

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

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\$1

## Portland sewer increase is OK'd; RV rules approved

*Council touched on various topics in nearly three-hour meeting*

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

A sewer rate increase, a new recreational vehicle ordinance and funding to purchase police vehicles were approved.

Proposed changes to the trash collection ordinance were not.

And a potential rewrite of zoning ordinances and the handling of those living in the country illegally were discussed.

Portland City Council dealt with a wide range of topics Monday, including the approval of a 20.4% sewer rate increase, during a meeting that stretched nearly three hours.

Ross Hagen of accounting and consulting firm Baker Tilly explained that a sewer rate increase of 20.4% would be needed to cover the cost of a \$23.09 million bond that will be used to pay for upgrades at the city's wastewater treatment plant. The project to construct an equalization basin and wet weather pump station is required through the city's agreed order with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to eliminate combined sewer overflows.

Hagen explained that the change would take the average residential water bill, based on 4,000 gallons of usage, to \$74.09 per month. That's up from the current \$61.53, an increase of \$12.56.

Council member Ron May asked if there is any way to address the project without increasing monthly water bills for residents. Hagen responded that there is not and noted that the loan through the State Revolving Fund has an interest rate of 2%, about 2.5 percentage points lower than he would expect from other sources.

City council initially approved the rate increases 6-1 on first reading, followed by a 6-1 vote to suspend the rules and allow the issue to advance to second reading on the same night. It then voted 6-1 to approve the increase. (May dissented in all three votes.)

However, when a similar vote to suspend the rules occurred later in the evening — the vote was 5-1 — and was followed by a motion to move forward with a second reading, The Commercial Review pointed out that motions to suspend the rules must be unanimous. (The newspaper did not have a reporter in the room at the time of the original sewer rate vote because of attendance at the Jay School Board meeting.)

See **Increase** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Busy breakfast

Bob Schmit Memorial Exhibition Hall at Jay County Fairgrounds was buzzing Tuesday morning with hundreds gathering for the Ag Day Breakfast. (A meal of eggs, sausage, toast and beverages was available for \$1.) Tuesday marked the return of the event in its full form for the first time since 2019.

## Board extends coaching contracts

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

Two coaching contract extensions sailed through.

A third passed, but not without some discussion and a vote against.

Jay School Board on Monday approved one-year coaching contract extensions for football coach Grant Zgunda, girls basketball coach Sherri McIntire and boys basketball coach Jerry Bomholt.

The contract extensions through the 2025-26 school year were on the board's agenda, with Jay School Corporation superintendent Jere-

my Gulley proposing a 5% increase similar to those given to other employees late last year. They were considered individually, with Zgunda's extension passing unanimously.

When McIntire's contract came up, board member Marcie Vormohr said she had received a couple of phone calls regarding why there was "a rush" to act on the basketball contract and that such

discussions should be open to the public. (Monday's meeting was open to the public, as are all regular school board meetings.) Another concern raised was a possible restructuring of administration at the high school, with the suggestion that new administrators should have a voice in the decision on such extensions.

Vormohr noted that she was not expressing her own feelings, but rather those of her constituents.

After her comments, McIntire's extension passed 7-0.

See **Extends** page 5

*Zgunda, McIntire pass 7-0; Bomholt approved by 6-1 vote*

## Bids higher than expected

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

**FORT RECOVERY** — Bids came in significantly higher than expected.

Now the village is trying to figure out how to cover the additional cost.

Fort Recovery Village Council heard from village administrator Randy Diller about concerns related to the cost of constructing a second water tower on the north side of the village.

Initial plans called for building a 250,000-gallon elevated water tower — it would mirror the existing tower located along Industrial Drive on the southeastern side of the village — with an additional 2,600 feet of water line to connect it to the village's distribution system.

The village applied at the end of 2021 for \$1.25

*Cost for water tower comes in at \$2.4 million*

million through the Ohio Department of Development for the project, which was estimated to cost around \$1.45 million at that time. Although it was denied the first round of funding, the village was awarded a \$1.25 million grant in June 2023 from the Ohio BUILDS water infrastructure program.

Last year, the project was estimated to cost about \$1.7 million.

See **Bids** page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Morales visits

Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales (pictured speaking at right) visited Jay County Clerk's Office on Tuesday to present a \$20,000 grant for election improvements. Morales talked about the November election, noting the potential for a bigger voter turnout. "We need to be ready and my job is to give you county clerks ... the tools and resources you need," he said.

### Weather

The temperature in Jay County hovered between 30 and 34 degrees Monday.

Skies will be mostly clear tonight with a low in the lower 20s and winds gusting to 25 miles

per hour. Expect partly cloudy skies Thursday with a high in the upper 30s. There is a chance of rain Friday.

For an extended forecast, see page 2.

### In review

Jay County Public Library is hosting its annual March Madness bracket competition. This year brackets are available for both men's and women's basketball. They need to be filled out and returned by 11 a.m. Thursday.

### Coming up

**Thursday** — A look at eclipse events planned throughout the region.

**Friday** — The Fort Recovery spring sports preview special section.



FRHS getting new intercom system

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review
Fort Recovery High School will be getting a new bell and intercom system.

School treasurer Deanna Knapke announced during a Fort Recovery Local Schools school board meeting Monday that the district received a \$33,562 grant to replace its outdated paging equipment with a two-way communication system, allowing the main office and classrooms to engage in conversation.

Fort Recovery Local Schools was awarded the funding Feb. 20 from Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation's School Safety and Security grant. The grant allots up to \$40,000 to "Ohio employers who wish to purchase equipment to substantially improve the safety and security of facilities, and to reduce or eliminate injuries or illnesses associated with providing educational services to children,"

according to the bureau's website.

Per the program, the employer must match 25% of the project cost. Fort Recovery Local Schools will chip in \$11,187 toward the project, with installation to begin in June by SecurCom of Minster. The school's portion will come out of its permanent improvement fund.

Superintendent Tony Stahl noted a two-day period last year in which the current system wasn't working.

"It's obviously a logistical issue, but also from a safety standpoint, this will be a lot better system," explained Stahl, noting the two-way communication feature. "Right now, it's just from the office to the classrooms... it'll be a little bit better than what we have."

"We're better off doing an upgrade," added Knapke. "I think it's almost obsolete what we have now. Trying to fix it is really difficult."

