

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Home rehab program gets OK

Applications to be available after contract is signed

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

State funding has been approved for Jay County's owner-occupied rehabilitation program.

There are just a few loose ends to tie up before the county begins accepting applications.

Jay County Commissioners heard Monday from community coordinator Nate Kimball about the program. Kimball pointed out Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs sent an award letter Friday for the \$1 million program intended to help low-income local residents make repairs to their homes. (According to the letter, county officials will receive an email in the coming weeks to sign a grant agreement.) Kimball explained the funds will be available to use 30 days after an agreement has been signed.

Offered as an incentive for communities allocating their American Rescue Plan Act dollars through OCRA's Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program (HELP), the dollars — they come from Community Development Block Grant funds through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act — will be used to start a program for local residents to request financial aid toward home improvements such as replacing a roof, water heater or heating, ventilation and air conditioning unit, doing electrical work or making a home more accessible.

The county is contributing a match of approximately \$90,000 in American Rescue Plan Act dollars toward the project, which will allot up to \$25,000 per household. To be qualified, applicants must make at or below a salary threshold.

See **Rehab** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Unseasonable swinging

Five-year-old Ezekiel Hines pushes 4-year-old Arieghia Sanchez on the swings late Monday morning at Hudson Family Park in Portland while taking advantage of the unseasonably warm temperatures. Temperatures have been on a roller coaster recently with snow followed by a high of 20 degrees Feb. 17, highs in the 50s and 60s last week, snow and a high in the 20s again Saturday and then a high in the upper 60s Monday.

Smith shares his vision in Jay Co.

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Tim Smith visited Jay County on Thursday as he continues his campaign for Congress.

Smith, a Fort Wayne resident and one of eight candidates for the Republican nomination for the U.S. House of Representatives in Indiana's 3rd District, shared his campaign vision with The Commercial Review.

"I concluded my grandchildren do not have the opportunity that I had when I was young," he said. "And I could either continue to whine about it or throw my hat into the ring."

Fort Wayne businessman is one of eight GOP candidates in District 3

He is one of eight candidates for the GOP nomination in District 3, which covers the northeast corner of Indiana including Jay County, along with former Rep. Marlin Stutzman, Grant Bucher, Andy Zay, Wendy Davis,

Eric Whalen, Mike Felker and Jon Kenworthy. Current Rep. Jim Banks is giving up the seat to run for Senate.

Smith spent the day in Jay and Adams counties, meeting with local officials, business leaders

and farmers before attending an Adams County Farm Bureau event in the evening. He shared a campaign platform that includes cutting government spending, securing the southern border and defending "Hoosier values."

On spending, he was critical of both debt being sold to foreign countries, specifically mentioning China, and the billions in aid that have gone to Ukraine to support its war with Russia. He advocated for a concept similar to former U.S. Rep. Ron Paul's "Penny Plan" to reduce spending almost across the board.

See **Smith** page 2

County contract bill clears House committee

Lehman's measure lays out process following lawsuit in Lake County

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Following another amendment last week, a bill that would establish a process for county contracts has cleared committee.

State Rep. Matt Lehman's Indiana House Bill 1158, which details procedures for county elected officials to enter into contracts, was amended again Thursday by the Senate Local Government Committee and then approved on a 10-0 vote.

The bill moved back to the full Senate for second reading and potential additional amendment Monday afternoon. If it passes on third reading in the Senate, it

would move back to the House for consideration of the amended bill. (The original version of the bill passed the House 94-0.)

The version of the bill that was amended a week earlier called for all contracts being proposed for the county to enter into by elected officials to be submitted to the county auditor, who would then date stamp them and forward a copy to the president of the county commissioners and the county attorney. A 20-day period for review would follow. If the county executive finds the contract acceptable, it can move forward. If it is not found acceptable, it can be refused and returned to the elected officeholder with a written explanation. Once approved, all contracts would return to the auditor's office and then posted onto Indiana Gateway, the collection platform for local units of government to submit required data to the State of Indiana.

The bill also requires that all contracts be entered into in the name of the county rather than the officeholder. The process applies to contracts that are necessary for officeholders to carry out their constitutional duty and for which funds are already appropriated.

See **Bill** page 2

Huxley's horse

First grader Huxley Wilson pets a pony at the FFA petting zoo Thursday at Fort Recovery High School. The event was part of the chapter's celebration of National FFA Week.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Deaths

Karen Schuh, 81, Fort Recovery
Ramona Eley, 95, Fort Wayne
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 54 degrees Sunday. The low was 27.
Thunderstorms are possible tonight with winds gusting to 45 miles per hour and a low in the upper 40s. Rain and snow showers are possible early Wednesday.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The Jay County Republican Party is holding a Meet the Republican Candidates event from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday at John Jay Center for Learning in Portland. It will be an open house event with candidates introducing themselves to those in attendance at 6:30 p.m.

Coming up

Wednesday — Results from the Jay County junior high wrestling match against Blackford.
Friday — Coverage of the JCHS boys basketball team's sectional opener.



Obituaries

Karen Schuh

June 16, 1942-Feb. 24, 2024

Karen K. Schuh, 81, of Fort Recovery, Ohio, passed away unexpectedly at her home on Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024.

She was born on June 16, 1942, in Geneva, Indiana, to the late Forrest and Virginia (Flauding) Mann.

In addition to her parents, Karen was preceded in death by her adoptive parents, who raised her since age 9, Paul and Cleo Lutes; her daughter, Ronda Broerman; her half-brother, Max Flauding; and her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Henry and Esther Schuh.

Karen is survived by her husband of 60 years, Bernard "Ben" Schuh, whom she married on March 10, 1963; her children,



Schuh

Cindy (Monte) Shrack of Portland, Tina Schuh of Greenville, Ohio, and Tiffany (Adam) Siegrist of Fort Recovery; her son-in-law, Walter Broerman of St. Henry, Ohio; her grandchildren, Matt (Tiffany) Broerman, Jacob Broerman, Josh (Whitney) Sutter, Dylan (Morgan) Sutter, and Bentley and Aubree Siegrist; her great-grandchildren, Kayden, Liam, Addyson, Hank, Ivan and Heidi; her treasured dog, Benny; and several half-sisters and half-brothers.

Karen was a 1961 graduate of Jay County High School. Following high school, Karen attended beauty school in Fort Wayne. She spent most of her life as a homemaker, raising her four beautiful daughters. She also worked for Van Trees Trucking as their secretary for several years.

Family meant the world to Karen. She enjoyed spending time with them and

her grandchildren and great-grandchildren grow up. Aside from her family, horses brought a twinkle to her eye. Ever since she was a young girl, Karen loved all things horses. Karen liked gardening, doing yard work and walking her beloved dog, Benny. During the summer, Karen also enjoyed going on golf cart rides with Ben around town.

A celebration of Karen's life will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024, at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Spring Hill Cemetery.

Guests may visit with Karen's family on Tuesday from 11 a.m. until the time of the service at 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting brockmanboeckmanfh.com.

Ramona Eley

July 28, 1928-Feb. 24, 2024

Ramona D. Eley, age 95, of Fort

Wayne passed away on Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024, in the Kingston Residence of Fort Wayne.

