The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

Administrator returning to work

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

A Jay School Corporation administrator accused of viostudents' Fourth lating Amendment rights in two lawsuits will return to duty following an independent legal

Jay Schools superintendent Jeremy Gulley in a press release issued early Wednesday afternoon said the administrator — Brad Milleman (though he is not named in the release) — will return Thursprincipal/dean at Jay County Junior-Senior High School.

Milleman had been on administrative leave since Jan. 19. The American Civil Liberties Union

Milleman reinstated after independent legal review into allegations in lawsuits

of Indiana filed the second lawsuit against him Jan. 18.

Also named in the suits are day to his position as assistant school nurses Rebecca Hudson and Nancy Snyder.

Jay School Corporation was not named in either suit.

The Commercial Review learned Jan. 18 that a tort apart in January, allege that

claim was filed against the school corporation in connection with the initial lawsuit against Milleman and Hudson. A tort claim is a notification of intent to pursue legal action against a government agency.

The lawsuits, filed a week

searches of female students were invasive and violated rights against unreasonable searches and seizures by the government. Among the allegations is that during searches the girls were asked to pull out the front of their bra away from their body. One of the suits alleges that through that procedure, the girl's breasts were exposed.

At the request of the school corporation, Fort Wayne law firm Burt Blee conducted a legal review of the incidents in question. The review included interviews with the employees involved and a review of documents related to the incidents, Gulley said Wednesday afterThe details were presented to Jay School Board during its executive session Tuesday. The board heard from the attorneys who conducted the review and were able to ask questions.

Following the review, Gulley says in the release that he has concluded that the students' Fourth Amendment rights were not violated and that the school employees did not ask students to expose their bras or breasts.

He said Thursday that administrators have received additional training regarding school board policy, administrative guidelines and required documentation of student

See **Returning** page 2

Concept offered



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Rundell Ernstberger Associates is planning potential development of the county-owned 68 acres on the western edge of Portland. Pictured above is a concept design for housing, which would call for 76 single-family homes, eight duplexes and 154 multi-family units. The project — it would be completed in 10 phases — is estimated at a total of \$25.5 million.

Plan for 68 county's acres calls for various housing options to be developed in 10 phases

The Commercial Review A concept design for developing a portion of county-owned land has been created.

What the county will do with it, only time will tell.

Jay County Council heard an update Wednesday from Rundell Ernstberger Associates of Indianapolis about development plans of the county's 68 acres on the western edge of Portland. (The county purchased the on the north side of Votaw Street — Indiana 67 — a year ago from Christopher and Tracy Muhlenkamp for about \$1.1 million.)

Council approved a \$395,000 contract with Rundell Ernstberger Associates in September - Jay County Commissioners approved the contract a month prior — to begin planning development of the 68 acres. Wednesday marked the first major update from the company shared at a council meeting since the work began.

Rundell Ernstberger Associates partner and landscape architect Cecil Penland referenced the ongoing Regional Development Initiative 2.0

program available to regions across Indiana. He pointed to housing as a key focus of the grant and said Rundell Ernstberger Associates has submitted information as part of the East Central region's application. He shared a presentation with council members, showing two potential development concepts for the 68 acres, emphasizing the less-condensed option as a better fit for Jay County. Both concepts would be completed in phases.

The first option calls for 76 single-family homes, eight duplexes and 154 multi-family units and is estimated at a total of \$25.5 million for all 10 phases. The project's initial phase – it's estimated at just under \$7.3 million — would involve setting up the initial framework for utilities, connecting to Industrial Drive Park's pump station and creating a primary road off Votaw Street (Indiana 67) running diagonally through the property.

Subsequent phases would include establishing another road connecting Votaw Street to the primary road, setting up Economic Acceleration and more utilities, constructing various types of homes, relocat-



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Rundell Ernstberger Associates partner and landscape architect Cecil Penland walks through a concept design for county-owned land during Wednesday's Jay County Council meeting. His firm was hired to develop options for the property the county bought about a year ago.

The second option — its cost units. (READI 2.0), a statewide grant ing a large portion of the existestimates and other specifica-

ing wetland to the north side of tions were not shared during the property and building a the presentation — calls for 88 boardwalk on top of it and single-family homes, 14 developing a public park area. duplexes and 409 multi-family

See Concept page 2

House votes for a ban of TikTok

Legislation calls for **ByteDance** to split from company

By ASHLEY MURRAY

States Newsroom WASHINGTON — Citing major national security concerns, the U.S. House on Wednesday overwhelmingly passed a bill that effectively bans TikTok unless the company splits from its Chinese

owner ByteDance. The 352-65 vote occurred just a week after lawmakers introduced the bipartisan proposal and days after the powerful House Committee on Energy and Commerce unanimously advanced the legislation, an unusual speed for the

118th Congress. The bill required a twothirds majority because House leadership placed it on the floor under a fast-track procedure called suspension of the

rules. The legislation, dubbed the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act, now heads to the Senate, where concerns over singling out a private company in legislation may slow momentum.

"The overwhelming vote today is a strong signal to the Senate that they need to act," Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, the Washington Republican who chairs the Energy and Commerce Committee, said after the

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York said in a statement late Wednesday morning that the body "will review the legislation when it comes over from the House.'

See **Ban** page 2

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday across from Pennville Fire Station and 9 a.m. to noon in the parking lot at 220 Lincoln St., Portland.

Weather

Jay County had a nearrecord high temperature of 72 degrees Wednesday. The low was 46.

Temperatures are dropping, with a low in the lower 30s expected tonight. Skies will be mostly sunny Saturday with a high in the upper 50s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The Asbury United Methodist Church Easter egg hunt and activities that were originally scheduled for Saturday will instead be held from 2 to 4 p.m. March 30.

Coming up

Saturday — A look at progress on projects at the JCHS football field.

Tuesday — Photo coverage of this weekend's Easter egg hunt at Persimmon Ridge.



Concept

Continued from page 1

In mid-December, Rundell Ernstberger Associates hosted focus groups and an open house seeking public input for the project, drawing about 54 attendees overall. They included a range of community members, such as local city and county government employees and officials, local developers, adjacent business or property owners.

Participants were asked questions about what they would like to see come out of the project. They also utilized visual surveys and questionnaires. According to Rundell Ernstberger Associates's presentation Wednesday, attendees requested various ideas for the property, including more local eateries, multiplestory buildings with residential areas or additional office space and more retail businesses or grocery stores.

ticipants also noted a need for

ty but voiced desires to create more market-rate housing for young professionals.

There were also requests for more park space, according to Rundell Ernstberger Associates's presentation, with additional trails and a water feature at the top of the wish list.

Penland also noted earlier in the presentation he has been coordinating plans to set up a public forum and rehash the information with local residents. Penland suggested the date could be sometime later this month or in April.

Also Wednesday, council members Dave Haines, Faron Parr, Randy May, Jeanne Houchins, Towell and Bracy, absent Matt Minnich, approved \$30,000 in additional appropriations for Pennville Park Board's revitalization project.

Dollars will be split from eco-Penland pointed out that par- nomic development income tax (EDIT), American Rescue Plan subsidized housing in Jay Coun- and wind farm economic devel-

Board is looking into an agreement with the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority and Patronicity, a crowdfunding business that would match up to \$50,000 toward the project for a \$2,500 administration fee. Patronicity requires funding to split from various sources.) Jay County Commissioners agreed in February to contribute an additional \$5,000 from EDIT funds for Pennville Economic Development in order to meet the grant require-

Pennville Park Board is looking into a three-phase plan for its park, starting with a project estimated at \$100,800 that involves removing the park's baseball diamond and converting it into three soccer fields, renovating basketball courts on the north side of the park and installing a pump track.

Also, council agreed, with Towell dissenting, to move for the NEA grant's matching funds.

opment dollars. (Pennville Park ward with allotting \$15,000 in EDIT dollars as a portion of Arts Place's match for the Our Town Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The organization was approved for a \$75,000 matching grant through NEA for "master regional arts planning and collaborations," according to Arts Place executive director Carolyn Carducci.