The school board also made some staffing changes after approving the district's staffing plan for next school year. Stahl explained the plan is developed based on a variety of factors. Next year's hiring considerations included different grant dollars, such as the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund, kindergarten enrollment numbers — 65 students — with enrollment expected to remain steady, a need for a potential interpreter for an incoming student and a transition to a district literacy specialist.

With the staffing plan in mind, school board OK'd reassigning Courtney Klosterman from elementary gifted teacher to second grade teacher and Abby Scheidt from third grade teacher to literacy specialist, both effective Aug. 1.

Stahl noted two open positions that will also need to be filled before next year. In other business, school board

members Mitch Fullenkamp, Sean Kahlig, Greg LeFevre, Nick Wehrkamp and Don Wendel:

•Gave permission to Stahl to enter into an agreement with the Village of Fort Recovery for improving safety measures at the intersection of Center and Elm streets (Ohio 49). The \$60,000 project — it involves installing flashing beacons and enhancing crosswalks — will be split between the school district and village and should be completed before students return to school in August following summer break.

•Learned about hopes to establish a wrestling club at the high school with about 15 to 20 students interested in joining.

•Heard about potential plans for a partnership with Joe Bruns' family for creating a putting green for the high school golf team. Bruns was the Fort Recovery High School girls golf coach at the time of his death.

•Were reminded of a few upcoming events at the high

school, including the Fort Recovery FFA banquet at 6 p.m. March 26 and prom April 26.

•OK'd FFA Wildlife Judging Team to attend the State Wildlife Judging Competition at Hocking Technical Community College on April 5 and 6 in Nelsonville, Ohio.

•Approved the following: open enrollment policy for Fort Recovery Local Schools for all Ohio; policy adjustments as recommended by Stahl on a first reading specifically related to House Bill 33 and language about transportation; and hiring Christy Kaiser as a classified substitute and Ethan Schoen as a volunteer junior varsity baseball coach.

•Authorized the following: purchase of competitive retail electric service from the lowest bid submitted to Southwestern Educational Purchasing Council for the billing period from December 2024 through December 2027; and Stahl to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Mercer County Head Start.

CR almanac

Table with 5 columns: Thursday 3/21, Friday 3/22, Saturday 3/23, Sunday 3/24, Monday 3/25. Includes weather icons and temperature forecasts (39/26, 47/30, 41/25, 46/36, 58/48).

Lotteries

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

Markets

Table listing market prices for Cooper Farms Fort Recovery, POET Biorefining Portland, and The Andersons Richland Township. Includes prices for corn, wheat, and beans.

Today in history

In 1852, Harriet Beecher Stowe published "Uncle Tom's Cabin." In 2012, nine Fort Recovery High School athletes were named to the All-Midwest Athletic Conference Academic team. In 2017, Portland City Council approved a \$2,300 request for mayor Randy Geesaman to make a three-day trip to Washington, D.C., and speak with a variety of legislators and federal agencies on behalf of Portland. — The CR

Citizen's calendar

Table listing events for Today, Thursday, and Monday. Includes locations like Portland Board of Aviation and Jay County Courthouse.

Increase ...

Continued from page 1
Council president Kent McClung said if that was the case, it would impact the sewer rate increase that was approved earlier in the meeting and asked for city attorney Wes Schemenaur to confirm. Schemenaur checked the ordinance and confirmed that motions to suspend the rules must be unanimous, thus meaning that the council's previous vote on the sewer ordinance was invalid.

Council members, clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips and Schemenaur then returned to the sewer rate issue, asking May to vote in favor of the suspension of rules. They noted

that the ordinance needed to be approved before closing on the loan from the state on March 29 and indicating that delay could jeopardize the loan and potentially result in additional costs.

May relented, with the motion to suspend the rules passing 6-0 and then the second reading of the rate increase passing 5-1 with Michele Brewster, Dave Golden, Mike Aker, Ashley Hilfiker and McClung in favor and May against. (Matt Goldsworthy, who was in attendance for the initial vote, had departed the lengthy meeting before the error was corrected.)

The new recreational vehicle

ordinance — it covers RVs, motor vehicle carriers, motor homes, campers, boats, boat trailers, recreational equipment trails and trailers — passed unanimously on first reading. (It will need to be approved on second reading at the next council meeting before taking effect.) It details the following:

•RVs, as defined above, may not be parked in front of a house unless they are in a garage, carport or driveway

•When parked in a street or alley, RVs may not impede or obstruct traffic or the line of sight for a regular vehicle.

See Increase page 5

Bids ...

Continued from page 1
Estimates for the project in February came to nearly \$2.2 million.

As of March 14, that amount continued to climb.

The lowest bid — it was from Caldwell Tanks of Louisville, Kentucky — came in at \$2.4 million. (Other bids from Pittsburg Tank and Tower Group of Henderson, Kentucky, and Phoenix Fabricators of Avon, Indiana, were more than \$3 million.)

"The bids were all over the board, it was shocking to me," noted council member Cliff Wendel.

"We're obviously we're in a quandary here," said Diller.

He said he reached out to the Ohio Department of Development — it is administering the Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program — to see if alternative funding would be available for the project.

"Which, basically, (it was) a solid no," he said. "Yes, everybody is facing that, maybe not on the scale we see, but everybody is facing the shortage because of the increased prices."

Diller said he reached out to various sources Monday in an effort to seek additional funding for the project. He pointed out the village has 30 days to accept one of the bids, and he said he hopes to have more answers at the next village council meeting.

Also Monday, Diller noted the village is looking into an Ohio Water Development Authority design loan. It would be a low-interest funding option to complete design work for switching the water plant from a lime and caustic soda treatment to a reverse osmosis membrane softening operation.

The village applied earlier this year for a \$4 million grant through the Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program to assist in paying for the project, an undertaking estimated at \$4.35 million for initial construction costs. The new softening process would decrease the village's chemical costs by an estimated \$210,000 annually. PMG Consulting is currently working on a proposal for engi-

neering and design of the project.

In other business, council members Al Post, Luke Knapke, Scott Pearson, Erik Fiely, Greg Schmitz and Wendel:

•Heard the village will be adding an oxidizer to the wastewater lagoons next week and increased aeration and mixing by early April. "Those things together, we're hopeful will bring us up to the (dissolved oxygen) level which in turn will help with our odors," said Diller. He also noted plans to meet with a company this week to discuss details related to dredging the lagoons.

