

The Commercial Review

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\$1



Jay County Council members Jeanne Houchins and Cindy Bracy speak during a meeting Wednesday. Council decided to move forward with purchasing 68 acres of land — the county has been looking into creating infrastructure for a housing project — for about \$1.1 million.

The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Bill on jury pay increase moves forward

By LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ

Indiana Capital Chronicle indianacapitalchronicle.com

A Senate judiciary committee on Wednesday approved a bill doubling pay for jury duty and another allowing courts to make fathers pay for a wider range of pregnancy and childbirth expenses, but committee members said they were actively working on changes.

Jurors earn less than minimum wage for an eight-hour day and haven't gotten a pay increase in at least 25 years, according to bill author Michelle Davis, R-Whiteland.

The pregnancy expenses bill, meanwhile, began life as a proposal that would've let expectant mothers claim child support beginning at conception, in the wake of Indiana's much-litigated abortion ban. But Rep. Elizabeth Rowray, R-Yorktown, previously introduced changes scaling that back among legal fears.

Davis' House Bill 1466 would boost pay — but would hike an existing fee and create a brand-new fee to help local units of government cover the new expenses.

Lawmakers had some quibbles.

Hoosiers who show up for jury selection currently earn \$15 per day. Those chosen to serve earn \$40 per day — about \$5 dollars hourly for an eight-hour workday, significantly less than the state and federal minimum of \$7.25 hourly.

The bill would double daily appearance pay to \$30 and jury pay itself to \$80 for the first five days. Starting day six, jury pay would increase to \$90 daily. One amendment — easily approved — ensured people who are eliminated from the jury for reasons laid out in law would still get paid for their service.

Purchase OK'd

Ordinance to buy land approved on split vote; dissenters expressed distrust with commissioners

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

The county is moving forward with purchasing real estate.

Jay County Council on a 4-3 vote approved an ordinance Wednesday adopting acquisition of just over 68 acres of land on the western edge of Portland city limits for \$1.1 million. Hopes are to use the property for new housing and potentially to construct a new multi-faceted public safety building.

Council and commissioners adopted a resolution Feb. 8 in order to move forward with purchasing the land. Council approved an ordinance to the same effect Wednesday, giving commissioners the OK to buy the property.

Council president Jeanne Houchins confirmed a developer is interested — she did not give its name — and reminded council that the county has been planning to create infrastructure for a housing project.

A water and wastewater analysis from engineering consultant RQAW of Fishers is currently in progress for the land. County attorney Wes Schemenaur said RQAW and the City of Portland don't anticipate issues with the property.

Council members Cindy Bracy, Matt Minnich and Towell expressed concerns with purchasing the land, specifically in relation to their unease with commissioners owning the property.

Commissioners rescinded a five-

year plan Feb. 13 for economic development income tax (EDIT) dollars. The plan, created by Jay County Development Corporation in 2020 and approved by the county and all of its municipalities, set priorities of using such funds for spec buildings, developing industrial land, acquiring land for industrial, residential and commercial use, investing in downtown, revolving loans for local businesses, blight eradication and as a match for grants like the Indiana Department of Transportation's Community Crossings program.

Commissioners also have been withholding JCDC's funding amid discussion with the organization. (JCDC is considering changes to its bylaws that would assign permanent seats on the executive committee to several local government officials and establish a code of conduct.) Referencing a new requirement for non-government organizations to fill out funding requests, commissioners recently asked JCDC to fill out an application for its budget, which was previously approved by council in November.

Towell asked if officials planned to turn the property over to Jay County Redevelopment Commission. He challenged Houchins, asking why council and commissioners reorganized the redevelopment commission. (Towell was recently taken off the board, along with JCDC executive director Travis Richards.)

Minnich explained he doesn't currently trust commissioners — they will handle the title, a move that is standard for nearly all county purchases — with buying the land or other financial decisions.

"I do believe there's a lot of opportunity for growth if we have this land that we can put infrastructure in and try to encourage people to come, the problem is now, I've got a sick feeling in the pit of my stomach that is screaming, 'no, no, no, no, no,' despite my logic saying there's value in this decision. That's what makes it hard for me to get behind this," he said.

Minnich asked if the county had more time before it needed to agree to purchase the land. Schemenaur noted the offer expires April 14. If the county did not make a decision Wednesday, he said, it may be difficult to get through proper legal proceedings before that date.

Minnich expressed worries about entrusting the land to the county's redevelopment commission, an idea council and commissioners discussed at a joint session in February. Parr, a member of the redevelopment commission, questioned what else council members thought the board would do with the land.

Jeff Bailey, vice president at FCC (Indiana) in Portland, referenced tensions between JCDC and commissioners.

"I think that's the whole issue with the concerns that all these people in this crowd are concerned about and some of the points you guys are talking about," he said. "Until you can amend that relationship between Jay County Development (Corporation) and the commissioners, there's going to be a lot of distrust by a lot of people."

His comments were met with applause from the crowd.

"From me, as a concerned citizen, it does look like there's a power grab going on," Bailey said.

Joe Acker, director of bakery operations at Tyson Foods in Portland, advocated for resolving differences between department heads and officials. He pointed out the discussion to add more housing to Jay County has been ongoing for years.

"What we can't do is nothing," he said. "Somehow, some way, people have got to get together, put their petty differences behind them. Quit using budgets and denying people, other organizations, their funding because they don't like something that's going on ... you've got to get together and resolve those differences."