She was born in Terra Haute on July 28, 1928, the daughter of Gilbert and Elander (Hudson) McKee. She was married on July 3, 1951, to Jackson Eley who passed away on July 27, 1987. Ramona was a homemaker, worked for the telephone company, worked at the sheriff's department as a dispatcher and was a Green Township High School graduate.

Surviving is her son Dan Eley (wife: Donna) of Morris, Oklahoma; daughter Sheila Shammass (husband: Elie) of Fort Wayne, Indiana; grandchildren Emily Frazee of Winchester, Joe Eley of Oklahoma, and step-grandchildren Joshua Cordell of Oklahoma and Amanda Shuler of Muncie. She was preceded in death by

a daughter, Sharon Denise Frazee; two grandsons, Aaron Frazee and Drake Shammass; son-in-law Duane Frazee; brother Jack McKee; and sister Shirley Gill.

There will be a private family service held with burial following in the Green Park Cemetery. Baird-Freeman Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Memorials can be made to the Smile Train and St. Jude's Hospital.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

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

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

CR almanac

Wednesday 2/28	Thursday 2/29	Friday 3/1	Saturday 3/2	Sunday 3/3
49/21	39/27	48/39	58/45	66/52
Rain is expected Wednesday, with snow also possible under mostly cloudy skies.	Thursday looks to be sunny with a high in the upper 30s. The low at night may hit 27.	Mostly sunny on Friday, when the high will be around 48 degrees.	Temperatures will jump into the mid to upper 50s on Saturday.	Mostly sunny on Sunday, with a balmy 66 degrees for the high.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$391 million	53-58-60-62-71-73-76 Cash 5: 1-3-26-27-28 Estimated jackpot: \$850,500
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$563 million	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 8-1-3 Pick 4: 3-5-7-3 Pick 5: 7-4-1-6-1 Evening Pick 3: 1-3-7 Pick 4: 2-4-6-1 Pick 5: 7-9-9-1-3 Rolling Cash 5: 4-18-25-30-32 Estimated jackpot: \$140,000
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 2-5-6 Daily Four: 9-1-0-9 Evening Daily Three: 4-1-6 Daily Four: 2-2-0-9 Quick Draw: 3-8-9-10-18-20-23-24-41-42-44-48-51-	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.09 March corn4.09 Wheat4.48	March beans11.18 Wheat 5.38
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.09 March corn4.09 April corn4.14	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.92 March corn3.94 Beans.....11.21 March beans11.23 Wheat5.37
The Andersons Richland Township Corn3.97 March corn3.97 Beans11.18	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.05 March corn4.05 Beans.....10.99 March beans11.03 Wheat4.97

Today in history

In 1827, New Orleans hosted its first Mardi Gras celebration. Every year, the city in Louisiana hosts a large festival for the holiday with music, parades, picnics, floats and other entertainment.

In 1886, Hugo Black was born in Clay County, Alabama. Black served as a United States senator for 10 years before shifting to an associate justice of the United States Supreme Court for 34 years.

In 1902, John Stein-

beck was born in Salinas, California. An American novelist, Steinbeck wrote the classics "The Grapes of Wrath" and "Of Mice and Men."

In 1951, the 22nd amendment was ratified, limiting United States presidents to two terms in office.

In 2010, an 8.8 magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami hit Chile, marking the most powerful quake to strike Chile since the '60s.

— The CR

Citizen's calendar

Wednesday 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.	Board executive session, General Shanks, 414 Floral Ave., Portland.
Thursday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.	Monday 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

Rehab ...

Continued from page 1

Mentioned previously at county meetings, those amounts are as follows: one-person household, \$44,200; two-person household, \$55,500; three-person household, \$56,800; four-person household, \$63,100; five-person household, \$68,150; six-person household, \$73,200. The program will help a minimum of 40 households.

Kimball noted more than 80 residents have reached out to him expressing interest in applying. He explained he has not heard from consultant Mike Kleinpeter about how to handle work with contractors — there is some uncertainty about how to approach bonds — and he plans to follow up with Kleinpeter. Answering a question from commissioner Rex Journay, Kimball said there are "plenty of contractors" able to do the work, but he wants to make sure they are following the correct protocol.

Commissioner president Chad Aker gave Kimball the OK to share the application with the public as soon as bonding information is clarified. Kimball said he'll plan to get the information before the next commis-

sioners' meeting, at which point he said the county could set a date to release it.

Kimball noted the application is relatively "self-explanatory," asking for household members and their income as well as proof the applicant has paid taxes, owns the home, has homeowner's insurance and a mortgage, if applicable.

Also Monday, Kimball mentioned Indiana's Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program is accepting challenges from March 4 to April 3 to the Federal Communications Commission's map of broadband access. He's been working with Jay County Council vice president Cindy Bracy on the matter, pointing out the current map designates the Salamonias area in Jay County as "served," or averaging at least 100 megabytes per second downloads and 20 megabytes per second uploads.

"The FCC map shows that is pretty well served, and with speaking with as many as I could out there, they very much disagree," Kimball said.

The county has committed \$3.9

million toward a project to bring nearly 400 miles of fiber optic broadband to Jay County. (Hopes are to secure an additional \$9.5 million through OCRA's Next Level Connections grant or the BEAD program, with the remaining \$6 million covered by service provider Mainstream Fiber Networks and private investor Searchlight Capital.) The project will target households or businesses designated as unserved or underserved per the FCC's data.

Residents may visit broadbandmap.fcc.gov to ensure the information about broadband availability — location and speed — is correct for their address. The website also includes links to challenge that information. Speed tests may be conducted at connectingindiana.com.

Each household would need to submit three challenges in order to prove their average upload and download speeds, said Kimball.

For more news from the commissioners meeting, see Wednesday's newspaper.

Smith ...

Continued from page 1 (He said he would make exceptions for national defense and contractual promises such as Social Security.)

"Our spending is out of control," said Smith, who lost a bid for mayor of Fort Wayne to Democrat Tom Henry in 2019. "And the worst possible thing I think from a moral perspective that we can do to our kids and grandkids is

continue on that trajectory."

Having visited El Paso, Texas, the previous week, he said his priority for the southern border would be to finish construction of the border wall. He also advocated for enforcing existing laws, such as levying fines on those who get caught employing workers who are not legal U.S. citizens, and overhauling immigration policy.

Bill ...

Continued from page 1

Lehman (R-Berne), who represents the northern third of Jay County along with Adams and Wells counties, explained the latest amendment during Thursday's Senate Local Government Committee meeting. The lone substantive change, he said, was to remove language that would have allowed the county attorney to halt a contract if they found potential additional liability.

"Every contract counties enter into will create some additional liability," said Lehman. "We didn't want that to be the thing that held up a contract."

During a committee meeting Feb. 15, representatives from Indiana Sheriff's Association and Indiana Auditor's Association expressed concern about county attorneys, who are not elected, having the ability to stop such contracts.

In the updated legislation, county

attorneys can only halt contracts if they find them to be in violation of state law or public purchasing or bidding laws.

