs will certainly be the anticipated volume of patients that will be admitted to our neonatal intensive care units. Often, those are prolonged stays within those units and some of the most expensive care that we provide."  
Ingram didn't have an estimated cost increase for the health system.  
In a state with the third-highest maternal mortality rate, Ingram said he worried about the impact of the abortion ban, saying IU Health would be studying the public health impact. The system has not specifically addressed concerns about Hoosiers who may attempt to self-induce an abortion or seek emergency care after a botched illegal abortion.  
"After five weeks of intense work with 60 senior leaders and hundreds of patient hours, we're prepared and we feel that this process has served us well," Ingram said. "The highest priority for us is to provide services to our patients to preserve the patient-physician relationship within the boundaries of the newly established law."  
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Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.

# High ...

Continued from page 1  
With a high community level of COVID-19, the CDC recommends wearing a mask indoors, staying up to date on vaccines and getting tested if symptoms arise. Those who are at high risk for severe illness should consider taking additional precautions.  
Coronavirus causes a range of symptoms, including fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath and new loss of taste or smell.

# Felony arrests

**Methamphetamine**  
A Portland man was arrested today for possession of methamphetamine.  
Alan W. Shawver, 39, 840 W. 100 North, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony, along with a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.  
He's being held on a \$4,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

# Capsule Reports

**Intersection crash**  
Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000 after a Geneva man's truck hit a Saratoga woman's vehicle at the intersection of Main Street and U.S. 27 in Bryant about 1 a.m. Thursday.  
Harry A. Martin, 81, told Jay County Sheriff's Office he was stopped on the west side of Main Street at its intersection with the highway. He didn't notice oncoming traffic and continued east, driving in front of a southbound 2007 Chevrolet Trailblazer, driven by 48-year-old Michelle L. Wilson. Their vehicles collided.  
Wilson's car was towed.

## SERVICES

Friday  
**LeMaster, James:** 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Com-

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Service listings provided by  
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## EMT COURSE

Dates: 10/10/2022 to 4/29/2023  
Times: 6pm to 10pm (Mondays and Thursdays)  
Location: Jay County Jr. Sr. High School

Cost of the course is \$600

There are payment options and discounts available based on the answers to the application linked below.

**Highlights Include:**

- National Registry Candidate upon completion.
- CPR Certification as a Professional Rescuer
- Patient Assessment Skills
- Emergency Vehicle Operations Certification
- Oxygen Administration
- Emergency Scene Management
- Tools to care for patients suffering from both medical and trauma situations.

Classes are held at Jay County Jr. Sr. High School  
There is a limited number of seats available.

Contact Person: John McFarland  
Call: 765-509-1906 Email: jnmcfarland@jaycoems.org

To register use QR code or visit:  
<https://forms.gle/cxr4m1nVgf0G9Gj9>

## BLACKWOOD BROTHERS

### IN CONCERT

September 9, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Fellowship Baptist Church - Portland  
Free Will Offering - No Tickets



Photo provided

## VFW scholarship

Fort Recovery Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6515 recently awarded a \$500 scholarship to 2022 Fort Recovery High School graduate and Mercer County Fair Queen Hannah Weigel, who often volunteered with the organization. Weigel is attending the University of Kentucky. She planned to study kinesiology and exercise science. Pictured, Richard L. Smith, past commander of Fort Recovery VFW, presents the check to Weigel.

## Library hosting activities

Jay County Public Library has a few different events scheduled this month. Representatives from Jay County Purdue Extension Office will be discussing garden vegetables and how to preserve crops to last through the winter and beyond at 6 p.m. Tuesday. Reservations are requested. The "Hocus Pocus Experience," a new themed event created in honor of the premiere of "Hocus Pocus 2," will kick off the Halloween season starting at 6 p.m. Sept. 29. Reservations are required and spots are limited. The library's "True Crime University" series continues at 6 p.m. Sept. 19 with a focus on hair and fiber analysis. Space is limited. For more information about upcoming events at the library, call (260) 726-7890.

# New beau sets sleep conditions

DEAR ABBY: About a year ago, I started a long-distance relationship with a widower. His wife died four years ago. He told me he slept on the couch a long time and got very little sleep after her death, because he couldn't stand sleeping alone. He has two dogs and had never allowed them on the bed. He finally decided to try sleeping in the bed with the dogs, and was then able to sleep. I have visited him several times, and he doesn't want to sleep with me. We have discussed marriage. When I told him I want us to sleep together, he said he wants us to continue sleeping in separate rooms/beds after we are married. I don't want that. We have a great relationship except for this.