•Appointed Tyler Wuebker to Fort Recovery Park Board. His term runs through 2028.

•Designated First Financial Bank as a depository for village funds. The resolution approved every five years by the village.

•Heard village fiscal officer Roberta Staugler will be attending the Ohio Auditor of State's annual conference for local government officials in Columbus from March 26 to March 28.

SERVICES
Today: Bickel, Wayne; Downling & Glancy Funeral Home; Wessler, Mark.
Friday: Jeffers, Beverly.
Saturday: Link, Wilma; Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church; Baumgartner, Judith.
Service listings provided by PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS, 120 N. Meridian St., Portland, Indiana 47371. (260) 726-9201

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The Commercial Review



Photo provided

## Citizenship counts

East Elementary recently awarded students for demonstrating citizenship. Pictured above are first graders (front row) Ella Bowlan and Kieara Lambert and (back row) Isla Cook, Phynox Storie and Daliz Garcia Morales. Not pictured is Victoria Glentzer.

## Quartet performs Thursday

Instant Classic, a barber-shop quartet, performs Thursday at Jay County Campus of Arts Place in Portland.

The quartet, comprised of David Zimmerman (tenor), Theo Hicks (lead), Kohl Kitzmiller (baritone), and Kyle Kitzmiller (bass), performs a variety of music from different decades and styles, including vocal jazz, musical theatre, pop and R&B.

The show is the last performance in the Eric R. Rogers Performing Arts Series. Refreshments will be served starting at 6 p.m. Thursday, with the performance to follow at 7 p.m. Thursday.

Tickets for the show are \$12 for adults and \$5 for students and are available at myartsplace.org, by calling (260) 726-4809 or by visiting Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland.

### HSE diploma

John Jay Center for Learning is looking for more students to join its Fast Track High School Equivalency program.

Classes are available for those looking to earn their

### Taking Note

HSE diploma, also known as a General Education Diploma, and can be completed in three months or less. Students may be eligible for scholarships.

John Jay Center for Learning currently serves students from Jay, Adams, Blackford, Wells, Randolph and other counties. There's also a program at Jay County Jail. The organization is looking for more students — Indiana requires each group hosting the program to meet an attendance total of 80 students served per calendar year.

To learn more, call (260) 729-5525.

### Events scheduled

Ball State University's Women's Week 2024 celebration March 25 through 29 will include a keynote address by Loretta Ross.

The feminist, activist and scholar will speak at 7:30

p.m. March 26 at BSU's Pruis Hall. She has been an advocate for reproductive justice, human rights and social justice and is a co-founder of SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective.

"We are thrilled to have Loretta Ross as our keynote speaker for Women's Week," said Sharon Jones, chair of Ball State's Department of Women's, Gender, and African American Studies. "Her tireless work and dedication to the women's movement inspire us all, and we can't wait to hear her insights and perspectives on the issues that matter most to women today."

The Ross address is free and open to the public.

### Scholarships available

It's not too late to apply for a scholarship through the Win on the Wabash Super Raffle.

Twenty five local seniors will be awarded with \$500 scholarships. Applications may be submitted online at wowaffle.com/scholarships/.

The deadline to apply is March 31.

# Bride-to-be unsure how to handle party

DEAR ABBY: I recently started planning my wedding. Half the friends I want as bridesmaids are very conservative. They think sex is sacred and should be talked about only discreetly, not joked about, mentioned on TV, etc. I used to hold similar views, but I no longer do. Neither do the other half of the girls I want as bridesmaids.

My dream bachelorette party is the kind you see in movies, a group of girls going out on the town getting tipsy — maybe being a little stupid — nothing dangerous, with sexy games/favors and casually swapping sex tips and double

## Dear Abby



entendres. That may not be possible with my straight-laced friends, whom I really like and would like to include. I pick up on others' feelings easily, so I can't ignore when someone around me is unhappy.

I want all my girlfriends to enjoy the party, but two or three of them won't appreciate

the humor of drinking from a phallus-shaped straw. Should I split the guest list and have one prudish party and one sexy one? — GOOD/BAD GIRL IN THE EAST

**DEAR GIRL: That's an excellent idea! And we all know which one you are going to enjoy.**

.....  
DEAR ABBY: I just found out my husband has been texting with his high school sweetheart for the last three years. He contacted her and shares all day-to-day activities, like our vacations, new dog, etc. She lives 2,500 miles away. She's divorced, retired like us and

has children and grandchildren. I snooped and read his email. I can tell by her responses that she is being polite.

I don't understand why he contacted her after so many years and why he shares everything with her, as we have a close relationship and share everything. He did mention a year ago that he was in touch with her.

I didn't think much about it then, but now that I know how long this has been going on, I'm wondering why. Should I be concerned about this? — PUZZLED IN MAINE

**DEAR PUZZLED: What is happening could be inno-**

cent, or it could be crossing a line. You will never know until you discuss this with your husband.

You MAY not have to disclose that you read the texts if you say you recalled him mentioning that they were in touch "a while back" and let the conversation evolve from there.

.....  
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne 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.

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. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

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

**Thursday**  
STITCH AND CHAT-

TER QUILT CLUB — Meets from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center. Show and teal is at 1 p.m. The club is open to all ages and is for anyone who wants to sew. Bring unfinished projects and a sewing machine. For more information, call Nan Weesner (260) 766-9334.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

EN AVANT CLUB — Meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

ORGAN TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the IU Health Blackford main conference room.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

**Friday**  
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.

## Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

### Tuesday's Solution

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

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.

# Fleas still a Problem?

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# Historic run was a nice problem

*Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from March 22, 2006. To be fair, I'll probably reprint it again in two years, on the 20th anniversary of the Jay County Patriots making the Class 3A state finals. Still, it seemed appropriate with The Graphic Printing Company now preparing for covering the boys basketball state finals after expanding our reach into Delaware County and picking up the Wapahani Raiders.*

By JACK RONALD  
The News and Sun

All of us are in uncharted territory now.

That's true for Jay County High School, for the boys basketball team, for the students, for the coaching staff, for the parents, and for the community at large.

It's also true for the daily newspaper.

While individual athletes from Jay County have won state titles

## Back in the Saddle



and while basketball teams from Fort Recovery High School have won statewide championships in Ohio, we've never been faced with the challenge of covering a high school boys basketball state championship involving a Jay County team.

It's a real nice problem to have.

