

The Commercial Review

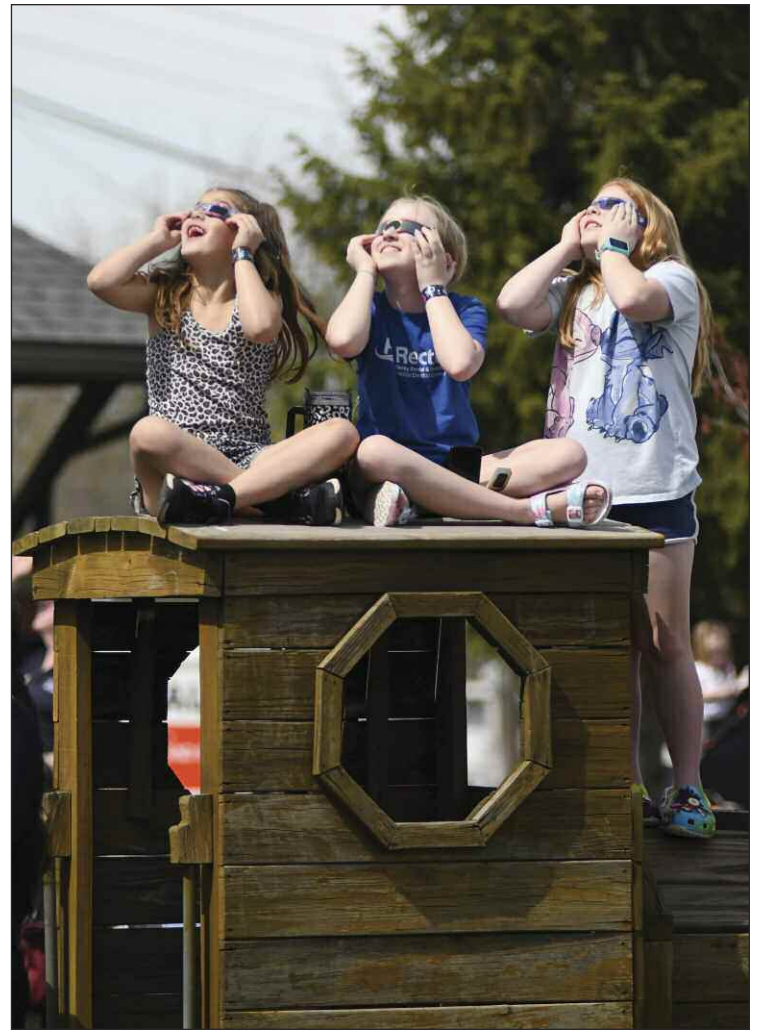
Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

There goes the sun

Residents and visitors gathered at various locations across Jay County to watch the solar eclipse. At left, Quinn Klaassen, 8, points out the beginning of the eclipse to her brother Kaden, 6, at Hudson Family Park in Portland. Above, Dunkirk residents, from left, Alyzah Willoughby, 7, Aubrey McClain, 10, and Brionna Walradth, 10, gaze into the sky using their eclipse glasses from atop the wooden train in Webster Depot Park during a festival to celebrate the event. The moon completely blocked the sun for a period of about 4 minutes.

Commissioners request another meeting

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Commissioners would like to discuss more about the contract between the county and Jay County's local economic development organization.

They held off talking about it in depth Monday.

Commissioners tabled a decision on a contract with Jay County Development Corporation and asked to hold an executive session to discuss the service agreement with JCDC's executive director and board president.

JCDC executive director Travis Richards explained his board signed the contract April 2. He noted JCDC's board filled in the

More discussion wanted regarding county's proposed contract with JCDC

budgeted amount stated on the contract at \$140,000.

The contract had last been discussed extensively with commissioners in December, and JCDC had been waiting on a decision about the amount of money JCDC would receive via the contract. Commissioners previously requested financial information from JCDC, and

Richards expressed at JCDC's meeting April 2 he felt as though that had been provided to them. JCDC agreed then to write in the amount allocated by Jay County Council — \$140,000 — for 2024 and present it to commissioners.

While responding to a question during that meeting last week, commission-

er Rex Journay — he's on the JCDC board — speculated commissioners might want to hold a meeting to discuss expectations of JCDC.

On Monday, commissioners president Chad Aker said Journay had asked Richards for marketing duties he felt comfortable performing. Aker noted commissioners and

JCDC still disagree on the amount budgeted for this year and he advised an executive session — he asked county attorney Wes Schemenaur if the business could be conducted in executive session, with Schemenaur saying he would need to look into it — to have "serious conversation" about the details.

Journay asked how quickly the discussion could take place. Schemenaur explained that regardless if the meeting is a special or executive session, the county will need to give a 48-hour notice to the public. Richards pointed out marketing services are included in the contract.

"Is there something besides what's written in here that you're after?" asked Richards.