Jack Houck, real estate agent for the property, added that developers need an incentive to come to the community. If the county creates infrastructure for a housing project, it should be able to attract a developer, he said.

See Purchase page 2

House rejects pull out

By NIELS LESNIEWSKI

CQ-Roll Call Tribune News Service

The House rejected an effort Wednesday to effectively force President Joe Biden to remove roughly 900 U.S. troops from Syria.

The vote split along ideological lines about U.S. military policy and engagement, rather than the typical partisan divide. But even many critics of the specific concurrent resolution on the floor said it was time for a broader review of the 2001 authorization for use of military force enacted after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks that has been used as a justification for the engagement in Syrian territory.

The concurrent resolution, introduced by Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., pursuant to the expedited procedures in the War Powers Act, would direct Biden to remove U.S. forces from Syria within 180 days. It was not adopted, 103-321.

"If Joe Biden wants to keep us in Syria's war, then he must explain to the American people why, what the goal is, and what winning looks like," Gaetz said in a statement ahead of the vote. "America First means actually putting the people of our country first — not the interests of the Military Industrial Complex."

Rep. Abigail Spanberger, a Democrat representing northern Virginia, said she was "proud to see progress" on rolling back two use of force authorizations with respect to Iraq, from both the 1991 Gulf War and the 2002 authorization ahead of the invasion directed by former President George W. Bush.

"However, that does not mean that we should abandon ongoing operations that keep the United States safe, that are authorized under the 2001 AUMF," Spanberger said. "We should not encourage a resurgence of ISIS.

We should not abandon our work with the Kurdish fighters on the front lines."

The House vote related to the Syria operations came hours after the Senate Foreign Relations Committee advanced, 13-8, a bill led by Virginia Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine and Indiana Republican Sen. Todd Young to repeal the 1991 and 2002 AUMFs referenced by Spanberger.

Roughly 900 U.S. troops, many of them special forces, remain in northeast Syria. Through them, the United States is able to assist the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), a coalition of Kurdish, Arab and other ethnic militias and rebel groups, in keeping the Islamic State's lingering presence in the region in check.

The SDF oversees a refugee camp in the region, where tens of thousands of people, many of them related to ISIS fighters, reside.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Beginning

Ivy Tobe (left) and Brynn Willman perform Mandy Moore's "When Will My Life Begin" during the Fort Recovery Local Schools choral department's Cabaret 2023 event.

Deaths

Robert Freemyer, 92, Fort Recovery
Rachel Dunmoyer, 97, Muncie
Anthony Gors, 55, Bryant
 Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 49 degrees Wednesday. The low was 29.
 Tonight's low will be 34 with rain expected after 7 p.m. and winds gusting to 20 miles per hour. More rain, with snow possible, is in the forecast for Friday.
 See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The Jay County High School Winter Guard will compete Saturday in the Indiana High School Color Guard Association semifinals at Franklin Central High School in Indianapolis. The Patriots are scheduled to perform at 12:45 p.m. The top 16 groups at the semifinals move on to the state finals.

Coming up

Friday — Arts Place concert will feature music by composers imprisoned during the Holocaust.

Tuesday — Coverage of Monday's Jay County Commissioners and Jay School Board meetings.



Obituaries

Robert Freemyer

Robert "Bob" L. Freemyer, 92, Fort Recovery, died Tuesday at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Center in Portland.

Services are pending at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, Fort Recovery.

Rachel Dunmoyer

Jan. 30, 1926-March 7, 2023 Rachel F. Dunmoyer, 97, Muncie, passed away on Tuesday morning, March 7, 2023, at Muncie Estates.

She was born on Jan. 30, 1926, in Farmington, Missouri, the daughter of Lawrence Willard

and Dora Lena (Mills) Ransom and graduated from Farmington High School in 1943. In April of 1944, she married the Rev. Charles D. Dunmoyer.

Rachel faithfully served alongside her husband at Methodist churches in Portland, Farmland, New Castle, Kokomo and Franklin and the Christian Church in Farmland where her husband served as pastor at the time of his passing.

She loved her family, grandchildren and her church and



Dunmoyer

remained a faithful servant of Christ for her lifetime. She was currently attending Bridge Community Church.

Surviving are four children, Larry Dunmoyer (wife: Linda), Debbie Cooper (husband: Rick), Dwight Dunmoyer (wife: Janet) and Michael Dunmoyer (wife: Stacey); 16 grandchildren, Chuck, Andrea, Jeremiah, Joshua, Caleb, Jordan, Angie, Sonja, Shana, Stashia, Sara, Corey, Taylor, Aaron, Cassie and Clyde; and numerous great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, the Rev. Charles D. Dunmoyer on

Aug. 11, 1977; three brothers, Glenwood, Wyman and Denver Ransom; three sisters, Helen Ransom, Margueritte Ransom and Peggy Henry; and one grandson, Charles Dunmoyer.

Funeral services will be held at noon on Monday, March 13, 2023, at The Meeks Mortuary and Crematory, Washington Street Chapel, with Pastor Rusty Clements officiating. Burial will follow in Green Park Cemetery, Portland.

Family and friends may call at The Meeks Mortuary and Crematory, Washington Street Chapel from 10 a.m. until noon on Monday, March 13, 2023.

Condolences may be sent to the family at meeksmortuary.com.

Anthony "Tony" Gors, Bryant, June 5, 1967-March 6, 2023. Services will be at 7 p.m. Monday at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

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

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

CR almanac

Table with 5 columns: Friday 3/10, Saturday 3/11, Sunday 3/12, Monday 3/13, Tuesday 3/14. Includes weather icons and temperature forecasts (36/22, 37/26, 39/26, 37/21, 36/21).