Am I being unreasonable? I feel like I'd be taking second place to his dogs, and I'm hurt that he would rather sleep with them. I told him how I feel, but he doesn't want to compromise. I don't know if I am wasting my time with him or not. I'm afraid if I insist on it, he will think I am being too pushy and break off our relationship. — GOING TO THE DOGS

DEAR GOING: Could it be that he doesn't want another woman sleeping in the bed he shared with his late wife? Ask

Dear Abby



come visit me. She and her husband prefer visiting his family, who live on the Northeast coast. I don't know what to do. My younger daughter doesn't treat me that way. Please help. — HEARTBROKEN DOWN SOUTH

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: Your older daughter not only lacks compassion, but her values are seriously out of whack. That she would blame you for having limited finances or being hard of hearing is shameful. According to the NIH, 15% of adults over the age of 18 have some hearing trouble. Nearly 25% of those between 65 and 74 have it as well. If you are 75 or over, it's 50%. So, PLEASE dry your tears and concentrate on the child who loves and treats you well, because the daughter about whom you have written isn't likely to change. You will have a happier life if you accept that fact and move forward.

DEAR ABBY: I have two beautiful adult daughters. The older one is who I'm having issues with. She treats me like someone she wishes she didn't know. She and her husband plan vacations with his family and never think of including me. When I asked her why, her response was, "Mom, you're always broke and you embarrass me." I'm on disability and yes I'm loud, but that's because I'm hard of hearing.

I love my daughter with all my heart, and it kills me how she treats me. She lives on the West Coast, while I live in South Carolina. I can't even get her to

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## Community Calendar

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

**Reunions**  
GOODYEAR FAMILY REUNION — Will meet at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 3, at Greek's Pizzeria, 1607 N. Meridian St., Portland.

**Today**  
DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.  
SOFT SHOULDERS — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place at Swiss Village in Berne. For more information, call (260) 589-3173.  
CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will meet at noon Friday, Sept. 2, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

**Saturday**  
PORTLAND FARMERS MARKET — Will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Saturday in the parking lot at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St.  
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.  
DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.  
MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is [museumofthesoldier.com](http://museumofthesoldier.com).  
**Monday**  
PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

BRYANT AREA COMMUNITY CENTER — Walking from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.  
PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.  
CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Portland Place, 430 W. Lafayette St. For more information, call (800) 589-1121.  
EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.  
PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian 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.  
TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 5:30 p.m., with the meeting at 6 p.m., in the fellowship hall at Evangelical Methodist Church, 930 W. Main St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5312.  
NARCOTICS ANONY-

MOUS — Will meet at 6 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.  
PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.  
**Tuesday**  
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 - 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.

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# Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

**Thursday's Solution**

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

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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# Vendors should learn flag code

To the editor:  
While perusing the assorted wares sold by the countless vendors at this year's Tri-State Antique Engine and Tractor Show, I noticed a few vendors selling flags of all sorts, sizes and styles.

While no one is prouder of our nation's beautiful flag than I am, as a guy who's personally folded and presented well over 150 of them at military graveside honor ceremonies, I saw a few that were appalling and even downright disgusting to me.

There actually is a U.S. Flag Code, and some of these purveyors of flags really should familiarize themselves with it.

Yes, it's perfectly fine to fly Harley-Davidson, John Wayne and The Stars And Bars Flags.