"It's written in there, but I'd like to see how you're going to address that," responded Aker. "There's a couple other things in there too, that, like I said, would really like to sit down and have a conversation."

Richards noted the county and JCDC had been talking about the contract for months and inquired what other parts commissioners would like to discuss.

Commissioner Brian McGalliard made a motion to table the discussion, and it passed unanimously. See **Commissioners** page 2

Dunkirk insurance costs are going up

City's cost is going up by 16.6% for 2024

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Insurance costs are going up. Dunkirk City Council on Monday approved a contract with Barnum and Brown Insurance for the bulk of its insurance policies for the city at a 16.6% increase in cost over the previous year.

Aaron Walter of Barnum and Brown, Dunkirk, said the public risk insurance sector has been hit hard recently. He added that Barnum and Brown has paid out slightly more than 100% of what it has received in premiums from the city over the last five years.

He explained that because of the high amount of claims and resulting payouts, only one underwriter was willing to provide a quote. Several others declined.

The updated policy Walter presented Monday keeps commercial general liability and employee benefits liability deductibles the same as they were a year ago.

See **Dunkirk** page 5

Elementary ukulele

Bloomfield Elementary School fifth grader Kyler Moorehous plays the ukulele Tuesday morning during rehearsal for the school's spring program at East Jay Elementary School. The program, held for the public Tuesday evening, included dancing, singing and percussion numbers as well. The ukuleles were given to all Jay County fifth graders via the Ron Shoemaker Charitable Gift Fund in conjunction with Arts Place.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Deaths

Winifred Marchal, 83,
Celina, Ohio
Helen Williams, 82,
Decatur
Details on page 2.

Weather

Weather cooperated for the solar eclipse Monday with a high temperature of 73 in Jay County and clear skies. The low was 46.

Rain is expected tonight with a low in the mid 50s. Expect a high in the mid 60s Thursday with more rain.

See page 2 for an extended forecast.

In review

Organization Solutions is hosting a workshop sharing productivity techniques from noon to 4 p.m. Thursday at John Jay Center for Learning. Trainer Janet Jackson will help participants learn tips for greater focus and reducing stress. To register, email office@organizationsolution-sllc.com.

Coming up

Thursday — Results from the Fort Recovery baseball game against Versailles.

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

Saturday — Results from the Jay County track meet at Delta.

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CR almanac

Thursday 4/11	Friday 4/12	Saturday 4/13	Sunday 4/14	Monday 4/15
64/43	52/40	63/49	71/52	71/55
Thursday has a 90% chance of rain with winds gusting up to 30 mph.	There's a 50% chance of rain on Friday, when the high will be in the low 50s.	Sunny skies are in the forecast for Saturday, when the high will be in the mid 60s.	Sunday's weather looks to be mostly cloudy with a high in the low 70s. Chance of rain.	There's a chance of showers Monday, when the high will be around 71.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 6-21-23-39-54 Power Ball: 23 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$31 million	Daily Four: 3-9-0-8 Quick Draw: 7-17-22-25-27-29-31-32-37-41-44-54-62-64-68-68-70-73-77-80 Cash 5: 1-17-26-35-45 Estimated jackpot: \$510,500
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$97 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 6-6-8 Pick 4: 9-6-3-1 Evening Pick 3: 3-9-4 Pick 4: 6-3-2-1 Rolling Cash: 6-15-17-31-37 Estimated jackpot: \$130,000
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 0-1-4 Daily Four: 9-1-1-3 Quick Draw: 1-2-7-9-17-24-25-27-28-29-33-36-43-56-58-62-75-76-77-79 Evening Daily Three: 8-8-5	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.32 May corn.....4.32 Wheat4.38	May beans11.70 Wheat 5.32
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.39 May corn4.39 June corn4.44	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.12 May corn.....4.16 Beans11.62 May beans11.65 Wheat5.30
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.17 May corn4.17 Beans11.70	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.26 May corn.....4.28 Beans11.47 May beans11.52 Wheat4.93

Today in history

In 1815, Mount Tambora of the Dutch East Indies erupts, killing around 71,000 people. Folks could hear the explosion as far as 1,200 miles away.

In 1847, Joseph Pulitzer was born in Hungary. A Democrat leader and newspaper publisher, he established the school of journalism at Columbia University and the Pulitzer Prizes.

In 1858, the 13.76 tonne bell "Big Ben" was recast at Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London.

In 1872, Arbor Day took place for the first time. Nebraska residents celebrated the inaugural holiday by planting what was estimated to be more than one million trees. J. Sterling Morton, former governor of the Nebraska territory and a newspaper editor, had dreamed of the holiday and lobbied for it to encourage folks to plant trees.

In 1925, F. Scott Fitzgerald published "The Great Gatsby," a literary classic following a Midwesterner's experience in New York, including escapades with his millionaire neighbor and

cousin. The story has been portrayed in film, including the 2013 version starring Leonardo DiCaprio as Jay Gatsby and Tobey Maguire as Nick Carraway, the two main roles.