The grant will work in three phases. Initial plans include designing and constructing a portable art studio to be used by any organization in Jay County, Blackford County or Auglaize County, Ohio. The next phase is meant to identify the arts and their location in Jay County. The third phase will serve to create a regional arts master plan for Jay County. (The plan won't be specific to Arts Place and may be used by anyone.)

Per the grant, Arts Place is raising \$25,000 from each of its served counties in order to meet Carducci noted The Portland Foundation has allocated \$10,000 toward Jay County's match.

In other business, council:

·Heard about a potential resolution to allow council members to participate virtually in meetings. (As long as a governing body member can be seen and heard, they are considered present per the resolution, according to county attorney Wes Schemenaur.) Following state guidelines and ideas lined out in an identical resolution passed by Portland City Council, the resolution would allow a council member to attend up to two consecutive meetings virtually, with a few exceptions.

•Made the following additional appropriations: \$6,000 in fees for court-appointed doctors and psychological evaluations; \$2,500 for a new scanner to upload records online in Jay County Recorder's Office; \$2,280 for pauper counsel; and \$1,275 for a new laptop in Jay County Prosecutor's Office.

CR almanac

Saturday Sunday 3/16 3/17		Monday 3/18	Tuesday 3/19	Wednesday 3/20		
藻						
57/35	45/27	37/23	42/26	49/32		
Winds could gust as high as 30 mph Saturday, when the high will be in the upper 50s.	Mostly sunny skies are on the hori- zon for Sun- day, when the low be around 27.	There's a chance of snow Monday. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low of 23.	Tuesday's forecast also shows a chance of snow under mostly sunny skies.	Mostly sunny or Wednesday, when the high will be 49 degrees.		

Lotteries

Powerball

21-29-54-59-62 Power Ball: 4 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$600 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$792 million

Hoosier

Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 2-2-4 Daily Four: 4-5-9-7 Quick Draw: 1-2-6-11-12-16-18-24-27-29-31-33-40-46-48-57-58-60-64-78

Evening Daily Three: 3-5-5

Daily Four: 5-0-4-5 Quick Draw: 1-5-8-13-15-16-27-38-39-43-53-55-56-57-65-67-69-70-71-78

Cash 5: 4-13-35-36-44 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000

Ohio

Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 5-5-1 Pick 4: 3-4-8-6 Pick 5: 3-9-6-1-7 Evening Pick 3: 6-8-6 Pick 4: 0-3-4-7 Pick 5: 7-8-9-6-9 Rolling Cash: 1-3-9-12-

Estimated jackpot: \$160,000

Some counts are dismissed

By TAMAR HALLERMAN and BILL RANKIN

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Tribune News Service

Fulton ATLANTA — Superior Court Judge Scott McAfee on Wednesday struck down six counts of

President Donald Trump and 18 others, saying they lacked sufficient detail.

In a nine-page ruling, McAfee dismissed counts lodged against Trump, former New York City Mayor the August indictment that Rudy Giuliani, lawyer John Trump is still facing 10

Meadows and attorneys Ray Smith and Bob Cheeley.

The indictment handed up in August contained 41 felony counts; there are now 35 counts that remain.

alleged felonies by former Eastman, former White felony counts, down from House chief of staff Mark the 13 originally filed against him.

> Prosecutors can re-indict with another grand jury to correct the flaws in the six struck counts or ask an appeals court to review McAfee's decision.

Returning

Continued from page 1 Milleman will receive that train-

ing upon his return, and the release added that other "relevant staff" may as well.

"As this is a personnel matter subject to ongoing litigation, appropriate information will be communicated to the extent, and at such time, as is consistent with the School Corporation's confidentiality obligations," Gulley said in the release. "We are committed to maintaining a safe and secure learning environment, while preserving due process rights of our students and employees."

Following Milleman's return, all administrators will return to their regular positions, Gulley said. Assistant principal for curriculum and instruction James Myers, who

was dean from 2014 through 2022, had stepped in as dean again on an interim basis and director of elearning Katie Clark had been reassigned to the junior-senior high building to provide additional support. (In addition to the administrative leave, junior high assistant principal and assistant athletics director Chris Brown left Jay Schools for another job in January, leaving the junior-senior high short-staffed.)

The first lawsuit, filed Jan. 9 in U.S. District Court Northern Division of Indiana (Fort Wayne), alleges that Milleman removed a seventh grader from class and took her to the nurse's office, where she was ordered to pull up her shirt to expose the waistband of her pants and her midriff and then lift up her sweatshirt and shirt and pull the these school officials accountable."

bottom of her bra away from her

The second suit, filed in the same court Jan. 16, details two alleged incidents involving a sophomore girl being asked to pull down her shirt to show her bra straps as well as to pull out the front of her bra and shake it out. The complaint says doing so exposed her breasts to Milleman and Snyder.

"The searches being conducted at Jay County Jr. Sr. High School are completely unreasonable and have caused emotional harm to these young girls," said Ken Falk, legal director at the ACLU of Indiana, in a press release following the filing of the second suit. "Schools are not constitutional dead zones and we are hopeful that the court will hold

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.26

April corn4.28	Mon
Wheat4.12	Corn.
POET Biorefining	April
Portland	Beans
Corn4.32	April
April corn4.35	Whea
May corn4.39 The Andersons Richland Township	Hear St. A Corn.
Corn	April Beans April Whea

April beans11.78 Wheat 5.07	
ADM Montpelier	

Corn	4.10
April corn	4.14
Beans	11.75
April beans	11.80
Wheat	

tland

St. Antiliony	
Corn	4.24
April corn	4.24
Beans	11.56
April beans	11.61
Wheat	4.61

Today in history

Citizen's calendar

In 1917, Russia's last the emperor, Tsar Nicholas before the court in land-II, abdicated after the mark cases such as February Revolution. Frontiero v. Richardson Nicholas, his family and and some of his servants

were later executed. Ginsburg was born in Bader as the manager Brooklyn, New York. of Portland Water Park. She served as a justice Bader managed the on the United States park for five years. Supreme Court for 27 Prior to her time as years. She founded and manager, led the Women's Rights worked at Portland Pool Project at the American for two decades. Civil Liberties Union in

1970s, Weinberger Wiesenfeld.

In 2016, Portland In 1933, Ruth Bader Park Board hired Missy she had

Felony arrests

Domestic battery

A Dulikiik illali domestic battery.

James M. Starr, 51, 366 preliminarily charged Jail.

with a Level 6 felony for the alleged crime, as arrested Wednesday for as a Class B misdemeanor for disorderly conduct.

He was being held on a W. Washington St., was \$4,000 bond in Jay County

Leaders on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence said they are "united" in concern about a platform that has "enormous power to influence and divide Americans whose company parent

ByteDance remains legally required to do the bidding of the Chinese Communist

"We were encouraged by today's strong bipartisan vote in the House of Representatives and look forward to working together to get this bill passed through the Senate and signed into law," committee chair Mark Warner, a Virginia Democrat, and vice chairman Marco Rubio, a Florida Republican, said in a joint statement.

President Joe Biden, whose administration had a hand in crafting the bill, is expected to sign the measure if the upper chamber approves it.



Despite Biden's support of the bill, his re-election campaign TikTok last month as a way

to reach Gen Z voters.

While broad support swells from both sides of the aisle, the legislation has been met by fierce opposition from TikTok users totaling some 170 million in the U.S. — and from a coalition of young House lawmakers.

"Not only am I a 'no' on tomorrow's TikTok ban bill, I'm a 'Hell no," Rep. Maxwell Frost, a Democrat representing Florida, said at a Tuesday press conference where he questioned which companies are large enough to acquire TikTok. Frost is the youngest member of Congress at 27.

SERVICES

Friday Neuenschwander, Peter:

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

Saturday

Farlow, Allan: 10:30 a.m., Swiss Village Chapel, 1350 W. Main St., Berne.

