

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Bonds, roads added to TIF options

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review
Jay County Redevelopment Commission has added a few items to its wish list.

Commission members agreed to mark paying off the bonds associated with Jay County Regional Sewer District and make repairs to county roads as potential uses of dollars coming in from the tax increment financing (TIF) district.

They also heard from Ed Curtin of CWC Latitudes about the process for updating the group's economic development plan.

Created about 15 years ago after plans to build an ethanol plant in rural Jay County were announced, the TIF district covers approximately 191 acres southwest of Portland in Greene Township. TIF dollars have been used since then to pay off bonds associated with road work and sewer improvements near the plant.

Jay County paid off its final bond for the project in 2023, and the redevelopment commission is looking into options for dollars coming in from the district for the next 13 years.

According to county auditor Emily Franks, the redevelopment commission has \$851,189.83 in TIF dollars currently available, with an additional \$573,448.82 coming in by the end of the year.

Redevelopment commission vice president Faron Parr suggested paying off bonds associated with Jay County Regional Sewer District.

Created in 2011 and '12, the sewer district serves customers in the Foxfire Addition southwest of Portland and two areas near Dunkirk. Sewer district customers asked Jay County Council for help in early 2018 because of rate increases. Monthly payments would have eventually reached \$92.80 for rural Portland area residents and \$101.85 for rural Dunkirk area residents.

See TIF page 2

Data challenge

County agrees to be part of BEAD process

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review
Jay County is challenging data accrued by the state and federal government.

Officials encourage local residents to get involved in order to potentially change broadband access across the county in the future.

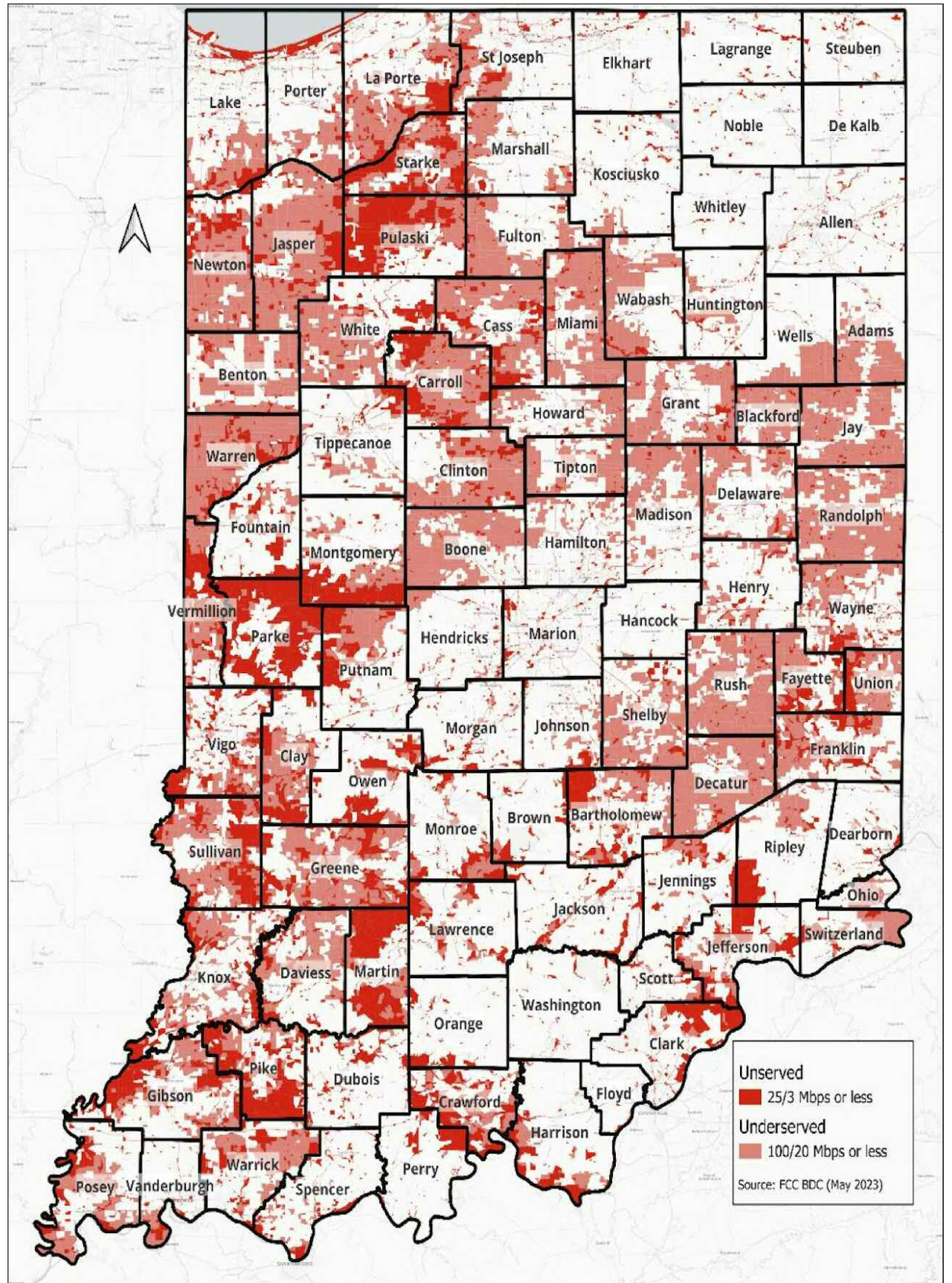
Jay County Commissioners OK'd becoming registered challengers Monday in the Indiana Broadband Office challenge process.

Jay County Council vice president Cindy Bracy, Jay County Development Corporation executive director Travis Richards and East Central Indiana Regional Planning District regional coordinator for broadband Autumn Marshall all encouraged commissioners for their support in the effort.

Jay County has committed \$3.9 million toward a project from Mainstream Fiber Networks to install 395 miles of fiberoptic or fixed wireless internet across the county. (The project hinges on receiving approximately \$9.5 million in grant dollars, which may be obtained from Indiana's Next Level Connections grants or the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment program.)

If funded, the project will involve setting up internet connections in all homes and businesses categorized as unserved or underserved in Jay County.

"Unserved" individuals are categorized as residents with less than 25 megabytes per second downloads and 3 megabytes per second uploads, and "under-



Indiana Broadband

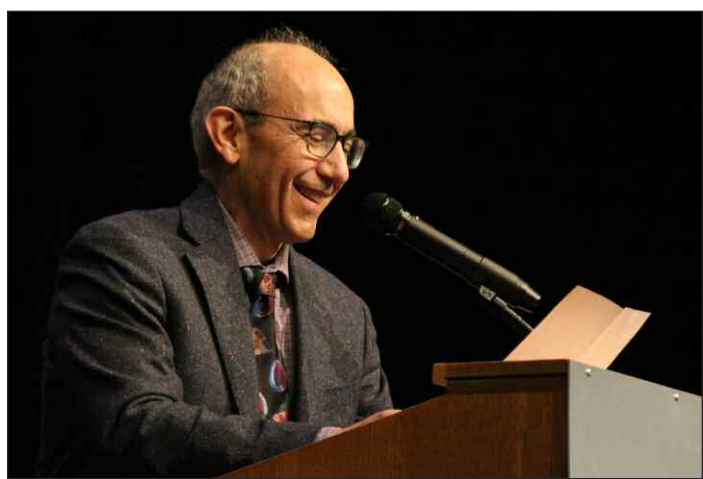
The map above from the Connecting Indiana five-year action plan shows areas of the state that are considered unserved and underserved for high-speed internet according to Federal Communications Commission data from May. Jay County is in the process of gathering data to challenge FCC data as part of seeking federal funding for the expansion of internet access.

served" individuals are categorized as those with less than 100 megabytes per second downloads and 20 megabytes per second uploads. Currently,

according to data from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), about 36% of homes and businesses or 3,900 locations in Jay County are unserved or

underserved in terms of broadband access. JCDC, East Central Indiana Regional Planning District and other local officials are working to coordinate the

challenge process for the county in order to identify areas in which the FCC data is incorrect. The deadline is April 17. See Challenge page 5



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Cracking up

Speaker Ed Hosbach grins while cracking a joke at the Fort Recovery Chamber of Commerce awards banquet Sunday. Hosbach, a 2023 Hall of Fame inductee, introduced honorees throughout the event.