In 1957, "12 Angry Men" was released in the United States. Starry Henry Fonda as a juror, the film follows jurors in a courtroom as they decide the fate of a person accused of murder.

In 1970, Paul McCartney leaves The Beatles, effectively breaking up the group.

In 1972, the Biological Weapons Convention outlawed developing, producing and stockpiling biological weapons. More than 150 countries signed the measure.

In 1986, Halley's Comet reached the closest point it would reach near Earth, also known as the perigee, during its route near the planet.

In 2001, the Netherlands passed legislation allowing euthanasia.

In 2010, Lech Kaczynski, president of Poland, died in a plane rash along with other officials and members of the Polish clergy. —The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today
5:30 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council joint session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

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

Thursday
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works executive session, mayor's

office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St., Portland.

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

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

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

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

Obituaries

Winifred Marchal

May 21, 1940-Feb. 8, 2024
Winifred Marchal, age 83, a resident of Celina and a former resident of Salamonia, passed away Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024, at Celina Manor in Celina, Ohio.



Marchal

Winifred was born May 21, 1940, in Jay County, Indiana, the daughter of James and Iva (Foltz) Beals. Winifred graduated from Poling High School in 1958 and graduated from International Business College.

Winifred worked at Hinkle Racter and Lopez in Portland for 42 years. She was a member of Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church in Fort Recovery, VFW Auxiliary in Salamonia and Fort Recovery, American Legion Auxiliary in Fort Recovery and Salamonia, Salamonia Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary and Lady of Solidarity in Fort Recovery.

Winifred married Larry Marchal on April 16, 1977. Larry passed away on May 25, 2020.

Survivors include:
Four cousins — Mary Kruecker, Kendallville, Indiana, Martha

Kerns, Colorado, Sharon Vlachos, Delaware, and Lori Kerns, Bluffton, Indiana

Two sisters-in-law — Theresa Baucher, Celina, Ohio, and Mary Ann (companion: Chris) Mangen, Amherst, Wisconsin

One brother-in-law — Mike Marchal (wife: Deanna), Portland

Visitation will be held Friday, April 12, 2024, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. A Mass of Christian burial for Larry and Winifred will be held Saturday, April 13, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. at Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church in Fort Recovery, Ohio, with visitation from 9 to 10 a.m. at the funeral home in Portland. Burial will follow at Salamonia Cemetery in Salamonia, Indiana.

Memorials may be directed to the American Legion of Fort Recovery.

Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

Helen Williams

Sept. 8, 1941-Dec. 22, 2023

Helen I. Williams, age 82, of Decatur and a former Portland resident passed away on Friday, Dec. 22, 2023, in Adams Woodcrest in Decatur.

She was born in Portland on Sept. 8, 1941, the daughter of Isaac and M. Frances (Long) Haines. She was

named after her mother's close friend Helen Irene Stoner. Helen was married on June 4, 1960 to Richard L. Williams and he preceded in death on Jan. 31, 2018. She was a 1959 Portland High School graduate and member of New Life Ministries in Portland. She was a homemaker and enjoyed playing euchre, word searches and watching game show network. She was a great cook and baker.

Helen is survived by her daughter Amy Coyne (husband: Christopher) of Decatur; brother Allen Haines (wife: Vicki) of Portland; two granddaughters, Ella Coyne and Hannah Coyne of Decatur; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and sister Nell Miller.

A celebration of life services will be held on April 14, 2024, at 4 p.m. in New Life Ministries, 415 S. Helen St., Portland, with Dr. Kay Fields presiding.

Memorials can be made to Heart to Heart Hospice.

Baird-Freeman Funeral Home in Portland is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.



Williams

Commissioners ...

Continued from page 1
In related news, Richards and Jay County Chamber of Commerce director Tabby Sprunger shared hopes to hear a decision on funding from the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) 2.0 grant. Indiana Economic Development Corporation, which is administering the funds, meets Thursday. (On Tuesday, morning the Indiana Economic Development Corporation confirmed that award announcements will come at 10 a.m. Thursday.)

Commissioners pointed out Jay County received \$300,000 from the first iteration of READI as a portion of the \$15 million allocated to the region. They asked Richards if the county could be reassured to see a larger portion of the region's allocation this time around, with Richards explaining the county has more projects aligned with READI 2.0 grant guidelines. (Richards and Sprunger are Jay County's representatives on the steering committee for the East Central Indiana region.)

Richards also noted Lilly Endowment is contributing \$250 million in conjunction with READI 2.0 to those who are granted the funding. See Commissioners page 5



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Felony arrests

Without license

A Portland man was arrested Saturday for driving with a suspended license.

Elvis E. Franks, 50, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for the alleged crime, along with a Class A misdemeanor for operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

He was released on a \$4,500 bond from Jay County Jail.