Current, Janis: II a.m., Hillcrest Cemetery, rural Redkey. **Simon**, Joan: 2 p.m., West Missionary Church, 4295 W. Indiana 218, Berne.

Service listings provided by **PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS** 120 N. Meridian St. Portland, Indiana 47371 (260) 726-9201 progressiveofficeproducts.com



The Commercial Review

309 West Main Street Portland, IN 47371

260-726-8141

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm

Monday

Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland.

chambers, fire station, port, 661 W. 100 North. 1616 N. Franklin St.

6:30 p.m. — Fort Recov- **Thursday** ery School Board, comschool, 400 E. Butler St.

7:30 p.m. — Fort Recov-5 p.m. — Jay School ery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

Wednesday

5:30 p.m. — Portland 4 p.m. — Portland City Council, council Board of Aviation, air-4 p.m. — Portland

6 p.m. — Redkey Town munity room, high Council, park cabin, 50 S. Mooney St.

Library offering brackets

March Madness is here.

County Library's annual March Madness bracket competition begins in full swing Monday. This year brackets are available for both men's and women's basketball.

Brackets will be available starting Monday and need to be filled out and returned by 11 a.m. Thursday.

The people with the most accurate bracket for men's and women's basketball will each win a \$25 Amazon gift card at the conclusion of March Mad-

Events scheduled

Red-tail Land Conservancy in Muncie has several events scheduled for the spring and early summer.

The conservancy will host a seed swap and giveaway at Minnetrista on Saturday.

The organization, which is based at 125 E. Charles St., Muncie, will also hold an Earth Day Tree Planting at McVey Memorial Forest in Randolph County on April 20, a Wildflower Workshop at Phyllis & Frank Yuhas Woods on April 30 and a Wildflower Celebration at Yuhas Woods on May 5, and a Water Ecology and Quality Workshop at Munsee Woods on

For more information, visit fortheland.org/events.

Taking Note

Deadline extended

Ball State University has extended its national enrollment confirmation deadline for 2024-25 to June 1.

The university made the change after an announcement from the U.S. Department of Education about a delay in institutions receiving student financial aid information through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). It has resulted in financial aid packaged offers being delayed as well, with eBSU planning to send award letters in mid- to late-April.

"Pursuing higher education and achieving a degree can have a transformative impact on one's life. Therefore, it's crucial not to rush such a significant decision," said Paula Luff, vice president for enrollment planning and management at Ball State, in a press release. "This extension provides students and their families the opportunity and flexibility to carefully evaluate their financial aid options and make wellinformed choices.'

For more information, email askus@bsu.edu.

Seeking samples

Purdue University is looking for farms from which it can take soil samples for the Diverse Corn Belt project.

The project is a five-year effort that will explore impacts of diversified farming systems beyond corn and soybeans in Indiana, Illinois and Iowa. it is seeking "concrete options for diversification and understanding the agronomic, economic, social, infrastructure and policy changes that could make them viable.

Conventionally farmed, notill and pasture fields are being sought for the research.

For more information, email asangota@purdue.edu.

Hosting market

Minnetrista of Muncie is hosting an indoor farmers market on Saturday.

Indoor markets are held from 9 a.m. to noon at the Center Building at Minnetrista, 1200 N. Minnetrista Parkway, Muncie. Participating vendors accept SNAP, WIC, IU Health Bucks and the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

More indoor markets events are slated for April 6 and April

For more information, visit minnetrista.net.

Daughter kept out of the loop

DEAR ABBY: Three years ago, our 40-year-old daughter, "Tanya," suddenly accused me of abusing her during her childhood. She also accused my husband, her dad, of enabling this abuse. Abby, the abuse never happened!

Could some therapist have planted these ideas in her head? Tanya has problems with alcohol (which she blames on me) and has been divorced from two wonderful men who she claims also abused her. She can't maintain friendships with women because as soon as they do something that makes Tanya mad, she cuts them off.

Our other daughter, "Nadia," is three years younger. She doesn't have an alcohol problem and has a great husband and a toddler. Tanya has cut her off as well and has never met her brother-in-law or nephew. Nadia says her childhood was idyllic. Neither child lives near us.

My husband is living with incurable cancer, which Tanya knew before she excommunicated us. I don't know if I should inform her when her father dies, or let her find out through others on Facebook. My husband and I and Nadia don't use Facebook, but relatives do, and I am sure they will make it

I am torn about this. Tanya has hurt all of us repeatedly for mation is up to her.

Dear Abby



so many years that we all agree that life is more pleasant without her around us. However, I'm afraid not telling her will cause more problems. Advice? DAMNED BOTH WAYS IN ILLI-NOIS

DEAR DAMNED: You stated that Tanya has "excommunicated" you, her father and her sister. She appears to be an angry and bitter woman who needs to find someone other than herself to blame for her unhappiness. She's unlikely to improve without professional help or an alcohol intervention.

When your husband passes, I'm hoping you will write her a brief letter explaining that you want her to know her father loved her. Give her the date of his passing, his obituary and the location of his final resting place. If you do, your conscience should be clear. What, if anything, she decides to do with that infor-

Birth announcements

Alexander Butch, a son, was ounces. born Jan. 26 at St. Vincent Randolph to Brittlynne Maxwell of Gabrielle Maxwell of Portland.

Portland. He weighed 7 pounds, 11

Grandparents are Nick and

Alexander Butch Maxwell's great-grandparents are Richard Maxwell, Lorie Maxwell, Jim Walker and Christi Walker.

Community Calendar

Community Calendar as more information, call space is available. To subemail an item, news@thecr.com.

Today

CAL 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 SERV-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-

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will meet Friday, March 15, at the Harmony Café in Portland.

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONY-MOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E.

(260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

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

MUSEUM OF THE SOL-DIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of ICES — Peer Addiction the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is museumofthesoldier.com.

Sunday

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

Monday

PORTLAND BREAK-

Notices will appear in High St., Portland. For FAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast

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

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

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

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancv testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

BREAD OF LIFE COM-MUNITY FAMILY MEAL Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland.

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

GRAVEL HILL CEME-TERY — Will host its annual meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 18, at the cemetery memorial building, 650 N. 50 West, Bryant. Lot owners are urged to attend. Everyone is wel-

NARCOTICS ANONY-MOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

Tuesday BRYANT COMMUNITY

CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is wel-A BETTER LIFE - BRI-

ANNA'S HOPE — A faithbased 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-

ALCOHOLICS ANONY-MOUS — 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-

Wednesday

WEDNESDAY MORN-ING 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

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

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



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The News Times - **\$120** The News and Sun – **\$120**





for \$330 Reach customers in Blackford, Jay and Randolph counties.



Call (260) 726-8141 or email ads@thecr.com

3 9 6 8 4 8 9 3 9 1 6 8

4

Sudoku

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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

Support the cancer society

To the editor:

The Jay County Cancer Society committee is excited to share that the organization has been supporting Jay County since 1965.

cancer society assists Jay County residents with prosthetics, medication, wigs and mileage to help with gas getting to and from doctor's appointments and treatments.

In 1965, we were able to assist our patients with \$200 toward their uncovered costs. Jay County has supported us so much, we are now able to help up to \$2,500.

The cancer society is funded by your contribu-tions to United Way of Jay County, memorials and our annual cruise-in event.

Remember that 100% of the money donated to the Jay County Cancer Society remains in Jay County helping our neighbors and friends with their unincancer related expenses.

Also, don't forget to get your tickets for our 2nd Annual Dueling Pianos event on Saturday, April 6, in the Bubp Building at Jay

Letters to the Editor

County Fairgrounds. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Come early to enjoy several local food trucks.

Reserved Tickets are sold out. Get your general admission tickets for \$25 now, or \$30 day of the show. Don't wait, this event is sure to sell out.

Donations are always welcome at Jay County Cancer Society, P.O. Box 614, Portland, IN 47371, through The Portland Foundation, Jay County Cancer Society Endowment Fund or visit our webpage at jaycocancersociety.org.