Dunkirk hires consultant

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review
DUNKIRK — The city hired a firm to handle issues at its wastewater treatment plant.

It's still looking for options to update its master utility plan.

Dunkirk City Council on Monday approved a contract with Jones and Henry for work related to the wastewater treatment plant and tabled the master utility plan to get more information.

Council member Dan Watson, who oversees the wastewater department, noted that the city has had continued issues with chloride and phosphorus being discharged from the plant.

Jones and Henry, a Fort Wayne engineering firm, proposed a contract not to exceed \$25,280 to update ordinances to set limits and penalties for phosphorus and chloride discharge. With no limits currently in place, the city is

Firm will work on plan for phosphorus, chloride

unable to do much to control the amount of those chemicals that are coming into the plant from users of the city's sewage system.

The company will also develop a plan for treating the wastewater that comes through the plant to make sure levels of discharge of phosphorus and chloride are below the legal limits. If the city continues to fail to meet those restrictions it could risk fines from Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

Council members Jesse Bivens, Christy Curts, Randy

Murphy, Donna Revolt and Watson unanimously approved the contract. (It had been OK'd by the city's board of works earlier in the evening.)

Dunkirk Mayor Jack Robbins also explained that the city's existing master utility plan runs through September 2024. He said he had sought a quote for updating that plan, but that it came in much higher than he and the board of works was comfortable with. (He did not provide a number.)

See Consultant page 5

Deaths

James Valentine, 82, Portland
Lige Morgan, 62, Portland
Peter Neuenschwander, 83, Geneva
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 55 degrees Monday. The low was 37.

There is a 40% chance of showers tonight with a low around 50. Thursday's forecast calls for rain with a chance of thunderstorms and a high in the mid 60s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Plan Commission will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday at Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. The agenda includes election of officers and appointments for 2024.

Coming up

Thursday — Ag breakfast is back to traditional format this year.

Friday — Coverage of this week's Jay County Council meeting.



TIF ...

Continued from page 1
Jay County commissioners and council agreed in October 2018 to take over the district's bond payments that total around 28,000 annually.

with the goal of reducing rate increases that went into effect in August 2018 while also allowing the sewer district to bring in enough money to pay its other bills and build up savings for maintenance.

At that time, a plan was also put in place for streamlining maintenance and reporting systems, naming commissioners and council members to seats on the sewer district board, continuing to check on increased meter readings in Dunkirk and reviewing charges from the cities of Portland and Dunkirk,

which handle the wastewater from the sewer systems.

Bonds from Jay County Regional Sewer District currently sit at \$497,000 in principle with \$253,075 in interest and are expected to be paid off by 2051. Parr said the interest payment is comparatively low, but he noted benefits to pay off the bonds early, such as the sewer district changing hands.

"It was talked about the city taking it over after we paid it off," he said. "And then we would be out of the sewer business, which we don't want to be in the sewer business anyway."

A former Jay County Commissioner himself, Parr noted the conversation would need to be between commissioners and city mayors.

Parr also recalled residents voicing concerns about the state of county roads surrounding POET after the ethanol plant was established. Discussion specifically centered around potentially making repairs if needed to county roads 200 South and 125 South, with Curtin noting he would likely broaden the language to include projects relating to any county roads.

Redevelopment commission formally agreed to add both the sewer district bonds and road repairs to its list of TIF district projects.

In related news, Curtin noted he would create a draft for updating the economic development plan. The document will be based on items in Jay County

Commissioners' capital improvement plan, which was approved in October by the redevelopment commission as a list of potential projects to fund with TIF district dollars. Those include projects for broadband, Jay County Highway Department, Jay County Solid Waste Management District, Jay Emergency Medical Service, Jay County Health Department, development of the 68 acres owned by the county on the western edge of Portland and a sober living facility.

Curtin explained the process for updating the plan starts with a declaratory resolution from redevelopment commission. The legislation next moves to Jay County Plan Commission, then Jay County Commissioners

before returning to redevelopment commission for a final decision.

He told the group he will put together a draft of the plan in order to prepare for starting the process.

In other business, redevelopment commission members Carl Walker, Brian McGalliard, Faron Parr and Shannon Current, absent Chuck Huffinan and Ted Champ:

•Approved an agreement for Baker Tilly for scope of services around \$1,750. The company aids Jay County Auditor's Office in the TIF neutralization process in July and other related work.

•Re-appointed Walker as president and appointed Faron Parr as vice president and Chuck Huffinan as secretary

CR almanac

Thursday 3/14	Friday 3/15	Saturday 3/16	Sunday 3/17	Monday 3/18
66/48	55/37	54/39	48/32	41/25
Rain is expected Thursday, with thunderstorms also possible. The chance is 80%.	More showers and thunderstorms are on the horizon for Friday with a 40% chance of rain.	Mostly sunny on Saturday, when the high will be in the mid 50s.	Another chance of rain on Sunday. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.	There's a slight chance of snow on Monday under mostly cloudy skies.

Lotteries

Powerball
Monday
1-3-7-16-66
Power Ball: 5
Power Play: 5
Estimated jackpot: \$559 million

Daily Four: 6-2-3-2
Quick Draw: 2-5-8-11-12-14-20-24-29-38-41-47-48-51-52-56-57-66-73-77
Cash 5: 26-30-31-32-43
Estimated jackpot: \$90,000

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$735 million

Ohio
Monday
Midday
Pick 3: 2-3-8
Pick 4: 8-3-0-3
Pick 5: 4-0-7-5-8
Evening
Pick 3: 0-9-3
Pick 4: 4-7-2-7
Pick 5: 3-6-5-8-7
Rolling Cash: 6-8-23-32-37
Estimated jackpot: \$140,000

Hoosier
Monday
Midday
Daily Three: 4-2-2
Daily Four: 9-7-7-5
Quick Draw: 3-10-13-24-27-28-29-33-34-38-44-56-59-67-68-70-72-73-77-78
Evening
Daily Three: 3-0-9

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery	April beans11.70 Wheat 5.22
Corn.....4.34 April corn4.38 Wheat4.29	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.16 April corn4.20 Beans11.67 April beans11.72 Wheat5.09
POET Biorefining Portland	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.31 April corn4.31 Beans11.49 April beans11.54 Wheat4.79
Corn.....4.38 April corn4.41 May corn.....4.43	
The Andersons Richland Township	
Corn4.27 April corn4.25 Beans11.67	

Today in history

In 1781, the planet Uranus was discovered by English astronomer William Herschel. Described as either a nebulous star or comet, naming it after the father of the god Saturn.

In 1794, Eli Whitney patented the cotton gin, a machine meant to remove seeds from raw cotton.

In 1852, the Uncle Sam cartoon appeared in the New York Lantern weekly for the first time.

In 1868, the United States Senate began its first impeachment trial for then-president Andrew Johnson.

In 2004, Vladimir Putin was reelected to a second term as president of Russia. He became president in 1999 after Boris Yeltsin's resignation.

In 2012, Encyclopaedia Britannica announced it would no longer publish its print version, which had been at that time the longest continually published English print encyclopedia.

— The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today
6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

Thursday
6 p.m. — Jay County Plan Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.

Monday
5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland.

5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.

6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery School Board, community room, high school, 400 E. Butler St.

7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

Obituaries

James Valentine

July 31, 1942-March 8, 2024
James "Mick" Valentine, age 82, of Portland passed away on Friday, March 8, 2024, at his stepson's home in Leo, Indiana.