The only question regarding the procedure required by the bill came from Sen. Dan Dernulc (R-Highland), who asked whether all contracts would go through county commissioners. Lehman confirmed that they would, but that elected officials empowered to do so would still have the ability to enter into a contract over the objection of commissioners if it abides by state law.

The legislation stems from a Lake County court case in which commissioners sued the sheriff over such contracts.

Also, Sen. Travis Holdman's Senate Bill 58 to exempt specialty or gourmet markets with a restaurant permit from income requirements to sell carry-out alcohol cleared the House

on third reading 89-2. The bill exempts such businesses from rules regarding their percentage of gross retail income that comes from the sale of alcoholic beverages. It defines a specialty or gourmet market as one that holds a beer retailer's permit and wine retailer's permit, sells miscellaneous specialty foods and does not sell automotive fuel.

Holdman (R-Markle), all of Jay, Blackford, Adams and Wells counties as well as part of Allen County, also saw his Senate Bill 4 pass through the House Ways and Means Committee. It was scheduled for second reading in the House on Monday afternoon. The bill he co-authored with Sens. Ryan Mishler (R-Mishawaka) and Sen. Chris Garten (R-Charlestown), addresses various fiscal issues, including a review every two years to identify dedicated funds that have not been used.

Capsule Reports

Reappointed

Jay/Portland Building and Planning Inter-local Joint Board reappointed two members at its meeting Thursday. The board reappointed Brian McGalliard as chairman and Ron Laux as citizen member.

It also reviewed its 2023 annual report. In 2023, the department issued a total of 312 permits or petitions, including 18

new home permits, 41 business, commercial or industrial permits, 53 agricultural use permits, and 1 confined feeding building permit. Two confined feeding 'intent-to-build' applications were filed as well.

Parking accident

Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000 after a New Albany woman backed into a

Dunkirk woman's car in the Jay County Junior-Senior High School parking lot about 3:30 p.m. Thursday.

Madalyn A. Hull, 18, was backing her 2009 Chevrolet Impala out of a spot at 2072 Indiana 67, Portland.

She didn't notice the 2016 Jeep Patriot driven by 49-year-old Erin Roesch behind her and backed into it.

Felony arrests

Domestic battery

A Dunkirk man was arrested Thursday for domestic battery and criminal trespassing.

Dakota C. Nicklay, 30, 423 N. Meridian St., is charged in Jay Superior Court with two Level 6 felonies. He was being held on a \$35,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

SERVICES

Tuesday

Lengerich, David: 11 a.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

Schuh, Karen: 1 p.m., Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, 308 S. Wayne St., Fort Recovery.

March 2

Meier, Nancy: 4:30 p.m., Kuhn's Den, 442 E. Line St., Geneva.

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Child will be loved all the same

By **CHRIS SCHANZ**
The Commercial Review

In September, my wife and I announced we are welcoming our first child.

Parental Ponderings



With this in mind, you should see me in this space frequently writing about my journey into fatherhood from the perspective of someone nearing 40. Not necessarily the age my younger self imagined I'd become a father, but I digress.

Our pregnancy has about a month to go, and it has been everything but easy (more on that in a later column).

One thing we've found the most surprising, however, is the difference in reactions we have been receiving when we inform others we do not want to know the gender

of our baby. In the age of social media when gender reveals are all the rage, it seems the goal is to "go viral" as if to stroke your ego with each comment and reaction it receives.

I never wanted that though. I didn't want to mentally exhaust myself in an attempt to make the most elaborate and creative reveal.

What made that decision easy was Chrissy and I choosing to not know the gender even

before she became pregnant.

It's out of character for both of us, as we do not like surprises. If we have gifts for one another, it's difficult for us to not give them early. We enjoy the comfort of the known, rather than the anxiety of the unknown.

So the irony in that we both don't want to know the gender is laughable.

I'm just thankful it's even possible. I always had a dream of not wanting to know the gender of my child when it came time for me to be a father. But I knew it wasn't going to be strictly my decision.

My wife, knowing very well our inability to keep secrets, jumped aboard early on. If she knew the gender of our baby and I

didn't, there's absolutely no way she would be able to hold on to the knowledge.

The gender would have made its way to me one way or another. Whether she caved and told me, or someone to whom she had revealed the secret had a slip of the tongue and informed me by accident, there's no feasible way I would have gone her entire pregnancy without knowing.

Nevertheless, here we are with less than five weeks before her due date — the end of March — and the reactions we're getting from others about us not wanting to know the gender is a bit of a double standard.

It seems those I've let know of the decision are in favor of it. Either

they've done the same — for multiple children — or wish they would have. Very few people who've asked me what we're having, when I tell them, "We're not finding out," react negatively.

On the other hand, my wife experiences the opposite.

"Isn't it killing you to not know if it's a boy or a girl?"

"How do you prepare the nursery, or buy clothes or toys?"

And so on.

It seems her friends and acquaintances don't support our decision.

Frankly, it's none of their business.

Preparing the nursery and buying things for the baby has been a piece of cake. We've chosen a theme that'll work for

either gender, and we populated our registries with items which are neutral in nature.

Most importantly, it's been surprisingly easy to not know whether we're having a boy or a girl (we've had names picked out long before we knew we were going to be parents). Of course, we both have our preferences of what we'd want; I'm shooting to be a girl dad and Chrissy wants a mama's boy.

When our child is born, we don't care if it's a boy or a girl. We just know it will be loved all the same.

.....

Chris Schanz is a former CR Sports Editor embarking on a new journey as a father. You can reach him at christopher.schanz@gmail.com.

Unemployed boyfriend leads to doubts

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 32-year-old woman who has been with my boyfriend, my first and only partner, for 11 years. Overall, our relationship is healthy. He's smart, kind, supportive, caring, loyal and funny. I can see us getting married and living a happy life together.

The problem is, aside from a few short-term gigs, he hasn't had a job for the last six years, when he left his office job to move with me for my career. I've done well. But although he has applied for all sorts of jobs — sales, admin, medical, police, government, fast food — no one has hired him.

Last year, he developed a heart condition, and he can no longer perform physical labor. He also suffers from depres-

Dear Abby



sion. So, I've been paying for nearly everything. I'm lucky not to have credit card debt, but at age 32, I have no retirement savings. My job barely covers living expenses for us and our pets.

I want to progress in life and have an equal partner. We've discussed marriage, and I think he's "the one." But how long should I hold out hope of him finding a job? Do I just keep on hoping, or do I consid-

er ending things and breaking both our hearts? — BURDENED IN FLORIDA

DEAR BURDENED: Has it occurred to you that the reason the man you love has been unable to find employment all this time may be connected to his depression? It would benefit you both if he consulted a doctor and sought treatment for it. Free and low-cost counseling is available through the county, as well as through colleges and universities with departments of psychology. Please explore this before ending your relationship because it could be the solution to your problem.

.....

DEAR ABBY: My sister has become very interested in Zen

meditation. I'm afraid she has become obsessed with it. She spent a week at a special meditation workshop during which she said she meditated all day, every day to the point that her back hurt from sitting so much. She's now saying she wants to become a Zen priest, which necessitates spending three months at a Zen center meditating constantly.