Friday night about 11:30 p.m., working with an early deadline for the Saturday morning paper, I asked sports editor Ray Cooney what he had planned for the week ahead if the Patriots won.

He'd already pulled out all the stops, and we wanted to keep the

coverage at the same level of intensity.

Again, it's a real nice problem to have.

Last Saturday found the staff stretched pretty thin. Managing editor Mike Snyder went to Indy to cover Hannah Williams in the state gymnastics competition, while Ray went to Lafayette to cover the basketball team. Meanwhile, I was working Expo because of the kick-off of two new publications we have on deck for later this year, Xtreme Xpress and Go.

Saturday afternoon, listening to the radio broadcast from WPGW, I was seized with a bit of media envy. I knew our coverage would be great and the photos would be priceless, but Monday afternoon's press time looked like it was a long way away.

I needn't have worried. On Sunday morning, while I was still lingering over my coffee,

Carl Ronald called from the office. He was obviously more awake than I was, and ideas were tumbling out about how we could do something special for the team and have it available for Expo.

It took me a second or two to click into gear, though I'd already written a Monday editorial and e-mailed it from my home computer to the office. But I had to admit Carl's idea made sense.

Within an hour, he and Ray and I were in our commercial printing department, debating design options for a one-page, full-color "extra" of The Commercial Review to be handed out free at Expo. It featured a team picture, and if you have a copy, hang onto it. We only produced a limited edition of one thousand.

With that on track, Ray and I met for about an hour, kicking around strategies for this week's coverage. Ray and Mike got together that afternoon for a sim-

ilar conversation, while I returned to my duties at Expo.

By Monday morning, plans had pretty much coalesced. A series of stories and story ideas had been sketched out, and assignments had been divvied up.

For Saturday, plans call for four of us to be involved in coverage of the big event at Conesco. Ray and I will be at the press table. Mike will be at one end of the court with a camera. Our friend Clint Anderson, editor of The Berne Tri-Weekly, will be helping us out with a camera at the other end.

Ray, of course, will write the game story and probably a column. I'll focus on a color story, trying to capture the moment, both on and off the court.

Right now, that's the plan. But we are, after all, in uncharted territory.

It is, indeed, a real nice problem to have.

## Grade inflation makes things worse

Bloomberg Opinion  
Tribune News Service

Recent test results confirm a dispiriting reality: America's students continue to lag far behind their peers around the world, and millions are running out of time to catch up. Yet many families remain unaware of the true deficits their children face — in no small part because teachers are often giving students higher grades than they actually deserve.

The grading systems used in K-12 schools vary widely, which makes it difficult to measure the problem precisely. But there's evidence that the padding of classroom grades has become routine. Over the past decade, average scores on the ACT college-entrance exam declined in English, math, social studies and science, yet test takers' self-reported grade-point averages in all four subjects went up. In 2010, 43% of test takers reported earning A's in math, while 41% received B's; by 2022, 54% received A's and only 35% got B's. The number with C's fell to 10% from 15%.

The pandemic made things worse. An analysis of middle and high schoolers in Washington state found that average GPAs in math rose from 2.36 in 2019 to 2.70 in 2021 — more than triple the rate of improvement over the previous eight years — even as standardized-test scores dropped. In North Carolina, 54% of middle schoolers received A's or B's in math before the pandemic, equal to the number who met proficiency benchmarks on state exams. In 2022, 51% earned A's or B's, but the proficiency rate fell to just 43%.

Several pedagogical trends are contributing to grade inflation. In recent decades, calls to promote "equity" and boost disadvantaged students have spurred districts to adopt more generous grading policies. This includes recalibrating traditional 100-point grading scales, discontinuing the use of letter grades, increasing opportunities to retake exams, and judging students on their "mastery" of material rather than on things like homework and class participation.

Schools became even more lenient during the pandemic, waiving penalties for poor attendance and scrapping rules to hold

## Guest Editorial

back unready students. Defenders of such measures claim that awarding higher grades can boost kids' self-confidence at a time of heightened social and emotional challenges.

Educators need to be sensitive to those concerns, but compromising academic standards will only do more damage. Areas that have eased grading policies have suffered higher rates of absenteeism and worse performance on standardized assessments, with low-achieving students seeing the biggest declines. The practice also leaves parents in the dark about how far behind their kids are — which in turn weakens pressure on schools to prioritize academic recovery. One recent survey found that nearly 90% of parents think their children are on grade level in reading and math, even as national assessments show that fewer than half are.

Policymakers should insist schools address the pervasiveness of grade inflation and take steps to reverse it. Districts should be required to lower grades for students who are chronically absent. Report cards should provide more transparency about the calculations underpinning students' marks and where they stand relative to their classmates. Teachers should be encouraged to maintain rigorous grading standards and rewarded if their students subsequently demonstrate improvements on standardized assessments.

Schools should make public aggregate grade-point averages by age and subject area, alongside standardized-test results, allowing families and district leaders to evaluate the extent to which grades aren't matching achievement.

Above all, educators and parents alike need a renewed commitment to be honest with students about the academic deficits they face and the work required to address them. Handing out good grades for subpar work isn't helping anyone.



## FSSA, excels and misses

By ZACH STOCK  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Crime is a perennial issue already prominent in this election year's conversation. So, before memory fades and the pitched political battles of 2024 derail our attention, let's reflect on the last few months of criminal justice policy at the Statehouse.

We all want safe neighborhoods. We also crave vindication and are enamored by crime fighters in fiction and real life. It's part of our nature. After all, Law and Order has staying power for a reason. Not coincidentally, the General Assembly proposes new crimes and enhanced penalties every year. This year was no exception.

One proposal would have made it a misdemeanor to engage in "reckless spinning" (think of doing donuts in the parking lot), and another would have criminalized the sale of "food containing high fructose corn syrup." Neither bill made it to the finish line.

Others did. A new law makes it a felony to damage a sprinkler system in a penal facility. Another increases the penalty for falsely reporting a crime if it results in bodily injury or death, and a third will make it a felony to smuggle a "chemical intoxicant" into a jail.

"Sounds good," you might say. Damaging public property, disrupting jail operations, and siccing SWAT on people you dislike are antisocial behaviors we cannot accept. Moreover, protecting life, liberty, and property is arguably the first function of government.