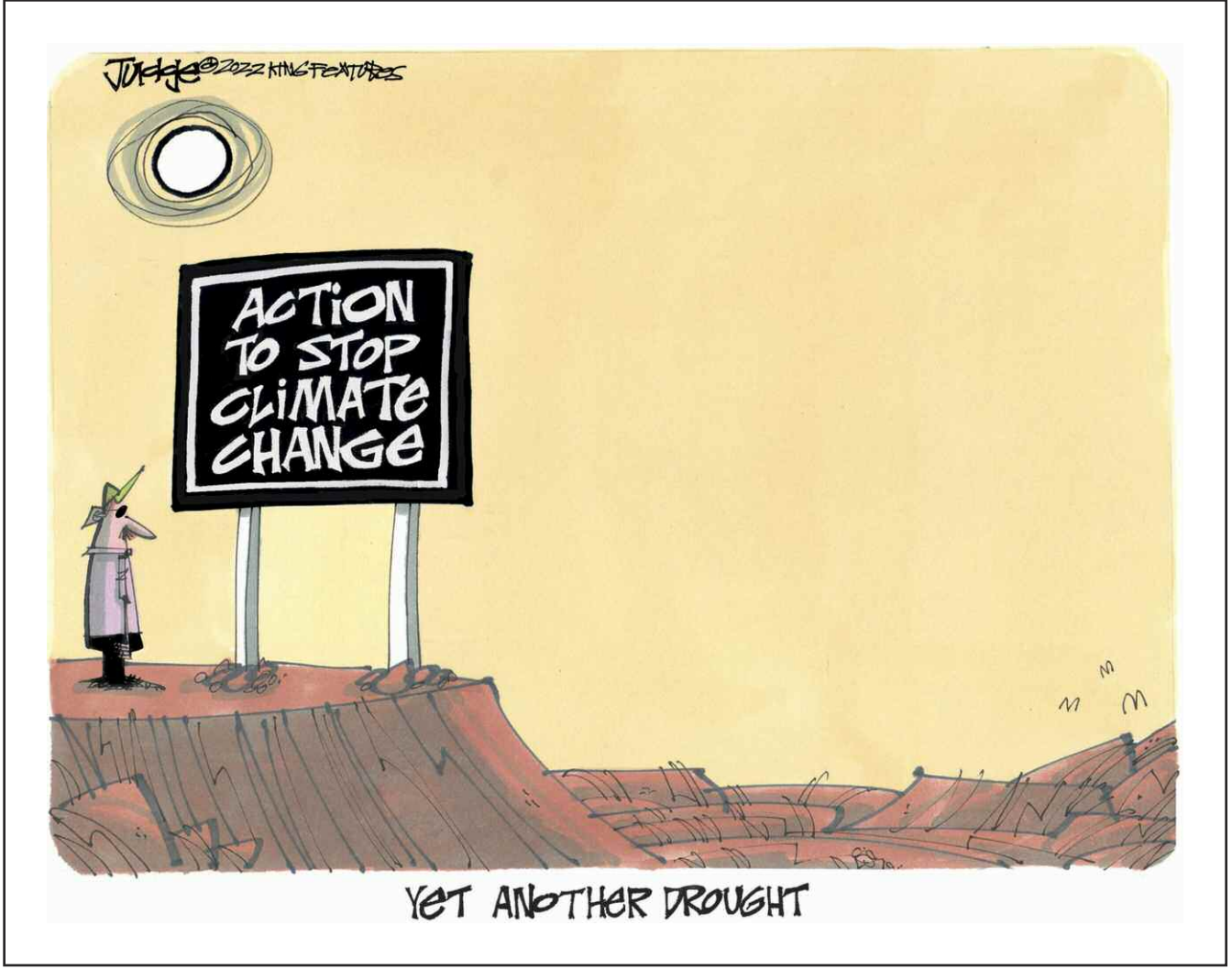
There's absolutely nothing wrong with that. However it's disturbing

## Letters to the Editor

to the point of being appalling to me to see our beautiful U.S. flag literally screen printed with a superimposed image over it. Or, in the most disgusting case, a half U.S. flag/half Stars And Bars on the same flag.

This is just not OK. As a man who proudly wore the uniform of a deployed Pacific Fleet U.S. Navy sailor, I absolutely served to protect and defend anyone's right to fly whatever flag they like, but that simply does not include a flag that is a desecration of Old Glory.

Respectfully,  
James D. Fulks III  
Dunkirk



# Effective solution ignored

By LEO MORRIS  
Indiana Policy Review

Having an educated populace has always been seen as a necessary component of our constitutional republic.

Citizens need more than the basic knowledge to earn a living; they also need to understand their civic rights and obligations as members of a self-governing community.

A free, public education has therefore been one of the benefits we expect from government, at least up to a point. In my lifetime, that has been to the high school level. I presume most of you who made it out of 12th grade did so without accumulating massive debt or forcing your parents to both take third jobs.

It has been argued in recent years that, because of the growing demands of technology and the increasing complexity of a new world order, a high school diploma is no longer sufficient in the modern workforce. If that is so, then shouldn't government be involved to some degree?