Lotteries

Table listing lottery results: Powerball, Mega Millions, Hoosier. Includes estimated jackpots and winning numbers.

Markets

Table listing market prices for various commodities: Cooper Farms Fort Recovery, POET Biorefining Portland, The Andersons Richland Township, Central States Montpelier, Heartland St. Anthony.

Today in history

In 1916, more than a dozen people died after a raid on Columbus, New Mexico, by civil war leader Pancho Villa's forces. In 1959, Barbie debuts for the first time in stores. In 1976, a cable car in Italy plunged 160 feet after a steel cable broke, killing 43 people.

Citizen's calendar

Table listing community events for Friday, Monday, and Tuesday, including meetings and presentations.

Purchase ...

Continued from page 1 "We've got to start doing something to make this an economically viable housing (plan) for the community," he said.

Parr advocated for the purchase. He pointed out that the area is farm land, which he said he doubts will decrease in price if the county decides to sell it later.

"We've talked about (housing) for a long time, and we just (haven't) been able to do it because one, we've never had the money, and until this \$3 or \$4 million falls in our lap, we wouldn't be talking about it right now," he said.

He referenced MakeMyMove, a marketing campaign to bring in 18 new residents to Jay County. In order to do so, there needs to be places for them to move into, he said.

Houchins added that each house built contributes to increasing the county's assessed value. Council approved the ordinance 4-3 with Houchins, as president, casting the deciding vote after fellow council members split with Faron Parr, Randy May and Dave Haines in favor and Towell, Minnich and Bracy against.

Also Wednesday, Jay County Development Corporation executive director Travis Richards gave a short presentation highlighting JCDC's work last year.

In response to recent events with commissioners, Richards said his organization has received 170 letters of support from the community. He said JCDC wants to be partners with the county and asked for the county to bring back the EDIT plan

as well as fund his organization's budget. Minnich referenced statistics shared by commissioner Brian McGalliard during a meeting Feb. 27 about the county ranking among the lowest across the state in areas such as income per capita, income per household and number of residents with a college degree.

"We don't know what life would be like if we had 30 years without JCDC working toward those goals," Minnich said.

Alicia Corwin, Pennville Town Council president, said JCDC connects to all Jay municipalities, helping them secure grant funding and get involved in county matters.

"If we hamstring JCDC, and we eliminate the EDIT abilities, you have just hurt small communities," added Bryant resident John Glassford.

Houchins and Parr both spoke in support of JCDC's work.

"We need JCDC. We need the East Central Indiana Regional Planning District that we have contracted (with)," Houchins said. "They could work together, and there are millions of dollars out there that together, we could bring a lot of stuff into Jay County. We could do a lot of good things."

She noted that council does not have power over what commissioners choose to do but advocated for both parties coming to a mutual agreement over their issues. She suggested JCDC fill out a funding application and commissioners allocate at least half the organization's budget for the year.

"This dissension in the county is not good for anything," she said.

In other business, council members:

Approved an amendment to the salary ordinance and made an additional appropriation for wages at Jay County Sheriff's Office totaling \$37,668.80. Officials noted recently there was a clerical error in the sheriff's office budget, resulting in

smaller raises for county employees than intended.

Received new copies of the strategic investment plan created through the Hoosier Enduring Legacy Project (HELP). Purdue University recently finished designing the document. Richards asked council for any revisions it would like to make before the plan is finalized.

Learned Jay County Personnel Committee OK'd finding replacements for three outgoing employees and discussed adding a part-time position to Jay Circuit Court.

Transferred \$10,000 from the other compensation fund to the part-time deputies fund in the sheriff's budget. Houchins noted Jay County Personnel Committee recom-

mended creating a part-time deputy position for Jay County Sheriff's Office at the request of sheriff Ray Newton, who said it would be an effort to cut down on overtime.

Made the following additional appropriations: \$100,000 for calcium chloride at Jay County Highway Department; \$100,000 for medical or hospital costs at Jay County Jail; \$5,000 for a court-appointed doctor through Jay Circuit Court; \$1,000 for office equipment and \$375 for employer health insurance at Jay County Health Department; \$520 for pauper counsel through Jay courts; and \$5.97 for employer Public Employees' Retirement Fund at Jay County Community Cor-

rections.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 211 Welcomes the: NEFUNKLE BAND Classic, Modern, Rock & Blues March 18, 2023 7pm to 10pm

Jay County Fairgrounds Saturday, March 11, Sunday March 12. Admission \$6. Buy, Sell and Trade. For more info 765-993-8942

Jay County Sheriff's Department is now taking applications for Reserve deputies and Part-time Transportation officers

SERVICES Thursday Fullenkamp, Michael: 2 p.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpburg Road, Fort Recovery. Friday Shepherd, Richard: 1 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland. Sunday Juillerat, Jon: 1 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland. Monday Dunmoyer, Rachel: noon, Meeks Mortuary and Crematory, 415 E. Washington St., Muncie. Gors, Anthony: 7 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland. May 13 Warrick, Clarice: 11 a.m., West Richmond Friends Meeting, 609 W. Main St., Richmond.