He was born in Portland, Indiana, on July 31, 1942, the son of Robert J. and Margaret A. (Hannon) Valentine. He was married on Feb. 9, 1991, to Linda Shauver who passed away on Aug. 31, 2020.

James was a U.S. Air Force veteran and Portland High school graduate, and worked at the Portland Forge for 47 years. He enjoyed fishing.

Surviving is three stepsons, Larry Hummer (wife: Pam) of Leo, Indiana, Robert Hummer of Port-

land and Richard Hummer II (wife: Miranda) of Salamina, Indiana; one stepdaughter, Dana Allen (husband: LaMont) of California; one brother, John Valentine of Portland; one sister, Sue Somers of Portland; and nine grandchildren.

Funeral services will be Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 2 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Steve Arnold presiding. Burial will follow in the Salamina Cemetery. Visitation will be Thursday from noon to 2 p.m.

Memorials can be made to the Jay County Humane Society.



Valentine

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Lige Morgan, Portland, Aug. 8, 1961-March 9, 2024. No services are scheduled.

Peter L. Neuenschwander, Geneva, Dec. 7, 1940-March 11, 2024. Services will be at 9 a.m. Friday at the Neuenschwander residents, 1190 E. 1000 South, Geneva.

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.

Capsule Reports

Struck pole

Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000 after a Pennville man's vehicle hit a utility pole about 6 a.m. Sunday.

Devin R. Wagner, 24, was driving his 2012 Polaris Ranger north on county road 1150 West near county road 450 North. He told police he swerved to miss a

deer, causing him to go off the road and hit a utility pole. He left the scene without notifying law enforcement, according to an accident report.

Wagner admitted to police he had been consuming alcohol before driving his vehicle, and he was cited with a misdemeanor.

Felony arrests

Common nuisance

A Dunkirk man was arrested Monday for maintaining a common nuisance and other drug charges.

Payton C. Folkert, 317 W. Pleasant

St., is charged in Jay Circuit Court with a Level 6 felony for maintaining a common nuisance, a Level 6 felony for possession of methamphetamine and a Level 6 felony for unlawful pos-

session of a syringe. He was also charged with a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.

Folkert was being held on a \$30,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Felony courts

Battery

Several people were sentenced in Jay courts to serve time for battery related charges.

Connor Kunkle pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to battery against a public safety official, a Level 5 felony. He was sentenced to three years and 95 days in Indiana Department of Correction with 95 days credit. The court recommended he be considered for the Special Needs Acclimation Program (SNAP), suspended three years of his sentence and placed him on probation. Kunkle was also assessed \$189 in court costs.

Kati R. Curtis, 33, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to domestic battery, a Class A misdemeanor. She was sentenced to 270 days in Jay County Jail and given 48 days credit for time served. She was fined \$1, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$50 domestic violence prevention and treatment fee. As part of her plea agreement, her charge was lessened from a Level 6 felony. A habitual enhancement was also dismissed.

Bradley E. Stocker, 54, 906 N. Franklin St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay

Superior Court to domestic battery, a Class A misdemeanor. He was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but 120 days of his sentence suspended, given four days credit for time served and placed on probation for 245 days. He was placed on home detention for 116 days. He was assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$50 domestic violence prevention and treatment fee. As part of his plea agreement, his charge was lessened from a Level 6 felony, and a Level 6 felony charge for strangulation was dismissed.

Drunk driving

Three people were sentenced in Jay Superior Court to jail after pleading guilty to drunk driving charges.

See page 5

SERVICES

Today

Ward, Shirley: 1 p.m., MJS Mortuaries, 109 S. Meridian St., Redkey.

Thursday

Valentine, James: 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Friday

Neuenschwander, Peter: 9 a.m., Neuenschwander residence, 1190 E. 1000 South, Geneva.

Saturday

Simon, Joan: 2 p.m., West Missionary Church, 4295 W. Indiana 218, Berne.

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Splashin' contribution

Portland Fire Department presented a check for \$13,400 from the first Splashin' with a passion in memory of long time community volunteer, Peggy Atkinson, to the United Way of Jay County. Pictured are Cindy Denney and Troy Atkinson of United Way and Portland firefighters Travis Theurer, Dustin Guggenbiller and Mike Weitzel.

Past lessons still ring true in today's world

DEAR ABBY: Years ago, I sat over lunch, reading your mom's "Definition of Maturity." It was shortly after my dad died, and reading it made me realize how lucky I had been. Those were all lessons I learned at home from my parents.

Perhaps this item is in your booklet. But could you print it in your column again for other readers to see? It's an important reminder of what to strive for. — MARY H. IN IOWA

DEAR MARY: I am doing that with pleasure. I agree

Dear Abby



that Mama's definition of maturity is a timely reminder — and perhaps something that people (of all ages) can learn from today.

DEFINITION OF MATURITY

Maturity is:
The ability to stick with a job until it's finished.
The ability to do a job without being supervised.
The ability to carry money without spending it.
And the ability to bear an injustice without wanting To get even.
You were correct when you guessed that her definition of maturity is part of the "Keepers" booklet. Keepers is a collection of articles that readers suggested be put together in

booklet form, many of which readers had hung onto until they were worn and yellowed with age. What resulted was a booklet that contains clever observations and items on diverse subjects, including parenting, children, aging, animals, forgiveness, and more. It can be ordered by sending your name and address plus a check or money order (U.S. funds) for \$8 to Dear Abby Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447.

Both witty and philosophical, the Keepers booklet is an inexpensive, welcome gift for newly married couples, pet lovers or anyone recovering from an illness and filled with down-to-earth nuggets of wisdom.

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 Dear-Abby.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

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.

BRYANT/NEW CORYDON SENIOR CITIZENS — Will meet at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Bryant Community Center for a carry-in dinner.

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

JAY COUNTY CIVIC THEATRE — Holds its regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the boardroom at Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland.

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. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

Thursday CELEBRATE RECOV-

ERY — 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.

PIKE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS — Will meet at 5 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at Pizza Hut in Portland.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY POST 211 — Will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at 211 W. Walnut St., Portland. All auxiliary post members welcome.

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.

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.

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.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland.



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Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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

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One 3x3 ad in The News and Sun

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GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

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Brisk winter walk can clear mind

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from March 11, 2009. Jack was always talking about his hikes and their benefits. He knew all of the little nature preserves and trails around the community and took advantage of them. If you need a break from the world, follow in his footsteps.

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

Sometimes — with the endless drumbeat of troubling news — what I need more than anything else is a walk in the woods. There's something about letting the green of a forest close in around you in summertime or watching the branches of trees move against the winter sky or listening to birdsongs in the spring that restores perspective and removes the stock market, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the unemployment rate from my consciousness. Last year, perhaps sensing that

Back in the Saddle



2008 was going to be stressful, I hiked out alone on a brutally cold New Year's Day into the Loblolly and found a real sense of peace and tranquility that I drew strength from for months. There are a number of nature trails locally if you ever feel the urge to sample them. They're free, and they help burn off the calories from spending too much time on the couch over the winter. All they require are comfortable shoes, a pair you don't mind getting muddy. The Loblolly Wetlands Nature Preserve on county road 250 West north of Ind. 18 has several trails.