Both points — the need for college and the advisability of government involvement — are debatable, of course. But, for the sake of argument, let's assume they are true.

How should the government proceed?

There are two obvious choices.

The first would be to subsidize college, the way we have previously subsidized education at the lower levels, through a combination of local, state and federal funding mechanisms.

Tuition would be low enough to draw most students who wanted to go. The minimal (relatively) tax burden would be offset by graduates entering the workforce and growing the economy. All options for high school graduates — college, military, trade school, immediate entry to employment — would be equally available. People would have the enormous freedom of choice this nation is so proud of and could determine the paths that best suited them.

Easy, effective, eminently defensible.

Then there is option 2.

Leo Morris



*A free, public education has therefore been one of the benefits we expect from government, at least up to a point.*

Come up with a scheme in which the federal government creates a quasi-public agency to funnel money to banks with which to make student loans, and on which they can make a profit. Colleges will have a steady and growing stream of new students, and a cut of the profits. Naturally, this will enable them to increase their tuition costs.

College suddenly goes from a public good to a profit-making enterprise, and a never-ending spiral begins. Tuition increases, which requires students to borrow more money, which pushes tuition up, which ...

Before long, students nationwide have accumulated a breathtaking \$1.75 trillion in debt. Not only do graduates have crushing burdens that will haunt them for most if not all of their working lives, the promised good-paying jobs after graduation seem increasingly elusive.

And along comes a president who conceives the brilliant idea to forgive \$10,000 in debt for some students, and \$20,00 for others, a "solution" that does an amazing job of making just about everyone mad.

It angers:

- Students who don't qualify for the forgiveness or for whom it won't be enough (the average student loan debt in Indiana, for example, is \$30,000).

- Students who have already made enormous sacrifices to pay off their loans.

- Students who never went to college.

- Americans who have other debts, such as mortgages, they are struggling to pay off without government help.

- Working-class citizens who know they will be paying the taxes to bail out their better-educated neighbors.

- Liberals who think the forgiveness doesn't nearly go far enough.

- Conservatives who argue

that it is foolish to "spend" \$300 billion to \$1 trillion more of nonexistent government money over 10 years (depending on who is estimating) when the national debt is already \$30 trillion, just adding to the inflation already threatening American households.

Even those who will benefit the most from the forgiveness will likely end up resenting the whole thing — years of debt-induced anxiety followed by years of envy from those who see them as more privileged.

The most frustrating part of the whole plan, which should anger everyone else, is that it exacerbates the problem it claims to solve. Debt forgiveness, even at this level, will just encourage colleges to again increase tuition, which will ... well, you get the point. It is akin to solving the medical cost crisis with more government intervention, when government intervention that masked the cost of medicine to consumers helped create the problem in the first place.

So, government again, when it sees a problem, discards the obviously best solution and makes the worst possible choice.

I don't know which is more terrifying — the thought that the people we send to Washington don't know what they are doing, or the possibility that they do.

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

# PACT Act is a win for veterans

By DENNIS FRITZ  
Progressive Perspectives  
Tribune News Service

The recently passed PACT Act, which expands health care and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances, is long overdue.

As someone who was closely involved with the Department of Defense's Wounded Warrior Program for nearly 15 years, I have seen firsthand the devastating effects that burn pits have had on our veterans.

Medical research has linked exposure to emissions from burn pits — sites for burning waste on military bases—and a greater likelihood of developing respiratory and cardiovascular conditions. But while working as the Air Force's primary advocate for Wounded Warriors at Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, I was approached by many veterans seeking help with undiagnosed illnesses they attributed to burn pits and oil fires in Iraq.

These veterans were frustrated.

They felt that no one believed them or understood what they were experiencing. They didn't know how to prove that their illnesses were caused by toxic exposures.

The PACT Act is a victory for these veterans and their families, and I was ecstatic about the bill's passage in early August.

At the same time, I was dismayed that partisan gamesmanship had to rear its ugly head before the bill went through: 25 Republican senators who indicated their support for the bill a month prior decided to vote against it at the last minute.

Most Republicans in Congress had no problem sending troops to Iraq or other areas of conflict. But they refused to take care of them after they returned, citing the violation of so-called "budget procedures" as a flimsy rationale for their opposition.