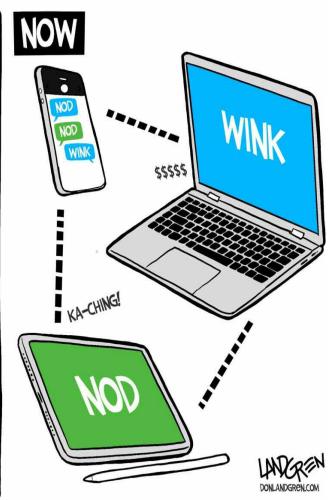
donation will Each ensure that the cancer society can continue to provide financial assistance to cancer patients in Jay County long into the future.

Thank you, Tisha Gierhart

Cancer Jay County

PUBLIC MEETINGS (BEHIND CLOSED DOORS)





Promote local journalism

By GENE POLICINSKI

Sunshine Week is March 10-16, and this year, there's an even greater need for you to get involved.

Sunshine Week annually celebrates freedom of information laws in every state. It also salutes efforts by good government advocates and journalists to use and ensure the effectiveness of those laws to get the information we need as self-governing citizens.

The name is a play on the commonsense words spoken more than a century ago by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, that "Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants."

Brandeis' remark was not made in a court opinion. It was in a 1913 article published in the news magazine Harper's Weekly. Along with its observations on culture and events, Harper's was part of the "muckraking" news era, with journalists holding business and government accountable for corruption, waste and illegal activ

As a special treat of each Sunshine Week, we get to see current examples of news reporting on behalf of the public, the type of journalism that the nation's founders had in mind when they adopted strong First Amendment protection for a free press.

Sunshine Week was started in 2005 by the American Society of News Editors. The Joseph L. Brechner Freedom of Information Project at the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications is coordinating Sunshine Week for the first time this year.

Each year, we celebrate the thousands of local, state and national

TV, radio and online reports that tell us what the government or others are doing and how they are doing it; reports that explore and expose otherwise-unseen information we need to know to make good decisions at the ballot box, when petitioning for change or simply things we should know about our communities.

Just a few examples, from a 2023 New York Times report:

•In the Hunter Hills neighborhood of Atlanta, idle freight trains blocked a main road, sometimes for more than 30 hours, potentially blocking ambulances and fire trucks.

•In Colorado, a libertarian "food freedom" movement has re-energized a long battle over the safety of unpasteurized milk.



·A city manager in DuBois, Pennsylvania, gave himself raises and allegedly took hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars.

·After bus issues caused school closures in Jefferson County, Kentucky, two reporters followed one school bus trying to complete an impossible route.

•An investigative report of wage theft in New York State uncovered rampant abuse in the horse racing industry, with repeat offenders owing workers more than \$4.4 mil-

work being done on behalf of ism operations. here is an increasingly and your support for local journal-

The number of journalists continues to plummet, from more than 75,000 newsroom jobs in 2005 to 31,860 in 2022, according to the Medill Local News Initiative. Far too many of us now live in "news deserts," areas across the nation where not a single news outlet exists. Medill reported that in 2023, that out of 3,143 counties nationwide, 204 counties had no newspapers, local digital sites, public radio newsrooms or ethnic publications. and another 228 counties were at substantial risk of losing all local news media.

Even where there are established news media outlets, economic pressures have resulted in staff cuts that mean there is less coverage of local government institutions like the city council, school board and local courts.

We need to face the fact that there just aren't enough journalists to do the job of monitoring and reporting on government, business and others.

To be sure, journalists and free press advocates are working to cut those losses and to buttress the flow of information to the public. There are new projects to fund local reporting or produce statewide or local reports, including the American Journalism Project; the Indiana Local News Initiative; Signal, a nonprofit organization in Ohio; Amendment at Freedom Forum.

and Houston Landing, a recently launched Texas publication.

Student-operated news media at several universities are reporting on their communities as well as their campuses. Student journalists are sometimes providing the only full-time reporting in some communities. Innovative nonprofit statewide news operations such as Wisconsin Watch, South Dakota News Watch and The Maine Monitor report, investigate and examine issues in their states.

Among notable national efforts: Freedom Forum funds two reporters in partnership with Journalism Funding Partners, who are dedicated to the First Amendment beat. The Lenfest Institute for Journalism provides tools resources for local journalism leaders. The Knight Foundation has been a longtime advocate and supporter of efforts to energize local But this year as we celebrate that news outlets and nonprofit journal-

But even with all those initianeeded partner in that work: You tives, more help is needed. Let's turn again to Brandeis, who said in that Harper's article, "The individual citizen must in some way collect and spread the information" through civic groups and the press, which he believed would lead to 'remedial action.'

This does not necessarily mean filing a Freedom of Information request. There are ways to help hold government accountable beyond this direct action.

Whether you are red or blue, progressive or conservative, Democrat, Republican or independent, you need to support those who do that investigative work on a daily basis.

Get behind and get engaged with those who use FOI laws and shoeleather journalism to bring you the facts required for real self-governance. Take that information and make up your own minds about the concerns of the day where you live and perhaps give the national pundit class a rest.

Open your eyes, your minds and, yes, perhaps your wallets too and bring a little sunlight into your life. Celebrate Sunshine Week. Justice Brandeis would be pleased, and you and your fellow citizens will be better off for the

•••••

Policinski is a journalist and First Amendment advocate. He is one of the founding editors of USA TODAY and is senior fellow for the First

Biden's speech failed the moment

By NOLAN FINLEY

The Detroit News Tribune News Service

Joe Biden still has a pulse. And he proved in his State of the Union address he still can stand and rage for an hour without forgetting where he is or keeling

enough to soothe a lot of voters who've been concerned about the president's age and mental acu-

But Biden affirmed something else Thursday night: He is not a leader. Biden is a political weathervane, and always has been.

His poll-driven remarks played into the fears, anger and anxieties of the American people. A speech that was supposed to lift and sought to capitalize on its suspicions and resent-

He was Trump-like in his combativeness and determination to touch every raw nerve. Rather than appeal to our better nature, Biden urged us to the pitch-

It begged the question: Are we tired of demagoguing presidents yet?

The speech was the perfect depicter of the coarseness of modern politics, which has lost all traces of class and nobility. One of the lowest points came when the president scolded the Supreme Court justices, seated together in their robes in front of the podium, for their ruling overturning Roe v. Wade.

"With all due respect, justices, women are not without ... electoral or political power," Biden snarled. "You're about to realize just how much...

Biden didn't get to finish his veiled threat because he was interrupted by Democrats who sprung to their feet to cheer. While he's busy defending democracy, Biden, who bragged of bypassing the court's rejection of his student debt relief plan, should remember our democracy rests on presidential ballot.

Nolan **Finley**



That and the fact he is respect for separation of not Donald Trump will be powers.

Biden intentionally baited Republicans into a heckling match and they foolishly swallowed the hook. Americans were treated to the embarrassing spectacle of their president and their Congress taunting each other with insults. That couldn't have inspired confidence in the competence of our leadership.

We have been through hell in this country over the past four years, with the unite the nation instead pandemic, economic chaos and tremendous uncertainty in the world.

What we needed to hear from our president is that we are going to be OK, that he has a solid plan for making things better and is working on behalf of all Americans.

What we got Thursday night was raw politics, a speech with the sole purpose of abetting Joe Biden's reelection bid.

His hyper-partisan remarks painted a picture of two Americas. The president all but declared those who aren't on his side of the line as the enemy.

Biden intends to run as the defender of democracy. But democracy defended by dividing. A functioning democracy depends on a modicum of unity among its citizens. Like his opponent, division is Biden's primary skill.

It's true Biden is not Donald Trump. But he is not enough not-Trump to offer any hope he will put an end to the hateful politics that have shredded our faith in the future.

We need a president who embodies America's goodness and ideals.

What we don't need is two angry old men on our

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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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In review

Breakfast is Tuesday

The Jay County Ag Day breakfast is scheduled for 5 to 9 a.m. Tuesday at Bob Schmit Memorial Exhibition Hall at Jay County Fairgrounds.