Fiber Festival March 10-11, 2023 Jay Community Center 115 E. Water St. • Portland, Indiana Admission \$1 • 12 and under FREE Friday 9-5 and Saturday 9-4 Lecture Friday at 5pm Classes • Artists • Food • Vendors Wood Carving • Kids Area Demonstrations Sheep Shearing Event sponsored by Richards Restaurant

Woman questions her commitment

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend of four years has been diagnosed with chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or CTE. We're both only 51. Obviously, we face a grim reality. He has already tried once to end our relationship to spare me the inevitable, but I convinced him I'm in it to the bitter end.

Now he's accusing his family (and me) of being interested only in interrogating him about his conversations with others regarding his condition. He has cut off contact for the last few days while he reevaluates all of his relationships. I'm respecting his wishes, which is so hard since we have never gone a day without speaking. My problem is the relief I feel. There are no meltdowns, no angry outbursts, no having to tiptoe around our conversations. Until now, I didn't realize the pressure I was under. My dilemma now is: If he wishes to continue our relationship, should I? His anger is scaring me, and he's losing himself so quickly. He's not the man I grew to love.

I haven't taken vows, but I don't feel right ducking out when he needs someone the most. I'm confused about what to do. Any helpful advice would be greatly appreciated. — TORN IN TWO IN THE SOUTH

DEAR TORN: The relationship you shared with your boyfriend is essentially over. You stated that his illness is turning him into someone else. You are not his wife, and you are not responsible for his well-being. Talk with his family and suggest they create a long-term plan for his care. He is going to need one. Because the emotion you are feeling now is primarily one of relief, allow this man to end the relationship if that is what he wants to do.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter-in-law just became a vegetarian and she seems to think pasta, cheese and fruit are all that is needed. She and my son have a 1-year-old and insist she be a vegetarian too. I'm worried because I feel like the protein is missing. There's no effort to calculate protein levels, and now she has decided to eliminate cow's milk, although ice cream and whipped cream seem

to be OK. I've encouraged my son to add soy and other beans to the baby's diet. He does all the cooking and seems a bit overwhelmed.

I don't live close, or I would happily prepare some meals for them. Is there anything I can do to encourage them to plan the meals more carefully and get the proper protein-to-carb ratio? I'm worried they may be cheating my grandbaby of the needed building blocks of health. I've kept my mouth shut so far, but I'm really worried. Help! — HEALTHY GRANDMA IN FLORIDA

DEAR GRANDMA: A vegetarian diet can be a healthy one for little ones. Because you have concerns, encourage your son and daughter-in-law to discuss this with their child's pediatrician. Many books have been written about healthy vegetarian diets, and there is a world of information about it on the internet. Explore the subject for your own peace of mind, and encourage them to do the same.

DEAR ABBY: My 10-year-old daughter is a beautiful girl inside and out. She's caring, loving and sweet to everyone. My only concern is that she still sleeps in the bed with her mom. While I don't object to this and am willing to sacrifice and sleep elsewhere, should I be concerned about her psychological development? — HER DADDY IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR DADDY: Most children in our culture have learned to sleep independently by the age of 2. Your daughter should not have displaced you from your marriage bed for the last 10 years, but that is a separate issue. Because you are concerned about whether the sleeping arrangement is damaging to her psychological development, the resource to consult is a licensed child psychologist.

Dear Abby



Photo provided

Scout donation

Portland Evening Optimist club recently donated \$500 to the Jay County Scout Facility Board to upgrade the restrooms per the American with Disabilities Act requirements. Pictured, from left, are Gary Maitlen representing the Jay County Scout Facility Board and Pat Gibson, Portland Evening Optimist club president.

Choose healthy options

By MELISSA KANNEY

Studies from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) show that three out of five Americans eat out at least once a week. Going out to eat is often exciting and fun for most people, but for those who are trying to eat healthier, it can cause some unneeded stress over food choices. There are some ways, however, to make healthier choices while eating out.

What are some tips for choosing the most nutritious meal while also lowering the calories when eating out?

Look at the menu before you go.

If you know the restaurant you are going to, take the time to look over the menu online before you go. This will give you a chance to plan out what you are going to order and not be tempted by the high calorie and high fat choices.

Your Health Matters



home. To help yourself from over-eating, put part of your meal into a to-go box before you even start eating. You could also split a meal with someone or order the children's or senior size portion, which is often smaller.

Think about your beverages. Even if you have a really healthy meal, it is still possible to hurt your healthy eating by ordering a high sugar or high calorie drink. Soft drinks, sweet teas, sweet alcoholic drinks, like daquiris or pina colodas, can make your calories rack up really quickly. To prevent this, try just ordering water; unsweetened tea or another calorie-free drink.

With a little preparation before heading out to your favorite restaurant, you can make healthier food choices and still enjoy a great meal.

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Kanney is a registered dietitian at IU Health Jay.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY HEALTH JAY HOSPITAL OSTOMY SUPPORT

GROUP — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of each month in Indiana University Health Jay Hospital Conference Room B. The group is for ostomy and intestinal diversion patients and their friends and family to offer mutual support and learn about the latest products and information.

JAY COUNTY TRAILS CLUB — Will meet at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center.

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical

Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Sunday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

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

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

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

DIABETES SUPPORT

GROUP — Meets at 3 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at Mercer Health in Coldwater, Ohio.

JAY COUNTY DRUG PREVENTION COALITION — Will meet at 3:30 p.m. the second Monday of each month at Portland Fire Department, 1616 N. Franklin St. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

The objective is to fill a nine-by-nine grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine three-by-three boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

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Disparities are a threat to cohesion

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

When you talk about Hispanics in Indiana, who are you talking about?