My sister has a husband and two teenage daughters I think she's neglecting. She earned a master's degree in economics at a prestigious university but works only part time as a bookkeeper to allow more time for her Zen center.

How can I politely persuade her to focus on her family and career, and let Zen meditation be her hobby rather than the

focus of her life? — PRIORITIES IN THE WEST

DEAR PRIORITIES: Your sister is an adult, intelligent and capable of making her own decision about the path in life she chooses. Nowhere did you state that her husband and children disagree with it.

I do not think your input on this subject, regardless of how "politely" you offer it, will be welcomed. Keep your opinion to yourself unless asked for it.

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Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeane Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

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

JAY COUNTY CANCER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in conference room C at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital. Open discussion for cancer patients, survivors, family members or anyone interested in helping with the group. For more information, contact

Linda Metzger at (260) 726-1844.

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

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

Wednesday

WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards

Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

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

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

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

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

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

Thursday

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) 9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

Friday

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.

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

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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

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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Countering Putin requires action

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

Saturday marks the two-year anniversary of Russian despot Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine, after Moscow's military forces took control of Eastern Ukraine and Crimea in 2014. When he launched his "special military operation" in 2022, Putin expected his tanks to roll into Kyiv within days, a proof of concept for his vision of a reconstituted Soviet Union.

As the months dragged on and the offensive failed spectacularly some optimistic observers began predicting Ukraine would win decisively, and perhaps even push into Russia. The truth is somewhere in the middle: Ukrainian forces have fought resolutely against a much larger adversary but are worn down and on their

Guest Editorial

back foot. The Russians have just taken the eastern Ukrainian stronghold of Avdiivka.

It's easy to fall into the narrative trap, established both by our popular mass media and general conceptions of historical progress, that there is something inherent about the victory of the good side, that a smaller nation invaded by a murderous and imperialistic neighbor will still triumph.

This is not true; there is no guarantee that the right side

wins, and to think so is dangerous and counterproductive. And here the right side, Ukraine, certainly cannot prevail without help. The United States and our Western European allies have been providing aid, but it is running low and as by far the biggest player, Washington's continued assistance is crucial.

President Joe Biden, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and 68 other senators all agree to send Ukraine \$60 billion in a bill which passed the Senate last week. It would absolutely pass in the House of Representatives as well, but Speaker Mike Johnson sent the chamber on vacation instead of acting, because Donald Trump wanted him to.

So advancing on the battlefield

and having America frozen are good for Putin, who felt emboldened to finally get rid of Alexei Navalny, the brave man who opposed Putin's stranglehold of corruption and violence and has now paid the ultimate price. And as much as it's frightening to think so, there is nothing that says Putin won't win — in his own war against democracy, in Ukraine, even in Poland and farther afield.

This doesn't leave us powerless, it simply means that we must take real action to stop him. The arc of history doesn't bend inexorably in favor of liberty; it must be bent, by continued military and economic support for Ukraine, by sanctions and the fomenting of internal dissent in Russia, by steadfast support for NATO.

Right now, the MAGA GOP is doing what they can to bend it in Putin's direction, with Johnson and House Republicans refusing to move forward with the aid that is keeping Ukraine's military going while Trump posts bizarre statements referencing Navalny but not Putin and encourages the latter to attack NATO countries. The rationale here really seems to be a pure expression of domestic electoral politics, without consideration for the broader international implications.

Putin's denials that he has any interest in a wider war with Poland or Latvia ring close to his obviously false denials of interest in war with Ukraine, and Republicans should have a hard think about what kind of world they want to be in three or four years from now. Is it worth it?

Free filing is a crucial step

By SUSAN HARLEY
OtherWords

Each year many Americans pay a steep cost when doing their taxes. It's not just the money people shell out to use software to file taxes online, but also the time spent and the stress that comes with worrying an honest mistake will be held against them.

Luckily, change is in the air this spring. Eligible filers in a dozen states will finally have a true public option this tax season: a new free, online, mobile-friendly software from the IRS called Direct File.

Over the next several weeks the Direct File pilot will be ramping up in the states where it's being offered: Arizona, California, Florida, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming.

Available in both English and Spanish, the new software pilot is starting small and will only be available to people with simple taxes who file with only limited types of incomes, credits, and deductions. While the Direct File tool won't be available to everyone right away, it's a crucial step toward unrigging our economy and protecting people's pocketbooks.

Buoyed by funding the IRS received through the Inflation Reduction Act, the Direct File pilot is another example of the Biden administration's commitment to tackle junk fees that chip away at people's economic well being and to foster a government that better serves the American people.

Direct File is also a recognition that struggling families shouldn't have to pay money they can't afford just to do their civic duty. The tool aims to make it easier for folks to get the refund they're owed and to address the problem of one in five eligible recipients of the Earned Income Tax Credit not claiming it.

While there has technically been a Free File program at the IRS for decades, it has not lived up to its promise. Only a tiny percentage of eligible filers — about 2 percent — use it. And there was a high-profile data breach where corporate partners in the program shared sensitive tax information

Susan Harley



with Meta (formerly called Facebook) and Google.

Unsurprisingly, Intuit, the parent company of TurboTax, has not been taking this budding threat to its behemoth earnings laying down. It's poured a record amount into its lobbying, almost a million dollars in just the past three months.

But it's going to take more than lobbying and a Super Bowl ad to revive Intuit's tarnished image.

Intuit entered into a \$141 million settlement last year to resolve claims that it steered low-income customers to paid products when they were eligible to use free services. And the Federal Trade Commission ruled in January that the company's advertising about free tax prep was deceptive.

The Direct File tool is expected to be live to the public in those 12 states in early to mid-March. That means that this St. Patrick's Day, some lucky filers will find a pot of gold under the rainbow — around \$150 or more on average back in their pockets that they didn't have to give to a greedy corporation just to use software to help them file their taxes online.

Direct File is the first brick in the road to return-free filing that many of our international peers enjoy, where they simply approve their pre-calculated return prepared by the government.

Like a garden, though, Direct File will only flourish with care and attention. Let's make sure it doesn't die on the vine! Help spread the word, check your eligibility at directfile.irs.gov, and visit act.citizen.org/page/62332/petition/ to get reminded when it's go time for Direct File in your state.

.....
Harley is the managing director for Public Citizen's Congress Watch division.

OtherWords is a free editorial service published by the Institute for Policy Studies.



'Why' makes future brighter

By LYNN SCHMIDT
The Fulcrum
Tribune News Service

Almost 15 years ago, author and inspirational speaker Simon Sinek gave one of the most watched TED Talks, "Start With Why." During his talk Sinek told listeners, "People don't buy what you do, they buy why you do it." Since then, Sinek has inspired millions of people and encouraged listeners and readers to discover their purpose.

As a conservative columnist I am frequently asked why I continue to engage with election deniers and supporters of former President Donald Trump who reach out to me after they have read something I have written in defense of the verified election of President Joe Biden in 2020.

So, I set out to figure out my "why." I share it here to maybe inspire others to do the same. My "why" is because I love our country as much as Trump's supporters do and I understand that for our democratic republic to endure, we need to rebuild and maintain trust and legitimacy in our election process. We will not be able to if millions of Americans continue to believe the 2020 election was stolen and Biden is an illegitimate president.