One, which heads west from the paved parking lot, is handicapped accessible and includes a boardwalk over a wetland. It's particularly nice in warmer weather when there's lots of activity in the wetland. Another heads east then splits into three paths. One leads to a pond, another circles a large wetland area, and a third makes a loop through the woods. The Bibler Nature Preserve, east and a little north of Boundary City, is owned by ACRES, a Fort Wayne-based land trust. Its trails take you through some lush wooded land with some amazing mature beech trees. The trails aren't rugged, but they're not paved either. They're marked by ribbons placed about eye-level on small trees. As long as you can see a ribbon, you know you're not lost. Like the woodland trail at the Loblolly, the Bibler trails tend to loop, so you hike into the woods

then come back near to where you parked your car. Another looping trail can be found in the bird sanctuary on the Jay-Adams County line road about three-quarters of a mile east of U.S. 27. Like the Loblolly, the bird sanctuary is a state-owned preserve and is maintained by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Boy Scout projects have also made a difference at the bird sanctuary. The bird sanctuary was originally pretty small, but support from The Portland Foundation and the late Ann Goodrich helped it more than double in size. Additional adjoining land to the west has been acquired by the state. Over the years, I figured Connie and I had walked all the trails available locally. But a few weeks ago, my friend Ken Brunswick of DNR alerted me to one we'd overlooked. It's the Bell Croft Nature Pre-

serve, a DNR site located on county road 300 South northeast of Como. On a recent, chilly Sunday afternoon, we decided to check it out. There's a stoned spot with room to park a single vehicle, and a path along a brambled fencerow takes you back to a 40-acre woods. The trail is a little spongy at times, and I suspect it's pretty muddy after last weekend's rain. But the hike is worth the effort. The woods is full of old growth oak, ash, and hickory, and there's a stand of beech trees that's as pretty as any I've seen in Jay County, where beeches are relatively rare. Our walk took about 40 minutes, looping through the woods and following the ribbons on trees. We were cold by the time we got back to the car, but the economy and the wars never crossed our minds.

IVF compromise isn't out of reach

Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

Belatedly, Alabama lawmakers have passed a bill protecting access to in vitro fertilization. The measure came two weeks after the state Supreme Court ruled that frozen embryos should be considered unborn children under the law. Three fertility clinics had suspended treatments, citing liability concerns. Would-be parents were caught in limbo.

The court decision, disruptive as it was, stemmed from a tragic case: In 2020, the embryos of three families seeking IVF were accidentally destroyed by a patient who had wandered into an unsecured storage area. The families sued the fertility center under the state's Wrongful Death of a Minor Act and won on appeal.

The new law, which passed almost unanimously, doesn't reverse that ruling. Rather, by protecting doctors and patients from civil and criminal liability, it allows IVF treatments to continue.

Swift bipartisan legislation on such a divisive issue is encouraging. Yet Alabama's work is far from complete: The law expires next year, and it fails to reckon with the larger question of whether IVF can be consistent with the idea that life begins at conception, a position established by law in Alabama and other states. A legal framework that provides more clarity is necessary.

IVF treatment began in the 1970s and has resulted in hundreds of thousands of births in the US. It requires a combination of medication and surgery to extract eggs from a woman's body, which are then fertilized with sperm in a lab. The fertilized egg becomes a pregnancy when it attaches to the walls of a uterus.

IVF success rates are unpredictable. To improve their chances, many patients go through multiple rounds of invasive and at times painful treatment to retrieve as many eggs as possible. Unused embryos are frozen for future use. With the cost of each round of treatment exceeding \$15,000, IVF is often a last resort for people who struggle to conceive. It's also sought by patients with serious medical con-

Guest Editorial

ditions that could imperil the mother or fetus. The procedure isn't without ethical challenges. Opinions vary about what's to be done with unused embryos, which in the US number about 1.5 million. Some are donated to other parents or scientific research; others are kept frozen in storage and still others are discarded. That has led to opposition by some who believe life begins at conception, despite support for fertility treatment more broadly. Ballot measures to establish fetal personhood have been repeatedly rejected, and voters overwhelmingly support IVF. More than a dozen states nonetheless have enacted or introduced legislation granting legal rights to fertilized embryos, which could affect access to IVF treatment.

Legislators in these states must work together to set reasonable terms. They should start by making protections from legal liability permanent. They should also consider expanding insurance coverage to include IVF, which is strictly limited in Alabama. Doing so could help limit the number of unused embryos by lowering the out-of-pocket cost for each treatment and dampening the incentive to retrieve many more embryos than a patient could reasonably implant. Germany, for example, caps treatments to three embryos per cycle; this works in part because its health system is more generous. Better oversight of IVF clinics, including stricter security and storage requirements, could prevent lapses like the one in Alabama.

IVF is a critical fertility treatment, and protecting it will require bipartisanship. Ideally, Congress would codify protections for it nationwide. For now, Alabama's lawmakers have taken an important step forward. For the good of patients across the nation desperate to conceive, such pragmatism must continue to prevail.



Embrace Women's History Month

By F. WILLIS JOHNSON
The Fulcrum
Tribune News Service

The historical significance of Women's History Month should not be understated. It was born out of the need to acknowledge the often-overlooked achievements of women that have been integral to the fabric of society.

This commemorative month, which began March 1, traces its roots to the mid-19th century, a time marked by the suffrage movement that fought tirelessly for women's right to vote — a fundamental milestone in the journey toward equality. Over the decades, women have broken barriers in every field, from science and politics to the arts and sports, laying the groundwork for future generations.

The contemporary relevance of Women's History Month lies in the ongoing challenges faced by women. Despite significant progress, disparities persist. Gender wage gaps, underrepresentation in leadership positions, violence against women, and limited access to health care are just a few of the issues that continue to impede gender equality. Moreover, the intersectionality of race, class and sexuality adds layers of complexity to these challenges, with women from marginalized communities often facing compounded discrimination.

Women's History Month is not just about reflecting on the past; it's about recognizing the continuous thread of women's contributions that enrich our present and shape our future. The pioneering efforts of scientists like Marie Curie, Katherine Johnson and Kizzmekia Corbett have expanded our understanding of the world and laid the foundation for future innovators to build upon. Their tenacity and brilliance lead aspiring young girls to be passionate about science.

The courageous activism of

F. Willis Johnson



Sojourner Truth and Malala Yousafzai reminds us that the fight for justice is ongoing, and each voice can be powerful in championing change. Their courage underscores the importance of standing up for one's beliefs and the impact it can have on the world. These women, among countless others, have demonstrated that socio-political resistance can take many forms, and all are essential in the journey toward equity.

Similarly, the creative expressions of artists like Frida Kahlo and Maya Angelou offer us a window into the depths of the human experience, highlighting shared struggles and triumphs. Their art transcends time and inspires those who seek to understand and express life's complex emotions. Their legacy is a testament to the power of art in not only capturing the essence of an era but also influencing culture and thought.

The evolution of women's roles is evident as we witness more female leaders who bring fresh perspectives, challenge traditional norms and advocate for policies that benefit a broader spectrum of society. This surge of women in leadership positions is a beacon of progress, demonstrating that diversity in power is not only possible but beneficial for all. As they lead, focusing on social justice, health care, education and environmental sustainability, these women are shaping a legacy that encourages future generations to continue pushing achievable boundaries.

Each of us, I believe, has a part to

play in securing the future of mothers, sisters, wives, daughters and friends through acts of solidarity. Such acts serve as bulwarks against the pervasive disparities that continue to undermine the rights of women globally. A critical pillar is education. By integrating accurate and comprehensive historical accounts into educational curricula, we can empower young girls with the knowledge of their foremothers' achievements, instilling the confidence and determination to discern their paths.

We must be vigilant in our efforts to safeguard women from violence by supporting legislation that addresses domestic abuse, sexual harassment and trafficking. Ensuring that women have complete control over their reproductive rights is a non-negotiable aspect of this movement, as it is intrinsic to their autonomy and well-being.

Likewise, fostering inclusive environments in every sphere of life is critical for advancing solidarity. Inclusive spaces and systems that challenge and dismantle gender stereotypes promote diversity and provide accessible paths for leadership, which are proven to work. By doing so, we enrich our communities and workplaces and model the principles of equity and respect for future generations.

This March is a call to acknowledge the past, affirm the present, and commit to a future where women's rights are recognized and unassailable. It is a time to reflect on the sacrifices made by women before us and acknowledge the responsibility we all share to continue their legacy. Join in embracing this Women's History Month with gratitude and determination, ensuring the preservation of the inalienable rights of girls and women everywhere.

Johnson is a United Methodist pastor.

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

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Challenge ...