But the Indiana Code already criminalizes all this bad behavior (except dealing in Twinkies). These actions are criminal recklessness, criminal mischief, or illegal trafficking. Adding more statutes or jail time is unlikely to deter any of it. On the contrary, overcriminalization will lead only to charge stacking, coerced plea agreements, and, ultimately, the uneconomical and counterproductive practice of mass incarceration.

Admittedly, we occasionally

Niki Kelly



encounter novel behavior that existing criminal law cannot capture. House Enrolled Act 1047, authored by Rep. Sharon Negele, is a cutting-edge piece of legislation that addresses a genuinely new development: artificial intelligence.

While some fret about the science fiction fantasy of self-aware Terminator-style robots, our experience with AI has spawned a real-life horror. Using AI, pornographers have begun inserting unwitting "participants" into their work. And internet trolls using "undressing apps" are transforming PG social media posts into R-rated images.

HEA 1047 will criminalize this conduct. Importantly, it will criminalize the action while minimizing damage to free speech. Hopefully, the bill will have the desired effect.

Still, thicker law books are generally not the way to curb criminal activity. There is almost nothing new under the sun regarding crime. We've had millennia of murder, arson, battery, theft, rape, and the like. Criminal law is steeped in this history but also adaptable enough to deal with uncertainty.

The law codifies and defines offenses but uses words of general applicability to fit various circumstances. Moreover, the law criminalizes conspiracy, imposes accomplice liability, and treats an attempt to commit a crime like the crime itself. All these tools allow courts, juries, and good prosecutors to fill any gaps in the criminal code that might arise. In other words, a lack of crimes to prosecute is not the problem.

Instead, we must address the root causes of crime, including unmet mental health needs and substance

abuse. The General Assembly took steps toward improving the mental health of Hoosiers in 2023, and the 2024 session continued that effort.

House Enrolled Act 1238, authored by Rep. Wendy McNamara, and House Enrolled Act 1418, proposed by Rep. Lori Goss-Reaves, build on past progress.

HEA 1238 concerns mentally incompetent criminal defendants. These individuals cannot comprehend or participate in the proceedings against them and, therefore, cannot constitutionally stand trial. Instead, they must be assessed and provided services to restore their competency. HEA 1238 will improve the restoration process for low-level offenders by speeding up the evaluation process and providing an off-ramp for those suffering from certain conditions that are unlikely to improve.

Similarly, HEA 1418 will provide pregnant women charged with a drug crime a chance to access treatment without jail. The bill allows a judge, in consultation with the prosecutor, to refer women to a diversion program that provides services rather than a prosecution that provides jail time.

As with most sessions in recent memory, the 2024 session included bills to enact harsher penalties and new crimes. This urge is understandable but undesirable. Innovative legislation like HEA 1047, HEA 1238, and HEA 1418 reflect a better approach. So, when campaign commercials and flyers start to fill the airwaves and mailboxes with promises to be tough on crime, let's remember there is another way. We can enhance public safety while fostering a more just and economical criminal justice system.

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Stock is an appellate public defender and serves as legislative counsel for the Indiana Public Defender Council. The Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.

# The Commercial Review



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—Thomas Jefferson

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# Increase ...

Continued from page 1  
 •RVs may not be parked “on residential premises” for more than 24 hours during loading and unloading  
 •RVs may not be used for living, sleeping or housekeeping when parked or stored at any location not approved for that use. (The city’s board of works may approve temporary use in extreme circumstances, such as a fire or natural disaster.)  
 Violations of the ordinance call for a fine of between \$100 and \$1,000.

Council also approved \$149,999 for Portland Police Department to purchase new vehicles following a request from Police Chief Dustin Mock, who visited council after members expressed concern last month about a department fundraising letter that was distributed seeking to raise \$350,000 for an “urgent request for assistance” for new police vehicles and equipment. (It was a 5-1 vote, with Aker dissenting.)

Mock explained his goal is to have one vehicle per officer and to eliminate two of the current vehicles that are older and ready to be removed from service. That led to a discussion about take-home vehicles, with council members noting that there is no official policy on that topic

Council members went back and forth amongst each other and Mock discussing various options, including buying new or used and whether all five cars are needed immediately.

After Schemenaur pointed out that any expenditure over \$150,000 requires a formal bidding process — a request for bids must be advertised and then sealed bids opened — May motioned to approve \$149,999 for police vehicles. It passed unanimously. (The purchase of the vehicles will require approval from Portland Board of Works.)

Portland Mayor Jeff Westlake brought back his proposed changes to the city’s trash collection ordinance to council. (They had originally been presented in January.) He asked that spring and fall clean-up days be reinstated — council previously expressed support to do so — and that residents be allowed to put out up to three bags of trash, limited to 40 pounds or less, in addi-

tion to what can fit their Toter, for no more than two consecutive weeks. (By the current ordinance, trash must be placed in Toters, but Westlake has instructed street department staff to pick up additional trash.)

Several council members expressed opposition to the proposed changes, with additional comments from the public also in opposition.

“I just want the trash to be picked up,” Westlake responded.

The issue eventually died for lack of a motion, at which point the question was raised as to whether trash left outside of Toters would continue to be picked up. Westlake said it would.

Hilfiker challenged the mayor, telling him he cannot tell city employees to break the city’s ordinance. Westlake expressed frustration, saying again that he just wants trash to be picked up and the city to look nice. McClung advised that the city ordinance should be enforced and citations written for residents who are not following it.

Council members also heard a presentation about a proposal to update the city’s zoning and subdivision ordinances. Consultant Ed Curtin of CWC Latitudes explained that the city’s redevelopment commission had identified some areas of concern during the process of developing Portland’s Downtown Economic Development Plan. Among those are required lot sizes — a quarter acre — for new construction in the downtown area. (Most lots in the city do not conform to that standard.)

Cynthia Bowen of Rundell Ernstberger Associates explained the process her firm

would lead, including a complete zoning audit, a presentation of that information to the public and steering committee for feedback and drafting the ordinance updates and seeking additional public input. It would take about a year and come at a cost of \$141,000. (The redevelopment commission has expressed a willingness to pay for the process.)

Golden asked Jay/Portland Building and Planning director John Hemmelgarn for his opinion on the issue, with Hemmelgarn saying he and assistant director Pati McLaughlin have been going through the zoning ordinance and identifying potential updates. He added that the department would welcome input from the redevelopment commission.