These Hoosiers didn't just arrive in the U.S. Most (72%) were born in America; another 9% have been in the U.S. long enough to be naturalized citizens.

A person is Hispanic if s/he identifies him/herself as Hispanic. The most recent Census Bureau data (2021) reveal about 494,000 Hispanic individuals living in Indiana. That's just 0.8% of the nation's Hispanic population, ranking this state 21st among the 50 states. Three states (California, Texas and Florida) alone account for 54% of all Hispanics in the nation.

That 494,000 Hispanics constitute 7.3% of Indiana's 6.7 million

Eye on the Pie



they constitute 16.6% of the county's total population.

Lake County is first with 19.7% of its population identifying as Hispanic. Elkhart County is second. Third place goes to Clinton County (Frankfort) with 16.5% Hispanic, followed closely by Cass at 16.3%. In fifth place is Marion County (10.8), with Noble, Porter and Marshall counties completing the list of counties with Hispanics as at least a 10th of their populations.

Anytime a substantial minority exists in a community there is opportunity for greater diversity in consumer goods and services. This diversity can be a cultural bonus, an enhancement of choice.

There may also be a cultural burden if the minority has a dif-

ferent age composition than the majority. When the statewide age distributions of the Hispanic and non-Hispanic populations are compared, the Index of Disparity is 21%.

Let's explain that. People 10 to 14 years old account for 11.5% of Indiana's Hispanic population and 6.5% for the non-Hispanics — a difference of 5 percentage points. That gap seems like a small number until we find it's 23,100 of the 462,400 individuals of that age.

Given the concentration of Hispanic populations in the state (40% in just two counties), we have significant language and orientation problems in our schools. Similar issues may arise in health care and other services because the non-Hispanic major-

ity differs in its age distribution from that of the Hispanic minority.

When that 5% figure is added to all other age disparities for a given county, we have a county-wide Disparity Index. Allen County's age Disparity Index is 19% while Cass County is up at 28%, Jackson 34% and Scott at 50%.

Age disparities are only one of several factors giving rise to community issues. When economic, demographic or educational disparities exist among easily identified groups, efficiency and even social cohesion are threatened.

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Marcus is an economist. Email him at mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com.

Court shouldn't remove lifeline

Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

It was obvious at Tuesday's oral arguments at the Supreme Court that several justices have problems with the Biden administration's plan to provide more than \$400 billion in student loan forgiveness.

For example, Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. asked why it was fair to make the owner of a lawn care service, who took out a loan to start his business, pay taxes that subsidize debt forgiveness for a better-paid college graduate.

But the question before the court in two lawsuits challenging the plan isn't whether the administration is pursuing a wise or just policy, though we believe there is a compelling case for targeted relief for Americans burdened by college debt. It is whether President Biden's plan was authorized by an act of Congress, the Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students (HEROES) Act of 2003, that empowers the secretary of Education to waive or modify loan provisions in response to a national emergency. The answer is yes, or at least it should be.

In this case, the emergency is the COVID-19 pandemic, which, as Solicitor General Elizabeth B. Prelogar explained to the justices, has "caused enormous disruption and economic distress."

She added that over the past three years "millions of Americans have struggled to pay rent, utilities, food, and many have been unable to pay their debts."

In response to that harm, Education Secretary Miguel Cardona announced a plan to forgive loans of up to \$10,000 for some eligible borrowers and up to \$20,000 for recipients of Pell Grants, who tend to have smaller incomes. That relief is far less generous than proposals for a blanket forgiveness of student debt up to \$50,000 per borrower. It also is only one example of the government forgiving loans in connection with the pandemic.

Student loans have mired millions of Americans in debt. Many of them would be struggling even in the absence of a

Guest Editorial

pandemic, but COVID has made their situations worse. Forcing them into default is harmful not only to them but also to the economy. And while addressing the problem of student debt in the future will involve measures other than loan forgiveness — including reducing the costs of higher education and putting more emphasis on non-college opportunities — debt relief is an indispensable part of the solution.