The breakfast will include eggs, sausage, toast and various beverages. The cost is \$1 and carry-out is available.

There will also be booths featuring IU Health Jay, Ivy Tech Community College, Jay County 4-H, Jay County Farm Bureau, the local U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency office and others.

Seeking samples

Purdue University is looking for farms from which it can take soil samples for the Diverse Corn Belt project.

The project is a five-year effort that will explore impacts of diversified farming systems beyond corn and soybeans in Indiana, Illinois and Iowa. It is seeking "concrete options for diversification and understanding the agronomic, economic, social, infrastructure and policy changes that could make them viable."

Conventionally farmed, no-till and pasture fields are being sought for research.

For more information, email aalka@purdue.edu or asangota@purdue.edu.

Loans available

Indiana State Department of Agriculture is offering loans for small meat proces-

The Indiana Meat and Poultry Intermediary Lending Program has \$15 million available to assist meat and poultry packers and processors with expansion projects. Opportunities available include 3% interest for scalable loans from \$100,000 to \$5 million and 2% interest for wastewater projects with 15-year terms.

For more information, email dcoates@isda.in.gov.

Cultivating rehabilitation

Gardening program helps the formerly incarcerated

By LINDSEY BEREBITSKY

When he thinks of his childhood, Jacobo Mora recalls rows fruit trees and colorful squash at Kercher's Sunrise Orchard in Goshen, Indiana. Mora worked and saved up as a young man to buy a house with three apple trees in the backyard, hoping to eventually start his own humble orchard and farmstead. He looked forward to a place for his family to grow their own food. A place where he could teach himself and his children to be self-sufficient and resilient. A place, a dream that was one of many things he lost when he was incarcerated.

Leaving his old life behind, Mora struggled with the isolation he experienced in prison. But, through the Chain O'Lakes Community Re-Entry Center, he and others have found their way back to communities through nature.

Eleven out of 13 lakes connect in Noble County, Indiana, and form the Chain O' Lakes State Park that attracts both kayakers and fishermen. The re-entry center's residents maintain the park as part of their transition back to society.

The three vegetable gardens in the park were started by Bruce Kennedy, a Purdue Extension Master Gardener, caseworker Doug Foley and the residents of the re-entry center. The gardens have evolved as their caretakers learn more about horticulture, agronomy and botany through classes taken at the facility.

'My mother has a little garden in the backyard, and she's always talked about it. I just became interested in it because



Six residents from the Chain O'Lakes Community Re-Entry Center graduated from the Master Gardener Basic Training course this year and had several people cheering them on.

Jeff Hatcher said of his experience at the re-entry facility. "Now, of course, my mother says she has a lot of work for me to do in her garden.'

Noble County Master Gardeners have taught classes at the facility for 15 years, but it was the residents who applied their skills beyond the park. After seeing lines of people waiting for food, residents connected with the Central Noble Food Pantry, where they now donate at least two tons of fresh fruits and vegetables from their gardens every

The residents, including Nathan Dimmock, have seen the impact their produce has had on the food pantry. Dimmock said, "It's really cool when we go there to work. People come and get the fresh produce, and they're so happy to have it. Sometimes you take things like that for granted."

That initiative to create positive change also inspired Ann Kline, coordinator and instructor for the Master Gardener Program in Noble County, and Charles Bowen, a re-entry center warden, to welcome residents into another class. Every fall, Noble and Whitley counties host a basic training program for prospective Master Gardeners.

of what I learned here," resident Noble, Whitley and Allen counties who completed the course this year, the six residents from the re-entry center felt that they had an unfair advantage on the final exam.

Resident Daniel Collar said, "Bruce teaches a class here, and he knows so much about everything. When we took the test, we all pretty much aced it because we had already received so much knowledge from him.'

Not everything came easily. The residents from the re-entry center had to pay the same \$175 fee as everyone else. Even with scholarships, the residents had to save their pay from work assignments to take the class.

As Master Gardener interns, they also have to complete 40 hours of volunteer work to earn certification. They'll be volunteering at the food pantry, growing and donating food and teaching the winter gardening course at the re-entry center. Plus, they'll still be expected to attend some Master Gardener meetings, but that's more of a bonus to them.

'We attended an all-day symposium, along with 120 other gardeners and Master Gardeners, in Whitley County a couple of weeks ago," resident Andy Spriggs said. "I've been locked up for five years now and being out in Of the 16 individuals from the community like this is really

good for my soul. It encourages me to want to do more."

In the middle of the course. Mora graduated from the reentry center and moved an hour away. Although no longer obligated to attend, he arranged for rides back to the class every week, including some from the Master Gardener who he started

with at the re-entry facility,

"I wanted to do something good for myself, and gardening gave me that," Mora said. "It was like a hobby, like knitting—it calmed my mind. And the classes were great because I found the right people at the right time. It was easy to ask them questions, be vulnerable and comfortable.'

Kline, the instructor of the course, was struck by the residents' motivation to learn and invest in their future. "The motto of the Master Gardeners is 'Helping Others Grow.' Not only did we help the residents grow, but they are going to reach and grow so many others."

Resident Jose Ortiz is especially interested in taking his newfound knowledge back to his community. He understands the barriers to educational resources for those who don't speak English and wants to start breaking down these walls in gardening and plant sciences.

"This program has been thera-

peutic by allowing me to give back to the community," Ortiz said. "Knowing that we are making a difference in society and an impact in helping feed those who are less fortunate gives me a purpose. I'm proud to have learned this. I want to teach this to other people, especially the Hispanic community, who don't know English. I think this will have a big impact on them, too."

No matter the residents' next path in life, they will carry their knowledge with them. Mora provides proof of that: while working with his uncle to restore homes, he's actualizing the dream of a mini farmstead in his backyard. He's already started a chicken coop and plans on planting a garden in the spring. And, although Mora has the basics down, he knows he can reach out to his fellow Master Gardeners whenever he has questions.



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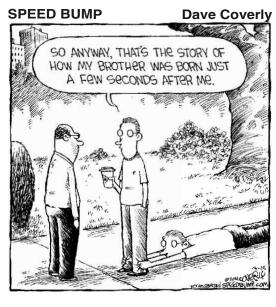
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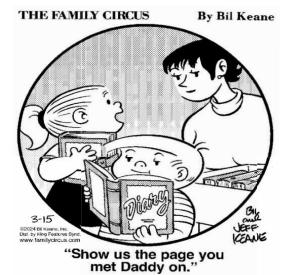
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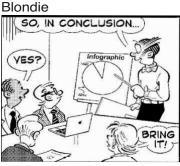


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Contract By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

You have the following hand: ♠ A10 ♥ K983 ♦ K75 ♣ A972

1. Partner bids One Spade, and 1. Partner bids One Spade, and you respond Two Notrump (13 to 15 points, balanced distribution). Partner bids Three Spades. What would you bid now?

2. Partner bids One Spade, and you respond Two Notrump. Partner bids Three Hearts. What would you bid now?

you bid now?
3. Partner bids One Diamond,

and you respond One Heart. Part-ner bids Three Notrump. What would you bid now?

1. Four Spades. Partner seems unhappy with notrump, and there is no good reason to override him by insisting on notrump. He has at least six spades, which makes the A-10 adequate support, and he could easily have a singleton (or void) in one of the side suits, which strongly militates against notrump play.

It is also possible — in fact, quite

likely — that partner is angling for a slam, since he did not jump immediately to four spades to close out the bidding. Denying his suit for a second time might cause him to give up on a hand that would offer an excellent chance for slam.

peril.