Continued from page 1

A survey for residents to answer questions about their internet access is available at jayregion.com.

Commissioner president Chad Aker agreed to set up the county as a registered challenger on the Indiana Broadband Office's website after the meeting. Commissioners OK'd contributing about \$600 for advertising the survey.

Also Monday, commissioners heard from Bracy about the new Jay County Country Living Board of Directors current plans.

The board is reviewing and making revisions to policies, procedures and job descriptions. (It won't take emergency housing requests until the changes are in place.)

She said she thinks the facility can continue to function with adjustments to the budget, noting various salary changes and capital improvement projects that need to be done.

"We've got lots of things on the table, it is un-peeling a very big onion with many layers," she said. "How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time. So we're chomping."

In related news, commissioners learned Jay County Country Living received a \$43,320 reimbursable grant from the Indiana Residential Care Assistance Program. The living facility will be undergoing renovations, including new flooring and paint throughout the building. The funding comes from leftover state dollars that must be spent by June 30.

In other business, commissioners Brian McGalliard, Rex Journay and Aker:

- OK'd purchasing a new 2024 Ford ambulance for Jay Emergency Medical Service at \$210,000. A JEMS ambulance was destroyed in an accident March 2. JEMS director Gary Barnett noted insurance would

Take the broadband survey at jayregion.com

contribute \$100,210 for the damaged vehicle. The remaining \$109,790 will come out of the cumulative capital improvement fund in the commissioners' budget.

- Tabled decision on selecting a date to begin accepting applications for the owner-occupied rehabilitation program, a \$1 million effort intended to help low-income Jay County residents make repairs to their home. County attorney Wes Schemenaur noted he was waiting to hear back on some questions about how each project would be prepared. (The funds won't be available until 30 days after an agreement has been signed.)

- Heard Jay County Sheriff Ray Newton is suspending the inmate work program this year because of a lack of personnel to run it. He noted hopes to reinstitute the program in 2025.

- Learned public forums have started for East Central Indiana Regional Planning District's comprehensive economic development strategy, a five-year plan for Blackford, Grant, Delaware and Jay counties that serves as a summary of the economic conditions of the region and contains a list of projects identified and prioritized by each county. Upcoming forums are from 5 to 7 p.m. March 12 at Innovation Connector, 1208 W. River Blvd., Muncie; 5 to 7 p.m. April 3 at Blackford County Fairgrounds, 310 E. Park Ave., Hartford City; and 5 to 7 p.m. April 9 at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland.

- Tabled decision on a three-year contract with Perry Pro-Tech for managing printer services throughout county offices. Commissioners asked Schemenaur to coordinate with representative Tyler Sprunger about adding in a 30-day out clause.

- Approved the following: an ordinance amending the annual landfill permit fee, increasing from \$35,000 to \$50,000; a \$167,268 quarterly claim from LifeStream Services; and a safety inspection report for Jay County bridges.

- OK'd purchasing new holsters and related equipment for Jay County Sheriff's Office from Municipal Emergency Services of Indianapolis for \$14,839.

- Agreed to terminate a contract with Emerald Business Solutions for the sheriff's office website. Newton explained the agreement had been with an employee who resigned from the department. Plans are in the works to create another website.

- Were informed Great Lakes Chloride would offer calcium chloride at \$1.56 per foot for residents interested in dust control for their roads. The company would offer its services for roads at a minimum of 300 feet in length and 16 feet wide.

- Appointed Shannon Current as the non-voting school representative on Jay County Redevelopment Commission.

- Asked Newton to gather two more quotes for laptops. (He had asked to spend \$2,319.32 for two new laptops from Dell.)

Consultant ...

Continued from page 1

Robbins said he plans to seek additional quotes for the work. Council agreed to table the issue.

Council members also discussed an ordinance regarding cutting streets for utility work or other projects.

A draft version of the ordinance had called for firms to repave, rather than patch, any street that had more than three cuts in a single block. It also called for a permit process with an application fee. There is a provision that allows for work required in cases of emergency.

Addressing an issue raised at a previous meeting, Schemenaur suggested removing the "three cuts" rule and instead making each paving decision at the discretion of the board of works. (There had been concern about cuts running the length of the street not meeting the requirements for repaving.)

Watson also expressed concern about the permit fees — as written, they were \$2,500 for above-ground work and \$500 for below-ground. He said he feels the numbers should be reversed, while Murphy said he feels both fees are too high. Watson also questioned how many permits would be needed for a firm doing work in various areas of the city.

Schemenaur said he would adjust the proposed ordinance based on some of the concerns raised and ask them to continue thinking about the permit fees and structure. Council will revisit the ordinance in April.

Watson also asked about updates to the city's golf cart ordinance that were discussed last year. They included the possibility of requiring a permit for driving a golf cart in the city.

Robbins said he needs to talk with the city's police department regarding its thoughts on permits and procedures before council votes on any potential changes.

In other business, council:

- Agreed to be a challenger for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program after hearing a presentation from Jay County Develop-

ment Corporation executive director Travis Richards and Jay County Council member Cindy Bracy. Selected entities — government units, non-profit organizations and internet service providers among them — can challenge the Federal Communications Commission data regarding unserved (less than 25-megabyte uploads and 3-megabyte uploads per second) and underserved (100/20) locations. That data will be used to help determine funding allocations as the federal program has \$42 billion to expand high-speed broadband access nationwide.

- Heard Watson ask about timelines for planned solar farms in the county. Schemenaur explained that companies are waiting for approval to join the power grid. He said the first construction may not begin until 2025.

- Approved the following: sponsorships of \$300 for Dunkirk Public Library's summer reading program and \$250 each for Jay Community Center and Dunkirk's softball league; payment of claims totaling \$179,940.60.

- Learned Kara Lowe will fill in to handle clerk-treasurer duties following the departure of Tina Elliott, who turned in her letter of resignation last month. It is effective today. By state law, such vacancies are filled by a caucus of the party of the departing officeholder within 30 days of the vacancy.

- Heard from Revolt that Dunkirk City Pool is in the process of hiring lifeguards for the 2024 season.

- Rescinded a previous motion to pay \$60 per month for council member email addresses and approved the correct amount of \$66 per month.

- Heard from Revolt that the former caretaker's home has been removed from Dunkirk City Park.

- Learned the Jay School Corporation junior high softball program will utilize the diamond at Dunkirk City Park.

- Was reminded there will be an eclipse-viewing celebration from 1 to 5 p.m. Monday, April 8.

Felony court news

Continued from page 2

Jeremy W. Cook, 33, 2265 Ohio 571, Greenville, Ohio, pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol level of 0.15% or more, a Class A misdemeanor. (As part of his plea agreement, a Level 6 felony for operating a vehicle while intoxicated with an enhancement for having a prior conviction within seven years was dismissed.) He was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but 10 days of his sentence suspended and given four days credit for time served. Cook was fined \$25, assessed \$189.50 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug and alcohol countermeasures fee. Cook was placed on probation for 355 days and ordered to submit to an evaluation within 30 days of his sentencing for substance abuse counseling. The court recommended Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles suspend his license for 90 days retroactive to Jan. 9, 2023.

Joshua P. Bower, 33, 1009 West Walnut St., Portland, pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 540 days in Jay County Jail with 360 days suspended and given eight days credit for time served. Bower was charged \$504.50 in court costs and filing fees and fined \$1. As part of his plea agreement, a Level 6 felony for neglect of a dependent was dismissed.

Andrew D. Fisher, 31, 1017 W. Race St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to operating a vehicle while intoxicated with a prior conviction within seven years, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 270 days in Jay County Jail and given 196 days credit for time served. Fisher was charged \$389.50 in court costs and filing fees and fined \$1.

Davion O. Woods, 28, 1225 N. Bellaire Ave., Muncie, pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person with a passenger younger than 18 years old, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 270 days in Jay County Jail and given 246 days credit

for time served. He was fined \$25, assessed \$189.50 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug and alcohol countermeasures fee. The court recommended Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles suspend his license for one year retroactive to April 12, 2021. As part of his plea agreement, two Class A misdemeanors for possession of paraphernalia and driving with a suspended license were dismissed.