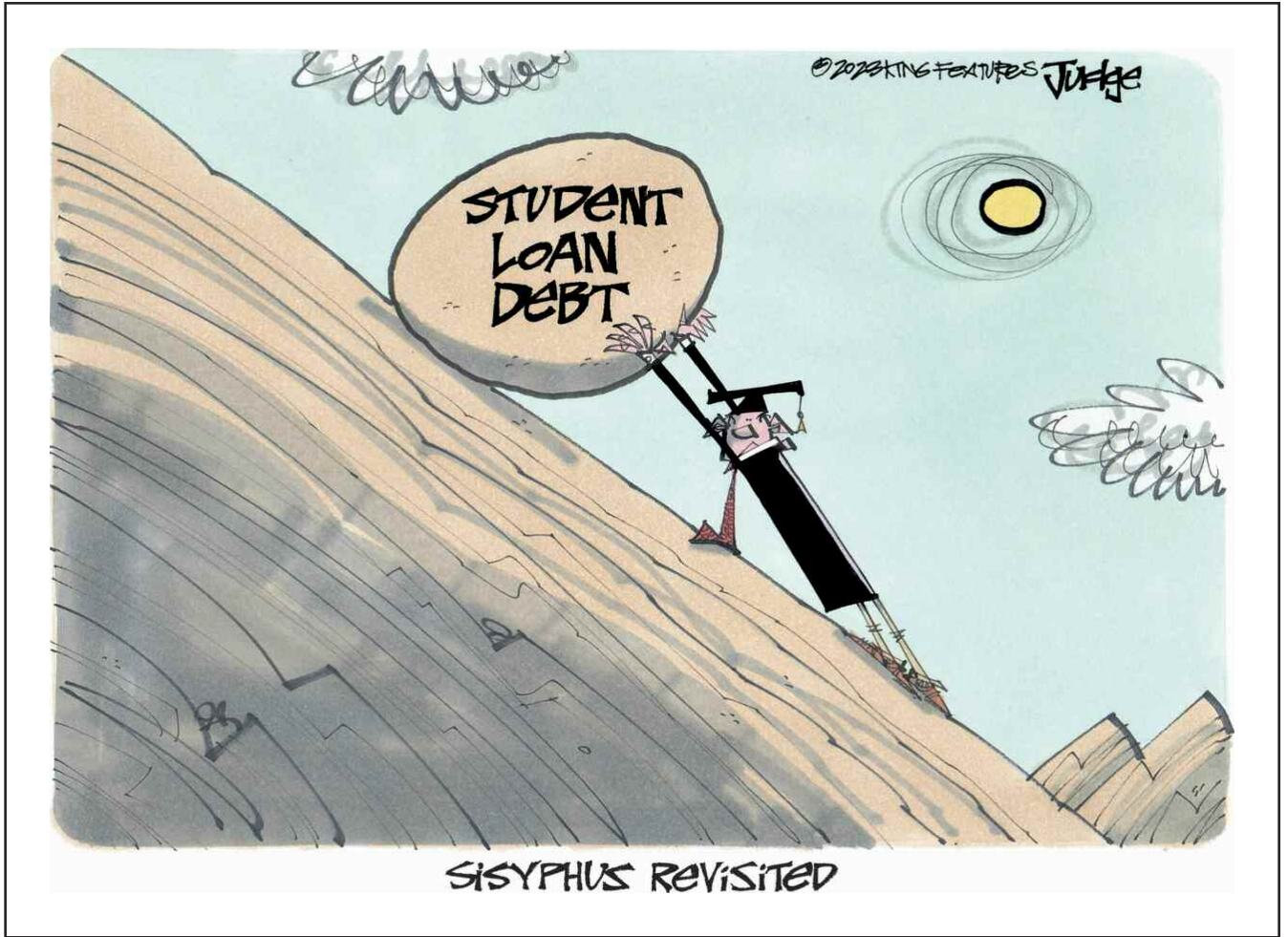
Roberts seemed skeptical that the HEROES Act authorizes the administration's provision of such relief, suggesting that specific consequences of the plan (such as the unfairness to his hypothetical lawn care provider) might constitute a "major question" that Congress needs to address. But it's unreasonable to expect Congress to anticipate every consequence of an emergency power.

The justices should uphold the Biden plan — assuming that they decide that the parties challenging the program have legal standing to bring those actions in the first place. Their standing is doubtful. The government argues persuasively that the challengers — six states and two student loan borrowers who are excluded from some or all of the program's benefits — haven't sustained the sort of injury that gives them standing to sue.

One can argue that Congress should have explicitly authorized the loan forgiveness that the administration extended, and of course congressional action will be necessary if the court unwisely strikes this program down. But there is no reason for the justices to take such drastic and disruptive action.

The Biden administration has offered a lifeline to Americans, most of them young, coping with financial obligations made more onerous by a national medical and economic emergency.

The court should not yank it away.



Battle is a lesson for us all

By **MICHAEL LEPPERT**
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

At Indiana University, I teach government to students in one school, and speech to students in another. The subjects are quite different, as are the students. But the story of East Palestine, Ohio gives me a real life lesson to teach both classes and will for years to come.

On February 3, a train operated by Norfolk Southern derailed near the village in northeastern Ohio. Five cars containing vinyl chloride, were among twenty derailed cars that contained hazardous substances.

East Palestine is a "village," which features a council-manager type government in Ohio. It is near the Pennsylvania border and is forty miles closer to Pittsburgh than Cleveland. It has a little less than five thousand residents, is 98.5% white, has a median family income of about \$40,000 per year, and its population last showed growth in the census of 1970. Thank you Wikipedia.

On February 6, three days after the derailment, Norfolk Southern performed a controlled detonation of the cars containing vinyl chloride, a chemical that is used in the manufacturing of polyvinyl chloride, or PVC pipes, and other plastics. Train company officials claim the detonation was executed "perfectly," though footage of the dark cloud rising from it scream anything but perfect.

CNN has an excellent timeline of the events. When I worked for state government years ago, I was a regulator and communicator. Timelines like these make me want to come out of retirement.

The first question this disaster asks is regarding the value of regulation. I often ask my students: Do regulated industries ever enjoy or prefer being regulated? Answer: Absolutely. Regulation usually exists where a true market doesn't. True markets are less tolerant of bad companies than regu-

Michael Leppert



lation is. The railroad industry, in its most competitive sense is an oligopoly. In many places, it's a monopoly. That's the primary reason for the heavy regulation. Norfolk Southern won't be bankrupted or dissolved over this. Regulation will see to that.

Second question: Does regulation bring significant costs to industries? Answer: Absolutely. But true markets do too. Railroads are regulated, and so are manufacturers of toxic chemicals for different reasons. Small-government conservatives often complain about the heavy hand of regulation, its costs, and its interference with "freedom." That makes for good politics in certain circles, until events like this happen.

Regulation is usually needed most right before catastrophes like this one. Right afterward, a comprehensive review of how to better regulate often ensues, platform politics be damned.