Since you have 14 points rather than six, you are entitled to raise him to six notrump on the assumption that the combined hands contact that the combined hands contact the six period that the six tain 34 points — one more than the number ordinarily needed for a 2. Four Clubs. Here also a slam small slam.

looms on the horizon, and the best

way of alerting partner to this pos-sibility is by bidding four clubs. This doesn't mean you've suddenly found a long club suit you previ-ously overlooked; on the contrary,

it announces a fit for partner's hearts and first-round control of

clubs and suggests a slam if partner has more than a minimum opening

Partner might have any of the fol-lowing hands and be encouraged to

try for slam over the four-club cue-

♠ KJ872 ♥ AQ764 ♦ AJ ♣ 10

≜ KQ743 ♥ QJ754 ♦ — **♣** KQ8 **♣** QJ854 ♥ AQJ2 ◆ A8 **♣** K5

and each of these offers an excel-

lent chance for slam opposite your

and.

3. Six notrump. In theory, your partner needs 20 points — or a very good 19 — to bid three notrump, since your one-heart response might have been based on a bare six

points. Partner cannot count or

more than that except at his own

Tomorrow: Plan ahead

hand.

3-15 **CRYPTOQUIP**

CRA KVSG CRAL RFSEH-DLRQM

ZVLD IVPHK CRA FRRP DHJJHL

JOVM HEHLCDRGC! GRM'J

ZHJ POVPS QSJO IH!

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD YOU CALL HAND MOTIONS PEOPLE MAKE WHILE THEY'RE JOKING AROUND? JESTERS' GESTURES. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals Y

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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Looking to grow

Michael Pittman Jr. is excited to grow alongside Anthony Richardson

By GEORGE BREMER

The Herald Bulletin (Anderson) Tribune News Service

INDIANAPOLIS Michael Pittman Jr. has been the model of consistency on the field for the Indianapolis Colts.

After officially signing a contract three-year reportedly worth up to \$71.5 million Wednesday, the team is paying him back.

In addition to the financial compensation, Indianapolis hopes it has haltquarterback carousel that has seen Pittman play with seven different starters during his four-year career.

Though he's recovering from a shoulder injury that cost him the final 12 games of the 2023 season. Anthony Richardson is in line to become the first quarterback to start consecutive season openers for the Colts since Andrew Luck in 2014-15.

"I mean, just having that relationship prior, sidelined for all but four

into camp and be like, 'You highs last season with 109 know what type of player I am, and I know what type

of player you are,"
Pittman said of the benefits of forging a bond with the young franchise QB. 'You kind of get a feel for each other's strengths, and you can strengthen that. That's what I'm most looking forward to.'

The 26-year-old wide receiver sees the contract extension as a sign of the organization's belief in him, and he's excited to ramp up his partnership with Richardson.

"I think we're just going to open it up," Pittman said. "With AR coming back, we get a guy we've had for two years straight, and we're really going to see what he can do — all of his talent. I'm just looking forward to accenting him and making him the best player that he can be and him making me the best player that I can be."

Even with Richardson

catches and 1,152 receiving yards.

In his four seasons with the Colts, Pittman has 336 receptions for 3,662 yards and 15 touchdowns. But those are just numbers.

It's harder to quantify Pittman's impact as a bruising blocker in the run game and as a lockerroom leader.

about Pitt," Indianapolis head coach Shane Ste-"You know ichen said. what you're going to get every week — an ultimate competitor, a playmaker and a leader in the locker room. He gives this team the same passion and energy on the practice field and in the meeting rooms on a consistent basis.

"I'm excited Pitt will continue to play a significant role in our offense, and I'm very happy for him and his family.'

Pittman was joined by his wife, Kianna, during just being able to come games, Pittman set career his media availability,

We love everything about Pitt. You know what you're going to get every week — an ultimate competitor, a playmaker and a leader in the locker room.

— coach Shane Steichen

"We love everything with both wearing smart-round in 2020, Pittman has ly tailored suits.

> It was a business-like approach that honored the importance of family to Pittman on a day he described as a dream come

"Yeah, I mean obviously it's great being (re-)signed by the team that drafted you," Pittman said. "I think that's every player's dream is to stay with the same team their whole time playing. I still have a long time left in my head. Hopefully, I can do it again in three years."

It's a sentiment shared by the organization.

Drafted in the second

developed into one of the team's most physically and mentally tough play-

The competitive fire that permeates his every action has endeared him to general manager Chris Ballard among others.

"Signing Michael Pittman Jr. to a long-term contract was the goal, and I'm thankful for his agent, Andrew Kessler, in helping to get a deal done. Ballard said. "Pitt is a fierce competitor, and he cares deeply about winning. He wants to be a difference maker, and he's going to give you everything he's got on Sundays to accomplish that.

'We want the work ethic and attitude Pitt brings in all of our players. He absolutely deserves this deal, and I'm thrilled he's going to remain a Colt."

Pittman is one of eight players who have had their contracts extended since the legal negotiating period began Monday.

He never had the chance to look at the open market. The Colts placed the franchise tag on him before talks with outside teams were allowed.

But it's clear Pittman is happy with the outcome of his first free-agent experience.

'When I think back, all my greatest life moments have been here whether it's getting married — I got married here," Pittman said. "I had both of my kids here. I bought my first house here. I just have a lot of major life moments just tied here. It's great that I can call this place home."

Dismissed

Continued from page 8 County, where a judge ruled late last month that Jones would have to take a DNA test to prove whether he is Davis' biological father and establish paternity.

Davis is also in the midst of a Cynthia Spencer Davis, had a legal battle with Jones in Dallas romantic involvement with Jones in the mid-1990s.

She said her mother and Jones struck a deal when she

Davis has said her mother, Davises if they never publicly made. Jones' attorneys asked woman who alleges he sexually identified him as her father. The defamation filing was

made about a year after Davis sued Jones in a Dallas County court, alleging he was her father was about a year old where he and sought to be released from

that the lawsuit be dismissed, calling it an "extortion attempt" despite the lawsuit not seeking monetary damages.

Separately, Jones is also facing a personal injury lawsuit would financially support the the agreement her mother had filed in Dallas County by a 2025.

assaulted her at AT&T Stadium in 2018. That lawsuit, initially filed in 2020 before being dismissed and revived, was set to go to a jury trial this month but was rescheduled to March 3,

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

12 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Big Ten Conference tournament (BTN) 1 p.m. — Men's college basketball: AAC tournament (ESPN2); SEC tournament (ESPN)

2 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Big Ten Conference tournament (BTN) 3 p.m. — Men's college basketball: AAC tournament (ESPN2)

3:30 p.m. — Men's college basket-ball: SEC tournament (ESPN) 5:30 p.m. — Men's college basket-ball: Big East Conference tournament

6 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Big 12 Conference tournament ESPN

ball: Big Ten Conference tournament p.m. — Men's college basketball:

Big East Conference tournament (FS1)

8:30 p.m. — Men's college basket-ball: Big Ten Conference tournament (BTN); Big 12 Conference tournament 9:30 p.m. - Men's college basketball: ACC tournament (ESPN)

10:30 p.m. — Men's college basket-PAC-12 Conference tournament 11:30 p.m. — Men's college basket-

ball: WAC tournament (ESPN2) Saturday

11 a.m. — Premier League: Notting-

ham Forest at Luton Town (USA) 12 p.m. — Men's college basketball: SEC tournament (ESPN)

1 p.m. — Premier League: Portland Thorns at Kansas City Current (ABC)

6:30 p.m. — Men's college basket-MEAC tournament (ESPN2); Big Ten Conference tournament (CBS)

1:30 p.m. — Premier League: Totten-ham Hotspur at Fulham (USA) ACC tournament (ESPN) 8 p.m. — Men's college basketball:

2 p.m. — PGA Tour: The Players Championship (NBC) 2:30 p.m. - Men's college basket-

1 p.m. — Men's college basketball:

ball: SEC tournament (ESPN)

3 p.m. — NBA: New York Rangers at

Pittsburgh Penguins (ABC)

3 p.m. — Men's college basketball: AAC tournament (ESPN2) 3 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck

3:30 p.m. — Men's college basket-ball: Big Ten Conference tournament 3:30 p.m. — MLS: Colorado Rapids

5 p.m. — Men's college basketball: AAC tournament (ESPN2)

6:30 p.m. — Men's college basket-ball: Big East Conference tournament

7 p.m. — NBA: Brooklyn Nets at Indi-

ana Pacers (Bally Indiana)

7:30 p.m. — Men's college basket-ball: MAC tournament (ESPN2) 8 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Food

8:30 p.m. — NBA: Golden State War-riors at Los Angeles Lakers (ABC) 8:30 p.m. — Men's college basket-ball: ACC tournament (ESPN)

Local notes

Teams can consist of former players or anyone living in Fort Recovery and don't need to be from the same graduat-

Guggenbiller by March 20 by emailing guggenbillert@fortrecoveryschools.org.