Drug possession

Several people were sentenced in Jay courts to serve time after pleading guilty to drug possession.

Angela M. Gray, 51, 253 E. Bell Ave., Redkey, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail and given four days credit for time served. Gray was assessed \$185 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of her plea agreement, two Level 6 felonies for unlawful possession of a syringe and maintaining a common nuisance were dismissed.

Chastity D. Chapman, 46, 225 Angle Drive, Dunkirk, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to two and a half years in Indiana Department of Correction with all but four days suspended and given four days credit for time served. Chapman was placed on probation, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee.

Stephanie A. McClure, 37, 226 E. Elder St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of a narcotic drug, a Level 5 felony. She was sentenced to three years in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for time served. McClure was assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of her plea

agreement, a Level 6 felony for unlawful possession of a syringe was dismissed.

Faith L. Fellers, 55, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 5 felony. She was sentenced to five years in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for time served. Fellers was assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. She was recommended for purposeful incarceration, meaning upon completion of a substance abuse treatment program, the court would consider modifying her sentence.

Ashley M. Walker, 34, 1147 N. U.S. 27, Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony, and neglect of a dependent, a Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to three years in Indiana Department of Correction with all but 18 months suspended and given credit for time served. Walker was placed on probation, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee.

Jennifer L. Myers, 42, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 5 felony. She was sentenced to four years in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for one day served. Myers was assessed \$189 in court costs and charged a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee.

Darrell D. Decamp, 47, Delton, Michigan, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 5 felony. He was sentenced to three years in Indiana Department of Correction with all but 47 days suspended and placed on probation for two years and 10 months. Decamp was given 47 days credit for time served, fined \$1, assessed \$189 in court costs and charged \$200 for a drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of his plea agreement, a Level 6 felony for dealing mari-

juana and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia were dismissed.

Jerry W. Slater, 209 Water St., Ridgeville, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with 331 days suspended and given 34 days credit for time served. Slater was fined \$25 and assessed \$704 in court costs. As part of his plea agreement, a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia was dismissed.

Skyler L. Petty, 26 W. 600 South, Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of a narcotic drug, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 545 days in Jay County Jail and given 342 days credit for time served. Petty was fined \$25 and assessed \$389 in court costs. As part of

his plea agreement, a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia were dismissed.

Joey R. Franks, 210 West Lafayette St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 270 days in Jay County Jail and given 256 days credit for time served. Franks was fined \$25 and assessed \$389 in court costs. As part of his plea agreement, a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia was dismissed.

Robert W. Lanning, 572 E. 450 South, Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to maintaining a common nuisance, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with 361 days suspended and given credit for four

days. He was fined \$1 and assessed \$504 in court costs. As part of his plea agreement, a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia and a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana were dismissed.

Juan E. Hurtado-Gutierrez, 6676 E. Indiana 26, Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 545 days in Indiana Department of Correction and given six days credit for time served. He was fined \$1 and assessed \$189 in court costs. As part of his plea agreement, a Class A misdemeanor for possession of marijuana was dismissed.

Cases dismissed

Indiana v. Zaaron A. Lee, Level 5 felony

Indiana v. Marquis Fitzpatrick, Level 4 felony

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The Commercial Review

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 9 3 2
♥ A K 4 3
♦ J 10 8
♣ A Q 5

WEST
♠ A J 8 4
♥ J 7 6 2
♦ K 3 2
♣ 9 7

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

SOUTH
♠ K 10
♥ Q 8 5
♦ A Q 9 4
♣ K 8 6 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1♦ Pass 1♥ Pass
1NT Pass 3NT
Opening lead — four of spades.
Bridge is not played in a vacuum. Many decisions by declarer are based on bids and plays made by the opponents, and not just solely on the 26 cards he sees in his own hand and dummy.

Consider this case where West led a spade against three notrump. East-West were known to be playing fourth-best leads. Declarer won East's queen with the king and could count eight sure tricks: three hearts, three clubs, a diamond and the spade already won.

There were three ways to try to develop at least one extra trick

immediately: Play for a 3-3 heart break; play for a 3-3 club break; or try a diamond finesse.

There were two ways to proceed. South could test both hearts and clubs, and if neither suit broke, he could fall back on the diamond finesse. (This approach would have failed in the actual deal, with West scoring three spades, a heart and a diamond for down one.)

The other possibility was to cross to dummy and take a diamond finesse without first testing hearts or clubs. (This method wins in the actual deal, since West scores only three spades and a diamond.)

Declarer chose the second approach and made the contract. South based his decision on the fact that West had led the four of spades, presumably his fourth-best card in the suit. This meant West had only three spades higher than the four, but it also meant he could have none lower, since the deuce and three were in dummy. Therefore, the diamond finesse could be taken in safety.

It may be argued that West might have had more than four spades and decided to lead the four as a falsecard. Choosing a line of play would then boil down to knowing if and how often your opponents deviate from their agreements. As we said, bridge is not played in a vacuum.

Tomorrow: Step into my parlor ...
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Peanuts

Rose is Rose

Agnes

Hi and Lois

Between Friends

Blondie

Snuffy Smith

Beetle Bailey

CRYPTOQUIP

QPCT HGKCDGZF SH UW WPC
AFK DNW SH GTVF HWUTZSTA
WPCJC LSVVSTA WSKC, SW'H
TGW QGJLSTA GNW.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SMALL, FROSTED BAKED GOODS ARE IN SHAPES RESEMBLING CUTE YOUNG DOGS, ARE THEY PUP-CAKES?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals H

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Level
5 "Gee, ya think?"
8 SFPD alerts
12 Water, in Mexico
13 Before
14 Ban-shee's cry
15 Maine's largest city
17 Villa d'—
18 Steamy
19 Insulted, slangily
21 "—-hoo!"
22 At the summit of
23 Suitable
26 SSE's opposite
28 Painter's garb
31 Artist
33 Behold
35 A Great Lake
36 Gawked at
38 Blasting stick
40 Label

DOWN
1 Carton sealer
2 Com-poser
4 Tattered
5 Church officials
6 Coffee vessel
7 Ibsen's Gabler
8 "Excel-lent!"
9 Globe-trotter's document
10 Small snack
11 Santa's ride
16 Pride member
20 TGIF part
23 Mil. address
24 Farm squealer
25 Travel, sci-fi style
27 Drench
29 Spy org.
30 Beer barrel
32 Bank clerks
34 Concert extras
37 Conk out
39 Talk up
42 Annual athletic awards
44 "Hog-wash!"
45 Apple computers
46 Jai — bottle
48 Hit the bottle
49 Different
50 Home-owner's document
53 Poetic contraction

Solution time: 23 mins.

ZORA PTA NEAP
ABOO URL EARL
NOBLEGAS OTTO
YES REP ONSET
NOT ORG
ELIAS LIBRARY
LOON DAL ERIE
FOUNDED FEIGN
YOW MAN
FUDGE WIT KEA
OREO NICEGUYS
AGRA AIR ERRS
LENT EGO EDEN

Yesterday's answer 3-13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13			14		
15			16					17		
18							19	20		
		21					22			
23	24	25		26		27		28		29
31		32		33		34		35		
36			37		38		39		40	
		41		42		43		44		
45	46					47		48	49	50
51				52	53					
54				55				56		
57				58				59		

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LSU ...

Continued from page 8
According to videos of the incident, Milton made brief contact with Cardoso after jumping over the scorer's table and was near the middle of the on-court altercation for roughly three seconds before police officers on the scene escorted him away from the players and off the court.

A spokesperson for the Greenville Police Department confirmed to The State that Milton was arrested Sunday, the day of the game, and charged with assault and battery in the third degree and disorderly conduct (both of which are misde-

meanor charges in the state of South Carolina) as a result of his involvement in the incident.