I have watched and read interviews from citizens and seen footage from public meetings that show angry and confused people behaving in a completely predictable way. Their reaction to the crisis has been profoundly normal, as has the government's.

What's been abnormal? When Norfolk Southern rescinded its commitment to attend a town meeting at a high school gym on February 15 was when I first thought, "uh-oh." Yes, I understand how security issues in these sorts of circumstances exist. But I have been the most unpopular person in a high school gym full of angry people. Showing up is often uncomfortable, even scary, but there

was never a time when I was in that hot seat when I thought not showing up would have been the better option.

Whatever it took, Norfolk Southern should not have canceled their commitment to be there that night. They won't get a better chance to empathize with this community, ever. And it's easy to have empathy for them. I teach my students about communicating to hostile crowds, and how they are my favorite crowds. What!? Why!? I explain that real empathy is powerful. Starting the communication with empathy helps solutions become visible and allows relationships to grow. Again, it should be easy, since Norfolk Southern should be mad and scared in this moment too.

On February 21st, the company said, "We recognize that we have a responsibility, and we have committed to doing what's right for the residents of East Palestine." That should have been said, along with repetitive heartfelt apologies in that gym six days earlier. The person saying it should have been the last person out of the gym that night. It should have been clear that the company felt the village's pain.

I was a utility regulator. I was the communicator for the agency, and I almost exclusively delivered bad news. I used to dream the opposite were true. The cheers, "Hooray for regulation!" never come in real life. Like train derailments, power outages continue to prosper.

Taking care of this village and its people should be the uninterrupted priority for a large group of stakeholders for the foreseeable future. Everyone watching this experience from near and far, should absorb the lessons it's teaching about governing and communicating. With empathy.

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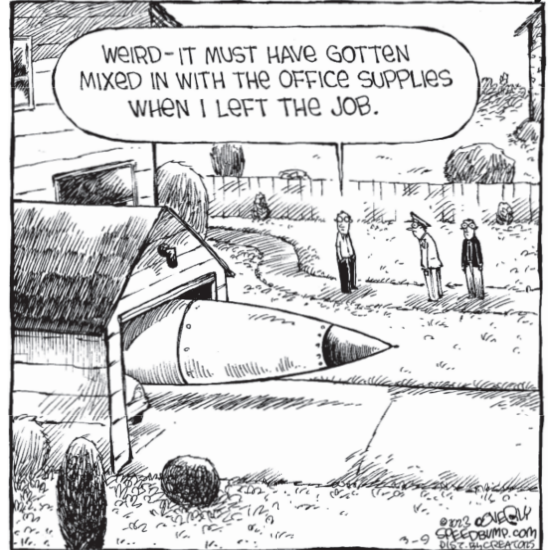
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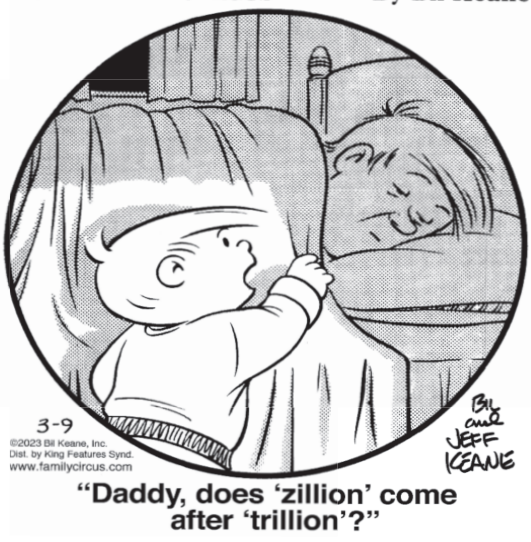
SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Mandatory falsecard

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable. NORTH... WEST... EAST... SOUTH...

The bidding: South West North East... 2♥ Pass 3♣ Pass... 3♥ Pass 4♥ Pass... 4NT Pass 5♠ Pass... 6♥

*artificial, strong. Opening lead — three of spades. As a general rule, it is not advisable for the defenders to falsecard because they run the risk of fooling each other rather than the declarer.

Take this case where South, clearly not from the shrinking violet school of bidding, arrived at six hearts. West led a spade to the king and ace, leaving declarer no choice but to attempt an early club finesse in order to dispose of his spade loser.

So, after drawing one round of trump, he led a club to the queen and breathed easier when it won. He then cashed the ace, on which West deposited the jack of spades. Since a diamond ruff in dummy might be necessary, it was still too soon to draw the remaining trumps, so declarer next led a diamond from dummy. But when East rose with the ace and returned the jack of clubs, South had a knotty problem. He couldn't tell whether West's play of the king on the second club was a falsecard, or whether West had really started with just the doubleton K-3.

If West began with only two clubs, the question of which heart to trump with became vital. If West had the jack or ten of hearts singleton and no more clubs at this point, the only way to get home safely was to trump high and then draw the two missing trumps. But if West had falsecarded in clubs, trumping high might cost the contract.

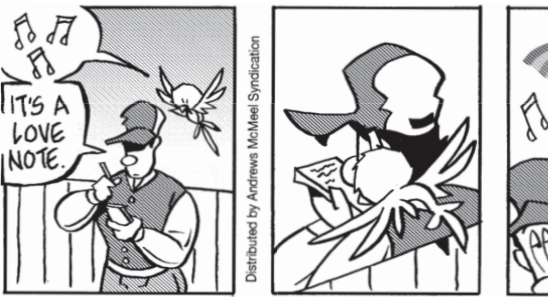
It is only of academic interest to note that South misguessed by ruffing high, thereby establishing a trump trick for East. The key point is that if West had played the ten on the ace of clubs, declarer would not have had any problem whatsoever and would have made the slam.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz. ©2023 King Features Syndicate Inc.