Indiana anglers are invited to partici pate in the 2024 Midwest Walleye Chal-

lenge, a virtual fishing tournament. The tournament begins March 30 and ends June 30, with walleye, sauger and

Participants can enter for free for the

prizes. Those interested in participating can register by

AnglersAtlas.com/event/769 or by using the MyCatch app. For further information, visit on IN gov/walleve.

To sign up or for more information,

visit www.adamscountv5kchallenge.com

To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@thecr.com.

90 SALE CALENDAR

FARMERS Consignment Auction Sale Location - Chickasaw, Landmark St. Rt. 274 - Chickasaw,

Directions: Go 4 miles Fast of 127, or 6 miles Chickasaw SATURDAY, MARCH

10 A.M TRACTORS- TRUCKS-CONSTRUCTION **EQUIPMENT** 2012 John Deere 4720 tractor with cab - 354 hours, 2021 T66 Bobcat Skid Steer 2 speed with

PLOWS, DISK,

Brillion 28 ft field cultivator with harrow. John Deere 5 shank disk chisel, plow, Brillion 5 ft lawn seeder with 3 point attachment, J&M 6 inch hydraulic unload

EQUIPMENT, AND HAY **EQUIPMENT** baler, Two 18 ft Bale ft PTO driven

WAGONS, MANURE

MISCELLANEOUS John Deere 997 zero ee tree sprayer, Livestock trailers, 375 board feet of cherry wood lumber, Anvils, mowers, Elevators, Gates,

SERVICE

7136 N 650 E. BRYANT, **OPEN HOUSE:** Sunday, March 10TH

auctioneers. REAL ESTATE

style home containing 1792 sq ft finished living area. Attached 2 car garage, central air, lofted

garage/grainery. Tract 2: 66 Acres Practically all tillable with frontage on SR 67 and CR 650 F.

frontage on SR 67 and CR 650 E. Tract 4: 7 Acres Wooded

Ε. TRACTOR - ANTIQUES MISC Farmall A Tractor with cycle bar mower, belly mower and blade. 5 gallon milk can. CC saw.

gates. Walking plows. Old toys. Tinker toys and games. Hand painted lamp globe. OWNER: Laux Trust-Thomas J. Laux Trustee

(FOX)

City 500 (FS1)

9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: PAC-12 Conference tournament (FOX)

volleyball tournament on Friday, March

For more information, contact Travis

Midwest Walleye Challenge

saugeye counting. Contestants need to utilize the MyCatch mobile app to submit photos of their catches with a measuring

chance at the grand prize or pay a \$25 fee to be eligible for biweekly cash

job

softball league is now open.

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

The league will start on April 7, and it

To register, call Brock Farmer at (765)

Challenge set

will cost \$250 for each team to register. First and second-place teams win a pay-

out of \$400 and \$200, respectively

\$150 and will enter participants in al eight races, with five needing to be com-pleted 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.

130 MISC. FOR SALE

MARION YOUNG

Ohio

West of New Bremen to 16th

enclosed heat/ac cab -735 hours. DRILLS, PLANTERS, TILLAGE, AUGERS

auger for gravity wagon.

New Idea 484 4x5 round Queen wagons, trailer, 8 tedder/rake combo. turn diesel lawn mower with 72 inch deck, Hard-

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 COLDWATER AUCTION Auctioneers bonded in

the State of Ohio **PUBLIC AUCTION** 23rd, 2024 TIME 10:00 A.M.

vate showing phone

80 Acres in Section 7, Wabash Township. To combinations.

barn, detached

Tract 3: 2.4 Acres practically all tillable with

Chicken crate. Old

SHAWVER AUCTION-EERING AND REAL **ESTATE** AC31800004

Check AuctionZip for more photos. 8341 N 400 F

2024 AT 6:00 P.M. REAL ESTATE - 1675

of closing. Parcel #2: Approximately 80 acres tillable ground, 9 ½

4.94 acres of ditch. crop year. Buyer to acre. Possession after harvest of 2024 crops. Parcel #3:

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 AC#31600027 Auction-

Series: Weather Guard Truck Race (FS1)

at Seattle Sounders (FOX)

Tournament scheduled The Fort Recovery High School volley-ball program is holding its annual alumni

ing class. Entry costs are \$10 per player, with all proceeds going to the FRHS volleyball

Registration open Registration for the Dunkirk co-ed

110 HELP WANTED

retirement fund. Must be

accepting applications for the position of Water Department Distribution and Maintenance Per-Minimum requirements are high Repair water

PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE Various sizes

and prices. Call The

Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information. **ALUMINUM SHEETS**

Clean and shiny on one side..35 cents each or four for \$1.40, plus tax. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main,

23"x30",.007 thick.

Portland 260-726-8141. 190 FARMERS COL-UMN

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.sycamorespace.co

230 AUTOS, TRUCKS WE PAY CASH for junk

autos. We pick up at your location. 1-765-546-2642 1-765-857-1071. Slocum's Salvage

√ Out The CR Classifieds www.thecr.com

90 SALE CALENDAR

favor and licensed by SATURDAY MARCH

LOCATED: from 1-3 pm, or for pri-

be offered in tracts and Tract 1: 2.5 Acres with 3 bed, 2 bath brick ranch

with access on CR 650

Zane Shawver

90 SALE CALENDAR Lic #AU10500168 260-729-2229 Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587

PUBLIC AUCTION Auction to be held at (Bearcreek Farms) Bryant, Indiana Monday MARCH 25.

W ST. RT. 18 BRYANT, PARCEL #1: Approximately 4 acres of bare ground with frontage on State Road 18. Possession at time

with approximately 65 acres of slightly rolling acres of wooded and Farm is rented for 2024 receive cash rent payment of \$200.00 per

#1 and Parcel #2 containing 84.923 total

Combination of Parcel

eers Gary Loy

AU01031608

Travis Theurer

AU11200131

Aaron Lov

AU11200112

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION Located: Bubp Exhibition Hall, Jay County Fairgrounds,806 E Votaw St., Portland, IN Saturday Morning March 23rd, 2024

9:30 A.M.

OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS Gulf Tire Repair cabinet; John Deere pedal tractor: Wapak cast iron 3 legged pot; CAST IRON SKILLETS: National,

Wagner, Favorite,

Victor, Marion and

Lodge to name a few.

Lightning rods with balls;

wood

pulleys; bags; McCoy planters; Coke items; Coke case; wood boxes to include Wagner, Whiskey, Hires, 7up, Rubbers, and others not listed; ammo boxes; spice jars; quilts; linens; Coke trays; diary containers; maps; feed sacks to include Havnes Mill. Celina, Piqua and many

others; pulleys; Griswold

tea kettle; and many

other items not listed. AUCTIONEERS NOTE: This auction is a nice selection of primitives along with an assortment of old and collector's items. Please note that this is only a partial listing of the items to be sold.

ROGERS FAMILY

Loy Auction

AC#31600027

Auctioneers

Gary Loy AU01031608

Travis Theurer

AU11200131

Aaron Loy AU11200112 **100 JOBS WANTED**

AMISH CREW LOOK-**ING FOR** any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489.