There was initially some confusion surrounding Milton's status and whether or not he'd been charged or simply escorted out of the arena. An LSU spokesperson told The (Baton Rouge) Advocate on Sunday night that Milton had not been arrested before the GPD news release on Monday morning.

According to online jail records, Milton was booked at the Greenville County Adult Detention Center on March 10 after being charged. A trial judge set a temporary

bond for Milton on both charges, according to online records. As of Monday morning, it wasn't immediately clear whether or not those bonds had been posted (which would allow Milton to leave the jail).

The Greenville Police Department also wrote in its news release that "two other spectators jumped over the wall but did not reach the court because officers stopped them. These spectators were escorted out of the arena by officers," but they were not charged.

USC's Staley, Cardoso apologize

As a result of the skir-

ish, Cardoso, South Carolina's starting center, was ejected from the game. She has since apologized for her actions Sunday. ESPN reported during Sunday's broadcast that Cardoso will miss South Carolina's first NCAA Tournament game as a result of her ejection.

Johnson, the LSU guard, was not ejected as a result of the altercation and was assessed a common foul for intentionally fouling Fulwiley. LSU's entire bench was ejected for leaving the bench area during the altercation, as were three players on South Carolina's bench (guard Tessa Johnson,

forward Chloe Kitts and forward Sakima Walker).

After South Carolina's win, which kept the Gamecocks a perfect 32-0 this year and marked their eighth SEC tournament championship in the past 10 years, South Carolina coach Dawn Staley apologized multiple times on the behalf of South Carolina and said she personally took responsibility for "what happened from our side of it."

Staley also said that Johnson, the LSU guard involved in the altercation, approached Staley postgame and personally apologized to her for her role in the incident.

"She just apologized and said she's not that type of player," Staley said. "I really appreciate that. That's something that somebody won't ever hear if I didn't say anything (publicly). And she's not. She's a really good person. Things just got escalated."

Staley later added of the altercation: "I just don't want the people who are tuning in to women's basketball to see that and think that is our game, because it isn't. Our game is a really beautiful thing. To be quite honest, this is a part of it now. So we have to fix it, and we have to move on."

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40 NOTICES

PLEASE NOTE: Be sure to check your ad the first day it appears. We cannot be responsible for more than one days incorrect copy. We try hard not to make mistakes, but they do happen, and we may not know unless you call to tell us. Call before 12:00 pm for corrections. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland, Indiana 260-726-8141.

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90 SALE CALENDAR

MARION YOUNG FARMERS Consignment Auction Sale Location - Chickasaw, Landmark St. Rt. 274 - Chickasaw, Ohio
Directions: Go 4 miles East of 127, or 6 miles West of New Bremen to Chickasaw
SATURDAY, MARCH 16th 10 A.M.
TRACTORS- TRUCKS- CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT
2012 John Deere 4720 tractor with cab - 354 hours, 2021 T66 Bobcat Skid Steer 2 speed with

90 SALE CALENDAR

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DRILLS, PLANTERS, PLOWS, DISK, TILLAGE, AUGERS
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WAGONS, MANURE EQUIPMENT, AND HAY EQUIPMENT
New Idea 484 4x5 round baler, Two 18 ft Bale Queen wagons, trailer, 8 ft PTO driven tedder/rake combo.
MISCELLANEOUS
John Deere 997 zero turn diesel lawn mower with 72 inch deck, Hard-ee tree sprayer, Live-stock trailers, 375 board feet of cherry wood lumber, Anvils, mowers, Elevators, Gates, Duals, Tires.

This is only a partial listing of equipment that will be at the Auction. We are still accepting equipment on Thursday, March 14th and Friday, March 15th; 9am till 8pm No Saturday Consignments

Any Questions or to consign items call Brad Rindler 419-584-6356
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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.

90 SALE CALENDAR

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 painted lamp globe.
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Check AuctionZip for more photos.

PUBLIC AUCTION
Auction to be held at 8341 N 400 E (Bearcreek Farms) Bryant, Indiana
Monday MARCH 25, 2024
AT 6:00 P.M.
REAL ESTATE - 1675 W ST. RT. 18 BRYANT, IN.
PARCEL #1:
Approximately 4 acres of bare ground with frontage on State Road 18. Possession at time of closing.
Parcel #2:
Approximately 80 acres with approximately 65 acres of slightly rolling tillable ground, 9 1/2 acres of wooded and 4.94 acres of ditch.
Farm is rented for 2024 crop year. Buyer to receive cash rent payment of \$200.00 per acre. Possession after harvest of 2024 crops.
Parcel #3:
Combination of Parcel #1 and Parcel #2 containing 84,923 total acres.
Owner confirmation day of sale. For more information contact Loy Real Estate 260-726-2700 or Gary Loy Auctioneer 260-726-5160.
JOHN LEWIS, DECEASED
Loy Auction

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

Penn Township, Jay County, Indiana
Cash & Investments Combined Statement- 2023

Local Fund Number	Local Fund Name	Beg. Cash and Inv. Bal.		End Cash and Inv. Bal.	
		Jan 1, 2023	Receipts	Disbursements	Dec 31, 2023
Governmental Activities					
1	Fire Fighting	\$74,977.69	\$11,553.50	\$8,147.00	\$78,384.19
2	Park And Recreation	\$55,463.29	\$8,421.35	\$12,933.71	\$50,950.93
3	Rainy Day	\$7,451.22	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,451.22
4	Township	\$102,256.08	\$46,956.51	\$35,241.24	\$113,971.35
5	Township Assistance	\$62,174.11	\$8,671.35	\$4,870.31	\$65,975.15
Total All Funds		\$302,322.39	\$75,602.71	\$61,192.26	\$316,732.84

CERTIFICATION
State of Indiana
SS:
Jay County
I, Nathaniel Springer Trustee of PENN TOWNSHIP, Jay County, Indiana, do solemnly affirm under the penalty of perjury that the preceding report contains the information required by Indiana code 36-6-4-13, and is, true and correct; that the amounts with which I am charged in this report are all of the amounts received by me; and that the various items of expenditures credited have been fully paid in the amounts stated; that such payments were made without express or implied agreement that any portion thereof shall be retained by or repaid to me or to any other person. A complete abstract that contains the statements required under Indiana Code 36-6-4-13(a)(5) and (a)(6) is available for inspection in the county auditor's office. I further affirm that a complete and detailed annual report, together with all accompanying vouchers showing the names of persons having been paid money by the township, have been filed as required by law in the office of the County Auditor, and that copies of such annual report are in custody of the Township Board and the State Board of Accounts. Said report is subject to inspection by any taxpayer of the township.
Nathaniel Springer, Penn Township Trustee
260-201-8006
Date this report was to be published 3-13-2024
Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, the Chairman of the Township Board of Penn Township at its annual meeting this 6th day of March, 2024
Ronald J Paxson, Penn Township Board Chairman
This report was received, accepted, and approved by the Township Board at its annual meeting, this 6th day of March, 2024.
Penn Township Board:
Ronald J. Paxson
Douglas Geesaman
Scott Benter, Absent
CR-3-13-2024-HSPAXLP

90 SALE CALENDAR

AC#31600027 Auctioneers
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PORTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT is now accepting applications for one full-time Police Officer now until March 22nd. Starting salary of \$52,387. Will also be accepting applications for reserve officers. Lateral transfer with sign on bonus of \$5,000 paid over a 3-year term for ILEA tier one graduates. Benefits: Paid vacation, holidays, sick and personal days. Health and dental benefits offered, Specialty pay, 13 Holidays, \$1,000 annual clothing allotment, and 1977 police and fire retirement fund. Must be 21 years of age and no

110 HELP WANTED

older than 40 years of age by date of appointment. Agility tests to be announced for non-members of 1977 police and fire retirement fund. Applications can be picked up at the Portland Police Department.