Drug possession

Several people were arrested Monday on drug charges.

William A. Ogan, 59, 6931 N. 750 West, Bryant, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for possession of methamphetamine. He was being held on a

\$4,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Michael R. Paxson, 44, 6870 N. 750 West, Bryant, was preliminarily charged with two Level 6 felonies for possession of methamphetamine and unlawful possession of a syringe, as well as a Class A misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. He was being held in Jay County Jail on a \$4,500 bond.

Jacki N. Reed, 38, 6870 N. 750 West, Bryant, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony for unlawful possession of a syringe and a Class A misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. She was being held on a \$4,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

Capsule Reports

Fell asleep

A Dunkirk man was injured after he fell asleep while driving along Indiana 26, causing an accident about 6:45 a.m. Tuesday.

Samuel L. Hanes-Olnhausen, 57, was driving his 2001 Chevrolet Blazer east on the road when he

left his lane, traveling off the road and striking a culvert on the north side of Indiana 26.

He sustained some bruising from the incident and was trapped in his vehicle.

His vehicle was towed, with damage estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

SERVICES

Friday
Hyatt, Lydia: 11 a.m., Church of the Most Holy Trinity, 7321 E. Indiana 18, Bryant.

Saturday
Marchal, Winifred: 10:30 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpshurg Road, Fort Recovery.

Sunday
Williams, Helen: 4 p.m., New Life Ministries, 415 S. Helen St., Portland.

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GRAPHIC PRINTING

Husband misses intimacy

DEAR ABBY: I'm in a sexless 25-year marriage. It was not always this way, but any intimacy has been over for more than a decade. My wife's libido has waned, which I understand. What she does do is continually bring up issues about me from years ago as if they were yesterday.

I have my faults, like lack of communication and shutting down, which I have objectively thought about a great deal and tried to make things right. I'm not violent, I don't use drugs or abuse alcohol. She remains adamant in her distrust of me and punishes me by withholding all forms of intimacy.

We attended marriage counseling, where I listened to her and acknowledged my issues for redress. She, on the other hand, justifies her actions and behaviors. She has her own failings but doesn't want to hear how much her actions have hurt me. She also didn't listen to the counselor and will not hold herself accountable.

I feel so lonely. She thinks a lack of intimacy is fine for a marriage, and this is frustrating to me. I have brought this up to her numerous times, but she will not be moved. I could use your counsel on this. — LONELY MAN IN GEORGIA

Dear Abby



the need arises. If the photographers are well-known, go online and find out if there's a market for their work. Offer the portraits for sale and see if there is any interest. You could also bequeath them to an "open-minded" relative or friend. I wish you luck.

.....

DEAR ABBY: In a response to "Ganged Up On" (Dec. 23), you stated that it is against the law to hit a child in California. It was in response to a woman whose mother-in-law spanked her grandchild. I was born in California and lived there more than 50 years, and I believe you misinterpreted the penal code.

It is not illegal to spank in California. It IS illegal to use excessive force, or to cause traumatic injury when doing it. I don't personally believe that a child should be hit, but it is not "illegal." In fact, corporal punishment, not abuse, is legal in every state in the U.S. — DENISE E. IN NEVADA

DEAR DENISE: Mea culpa. I stand corrected. You are not the only reader I heard from after printing that answer. Thank you for straightening me out about this.

DEAR LONELY MAN: You tried counseling; counseling failed. Lack of intimacy (of any kind) is not "fine" for a marriage. Call an attorney and set yourself free.

.....

DEAR ABBY: During my 30s (I am now mid-70s), I did some nude modeling for several reputable photographers, which resulted in some lovely portraits. A few of them have been framed and hang on my bedroom wall.

My family members are aware of them, but they are very religious (which I am not), so I don't know how to dispose of them. Should I try to sell them, and if so, how? Should I bequeath them to someone, or should they be left for my estate executor to deal with? What to do? — PORTRAITS IN THE SOUTH

DEAR PORTRAITS: Definitely discuss this with your executor well before

Middle schoolers make honor roll

Fort Recovery Middle School announced its third nine weeks honor roll students last week.

Making the list with straight A's were sixth graders Kyle Andrews, John Bihn, Logan Gaerke, Miley Hardwick, Lauren Hart, Mason Jutte, Camden LeFevre, Quinn McCain, Eloise Niekamp, Katelyn Siefring, Aubrey Stammen, Aubrey Wendel, Julia Westgerdes and Mya Will.

Sixth graders on the list with A's and B's were Mason Ali, Kimo Bechtol, Alexandra Bihn, Molly Boeckman, Lukas Brackman, Macy Fullenkamp, Skylée Grafmiller, Brayden Grisez, Mason Grisez and Kendall Grube.