Biden said in a speech in September 2023, "Democracy cannot survive when one side believes there are only two outcomes to an election: either they win, or they were cheated." Unfortunately, the share of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents who believe that Biden's 2020 election victory was not legitimate continues to go up. According to a CNN poll completed in July 2023, 69% of Republicans and Republican-leaning say Biden's win was not legitimate, which is up from 63% earlier in the year.

Lynn Schmidt



This should be alarming to everyone, especially considering this poll was conducted three years after the election and there has never been any evidence of election fraud.

In November 2020, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Director Christopher Krebs — a Trump employee — declared the 2020 election "the most secure in American history." He went on to say, "While we know there are many unfounded claims and opportunities for misinformation about the process of our elections, we can assure you we have the utmost confidence in the security and integrity of our elections, and you should too."

While it may seem like a lifetime ago, in 2020 the country and the world remained semi-locked down from a pre-vaccine COVID-19 and many cities in the United States were affected by civil unrest after the murder of George Floyd. Despite these conditions, 66% of the voting-eligible population turned out for 2020, making it the highest turnout on record.

Trump sowed seeds of doubt ahead of the election and flat out rejected the will of the people afterwards. He continues to whip up fears and anxieties in his supporters as a way to continue the deterioration of trust in our democratic process and its institutions.

More frightening polls show the constant attack on our institutions

has been working. According to the same CNN poll, most Americans lack confidence that elections in the U.S. today reflect the will of the people. Overall, 58% say they are just a little or not at all confident that elections reflect the public's will, while 42% say they are at least somewhat confident they do. Only 13% are "very confident" that elections reflect the will of the people, the lowest share to say so in CNN polling since 2021.

So, for our democracy to survive, we all need to do our part and if that means engaging with election deniers, then that is what we must do. We should be reaching out to our fellow Americans to help them come to accept the results of a free and fair election. Not to convert them into Democrats (which I am not) or even persuade them into not supporting the former president again — but because we have a shared affection for our country.

Former Vice President Al Gore recently told CNN's Christiane Amanpour: "I respect his [Trump] supporters. And I think it is really important that in this campaign season for people to maintain respect for his supporters. Many of them are using Trump as a vehicle to express their anger at how they don't think things have been going in the right direction."

It may take many one-on-one conversations in which we show each other that respect and share our love for the country before conditions begin to change. But if you start with your why and do it for the right reasons, the future looks bright, or at least brighter.

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Schmidt is a syndicated columnist and editorial board member with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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Ribbon cutting

Jay County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony last week for VD Glam. The shoe store owned by Vanessa Diaz is located at 224 N. Meridian St., Portland.



Photo provided

US Aggregates awarded at workshop

A business with multiple regional facilities was honored last week.

Indiana Mineral Aggregates Association awarded US Aggregates 15 Gold Excellence in Mining Awards during its annual Winter Workshop. The awards are determined by evaluating environmental, safety, employee relations and community relations.

The company, which has locations in Jay and Randolph counties, also had 11 of its plants recognized with safety awards.

The association also presented the 2023 Keystone Award to US Aggregates president John Schmidt. The award honors someone "who has shown exceptional leadership and outstanding dedication to advancing the goals, growth and wellbeing of the Indiana aggregates industry."

Chamber calls

Indiana Chamber of Commerce last week urged businesses to take the Health First Indiana Pledge.

The call came as representatives from the chamber joined the Indiana Department of Health for Public Health Day at the Indiana Statehouse. The pledge involves establishing a series of

Business roundup

goals intended to create community partnerships through collaboration and communication with local health departments.

Chamber president and CEO Vanessa Green Sinders addressed a 2023 bill that provided an additional \$225 million to county health departments over two years in order to prioritize public health and safety.

"The Indiana Chamber and Wellness Council believe that health is wealth," she said in a press release. "We applaud the state's investment in its public health infrastructure through Health First Indiana, which will lead to a healthier Indiana and ultimately support the state's ability to attract and retain business."

Two of the chamber's long-term goals are to reduce smoking levels to less than 15% of the state's population and the obesity levels to less than 20%.

For more information on the

Health First Indiana Pledge, visit indianachamber.com/healthfirst.

College selected

The American Association of Community Colleges on Monday announced Ivy Tech Community College as a finalist for the Award of Excellence.

The college is being recognized in the Outstanding College/Corporate Partnership category for collaborating with Indiana Hospital Association and IU Health to address the state's nursing shortage. The American Association of Community Colleges will announce the award winner during its annual convention April 8 in Louisville, Kentucky.

"Ivy Tech's size and scope across the state allow our institution to play a vital role in solving Indiana's most urgent economic and workforce challenges, and no challenge has been more pressing than responding to the state's nursing shortage," said Ivy Tech president Sue Ellspermann in a press release. "Hundreds more skilled nurses are serving in Indiana hospitals and health care settings each year thanks to our incredible partnership with Indiana hospitals, and we are thrilled that this collaboration has been

recognized at a national level by the American Association of Community Colleges."

Manga marketing

McDonald's is launching a new campaign featuring the "WcDonald's" restaurants from anime movies and shows.

The campaign will include a new Savory Chili WcDonald's Sauce, custom packaging and episodic shorts. New videos will be released every Monday from Feb. 26 through March 18.

Walmart purchasing

Walmart announced last week that it has entered into an agreement to buy VIZIO for about \$2.3 billion.

VIZIO is an electronics company that produces televisions and soundbars and created the Smart-Cast Operating System. Walmart plans to utilize the technology to connect to customers in new ways.

"There is a lot to be excited about with this acquisition," said Seth Dallaire, Walmart executive vice president and chief revenue officer, in a press release. "We believe VIZIO's customer-centric operating system provides great viewing experiences at attractive price points. We also believe it

enables a profitable advertising business that is rapidly scaling. Our media business, Walmart Connect, is helping brands create meaningful connections with the millions of customers who shop with us each week."

CVS invests

CVS Health announced last week that it will invest almost \$35 million toward creating two new affordable housing developments in Hawaii.

The developments will be located in Lahaina, Maui and Kapolei, Oahu. Residents will also be offered supportive social and educational programs.

"These investments and collaborations echo our longstanding commitment to supporting and uplifting the people of Hawaii," said CVS regional director Scott Sutton in a press release. "We're providing community members with access to meaningful affordable housing, health care, and educational and workforce opportunities to ensure that they have the resources they need to improve their overall wellbeing."

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



Jay County Republican Party

MEET THE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

February 29, 2024

John Jay Center for Learning Café

5:30-8 p.m.

Introductions at 6:30 p.m.

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

Billy portrays a touching scene in Mommy and Daddy's bedroom.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Cutting the Gordian Knot

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A Q 10 6 3
♥ K 8 4 3
♦ 6
♣ J 7 5

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

SOUTH
♠ J
♥ Q J 9 7 5 2
♦ J 10
♣ A 10 8 4

The bidding:
West North East South
1♦ Dble 4♦ 4♥

Opening lead—king of clubs.