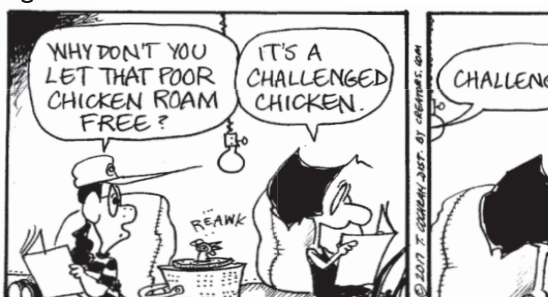
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



3-9

CRYPTOQUIP

AFHW ODPVJ LDP OHVV PEIDUSJ
IFDWDTZHFU DG ISDIVS
UOHZGQET JDAE UPTHZL
WZSHWU? OHEJQSJ UFDWU.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A PERSON MAKES A JOKE IN AN ILL-TEMPERED, UNFRIENDLY WAY, I ALWAYS SAY, "SURLY YOU JEST!"
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals P

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 38 Tight-fitting... 1 Film buff's website... 5 Search for gold... 8 IRS employe... 12 Lass... 13 Docs' bloc... 14 Handful of hair... 15 Popular layered cookie... 16 "Blue Bloods" extra... 17 Play opener... 18 Overhaul... 20 Moped... 22 "Not impressed"... 23 Six, in Sicily... 24 Priestly vestments... 27 Fortify... 32 Aunt, in Mexico... 33 Football filler... 34 Charged bit... 35 Abolitionist Mott... DOWN 2 Bog... 3 Sketched... 4 Bursts into... 5 Carry a gun... 6 Latin 101 word... 7 Siestas... 8 Alpine home... 9 Give up... 10 Pot starter... 11 Lose traction... 19 Concerning... 21 Dos Passos trilogy... 24 Pac. counterpart... 25 Lucy of "Kill Bill"...



Table with 11 columns and 11 rows representing the crossword puzzle grid. Some cells contain numbers and others are empty.

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Sports

Rays of Insight



New leg of journey is about to begin

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review
I knew replacing Chris Schanz would be difficult. I just didn't realize it would take so long.

Chris' last day with us was Dec. 10, 2021. The former sports editor had been with us for about 8.5 years. He and his wife Chrissy were thinking about starting a family and wanted to be close to one of their families when they did so. With hers from the Cincinnati area and his from Saginaw, Michigan, Jay County was not in the mix.

We started looking for his replacement as soon as he told us he and Chrissy would be moving to Michigan. We knew we wouldn't find another Chris right away — he had developed into an all-star as both a writer and photographer — but we needed someone.

The plan was for me to fill in for a couple of weeks, maybe a couple of months, until we found the right fit.

Fifteen months later, here we are.

Chris worked remotely for us for a few months last winter and spring until he found a permanent job in Michigan.

See *Insight* page 7

Kunkler is an All-American

Vivienne Kunkler is a record-breaker. And she's an All-American again.

Kunkler, a 2019 Jay County High School graduate, and her Bethel College teammates placed eighth with a school-record time March 2 at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Women's Swimming and Diving Championships to earn All-American honors.

The best race of the four-day national meet for Kunkler was the

Collegiate Check-up

200-yard freestyle relay. Swimming the third leg for the Pilots, she turned in a split of 24.94 seconds as she teamed with Elisabeth Wolfe, Jaylyn Harrison and Josefina Gonzalez for eighth in school-

record time of 1 minute, 38.82 seconds. (Kunkler, Wolfe and Gonzalez had set the record of 1:39.76 along with Kayla Logeais at last season's NAIA championships.)

Kunkler competed at nationals in two individual events, finishing 11th in the 100 breaststroke in 1:05.54. She posted a time of 2:26.29 in the 200 breaststroke.

She teamed with junior Paula Ronda Bou, Wolfe and Harrison for 11th in both the 200 medley relay in 1:49.04 and 400 medley relay in 3:59.43.

Kunkler closed her career as a four-time NAIA All-American.

Crosby Heniser Jay County - 2022

Made his collegiate debut Sunday in the Manchester University baseball team's 10-8 loss to DePauw.

Heniser entered the game with two outs in the bottom of the seventh inning and recorded the third out to halt a four-run frame for DePauw.

See *Collegiate* page 7

Bulldogs get bounced by St. John's

Rebounding and shooting woes hurt Butler in tourney opener

By IAN POWERS
New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

NEW YORK — Whether St. John's is having a disappointing season or not, the comfort of home at Madison Square Garden for the Big East tournament can be a welcome elixir come March — at least for one game.

No. 9 seed Butler was unable to handle the eighth-seeded Johnnies, who entered the tournament with essentially no shot at earning an NCAA bid unless they run the table at its second home.

The Bulldogs fell 76-63 to the Red Storm in Wednesday's tournament opener.

Joel Soriano owned the paint for St. John's, scoring 19 points, grabbing 15 rebounds, and blocking two shots.

See *Bounced* page 7



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Sarah Stier

Jayden Taylor (13) of the Butler Bulldogs dribbles against O'Mar Stanley (4) of the St. John's Red Storm on Wednesday during the first half in the first round of the Big East Basketball Tournament at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

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