Also sixth graders Alex Heitkamp, Jesse Homan, Ryan Jutte, Chloe Knapke, Eli Kremer, Owen Lamm, Aubrey Post, Benson Rammel, Addalyn Roessner, Rayla Staugler, Koby Timmerman, Makayla Wehrkamp, Kenzie Wendel, Rielle Wendel and Gavin Willmann.

Seventh graders on the honor roll with all A's were Chloe Brockman, Brinley Fortkamp, Stetson Fullenkamp, Gavin Heitkamp, Alexander Roessner, Jett Tobe and Vincent Wenning.

Making the list with A's and B's were seventh graders Kaiser Albers, Tenley Albers, Allison Bergman, Jenna Bertke, Jaxin Breen, Kale Diller, Bentley Dil-

worth, Emmitt Dues, Jordan Dues, Anthony Evers, Crew Fortkamp, Kayla Gaerke, Claire Grube, Addyson Heitkamp, Ethan Homan and Brynn Huntsman.

Also seventh graders Yoselin Juarez-Gomez, Addison Jutte, Carter Kaiser, Andrew Martinez, Isaac Niekamp, Courtney Overman, Kayden Ranly, James Shuttleworth, Ben Vogel, Mara Wendel, Lydia Will, Reid Willmann and Lana Wuebker.

Eighth graders on the list with all A's were Jocelyn Bihn, Addison Brunswick, Alivia Brunswick, Makenzie Evers, Claire Gaerke, Madeline Hardwick, Paisley Hart, Henry Jutte, Elizabeth Kahlig, Cora Pearson, Kendall Ranly, Madilyn Reinhard, Ally Roessner, Hoyt Schmitz, Eliza Smith and Charlie Stammen.

Making the honor roll with A's and B's were Layla Armstrong, Brooke Bihn, Emily Boeckman, Kyra Brunswick, Riley DeRo, Evan Diller, Jackson Dues, Haley Easton, William Faller, Malia Grisez, Pete Guggenbiller, Elizabeth Heitkamp, Courtney Klenke, Liza Knapke, McKinlee Kremer, Mason Laux, Duc Anh Nguyen, Andrew Niekamp, Hudson Overman, Stella Patch, Charity Pohlman, Liana Schlarman, Ali Siegrist, Lilah Thien, Livy Timmerman, Madelyn Weigel and Jadyn Weyerick.

Community Calendar

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

Today

WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

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

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

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

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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

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

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

Thursday

SMART RECOVERY — A group for those struggling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feelings and behavior, and living a balanced life meets at 11 a.m. each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

CELEBRATE RECOV-

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

PIKE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS — Will meet Thursday, April 11, at 5 p.m. at Pizza Hut in Portland.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY POST 211 — Will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 11, at 211 W. Walnut St., Portland. All Auxiliary members are welcome.

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

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

Friday

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

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

Sunday

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

Monday

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

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon

each Monday at Jay Community Center.

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

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

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

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

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

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — 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.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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There's plenty to see around Jay

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from April 11, 2007. Jack was proud of his community, so its not surprising that when given the opportunity to show it off to a visitor from Kyrgyzstan, he relished the opportunity. When you have friends visit, what are you excited to show them? (If you can't answer that question off the top of your head, use Jack's column to generate some ideas.)

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

It's a problem we've all run into. Someone from out of town is coming for a visit, and we have to entertain them. So, what the heck do you show a visitor to Jay County?

Plenty, as it turns out. The visitor in this case was a young guy named Dmitry Polyakov. He was born in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, though he's ethnically Russian rather than Kyrgyz. The past few years, he's been living in St. Petersburg, Russia, where he's the local leader of an organization trying to instill values of civil society into the former Soviet Union.

Dmitry and I met in 2003 in Bishkek, when I was doing a study for Freedom House and he was assigned as my interpreter/assistant.

He's been in the U.S. of late, doing a fellowship at the National Council of State Legislatures and an internship at the Colorado General Assembly.

Given our friendship, an invi-

Back in the Saddle



tation to Indiana seemed appropriate.

But then that old question popped up: Where do we take him?

Fortunately, an exchange of emails developed some clues. Some things I suggested didn't interest him, others did, and still other possibilities surfaced from his questions and suggestions.

So, last week, when he rolled in we were more than prepared.

Here's how we spent last Wednesday. You can be the judge of whether he will go home with a sense of local life.

We started at the office, checking in with the newspaper staff and introducing Dmitry to all and sundry.

About 10 a.m., we headed over to the Jay County Jail, or more formally, the Jay County Security Center. Dmitry, who probably has seen too many westerns, expressed an interest in meeting a real American sheriff.

Ray Newton was more than happy to oblige.

For a full hour, the sheriff took us through the entire facility, answering questions, explaining the oddities of Indiana law, and outlining a long list of issues

that lie ahead. I know I learned a lot, and I'm sure Dmitry did as well.

We then stopped by the Portland Area Chamber of Commerce to see the 1910 Haynes in the Community Resource Center.