HELP WANTED CITY OF PORTLAND will be accepting applications for the position of Water Department Distribution and Maintenance Person. Minimum job requirements are high school diploma or its equivalent and a CDL B license or greater or able to obtain such license. General outline of duties: Repair water mains, services and hydrant leaks. Install and maintains all types and sizes of pipes, mains, services, fittings, hydrants, valves and meter pits, locate water lines, and thaw frozen pipes and meters. Applicant must be on call 24/7 one week out of the month. Heavy Equipment will be used. Employee is regularly exposed to outdoor weather conditions and is generally wet and dirty. A full job description can be seen in the Clerk Treasurer's Office at City Hall. The duties will vary as deemed necessary by the Water Superintendent and / or the mayor. Applications are available at Portland City Hall, 321 North Meridian Street, Portland, Indiana 47371, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday until March 15. Application deadline is March 15, 2024. No applications will be accepted after this time. The City of Portland is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

JAY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
Sheriff's File Number:
Date of Sale: 4-18-24
Sale Location: 3rd floor, Courthouse, Portland, IN 47371
Publisher's Name/County: The Commercial Review - Jay County
Judgment to be Satisfied: \$47,281.93
By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Superior Court of Jay County, Indiana, in Cause No. 38C01-2208-MF-000014
Plaintiff: MCLP Asset Company, Inc.
Defendant: Dennis M. Betterton, et al.
Required me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, at the hour of 10:00 AM of said day as listed above, at fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Jay County, Indiana:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION
THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE IN JAY COUNTY IN THE STATE OF INDIANA, TO WIT: THE NORTH ONE-HALF OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF OUT LOT NUMBER SEVEN (7) IN THE ORIGINAL PLAT OF THE TOWN, NOW CITY OF PORTLAND, INDIANA, EXCEPT, A TRACT OFF THE EAST END THEREOF SEVENTY-ONE FEET SIX INCHES WIDE EAST AND WEST AND SEVENTY-TWO FEET THREE INCHES IN WIDTH NORTH AND SOUTH.
SUBJECT TO ALL VISIBLE AND/OR RECORDED ROADWAYS, EASEMENTS, RIGHTS OF WAY, RESTRICTIONS, RESERVATIONS, CONDITIONS AND COVENANTS.
Parcel No. 38-07-20-101-073.000-034
Commonly Known as: 417 NORTH SHIP STREET, PORTLAND, IN 47371
Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws. This Notice shall also represent service of Notice of Sale of the above-described real estate upon the owners, pursuant to requirements of IC 32-29-7-3.

Larry R. Newton
Sheriff of Jay County
Attorney's Law Firm
Matthew C. Gladwell (30493-49)
Christopher J. Arlinghaus (31680-15)
Aaron Rodgers (28418-84)
Attorney
Reisenfeld & Associates LLC
(513) 322-7000

The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street address published herein.
CR-3-13-20,27-2024 -HSPAXLP

Visit Us At: the-cr.com

Big Ten Conference tournament starts today, see Sports on tap

Sports

For all of your local sports news, visit thecr.com

JC dominates in finale

BLACKFORD — The Patriots have been dominant all season. They even dominated the ACAC meet last weekend. It was only fitting for the Patriots to close the year only dropping two events. The Jay County Junior High School swim team closed out the season Monday when they won all swimming events against the Blackford Bruins. The girls racked up 136 points to trump the Bruins' 48, while the boys

rallied for a 123-43 victory. Raif Beiswanger, Rockland Beiswanger, Brooklynn Byrum, Elly Byrum and Carson Westgerdes all ended as dual-event winners. Raif Beiswanger took care of the 100-yard individual medley and 100 breaststroke, while Rockland Beiswanger handled the 200 freestyle and 50 freestyle. Westgerdes won back-to-back events for the boys, coming out on top in the 50 butterfly and 100 freestyle. Brooklynn Byrum

opened the meet with a 200 freestyle victory before claiming the 100 freestyle later. Elly Byrum followed it up with a first-place finish in the 400 freestyle and then topped the 100 breaststroke. Other individual victories came from Kali Wendel (100 individual medley), Kaitlyn Fisher (50 freestyle), Gabrielle Gibson (50 butterfly), Maria Laux (100 backstroke), Cooper Glentzer (400 freestyle) and Grady Warvel (100 backstroke). Jay County won all six relay events.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Gabrielle Gibson swims the breaststroke leg of the 200-yard medley relay on March 4. On Monday, Gibson swam the 50 butterfly, which she won with a time of 36.49 seconds.



Find the right person for the job right here!

LSU player's brother arrested after title game

By CHAPEL FOWLER
The State
Tribune News Service

GREENVILLE, S.C. — The older brother of LSU women's basketball guard Flau'jae Johnson was arrested and charged with assault and battery in the third degree and disorderly conduct for his role in an on-court skirmish during Sunday's SEC championship game between LSU and South Carolina, according to a news release. The Greenville Police Department said in a news release Monday that 24-year-old Trayron Lenorris Milton of Georgia, who was identified by the ESPN broadcast and by LSU coach Kim Mulkey as Johnson's brother, was charged after he "jumped over the barrier wall" at Bon Secours Wellness Arena in upstate South Carolina "and injured an SEC employee while doing so" during an altercation that made national news. Milton joined the on-court skirmish after USC center Kamilla Cardoso shoved Johnson, the LSU guard and his younger sister, to the ground.

Milton jumped over broadcast table and onto court during scuffle

Cardoso's shove came in reaction to Johnson making contact with USC forward Ashlyn Watkins late in the fourth quarter after Johnson intentionally fouled USC guard MiLaysia Fulwiley to prevent a fast-break layup. South Carolina went on to win the game 79-72. "While Milton was jumping over the barrier, the victim was sitting at the scorer's table at the edge of the court," GPD said in a release. "To get over the table, Milton came from behind the table, pushed down on the victim's head, and stepped on her shoulders to jump over." See LSU page 7

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It's not a day in a life, but a life in a day.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Saturday
Jay County — Indoor track Blue and White Relays at Anderson — 1 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Baseball scrimmage at Indian Lake — 11 a.m.

TV sports

Today
11:30 a.m. — Men's college basketball: Saint Joseph's vs. George Mason (USA)
12 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Florida State vs. Virginia Tech (ESPN)
12:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Big 12 Conference tournament (ESPN2)
2:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: ACC tournament (ESPN)
4 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Xavier vs. Butler (FS1)
5 p.m. — Men's college basketball: A10 Conference tournament (USA)
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Georgetown vs. Providence (FS1)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: ACC tournament (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Chicago Bulls at Indiana Pacers (Bally Indiana); Denver Nuggets at Miami Heat (ESPN)
7:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: A10 Conference Tournament (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NHL: Los Angeles Kings at St. Louis Blues (TNT)
8:30 p.m. — NBA: Golden State Warriors at Dallas Mavericks (ABC)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: DePaul vs. Villanova (FS1)
9:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: ACC tournament (ESPN2)
10 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Lakers at Sacramento Kings (ESPN)
10 p.m. — NHL: Washington Capitals at Edmonton Oilers (TNT)

8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Big Ten Conference tournament (BTN)
9:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: ACC tournament (ESPN); Big 12 Conference tournament (ESPN2); Big East Conference tournament (FS1)
10 p.m. — NBA: Dallas Mavericks at Oklahoma City Thunder (TNT)
11:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: PAC-12 Conference tournament (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@fortrecoveryschools.org.

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 it 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) 209-4289.

Challenge set
The Adams County 5K Run/Walk Challenge for the 2024 season will begin April 20, where participants 19-years-old or older can compete in a total of eight races within Adams County. The cost to register for the challenge is \$150 and will enter participants in all eight races, with five needing to be completed for the Challenge Series award. Challengers don't need to be from Adams County, but only the first 100 entries will compete. Participation in individual events is available as well. To sign up or for more information, visit www.adamscounty5kchallenge.com. To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@thecr.com.

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