This is immoral. When the government decides to order our troops into battle, we must then hold it accountable for tending to our veterans' medical needs, no matter the costs. I find it baffling that we can shell out the money to fight wars but not have the funds to take care of those who face combat.

Dennis Fritz



As a result of this policy failure, many veterans suffer from mental and physical issues that often become lifelong challenges.

The Biden administration has provided more than \$8 billion in assistance to Ukraine to fight a proxy war against Russia on our behalf. Some warmongers are now pushing to send billions to Taiwan for a potential war with China. Unbelievably, numerous officials in Congress and their pundits have no issue with how that will impact our budget.

I'm singling out Sens. Richard Shelby, R-Alabama, and Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, because they voted for the Iraq resolution of 2002. That war, based on a total lie, cost us more than \$2 trillion in the long term.

Compare that to the PACT Act, which is expected to cost \$280 billion over a decade in order to attend to military members' medical issues, some dating back to the Vietnam War.

When I was at Walter Reed, I escorted many members of Congress who came by to visit wounded veterans. Before leaving, the legislators would thank them for their service. I would always remind those officials that it's all well and good to thank our injured and ill veterans for their service, but what they really should do is acknowledge their sacrifice — and the often lifelong impact it will have on their health.

To those members of Congress who for whatever reason decided not to vote for the PACT Act but are quick to thank veterans for their service, on behalf of the service members and their families impacted by burn pits and other toxic exposures, I say thanks, but no thanks to your hollow words.

.....  
*Fritz is a former Air Force command chief master sergeant. He is currently the director of the Eisenhower Media Network.*

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# Biden warns of threat to democracy

By JONATHAN TAMARI and JULIA TERRUSO  
The Philadelphia Inquirer  
Tribune News Service

PHILADELPHIA — Standing in Philadelphia in front of Independence Hall, President Joe Biden warned Thursday night that the democracy born there faces an existential threat from former President Donald Trump and his allies, seeking to reframe the stakes and consequences of this fall's midterm elections.

"As I stand here tonight, equality and democracy are under assault. We do ourselves no favor to pretend otherwise," Biden said to open a searing 25-minute address. "Donald Trump and the MAGA Republicans represent an extremism that threatens the foundations of our very republic."

In a sharply critical speech calling for voters to choose a different path, Biden pointed to Trump and his supporters' long-running efforts to undermine the 2020 presidential election, excuse the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol, and attack the FBI. He said the rule of law and future elections are on the brink, with danger lurking in this year's elections.

"MAGA Republicans do not respect the Constitution, they do not believe in the rule of law, they do not recognize the will of the people," Biden said, with Independence Hall behind him awash in red and blue lights. "They refuse to accept the results of a



Tribune News Service/The Philadelphia Enquirer/Tom Gralish

President Joe Biden gestures with fist as he ends his speech at Independence Hall on Thursday in Philadelphia. Biden warned that "equality and democracy are under assault. We do ourselves no favor to pretend otherwise."

free election, and they're working right now as I speak in state after state ... to (empower) election deniers to undermine democracy itself."

Biden's speech came as a wave of election-denying Republicans

have won critical primaries across the country, putting them within steps of governor's offices, Senate and U.S. House seats, and state-level offices that will oversee the 2024 presidential race.

Pennsylvania's GOP gubernatorial nominee, state Sen. Doug Mastriano, is one of the most prominent examples. If he wins, his administration would steer the election administration in one of the

country's premier battlegrounds.

Biden said the attempt to overturn the 2020 election was "preparation" to thwart the will of the voters this year and in 2024.

Biden's address also came just before Labor Day, when political campaigns traditionally heat up, and as Democrats defend narrow majorities in Congress. While Biden presented it as his duty as president to lay out the stakes for the country, there were clear political aims as well. In putting the focus on Trump, he aimed to bring to the forefront a figure who has energized Democrats and driven many swing voters into their camp.

And in calling on voters to reject "MAGA Republicans," Biden aimed to reframe the election, and change it from a referendum on his own administration — which has gotten negative reviews in most polls — to a choice between Democrats and the Republicans whom he described as a threat to peace and the rule of law.

"Folks, it's within our power, it's in our hands, yours and mine, to stop the assault on American democracy. I believe America's at an inflection point," Biden said. "America must choose: to move forward or to move backwards, to build a future or obsess about the past, to be a nation of hope and unity and optimism, or a nation of fear, division and of darkness."