Vicki Tague answered Dmitry's questions and welcomed him to the county.

From there, we went to the offices of The Portland Foundation, where Doug Inman explained the role of community foundations, something nearly unique to America and often taken for granted by the rest of us.

As we left the foundation, we bumped into Stephanie Arnold of the Jay Community Center, who insisted that we at least drive by the facility to give it a look. We did just that when we made a brief stop at Freedom Park.

Then there was time for a nickel tour of Arts Place.

With that wrapped up, we went home to meet up with Connie and have a bowl of soup to take the edge off a chilly day.

After lunch, we headed out in Connie's Jeep for an abbreviated tour of Meshberger Brothers Stone Corp. where she works, driving down to the bottom of the quarry and being filled in on the geological history of the region.

We then hot-footed it back to the office to make sure all had gone well with the day's paper. It was about 10 until 2 when I grabbed the day's deposit, only to

learn that the mayor was on the phone. I'd mentioned to Bruce Hosier that Dmitry was going to be in town, and he wanted to make sure we connected.

So, in very short order, I did the banking, we stopped at the mayor's office where Dmitry was given a commemorative piece made by Falcon Mint, then we made it out to FCC (Indiana) for a scheduled tour at 2 p.m. with Eric Garringer.

The next hour was an immersion in FCC's quality-driven corporate culture and, for Dmitry, an exciting look at the latest in American manufacturing.

But we weren't done yet.

A little after 3 p.m., we zipped back to the courthouse. Dmitry's interested in the law, so I had touched base with both judges - Brian Hutchison and Joel Roberts - about meeting with him.

Over the course of an hour, we met not only with both judges but also with county clerk Jane Ann Runyon who was busy testing election equipment that day. We just missed prosecutor Bob Clamme, but it was probably just as well. We were running out of time.

About 4 p.m., we took a break at Sharlette's Fudgery, having a Coke and chatting with Shar. While we were there, I used my cell phone to call Mike Schwartz in Geneva.

Dmitry had expressed interest in visiting an Amish home while he was here, and Mike was making the arrangements.

A few minutes later, we were on the road to Limberlost Construction. Mike performed the introductions, and we headed back into Jay County with Toby Swartzentruber to stop at his family's home south of Jay City.

The welcome at the Swartzentruber home was warm and genuine. Dmitry asked a few questions, answered a few questions, spoke a few words of Russian for Toby's mother-in-law and father-in-law, and left with a couple of loaves of bread and a plate of breakfast rolls.

A full enough day? We weren't done.

After touching base at home, we picked up Connie and the three of us went out to Mark and Ruth Twigg's home, where Mark was having an open house to show off his new wood-turning shop and a gallery area.

After that, we headed home for dinner.

So, you tell me. Is there anything of interest locally to show a visitor?

I could write a column just as long as this listing the things we missed: The Glass Museum, Saint-Gobain's bottle production, a CAFO, Balbec's cabin, the historical museum, the antique mall, John Jay Center for Learning, Magic Valley, the Limberlost, and on and on and on and on.

Nothing to show visitors? Tell me about it.

But tell me later.

Right now, I'm exhausted from all this hospitality.

Protect children from social media

The News Tribune
(Tacoma, Washington)
Tribune News Service

Long is the list of things that Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has gotten wrong, from guns to immigration to abortion to nonsense culture war salvos compromising academic freedom in the name of protecting it. We pause here to appreciate the spirit of his effort but not the method to safeguard children from online harms as social media gets its hooks in ever more kids.

DeSantis last week signed a bill that effectively prohibits kids 13 and younger from having social media accounts on platforms like Instagram and TikTok and requires the platforms to get parental consent before letting 14- and 15-year-olds use their services.

There's no question in the minds of most American parents and many American teenagers that endless scrolling and approval-seeking are unhealthy for millions of fragile young psyches. Social media platforms can do some real good, connecting people with shared interests and spreading information and sparking creativity, but we're convinced that there's an age below which its risks consistently outweigh its benefits.

But the need for government to act doesn't settle the question of what ought to be done.

The first question is constitutionality in a country with robust free speech protections reinforced through many generations of case law. While most age restrictions on harmful content have been industry-led, government can and sometimes does prohibit access to expressive materials, provided the laws are carefully tailored.

But that's a high bar to clear: Already, a federal judge blocked an Ohio law similar to Florida's.

Guest Editorial

The next question is who ought to act. The internet is global, and if 50 states develop 50 solutions, it'll be burdensome on companies that deserve some clarity and predictability. Sensible federal laws are far preferable to state-by-state regulations.

Hypocrisy is also a problem. DeSantis, remember, is also a governor who wants to lower the current legal age for the purchasing of rifles and shotguns from 21 to 18 — meaning, he wants to simultaneously be more protective of teenagers when it comes to videos and online bullies and less protective when it comes to real threats of physical harm.