Westlake said he’d like to see the building and planning department continue the process. Council took no action on the proposal from Rundell Ernstberger Associates.

Also Monday, May expressed concern about individuals living in the country illegally, saying Portland has a problem and raising safety as an issue. He asked if the city could deny water or other utility services to anyone who cannot provide proper documentation.

McClung responded that immigration is a federal issue and that council cannot direct a publicly owned utility to deny service. Schemenaur concurred that local governments can’t “discriminate against someone based on whether they’re legal or illegal status” and that it is under the control of the federal government.

## Council approved \$149,999 in funding to purchase new police vehicles on a 5-1 vote; took no action on proposed trash pick-up change or proposal to update the city’s zoning ordinance

May asked about denying tax abatements for companies that employ individuals living in the country illegally. Schemenaur responded that tax abatements are given at the discretion of council.

Several of those in attendance at the meeting expressed concerns similar to those raised by May.

Portland police in attendance confirmed that when someone is cited or arrested and found to not have proper documentation, the information is forwarded to federal authorities to be addressed.

In other business, council:

•Advised Jay County Fair Board president Aaron Loy that the council could not override a Portland Board of Works decision to not grant a bill adjustment for water leaks last year at Jay County Fairgrounds. Loy visited the council meeting with the request after the board of works denied it earlier this month.

•Sent a tax abatement request from FCC (Indiana) to the city’s tax abatement advisory committee. It is asking for three-year abatements on new investments of \$1.6 million in personal property and \$499,000 in real property. The investments are projected to create 10-plus new jobs.

•Asked Mock to bring a request for a change to the police department’s clothing allowance policy back to the table when the 2025 budget is being discussed later this year. The police chief asked for a change in the way the funds are distributed, which would require a change in the city’s salary ordinance.

\*Approved the following: addi-

tional appropriations totaling \$929,050 to cover costs of a change order from Indiana Department of Transportation that led to an additional \$446,500 in pavement costs as well as the demolitions of the Bailey Building on Main Street and the former Hunt’s Building on Meridian Street; the closure of Main Street between Meridian Street just west of Ship Street for the Arch Bridge Kroozers car show from noon to 7 p.m. May 18.

•Approved, on first reading, converting the intersection of Ship and Main streets and the intersection of Middle and North streets to four-way stops. (A motion to suspend the rules on second reading was not unanimous. The changes will need to be approved on second reading at the next council meeting before going into effect.) Both are currently two-way stops with through traffic on Main and Middle streets, respectively.

•Heard May asked about the procedure for addressing blighted homes. Schemenaur advised him that the first step is for the homes to be inspected by Jay/Portland Building and Planning Department.

•Heard briefly from non-profit organization Cat Tales about its mission after May made a \$100 donation because he was absent from the previous council meeting. May advocated for potential future financial support for the organization, which takes in stray cats and other animals.

Also, Westlake agreed to donate half of the cost — \$3,450 — for a fireworks display for the Portland Rockets’ celebration of opening day for their 65th season.

# Capsule Reports

## Pedestrian hit

A Portland man drove over a pedestrian laying in his driveway on Franklin Street about 3:49 a.m. Monday.

Bryan Jellison, 34, told police he started to pull his 2006 Chevrolet Silverado forward outside his home at 1224 N. Franklin St. when he thought he

drove over something or had a flat tire, according to a report from Portland police. Jellison backed up and got out of his truck and noticed a man — 26-year-old Bret A. Trissel of Portland — laying in his driveway.

Trissel appeared to be suffering from a medical condition — emergency

personnel suspected an opioid overdose — and had been laying in front of the vehicle before Jellison began to drive it. He sustained a lower arm injury, according to the report, and was flown to Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Damage is estimated at less than \$1,000.

# Extends ...

Continued from page 1

When Bomholt’s contract came up, Vormohr said she had hesitation because of phone calls she received regarding the position. She relayed the same concerns she had shared earlier, again saying she was sharing the concerns of her constituents and not her own opinions. Both Donna Geesaman and Ron Laux said they received calls as well.

“There’s always two or three people who don’t like a basketball coach,” said board member Phil Ford, a former athletics director and principal, before making the motion to extend Bomholt’s contract.

When the topic of potential changes in administration came up again, board member Vickie Reitz argued that the same logic should be applied to all coaching positions, including those that had been approved just minutes earlier, rather than just one.

On the issue, Gulley said he could not comment on personnel matters and that no administrative changes were on the agenda.

Vormohr motioned to table Bomholt’s contract extension, with Geesaman seconding, but that proposal was voted down 4-2. Vormohr and Geesaman were in favor of tabling while Chip Phillips, Jason Phillips, Ford and Reitz voted against. (President Ron Laux did not vote.)

The motion to approve the extension then passed 6-1, with Chip Phillips dissenting.

Contract extensions for all three coaching positions were approved at the March school board meeting last year, with the basketball positions also being addressed at the March meeting in 2021 and 2022 as well.

Also Monday, the board gave business manager Shannon Current permission to advertise for bids for the school corporation’s food service management contract. By Indiana Department of Education rules, such contracts must be re-bid after four contracted years.

Chartwells has handled food service for Jay Schools since the 2019-20 school year.

Requests for proposals for food service management will be accepted until 10 a.m.

## Corporation accepting bids for food service management

April 29. Current plans to make a recommendation to the board at its May 20 meeting.

In other business, the board:  
 •Honored JCHS graduate Sophia Fugiett during the Patriot Pride moment. She has won university, state and national awards through the Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE). Fugiett has been filling in teaching physical education at Redkey Elementary School. The school has also implemented a kindness initiative that has included gifts for nursing home residents and area first responders, letters to the elderly and random acts of kindness.

•Approved the following: several hirings, including Fugiett as physical education instructor and technology instructional assistant for West Jay and Redkey elementary schools from March 19 through the end of the school year; leaves of absence for employees Heather Keller, Angelana Carter, Kim Hyatt and Hannah Tollett; field trips for high school Spanish students to Hispanic Flamenco Ballet on March 20 in Kettering, Ohio, and JROTC senior students April 18 through 22 to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C.; and approved the payment of regular claims and receipts.

•Accepted the retirement of preschool teacher Terri Mast, effective at the end of the school year, and the resignations of instructional assistant Terri Mast and speech/language pathologist Hannah Tollett.

•Accepted a \$3,100 Friends of the NRA grant for the Jay County JROTC air rifle team.