## U.S. critical of Iran's response

By COURTNEY MCBRIDE  
Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. considers Iran's response in the talks to revive the 2015 nuclear accord to be "not constructive," the State Department said Thursday night.

Vedant Patel, a department spokesperson, did not elaborate but added that U.S. officials were still looking at the response, which Iran had submitted to the European Union. The E.U. has drafted a proposal to rescue the agreement, abandoned by former President Donald Trump in 2018.

"We are studying it and will

### E.U. has drafted agreement proposal


respond through the E.U., but unfortunately it is not constructive," Patel said in a statement.

An Iranian foreign ministry spokesman earlier called the text "constructive."

The previous exchange of comments on the E.U. proposal had spurred optimism, as Washington said Tehran had dropped "extraneous demands."

The goal of the negotiations is to come up with a deal that reinstates limits on Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear program in exchange for lifting U.S. sanctions on Iran's economy.

The talks are being closely watched by oil and gas traders — and politicians around the world facing a public backlash as high energy prices have sent inflation spiraling. At the same time, the Biden administration has sent signals that it will take a tough stance on Iran even as it pursues a restored agreement, which is opposed by Republicans and some Democrats in Congress.



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# Sports

## Four in a row JC fights off Knights to extend run

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

Prime scoring opportunities were limited.

Levi Muhlenkamp had barely missed on two of the Patriots' best.

When he finally broke through, it started a run.

And after Norwell's leading scorer got his game going, the home team was still able to hold on.

Jay County High School's boys soccer team scored three times in an 18-minute stretch in the second half, then managed to fight off a push led by the Knights' Austin DeLeon for a 3-2 victory.

"I'm pleased with the boys," said JCHS coach Bobby Ruiz. "They pulled the game at the end. It was not looking promising the first half, but they had what it took the second half to pull it out."

The win was the fourth in a row for the Patriots, whose lone loss came when they were missing multiple starters in their season opener against Muncie Central. They have since beaten Woodlan, New Castle, Delta and Norwell.

"It feels pretty good, us being a young team," said sophomore Cayden Buckland, who scored the second JCHS goal and assisted on the third. "To come back from losing eight seniors to still doing pretty good, it feels nice."

Scoring opportunities were few and far between for both teams in the first half as most of the game was played between the 18s, with the key exception of a penalty awarded when Norwell goalie Noah Fromm was called for a foul for jumping and land-



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School sophomore Dylan Marentes plays a ball in front of a Norwell defender during the Patriots' 3-2 victory Thursday. All of the scoring came in the second half as JCHS extended its winning streak to four games.

ing on top of Muhlenkamp in the 18-yard box. But Muhlenkamp's PK try ricocheted off the crossbar and the threat eventually ended when Jay County was called for a hand ball.

Another Muhlenkamp shot on a pass from Carter Link went off the crossbar at the 27:15 mark of the second half. But less than three minutes later, Link chipped forward to Muhlenkamp

again. The sophomore striker evaded the defense then foot-faked Fromm, leaving him lying on the ground while an easy shot was tapped into the net.

See **Four** page 7

## Will leads as FR edges rival

Emma Will carded a career-best score.

Four of her teammates were in the 50s.

Every single stroke mattered.

Fort Recovery High School's girls golfers turned in by far their best nine-hole score **FRHS roundup** of the season Thursday to edge Midwest Athletic Conference rival St. Henry 209-210 at Portland Golf Club.

The Indians' previous best was a 216 in an Aug. 23 win over Crestview at PGC. They entered Thursday's match averaging 229 in dual matches.

Will, whose best previous score was a 51 at PGC during Tuesday's match against Jay County and Winchester, birdied the 290-yard, par-4 fourth hole and had a par on the 113-yard, par-3 second. She added three bogeys for a career-best 47.

Audrey Wendel of St. Henry was the match medalist with a 45.

Marissa Schoen and Ella Schoen shot matching 53s for Fort Recovery, which improved to 4-7. Eva Kahlig rounded out the team score with a 56.

Not factoring in the team score were Ella Westgerdes (50) and Brynn Stammen (62).

### Thwaits tagged

FORT WAYNE — Fort Recovery graduate Nick Thwaits had his latest scoreless streak snapped Thursday as he allowed a run in the Fort Wayne TinCaps' 5-2 loss to the West Michigan Whitecaps.