Finally, there's good reason to worry that strict bans might risk people's privacy by requiring the widespread collection by these companies of government IDs, face scans and the like. By gathering such information to protect young people, the very same young people could wind up at risk.

Social media is a real problem for teenagers. Those who liken today's so-called panic to previous attempts to limit access to TV or video games fail to appreciate the many ways the ubiquity and sophistication of TikTok, Instagram and the like are making kids lonelier and less happy.

But not all government interventions are created equal. Florida's well-intentioned law won't work. Pass a strong federal statute first and see how the federal courts react to draconian state laws before letting them spread nationwide.



Don't give up on FAFSA help

By MINDY CORPORON
The Kansas City Star
Tribune News Service

The voice I clearly heard within seconds of finding my father murdered in the parking lot of the Jewish Community Center in Overland Park 10 years ago said: "Your father's in heaven — go find Reat."

In my public speaking and in my 2021 memoir, "Healing a Shattered Soul," I've shared those words because they and my faith that my father, Dr. William L. Corporon, and my oldest son, Reat Underwood, were in heaven after an evil, hate-filled white supremacist took their lives, led me on a 10-year journey that began that evening with a community prayer vigil on the very night of the shooting.

What followed was a news conference, the creation of a nonprofit organization, my decision to leave my career in wealth management, my memoir and the creation of an empathy leadership development company, Workplace Healing.

Talk about walking in faith. It was my calling. I had no choice if I wanted to honor my son, my father and the third shooting victim, Terri LaMano.

The Faith Always Wins Foundation, a 501(C)(3) nonprofit, started with the idea of hosting a singing competition to honor Reat's love of singing. Then my mother suggested that we ask the community to commit random acts of kindness for seven days in a row. In addition, I felt driven

to educate myself and others about the differences and similarities among such faith traditions as Judaism, Christianity, Islam and others, given the murderer's vicious anti-Jewish views (despite the fact he wound up murdering not Jews but Christians).

Shattered and at my most vulnerable, I said yes to those who offered kindness, and our grassroots nonprofit grew to reach several thousand people between 2015 and 2020 (and now is in several other states). When the COVID-19 pandemic taught us how to turn live events virtual, we lost most of our dedicated volunteers who had spent long hours hosting public, in-person events annually for five years. But we found a transition.

Before COVID, our Youth Advisory Board was born in 2014 with the help of Jake Goldman, then a junior at Blue Valley North High School, now a board member. It transitioned into our current Kindness Youth Leadership Team, led by Jill Andersen. Dedicated to mentoring young people, our nonprofit tightened its mission statement and adopted a new name in 2022, SevenDays, which over-

comes hate by promoting kindness and understanding through education and dialogue.

Yes, I can hear you saying: "But there's still hate. What about the rise in hate crimes, particularly anti-semitism?" And you're right.

In fact, in 2023, our Blue Valley school district faced the reality of hate in January and November. While Bishop Miege High School was also dealing with concerning threats on social media, including antisemitic and anti-Black remarks, as well as a swastika found on campus. And from 2020 to 2022 reported hate crime incidents in Missouri increased by 50% and more in the categories of race, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, disability and gender identity.

But we're not born with hate on our minds. Hate is learned — by traditions, rituals, parental figures and influencers of the worst kind. We also can learn kindness — through traditions, rituals, parental figures, and influencers of the best kind, such as SevenDays, the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education, faith communities and others.

A decade after hatred slammed into my life, I'm still working to make the world a kinder place. But I need your help. So, I'm asking you kindly to join me at sevendays.org

Corporon is co-founder of SevenDays, whose first Kindness Festival begins today.



Mindy Corporon

The Commercial Review



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HUGH N. RONALD (1911-1983), Publisher Emeritus
JOHN C. "JACK" RONALD (1948-2022), Publisher Emeritus

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We welcome letters to the editor, which are accepted by email only to letters@thecr.com. They should be 700 words or fewer; signed, with city/town of residence and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit for content and clarity.