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**SPEED BUMP** Dave Coverly

**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** By Bil Keane

**Contract Bridge** By Steve Becker

**Tender loving care**

East dealer. North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ A K 8 5 3  
 ♥ A 9 4  
 ♦ J 6 3  
 ♣ 5 2

**WEST**  
 ♠ Q J 10 9 7 2  
 ♥ K Q J  
 ♦ 8  
 ♣ Q 6 3

**EAST**  
 ♠ —  
 ♥ 10 7 6 3 2  
 ♦ 9 4  
 ♣ K 10 9 8 7 4

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ 6 4  
 ♥ 8 5  
 ♦ A K Q 10 7 5 2  
 ♣ A J

The bidding:  
 East South West North  
 Pass 1♦ 3♣ 3♦ 4♣  
 4♣ 4♦ Pass 5♦

Opening lead — queen of spades.

One of the purposes of a pre-emptive bid is to crowd the bidding in the hope that the opponents will then stumble into the wrong contract. Thus, in today's deal, after his partner passes and South opens the bidding, West has good reason to think that the opponents may be able to make a vulnerable game, so he bids three spades rather than one. Even if he gets doubled, West has six probable tricks, and if North-South can make a game or a

slam, the penalty incurred will be worthwhile.

In the actual case, North does double, and East runs to four clubs. South then winds up in five diamonds but note that his side might well have reached three no-trump (making five) had there been less (or no) interference.

As it happens, five diamonds is a sound contract that cannot be defeated if declarer plays correctly. Nevertheless, the fact is that it would be very easy to play the hand incorrectly.

West leads the spade queen, and South's mettle is tested at once. The proper move is to play low from dummy and let West win the trick! When West continues with the jack, declarer ducks again and then ducks a third time when West returns the ten, this time ruffing in his hand. South then has no trouble collecting the rest of the tricks.

If declarer makes the mistake of playing the ace or king from dummy on any of the first three spade leads, he goes down one. However, he should realize from the bidding that West has six spades and East none, so he should let West win the first two tricks in order to preserve the 11 tricks he started with.

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**Peanuts**

**Rose is Rose**

**Agnes**

**Hi and Lois**

**Between Friends**

**Blondie**

**Snuffy Smith**

**Beetle Bailey**

**3-20 CRYPTOQUIP**

L'C JLNA SE IAPEWA U QNLJJAC  
 CVLXAV EK QSLPN-QGLKS  
 XAGLPJAJ, IFS L PUB'S KLBC  
 U WUBFUJ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: JUMBO-SIZED JAPANESE MONSTER THAT HAS BEEN INHABITING THE COLLEGE'S CAMPUS SQUARE: QUADZILLA.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals C

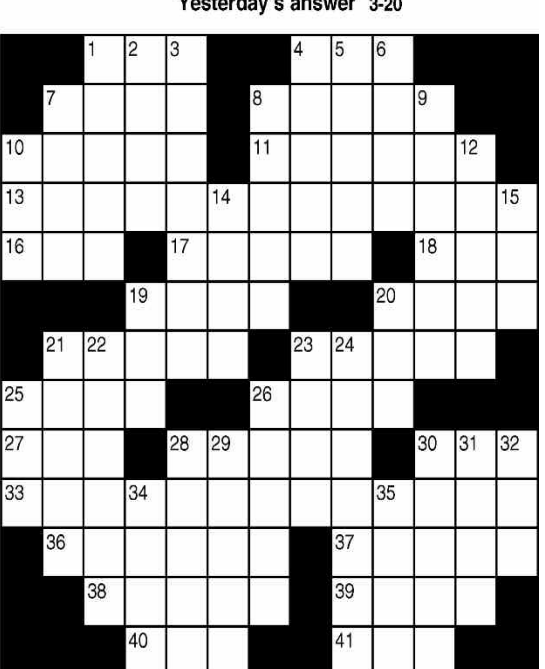
**CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer**

**ACROSS** 25 Swiss peaks 41 Drops on grass and 10 Sheeran and Harris  
 1 Docs' org. 26 Secluded valley 12 Twangy  
 4 Prof's helpers 27 Pirate's chart 1 Disney 14 Paris  
 7 Utah city 28 Bitter 2 Butte's kin 15 Thither  
 8 Pub orders 30 Freudian 3 Revised 19 ICU  
 10 Bee-thoven's "Für—" 33 007 portrayer 5 Poker gold 20 Black  
 11 Reach in 13- 6 Rating 21 Allege  
 13 2002 James Bond film 36 Rum cocktail 7 Lena mister 24 Nugged, in a  
 16 NBC weekend show 37 Hunk of cheese Reader" 8 Barbecue way  
 17 Loses moisture 39 Cupid's alias 9 Protective house exterior 25 Pump up the volume  
 18 Equal (Pref.) 40 Three, in Rome 26 Ledger entry 28 Thes-pian  
 19 Move, in Realtor lingo 20 — incline (tilted) 21 Halloween bagful 23 Katherine of "27 Dresses"

**DOWN** 12 Twangy 14 Paris 15 Thither 19 ICU 20 Black gold 21 Allege 22 Seem 23 German 24 Nugged, in a way 25 Pump up the volume 26 Ledger entry 28 Thes-pian 29 Stop 30 Fund 31 Jokes 32 Low digit 34 Mob scene 35 Withered

**Solution time: 23 mins.**

E	T	S	Y	N	E	T	B	R	A	T	
L	A	C	E	A	M	O	E	U	R	O	
E	X	A	M	V	I	N	C	I	B	L	E
V	I	N	E	G	A	R	O	R	E	O	S
N	I	L	C	R	U						
R	O	S	I	N	V	I	N	T	A	G	E
E	V	A	R	E	A	P	E	N			
V	I	N	C	E	N	T	V	A	P	E	D
			R	L	S	P	A	S			
A	R	I	E	S	V	I	N	T	N	E	R
V	I	N	D	A	L	O	O	R	U	B	Y
O	C	T	O	L	I	U	O	B	O	E	
W	H	O	S	C	D	S	S	S	N	S	



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# Sports

## Five compete at state for winter swim team

INDIANAPOLIS — Jay County swimmers competed in 15 events at IUPUI.

A handful outperformed their seed line and the 200-yard freestyle relay team put out the best performance.

The Jay County Winter Swim team competed in 15 different events at the state swim meet over the weekend at IUPUI, with the 10-and-younger girls 200 freestyle relay putting out the top performance.