Thwaits entered the game in the fifth inning for the San Diego Padres' High A affiliate, struck out the first batter he faced and pitched a scoreless frame. He extended his scoreless run to nine innings when he retired Austin Murr to start the sixth inning, but then Eduardo Valencia hit a solo home run. He gave up another run in the seventh inning as he allowed two runs on three hits in 2 2/3 innings of work.

The fourth-year pro's ERA bumped up to 3.49.

### Boys golfers fall

CELINA, Ohio — The losing streak extended to seven matches Thursday as the Fort Recovery boys golf team fell 182-190 to host St. Henry at Mercer County Elks Golf Club.

The Indians won their first three duals of the season over Tri-Village, Mississinawa Valley and Parkway before hitting the skids.

Isaac LeFevre, the team's lone senior, again posted the low score for the Tribe (3-7, 1-4 Midwest Athletic Conference) with a 44. He opened with three consecutive pars and finished the day with four.

Ty Post, Josh Rindler and Zach Rindle all shot 42 for St. Henry.

Keegan Muhlenkamp followed LeFevre with a 47 for Fort Recovery. Reece Evers shot 49, and Matthew Romer finished with a 50.

A 55 from Eli Lennartz and a 56 from Alex Dues did not factor in the team score.

## Patriot netters knock off Marion

MARION — After a slow start to the season, the Patriots are a match away from .500.

Jay County High School's boys tennis team picked up a key road win Thursday, knocking off the Marion Giants 4-1.

Doubles teams led the effort for the Patriots, who have won three in a row after opening 1-5. Luke Muhlenkamp and Isaac Miller made quick work of Joseph Cheung and Gabe Clark 6-0, 6-2 at No. 2 doubles, and the No. 1 doubles pair of Sam Myers and Gabe Sims also turned in a shutout first set in a 6-0, 6-3 victory over Dylan Schuh and Daniel Terhune.

Along with the doubles success, Eli Dirksen's 6-3, 6-3 victory over Ryan Spitzer at No. 3 singles was enough to give JCHS the match. Abraham Dirksen added a super tiebreaker win at No. 1 singles, topping Elijah Maki 3-6, 6-4 (10-5).

The lone loss of the night for the Patriots came at No. 2 singles, where Simon Dirksen fell 6-1, 6-0 to Ryan Sebastian.

The teams split four junior varsity matches, with Austin Dirksen and Gabe Pinkerton each picking up 8-0 wins for Jay County.

### No. 1 sweeps

The Class 2A No. 1 Wapahani Raiders were simply too much for the Jay County volleyball team Thursday as it lost 25-13, 25-12, 25-18.

Abbie Fields' eight kills led the Patriots, who fell to 1-5 on the season. (Their lone win came in five sets over Winchester.) Madison Brunswick followed with six kills.

Brenna Haines had a team-high 10 digs for Jay County while Sophie Saxman put up nine assists.

The Patriot junior varsity team lost 25-21, 25-22 in a match in which Brenna Bailey recorded team highs of 18 digs and 12 points. Mya Kunkler added three kills.

### Jay County roundup

#### Girls soccer falls

OSSIAN — Jay County's girls soccer team had one-goal leads twice, but could not hold on Thursday as it lost 3-2 to the host Norwell Knights.

Patriot senior Mara Bader, who now has 12 goals in five games, scored with 15:18 left to push her team to a 2-1 lead. But it took Norwell less than two minutes to pull even, and the home team tallied the game-winning goal with 4 minutes, 49 seconds remaining.

JCHS, which is now 3-2, had a brief lead in the first half when Bader scored on an assist from classmate Gabi Bilbrey. The Knights evened the game about three minutes later when they scored on a penalty kick. A 48-minute scoring drought followed until Bader netted her second goal of the game.

Angel Clairday recorded nine saves for the Patriots.

#### Seventh wins

The Jay County junior high volleyball teams split matches Thursday against Driver (Winchester), with the seventh grade team winning 25-21, 25-7. The eighth graders fell 25-13, 25-21.

Amelia Heath racked up a dozen points, including seven aces, to lead the seventh grade Patriots to their win. She also had two kills. Brenna Ruble added five points and Emalyn Homan totaled three assists.

For the Jay County eighth graders, Hallie Schwieterman had a team-high four kills. Brenna Schmiesing and Lydia Johnson each had four points, and Ella Rigby added four assists.

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