In bridge, as in war, interfering with enemy communications can sometimes produce a victory that could not otherwise be attained. In today's deal, which occurred in a national championship, declarer made good use of a communications-breaking play to salvage his contract.

South was Richard Freeman, "Quiz Kids" star of radio three generations ago. West led the king of clubs, and Freeman won with the ace. It was apparent that the only real threat to the contract was

the possibility of a club ruff, but instead of leading a trump at trick two to try to eliminate this threat, Freeman led the jack of diamonds! As a result of this play, the contract could no longer be defeated. The only tricks Freeman eventually lost were a heart, a diamond and a club.

Now let's suppose that he had led a trump at trick two, as most declarers in his shoes probably would have done. In that case, the contract would have gone down one with proper defense.

West would have taken the ace of trump, cashed the queen of clubs, led a low diamond to East and ruffed East's club return to score the fourth trick for the defense. This series of plays by East-West certainly would not have been hard to find.

West would naturally assume that East, for his four-diamond bid, was likely to have the king of that suit, and East would assume that West's underlead of the ace of diamonds after cashing the queen of clubs at trick three was a clear-cut request for a club return.

Freeman's jack-of-diamonds lead at trick two cut a vital link in East-West's line of communications, and in one fell swoop short-circuited the defense.

Tomorrow: Bridge is a logical game.
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2-27 CRYPTOQUIP

UXU MXHLS BFRX CZXGT
YTYETFG HFTLBT LFB XV L
ERN HLVM LG CZRST GRVNRVN:
BZT ULRVBTF GRGBTFG.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A VERY LARGE COMPETITION AWARD WEIGHS FIFTY POUNDS, WHAT COULD YOU CALL IT? HEAVY MEDAL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals N

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Volition
5 Melville captain
9 Beer container
12 "The Wire" actor Idris
13 Tire
14 "I love," in Latin
15 Windbags
17 Whitman of "Good Girls"
18 Gospel writer
19 Suit material
21 Remote locations?
24 Tiers
25 Roasting spot
26 Luminous larva
30 Series of battles
31 Appears
32 Asian language
33 Sarcas-tic bit of applause
35 Coop group

DOWN

2 Under the weather
3 Wall St. deal
4 Wyatt Earp, for one
5 Off in the distance
6 "Listen!"
7 Annex
8 Gives
9 Lingerie items
10 Lawyer Clooney
11 Yuletide tune
16 Pos-sesses
20 URL part
21 Scatters seeds
22 Elliptical
23 Supreme-ly fierce

Solution time: 22 mins.

O	M	A	N	A	R	C	M	A	K	O		
T	E	C	U	M	S	E	H	O	N	A		
C	H	A	R	I	S	M	A	T	O	R		
S	S	T	R	H	I	N	O	S				
M	O	N	E	T	G	I	F					
A	R	E	S	C	H	E	L	S	E	A		
T	E	A	C	H	U	R	L	V	I	A		
S	P	R	E	A	D	S	B	E	N	D		
				A	L	L	S	P	O	R	T	S
M	U	E	S	L	I	G	A	G				
O	R	C	H	A	G	A	L	L	S			
E	S	T	E	E	A	T	E	R	I	E	S	
T	A	O	S	S	H	E	T	E				

Yesterday's answer 2-27

Peanuts

Rose is Rose

Agnes

Hi and Lois

Between Friends

Blondie

Snuffy Smith

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Boilermakers too much for Wolverines

By ANDREW KAHN

mlive.com
Tribune News Service

ANN ARBOR — Few teams in the country have the size and depth to contend with Purdue's Zach Edey. Michigan is certainly not among them. The Wolverines were over-matched inside and lost 84-76 at a divided Crisler Center on Sunday.

The rematch was far more competitive than the 32-point Purdue win a month ago at Mackey Arena. Michigan led by seven midway through the first half and kept its deficit around 10 for much of the second half, but couldn't get closer than

seven over the final 22 minutes.

In the end, Edey, the 7-foot-4, 300-pound senior who will likely be the national Player of the Year for a second straight season, and No. 3 Purdue (25-3, 14-3 Big Ten) were overwhelming. Edey posted 35 points, matching a season high, and 15 rebounds. He made 14 of 18 shots and grabbed eight of Purdue's 17 offensive rebounds. Michigan threw a handful of bodies at him, mostly resulting in a bunch of fouls.

The Wolverines (8-20, 3-14) have lost 20 games for the first time since going 10-22 in 2007-08, John

Beilein's first season as head coach.

Purdue fans made up about half of those inside Crisler, with the start of Michigan's spring break not helping. They chanted, "Whose house? Our house!" in the closing seconds, as they do at home games, and Michigan fans didn't bother trying to drown them out.

Dug McDaniel led Michigan with 19 points and six assists. Michigan shot 48 percent from the field and 43 percent from 3, both better figures than Purdue, but the rebounding disparity helped negate that.

Forward Will Tschetter returned after missing

Thursday's game at Northwestern with the flu and made his second start of the season. He played 24 minutes before fouling out with 10 points. Tarris Reed Jr. also fouled out, with 3:31 left. Guard Jaelin Llewellyn sat with knee soreness after playing 28 minutes on Thursday.

The Wolverines tried to battle through it. Tray Jackson's 3 got them within eight and inspired the Michigan faithful. Edey quickly answered at the other end with an and-one, and Purdue led 61-50 with 12:41 to go. Ninety seconds later, McDaniel found Jace Howard for a fast-break layup that cut the margin

to seven. Howard, a senior, finished with eight points over 22 minutes, both career highs.

Edey scored the next four, part of a stretch where he scored eight straight for Purdue, to keep Michigan at bay. Tschetter picked up his fifth and final foul with 7:38 left. Edey drew his share of fouls, but Michigan committed too many elsewhere, including several far from the basket.

McDaniel scored twice in a row to get Michigan within eight, 78-70, with 4:08 left. A minute later, Howard split a pair at the foul line to get within seven, then grabbed a

strong defensive rebound to give Michigan a chance to make it closer. McDaniel's floater rimmed out, and Mason Gillis canned a 3 at the other end. Nimari Burnett (12 points) answered with a 3, but Michigan never got closer than seven.

Michigan did win the second half, 40-37, for the first time in 17 games.

Michigan hung tough early, but it came at a cost. Without forward Olivier Nkamhoua, who had season-ending wrist surgery on Tuesday, Michigan will be thin in the frontcourt the rest of the season. That's a major problem against Purdue.

Cradling Connor

Jay County Junior High School eighth-grader Conner McMellon begins to cradle Union City fifth-grader Mykal Bocanegra during the Jay County Junior High Invite on Saturday. McMellon pinned Bocanegra early in the 144-pound quarterfinal, but lost the next two matches to place fourth.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Injured ...

Continued from page 8

"Kind of scary, could've caused a pretty serious injury to me, and [it] knocked the wind out of me, but luckily my teammates kind of picked me up and got me off the court," said Clark, who recently became the all-time leading scorer in women's college basketball.

"This is what comes with the territory. I'm sure they tried their best to do whatever they could. Obviously, it didn't work, and that's disappointing."

The ACC, which Duke and Wake Forest are part of, and the Big Ten, which Iowa and Ohio Stater are part of, are the

only Power Five conferences that don't automatically fine schools when their students storm a field or court.