The relay team consisting of Carsyn Guggenbiller, Ellie Wiggins, Sophie Warvel and Addisyn Champ came in seeded 18th, but combined for a swim of 2 minutes, 9.5 seconds to earn the highest finish of the weekend at 12th place.

Cooper Glentzer also

finished within the top 20 in his sole event. As the only boy representing Jay County at the meet, he was seeded 23rd, but pulled away to take 19th of 24 swimmers with a time of 18 minutes, 45.66 seconds, in the 1,650 freestyle.

Sophie Warvel also swam in one event, finishing 41st-place by completing the 50 butterfly in 36.9 seconds.

The 10-and-younger 200 medley relay consisting of Champ, Warvel, Guggenbiller and Wiggins came together to finish in 2:31.56 for 20th place.

Guggenbiller competed in the most individual events — she competed in six — at the meet. Her top finish came in the 100 butterfly finishing 29th

in 1:26.02, which also beat her seedline by one spot.

In her other five events, Guggenbiller placed 31st in the 100 backstroke (1:21.12), 36th in the 100 individual medley (2:55.98), 41st in the 200 freestyle (2:37), 45th in the 50 butterfly (38.22 seconds) and 46th in the 50 backstroke (38.3).

Champ was just behind Guggenbiller with five individual events. She claimed the highest individual finish as her 100 freestyle time of 1:07.25 exceeded her No. 19 seed to place 18th.

In her other events Champ placed 31st in the 200 individual medley (2:54.68), 32nd in the 50 backstroke (36.16), 36th in the 200 freestyle (2:32) and 43rd in the 40 freestyle (31.6).



Photo provided

The Jay County Winter Swim Team had five tankers compete at the state meet at IUPUI over the weekend. Pictured from left to right are Sophie Warvel, Carsyn Guggenbiller, Addisyn Champ and Ellie Wendel. The four combined to compete in two relay events, while Warvel, Guggenbiller and Champ all swam in individual events as well. Cooper Glentzer was the only boy to make state for Jay County.

## Boozier set to retire

After 11 years as the Jay County athletics director, Steve Boozier will retire at the end of the school year.

Jay School Corporation superintendent Jeremy Gulley sent a press release Tuesday morning confirming that Boozier had given Jay Schools notice of his retirement.

Boozier confirmed Tuesday afternoon that he has been approved as the football coach at Tri-County North in Ohio, where he previously served as football coach

and athletics director, and is slated to become the athletics director in 2025-26.

“Steve has been a loyal and dedicated servant of Jay Schools for many years and has provided exceptional service to our youth and community,” the press release said. “We wish Steve the very best in his future endeavors.”

The release also said Jay Schools will begin the process to fill the vacancy.

Along with serving as Jay County’s athlet-

ic director, Boozier is a 1985 graduate of Jay County High School and served as the football coach for three seasons from 2010 through 2012. He stepped down from coaching football after being hired as the athletic director.

Prior to working for Jay County, Boozier served as the athletic director at Wes-Del and football coach at Blackford and Northfield in addition to his time at Tri-County North.

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Thursday**  
Fort Recovery — Softball scrimmage vs. Newton — 5 p.m.

### TV sports

**Today**  
6 p.m. — MLB spring training: Los Angeles Dodgers at San Diego Padres (ESPN)  
6:30 p.m. — College basketball First Four: Grambling State vs. Montana State (TruTV)  
7 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Detroit Pistons (Bally Indiana)  
7 p.m. — College basketball NIT: Saint Joseph’s at Seton Hall (ESPN2)  
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Milwaukee Bucks at Boston Celtics (ESPN)  
7:30 p.m. — NHL: Toronto Maple Leafs at Washington Capitals (TNT)  
9 p.m. — College basketball First Four: Colorado vs. Boise State (TruTV)  
9 p.m. — College basketball NIT: VCU at Villanova (ESPN2)  
10 p.m. — NBA: Memphis Grizzlies at Golden State Warriors (ESPN)  
10 p.m. — NHL: Minnesota Wild at Los Angeles Kings (TNT)

### Thursday

5 a.m. — NRL Rugby: Brisbane Broncos at Penrith Panthers (FS1)  
6 a.m. — MLB spring training: San Diego Padres at Los Angeles Dodgers (ESPN)  
12:15 p.m. — College basketball Round of 64: Michigan State vs. Mississippi State (CBS)  
12:40 p.m. — College basketball Round of 64: Duquesne vs. BYU (TruTV)  
1 p.m. — MLB spring training: Houston Astros at St. Louis Cardinals (Bally Indiana)  
1:30 p.m. — College basketball Round of 64: Akron vs. Creighton (TNT)  
2 p.m. — College basketball Round of 64: Long Beach State vs. Arizona (TBS)  
2:45 p.m. — College basketball Round of 64: TBD vs. North Carolina (CBS)  
3:10 p.m. — College basketball Round of 64: Morehead State vs. Illinois (TruTV)  
4 p.m. — College basketball Round of 64: Oregon vs. South Carolina (TNT)  
4:30 p.m. — College basketball Round of 64: Nevada vs. Dayton (TBS)  
6:50 p.m. — College basketball

Round of 64: TBD vs. Texas (TNT)  
7 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Arizona vs. Auburn (ESPN2)  
7:10 p.m. — College basketball Round of 64: Oakland vs. Kentucky (CBS)  
7:25 p.m. — College basketball Round of 64: McNeese State vs. Gonzaga (TBS)  
7:35 p.m. — College basketball Round of 64: South Dakota State vs. Iowa State (TruTV)  
8 p.m. — Figure Skating: Pairs Free Skate (USA)  
8:30 p.m. — NBA: Utah Jazz at Dallas Mavericks (ABC)  
9 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: UT Martin vs. Holy Cross (ESPN2)  
9:20 p.m. — College basketball Round of 64: Saint Peter’s vs. Tennessee (TNT)  
9:40 p.m. — College basketball Round of 64: N.C. State vs. Texas Tech (CBS)  
9:55 p.m. — College basketball Round of 64: Samford vs. Kansas (TBS)  
10:05 p.m. — College basketball Round of 64: Drake vs. Washington State (TruTV)  
10:30 p.m. — NHL: Seattle Kraken at Vegas Golden Knights (ESPN)

## Calling all sports fans

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