100 JOBS WANTED DEPENDABLE driver for Amish crew. Willing to work with a crew. Fourdoor HD truck with ability to pull trailers. Call Tim at 214-629-5154

110 HELP WANTED

DO YOU HAVE A PAS-SION FOR prepping delicious meals? Crown-Pointe of Portland is looking for a creative and experienced kitchen cook to join our team and help serve amazing meals to our residents. We are looking for someone who:-Has at least 1 year of cooking experience in a professional kitchen-Can work on weekends-Is passionate about creating high-quality dishes-Is able to work quickly and efficiently during peak hours-Has excellent customer service and communication skills-Is organized, self-motivated and able to multi-task in a fast-paced environment. If you think this job is a great fit for you, please apply online at cpcommunities.com/portland or apply in house at 745 Patriot Drive, Portland, IN

47371. We look forward to hearing from you **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 2024. No applications will dental benefits offered, be accepted after this Specialty pay, 13 Holidays, \$1,000 annual time. The City of Portland is an Equal Opportunity clothing allotment, and 1977 police and fire Employer.

21 years of age and no 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

school diploma or its equivalent and a CDL B license or greater or able to obtain such license. General outline of duties: 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, North Meridian Street, Portland, Indiana 47371, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday until March 15. Application deadline is March 15,

Deacons

send

Notre

Dame

home

By STEVE WISEMAN

Tribune News Service

Wednesday.

Thursday.

The Herald-Sun (Durham, N.C.)

WASHINGTON — With

its postseason hopes uncertain, Wake Forest strength-

ened its NCAA case

Deacons toppled No. 12 seed

Notre Dame, 72-59, in an ACC Tournament second-

round game, moving Wake

Forest into a key game with

No. 4 seed Pittsburgh on

NCAA Tournament since

2017, Wake Forest (20-12)

saw a three-game losing

streak during the last two weeks of the regular sea-

son damage its hopes for an

at-large bid. The first of

those losses came Feb. 27 at

Notre Dame, which edged

losing streak with an 81-76

win over Clemson in the

regular-season finale on

Saturday and now has

back-to-back wins entering

champi-

quarterfinal

Wake Forest halted its

the Deacs, 70-65.

Having not played in the

The No. 5 seed Demon

www.thecr.com The Commercial Review Page 8

Defamation suit dismissed

By LANA FERGUSON

The Dallas Morning News Tribune News Service

DALLAS — The defamation lawsuit filed by a woman who says Jerry Jones is her biological father, alleging the Dallas Cowboys owner and his associates worked to portray her in the public as an "extortionist," was dismissed by a judge Wednes-

The lawsuit sought a multimillion dollar payout.

Alexandra Davis, a 27congressional aide, said in the lawsuit that Jones and his team of lawyers and media and marketing professionals concocted a plan to destroy her reputation by publicly attacking her as a "shakedown artist" motivated by greed and money.

Also listed as defendants in the lawsuit are dismissed when the judge Cowboys spokesman James Wilkinson; Wilkinson's employer TrailRunner International; Jones' friend and attorney Donald Jack Jr.; and the Cowboys.

District Court Judge Robert Schroeder wrote in Wednesday's ruling that Davis had not "sufficiently pleaded that defendants acted with actual malice."

"I am not at all surprised by the dismissal of the claims against Mr. Jones and his co-defendants," Jones' attorney Levi McCathern said in a statement to The Dallas Morning News. "These claims were false and had no merit from the very beginning. Unfortunately,

Cowboys owner, Jerry Jones, dismissed in federal court

being a public figure is that you become a target for frivolous lawsuits by people whose sole purpose is to enrich themselves and their attorneys.'

The lawsuit was first filed in a U.S. district court in Texarkana in March 2023 but partially said some of the alleged defamatory statements about Davis were either true or "not defamatory." He also ruled that Davis qualified as a "limited public figure," which requires proof the defendants were acting with

Davis' attorneys refiled the amended version of the lawsuit in November.

"We are disappointed in the ruling and intend to appeal and believe we will be successful," Davis' attorneys Andrew Bergman and Jay Gray said in a statement to The News. "Of course this ruling has no impact on the paternity suit or Mr. Jones



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Final reps

Carson Fullenkamp, a Fort Recovery High School sophomore, gets in a couple of discus throws at the end of practice Wednesday. The Indians open their season March 26, before the home opener on April 2.

having to submit to genetic testing." one of the downsides of See **Dismissed** page 7 **75% off any** full-page ad That's means: \$460 for a full-page color ad \$409.50 for a full-page b&w ad Buy any 3x3 ad, get one **FREE** Ads must run in March.

GRAPHIC

NEWSPAPERS

PRINTING

Schwieterman's freshman year ends in semis

Renna Schwieterman had a solid freshman campaign for the Purdue Fort Wayne women's basketball team, but it came to an end in the semifinal round of the Horizon League tournament.

Schwieterman scored four points as the thirdseeded Mastodons fell to No. 2 seed Green Bay 64-

55 on Monday. The 2023 Jay County High School graduate played 14 minutes in the contest and hit two shots inside the arc, while shooting 0-for-2 from distance. Schwieterman also grabbed five rebounds off the bench, three on the defensive glass and two offensive boards.

She also played 15 minutes in the quarterfinal round, in which Purdue Fort Wayne demolished Detroit Mercy 66-35.

In the victory, Schwieterman hit a three, dished out two assists snagged rebound.

As a freshman, Schwieterman scored points over 32 games to average 6.3 points per

Collegiate

check-up

the Mastodons. The JCHS grad started 10 games throughout the season and averaged 16.1 minutes per game.

game, which was the

sixth leading scorer for

Schwieterman 34.5% from the field (67-194) and 28.7% from 3point range (31-108). She also garnered 90 rebounds, 27 steals and 21 assists.

Schwieterman named to the Horizon All-Freshman League Team. She was earned Horizon League Freshman of the Week twice in the season as well.

Thursday's game, which has important NCAA selection ramifications. Pittsburgh (21-10) is also in the running for an atlarge bid, barring an ACC Tournament onship. The winner of the Wake-Pitt game will feel far better about its chances while the losing team will have a

nervous weekend awaiting Sunday's bracket reveal. Against Notre Dame on Wednesday, Kevin "Boopie" Miller scored 17 points while Andrew Carr produced 12 points and 11 rebounds for the Deacs.

An important win

away from home Wake Forest built its tournament resume on a sterling home record. It finished 16-1 at the Joel Colise um, including an 83-79 win over Duke on Feb. 24 that preceded the three-game

losing streak. But Wake Forest has the reputation as home court heroes because they went 2-9 in true road games this season. That doesn't figure to sit well with the selection committee.

Wednesday's neutralcourt win helps. Wake Forest is now 2-2 in neutralcourt games, which is, of course, where NCAA Tournament games are played.

Slowing Burton early

The Notre Dame player that hurt the Deacs the most when the teams played in South Bend, Indiana, had Wake Forest's full

attention this time. Burton, voted the ACC's rookie of the year this season, scored 31 points last time against the Deacs. On Wednesday, Wake held him to nine first-half points while building a 40-34 halftime lead. A 42.7% shooter this season, Burton made just two of his first 11 shots on Wednesday and didn't break into double figures until 12:30 remained in the

Burton finished with 21 points, scoring 12 at the free throw line where he didn't miss on Wednesday. But he only made 4 of 16 shots from the field, including 1 of 6 on 3-pointers.

Wake survives Sallis struggles

Wake's leading scorer with 18.3 points per game this season, all-ACC guard Hunter Sallis was on his game in the game's first eight minutes. He scored 10 of Wake's first 20 points as the Deacons jumped to a 20-

Sallis trailed off dramatically, missing six shots in a row after making three of his first five. But it didn't stop Wake from advancing thanks to strong games from Miller and Carr.

They're in **Good Hands** Here

- Vaccines & Preventive Care
- Illness, Injury & **Surgical Care**
- Flea & Heartworm **Prevention**
- Allergies & Nutrition

Rates do not apply to special sections.

Contact Lindsey at

L.Cochran@thecr.com

or (260) 726-8141

Mon - Fri. 8-5 p.m. call for appt on Saturday



Portland Veterinary Clinic 1407 Votaw St. • Portland • 260-726-7370

http://www.portlandvet.net • Christian Bader DVM