"Across college athletics, we have seen far too many of these incidents that put individuals at serious risk, and it will require the cooperation of all — including spectators — to

ensure everyone's well-being," the ACC said in a statement Saturday. "As a conference, we will continually assess with our schools the best way to protect our student-athletes, coaches, and fans."

Court-storming celebrations remain a prominent NCAA tradition that long predates Fil-

ipowski, Clark or even the former Duke star Scheyer's playing careers.

The debate rages on, however, about whether changes are necessary.

"This gotta change," Filipowski wrote Saturday on social media.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Wednesday
Jay County — Boys basketball sectional opener at New Castle — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball sectional at Upper Scioto Valley — 7 p.m.

TV sports

Today
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Georgetown at Villanova (FS1)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Cincinnati at Houston (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Indiana at Northwestern (BTN)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Philadelphia 76ers at

Boston Celtics (TNT)
8:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: St. John's at Marquette (FS1)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: N.C. State at Florida State (ESPN2); Texas at Texas Tech (ESPN2); Penn State at Iowa (BTN)
10 p.m. — NBA: Houston Rockets at Oklahoma City Thunder (TNT)
10:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Nevada at Colorado State (FS1)

Wednesday
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Providence at Marquette (FS1); Auburn at Tennessee (ESPN2); Northwestern at Maryland (BTN)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: New Orleans Pelicans (ESPN)

8:30 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues (TNT)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Minnesota at Illinois (BTN); Alabama at Mississippi State (ESPN2); Seton Hall at Creighton (FS1)
10 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Lakers at Los Angeles Clippers (ESPN)
11 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Oregon State at Oregon (FS1)

Local notes

Tournament scheduled
The Fort Recovery High School volleyball program is holding its annual alumni volleyball tournament on Friday, March 22.
Teams can consist of former players or anyone living in Fort Recovery, and don't need to be from the same graduating class.

Entry costs are \$10 per player, with all proceeds going to the FRHS volleyball team.
For more information, contact Travis Guggenbiller by March 20 by emailing guggenbiller@fortrecovery.k12.in.gov

Midwest Walleye Challenge
Indiana anglers are invited to participate in the 2024 Midwest Walleye Challenge, a virtual fishing tournament.
The tournament begins March 30 and ends June 30, with walleye, sauger and saugeye counting. Contestants need to utilize the MyCatch mobile app to submit photos of their catches with a measuring device.
Participants can enter for free for the chance at the grand prize or pay a \$25 fee to be eligible for

biweekly cash prizes.
Those interested in participating can register by visiting AnglersAtlas.com/event/769 or by using the MyCatch app. For further information, visit on.IN.gov/walleye.

Registration open
Registration for the Dunkirk co-ed softball league is now open.
The league will start on April 7, and will cost \$250 for each team to register. First and second-place teams win a payout of \$400 and \$200 respectively.

To register, call Brock Farmer at (765) 209-2489.
To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@thecr.com.

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90 SALE CALENDAR	90 SALE CALENDAR	90 SALE CALENDAR	130 MISC FOR SALE	250 PUBLIC NOTICE	250 PUBLIC NOTICE
PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY MARCH 23rd, 2024 TIME 10:00 A.M. LOCATED: 7136 N 650 E. BRYANT, IN. OPEN HOUSE: Sunday, March 10TH from 1-3 pm, or for private showing phone auctioneers. REAL ESTATE 80 Acres in Section 7, Wabash Township. To be offered in tracts and combinations. Tract 1: 2.5 Acres with 3 bed, 2 bath brick ranch style home containing 1792 sq ft finished living area. Attached 2 car garage, central air, lofted barn, detached garage/grainery. Tract 2: 66 Acres Practically all tillable with frontage on SR 67 and CR 650 E. Tract 3: 2.4 Acres practically all tillable with frontage on SR 67 and CR 650 E. Tract 4: 7 Acres Wooded with access on CR 650 E. TRACTOR — ANTIQUES — MISC Farmall A Tractor with cycle bar mower, belly mower and blade. 5 gallon milk can. CC saw. Chicken crate. Old gates. Walking plows. Old toys. Tinker toys and games. Hand paint-	ed lamp globe. OWNER: Laux Trust-Thomas J. Laux Trustee SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE AC31800004 Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229 Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587 Check AuctionZip for more photos. PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY MARCH 9th, 2024 TIME 10:00 A.M. LOCATED: 4023 S 800 W. RED-KEY, IN. REAL ESTATE Tract 1: 25 Acres in Section 5, Jefferson Township with 23 acres tillable, balance being non-tillable and road frontage. Tract 2: 9.6 Acres in Section 6, Jefferson Township. Practically all tillable. For more information phone auctioneers. Land will be sold at 4023 S 800 W, Red-key IN. TRUCK — TRACTOR — FARM EQUIPMENT — MISC Bambauer hog manure hyd. hose reel, PTO driven on transport. PTO hog manure pump. Wilson 45' hopper bottom grain trailer. 1000-500-	300 gallon fuel tanks. Work benches. ANTIQUES — HOUSEHOLD Plastic Marathon sign. Garden plows. Garden planter. Oil cans. Maytag washer and dryer. Gladiator refrigerator. Full line of household furnishings and furniture. OWNER: Anita Orr, Wade Weesner POA SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE AC31800004 Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229 Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587 Check AuctionZip & Auctionsoft for more photos.	ALUMINUM SHEETS 23"x30", .007 thick. Clean and shiny on one side...35 cents each or four for \$1.40, plus tax. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland 260-726-8141. 190 FARMERS COLUMN AG RENTAL Spreaders: BBI, Artsway Vertical. New Holland 228 skid loaders w/full cab, heat/ac. Fort Recovery 419-852-0309 200 FOR RENT LEASE SPACE available, Coldwater, OH. Manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, distribution, offices, inside and outdoor storage. Easy access to major highways and railroad access with loading docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, www.sycamore-space.com 230 AUTOS, TRUCKS WE PAY CASH for junk autos. We pick up at your location. 1-765-546-2642 or 1-765-857-1071. Slocum's Salvage	NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION NO. 38C01-2402-EU-000008 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JAY COUNTY, INDIANA Notice is hereby given that Linda Byers was on the 14th day of February, 2024, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Robert L. Byers, deceased, who died on the 9th day of July, 2014. All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred. Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 14th day of February, 2024. Jon Eads Clerk of the Circuit Court for Jay County, Indiana COCKERILL & COCKERILL 235 South Meridian Street P.O. Box 247 Winchester, IN 47394 (765) 584-3241 Attorneys for Estate CR 2-20, 27-2024 HSPAXLP	STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY, SS: JAY CIRCUIT COURT CAUSE NO.: 38C01-2402-EU-000009 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN ANGELO BELL, DECEASED. NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION In the Circuit Court of Jay County, Indiana. Notice is hereby given that Jeremiah Bell and Kelly Bell were, on the 20th day of February, 2024, appointed Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of John Angelo Bell, deceased, who died January 27, 2024. All persons who have claims against this Estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred. Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 20th day of February, 2024. Jon Eads Clerk of the Circuit Court of Jay County, Indiana Leslie M. Mathewson Mathewson Law, P.C. 625 South Tillotson Avenue Muncie, Indiana 47304 Telephone: 765-587-4526 CR 2-27,3-5, 2024 HSPAXLP

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Fort Recovery boys bowling team's season ends, see story below

Tribe basketball plays in sectional opener tomorrow, see Sports on tap

Sports

Teigen Fortkamp moves up eight seeds

CANTON, Ohio — Teigen Fortkamp got the chance to finish her career at state.

In one event, she outperformed her seed, while she fell short in the other.

Fortkamp, a senior on the Fort Recovery High School swim team, saw her high school athletic career end on Thursday as she competed in the state prelims in the 50-yard freestyle and 100 backstroke at C.T. Brannin Natatorium.

To make it to Friday's finals, she needed to finish in the top 16 for the finals or consolation heats.

In the 100 backstroke, she was 43 hundredths of a second short.

Fortkamp outperformed her 31st seed by swimming a 1 minute, 0.42 seconds time, nearly a full second faster than her seed time. The performance earned her 23rd place, while Ella Leibold of Archbishop Alter took the final spot in the consolation with a 59.99.

The 50 freestyle didn't go as smoothly, as she swam slower than her 25.13 seconds seed time. The FRHS senior came in as the 27th seed, but finished 29th by swimming a 25.26.

Waynedale's Anna Pittman claimed the final spot of the consolation heat with a 24.78 prelims time.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Walter Campofiore, a seventh-grader at Jay County Junior High School, picks up sixth-grader Jackson Ponder of Monroe Central during the quarterfinal match of the 106-pound bracket on Saturday. Campofiore won the match 10-6 before falling in the championship.

Patriot wrestlers earn second place

The Patriots left with three champions, but it wasn't enough to take the meet as a whole.

The Jay County Junior High School wrestling team racked up 287 points to take second place at the Jay County Junior High Invite on Saturday.

Delta claimed the championship in five brackets to tally 416 points and run away with first place.

Caleb Sibray (18-1), Freddie Lingo (19-1) and George Plessinger (17-2) all topped their respective brackets.

Sibray and Lingo both received byes in the 170-pound and 190-pound brackets respectively, while Plessinger only had one opponent standing between him and the 285 championship.

Plessinger took down Delta's Caleb Thurston by fall in only 48 seconds to claim the match.

After Lingo's bye, the eighth-grader pinned two opponents in under a minute. He followed it up with a victory over Driver's Isacc Spurlin (13-2) by fall in 1 minute, 25 seconds.

Sibray won the quarterfinal match by fall before two major decisions secured the crown. In the final, he beat Lincoln Mann (13-6) of Delta 9-0.

Jay County also had two second-place finishes, coming from Walter Campofiore (106 weight class) and Spencer Smitley (215).

Three qualify

MUNCIE — The Jay County Winter Swim team

Local roundup

competed at the CARD/OAK Last Chance Meet at Muncie Central High School over the weekend, where three individuals and a relay punched their tickets to state.

Sophie Warvel, Ellie Wiggins, Carsyn Guggenbiller and Addisyn Champ combined to swim a 2 minutes, 12.61 seconds time in the 9-10-year-old 200-yard freestyle relay to punch their tickets to the state competition at IUPUI March 15-17.

Champ, Guggenbiller and Warvel also accomplished the feat on an individual level.

Along with being the high point winner, Champ qualified for state in two events with times of 2:28.84 in the 200 freestyle and 36.55 in the 50 freestyle.

Guggenbiller's times of 2:39.07 in the 200 freestyle and 2:58.87 in the 200 individual medley also passed the state standard.

Warvel earned berths in the 50 butterfly and 200 freestyle with times of 36.07 and 2:33.14 respectively.

Along with the state qualifiers, Jay County had 26 of its 38 swimmers qualify for the divisional meet from March 1 to 3 at Fishers High School.

Indians' season ends at district

ROSSVILLE, Ohio — The Indians arrived at district hunting for their first state berth, but they fell just two spots short.

The Fort Recovery High School boys bowling team fell 65 pins short of a state berth as it finished fifth at the OHSAA Division II District tournament at Interstate Lanes on Friday.

The top three teams advance to the state finals held at H. P. Lanes in Columbus, Ohio on March 8 and 9. Coldwater, Ottawa-Glandorf and Liberty Center claimed the top three spots with 4,380, 4,127 and 4,094 pins respectively. Napoleon finished just four pins ahead of the Indians, who totaled 4,029.

The top three individuals not on advancing teams also make the cut to compete at state.

Lucas Acheson finished as Fort Recovery's top bowler, but missed that mark by eight spots. He rolled games of 236, 206 and 172 pins to claim the 20th overall placement, the ninth not on an advancing team.

Xavier Kitzmiller of Minster, Spencer Anglemyer of Kenton and Hayden Lewis of Edison moved on as they totaled 666, 660 and 653 pins respectively.

Owen Knapke and Nate Jutte both finished within four pins of Acheson. Knapke's total pinfall of 609 earned 22nd overall,

while Jutte finished 24th with 607.

Austin Steinbrunner started strong with the Indians' highest game of the tournament at 240 pins, but struggled after, finishing with 570 and 38th place.

Even Keller threw the first game of the final individual spot. He knocked over 171 pins.

Riley Grieshop got the second and third game, throwing a 183 and 201 respectively.

To go with the 2,952 pins from individual games, the Indians tallied 1,077 pins from the six baker games. Fort Recovery had a high game of 202 in the fourth and a low of 169 in the sixth.

Duke star injured

By PETER SBLENDORIO
New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

Duke center Kyle Filipowski, one of college basketball's most high-profile players, didn't hide his frustrations after Saturday's collision with a court-storming Wake Forest fan left him with an injured knee.

Neither did his coach, Jon Scheyer. A little over a month ago, Iowa star Caitlin Clark was similarly upset after an Ohio State fan charged into her, causing an injury scare.

These incidents, and the subsequent reactions by the prominent players involved in them, continue to fuel debates about the safety of court-storming celebrations.

"When are we going to ban court-storming?" Scheyer said Saturday. "How many times does a player have to get into something where they get punched or they get pushed or they get taunted right in their face? It's a dangerous thing."

Wake Forest fans rushed the LJV Coliseum court Saturday after the unranked Demon Deacons pulled off an upset 83-79 win over No. 8 Duke. Amid the celebration, a fan appeared to collide with the 7-foot Filipowski's leg, causing the athlete to be helped off the court.

"I've already heard that there's some

Filipowski's injury fuels court-storming debate

videos of getting punched in the back, so I absolutely feel like it was personal," Filipowski told North Carolina's WFMY-TV afterward. "Intentional for sure. There's no reason where they see a big guy like me trying to work my way off the court and they can't just work around me. There's no excuse for that."

Sunday's incident garnered renewed attention around a topic that commanded national scrutiny after a fan ran into Clark following Ohio State's upset win at home over then-No. 2 Iowa on Jan. 21.

Clark, too, was helped off the court, but the reigning national player of the year avoided a significant injury.

See Injured page 7

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