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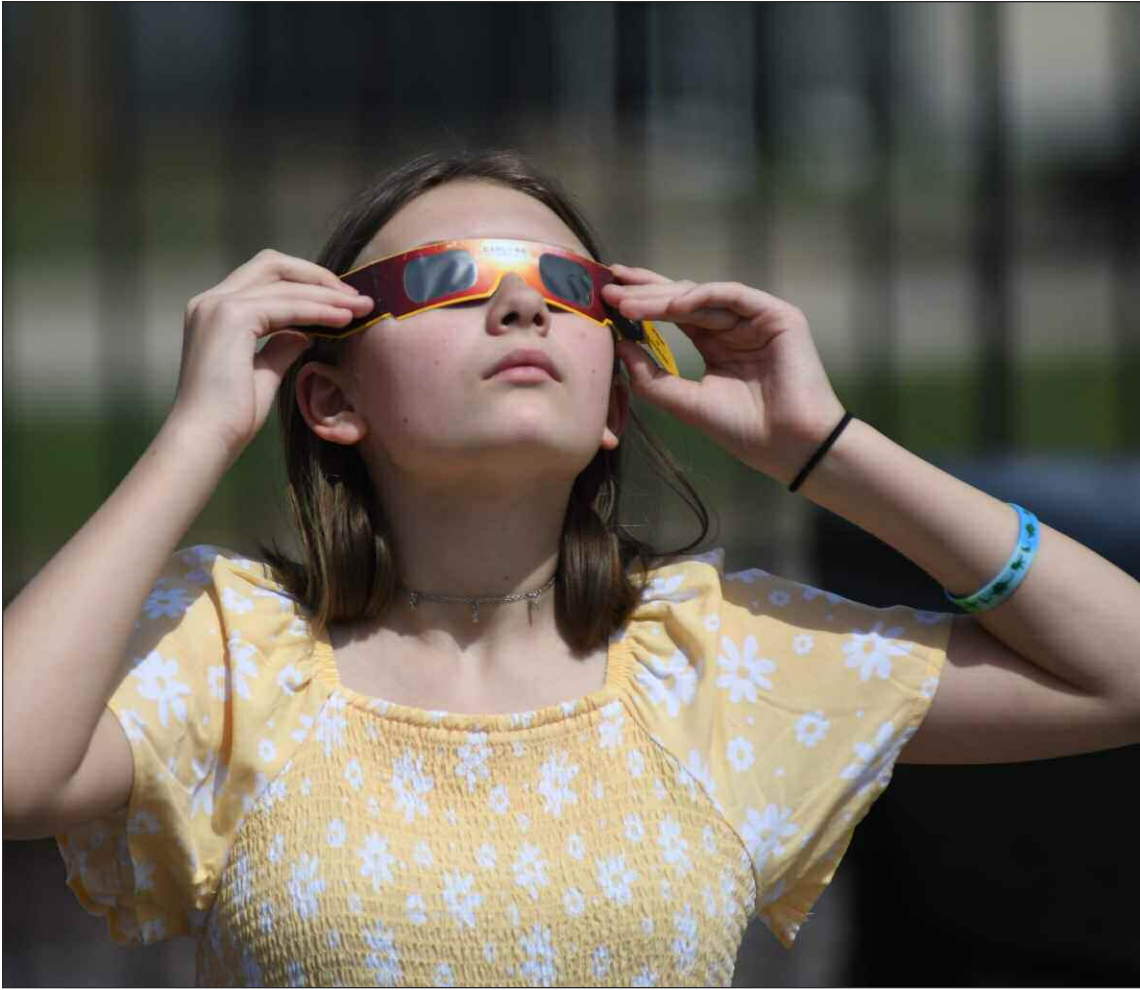
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"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."
—Thomas Jefferson

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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Dark in Dunkirk

An eclipse festival at Webster Depot Park in Dunkirk drew several hundred visitors Monday. Pictured, Kaylyn Parker, 12, Dunkirk, looks into the sky using her eclipse glasses. The crowd gathered at the park let out cheers at the moment totality became complete with the sun disappearing behind the moon. (Totality lasted for just under four minutes in Jay County.) The crowd in Dunkirk included Alan Thiessen and his family from Lynchburg, Virginia. He said they have family in Marion and looked for a small town, hosting a festival and away from traffic as a place to view the eclipse.

Commissioners ...

Continued from page 2
Approximately \$185 million will be used for blight remediation and redevelopment, with the other \$65 million set for arts and culture.

Richards pointed out the challenge process to seek funding through the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program ends April 17. So far, JCDC has collected 488 surveys regarding internet access. JCDC staff and council member Cindy Bracy have contacted 371 individuals who submitted surveys. Plans are to continue gathering responses before the deadline to challenge Federal Communications Commission data regarding internet services. (BEAD funding will be available to areas that are considered unserved or underserved.)

Also Monday, commissioners heard from community coordina-

tor Nate Kimball that he is working with officials in Redkey, Bryant, Pennville and Salamonina to apply for Thriving Communities, a grant program available through Norfolk Southern railroad. The program allots up to \$50,000 to non-profit organizations, government entities or schools within a 90-minute radius of the Norfolk Southern network.

Kimball mentioned he is working with a local resident to determine if they could apply for a Brownfield redevelopment grant in conjunction with their business. He also brought up a tour he recently took of Pennville Custom Cabinetry, noting he is working with Mark Goldman to put together a regular meeting of local manufacturers.

In other business, commissioners:

- Approved the following claims: \$31,283.27 and \$704.02

from Rundell, Ernstberger Associates for planning of the development of the county owned 68 acres on the west side of Portland; \$15,000 from Jay County Campus of Arts Place for its match toward the Our Town Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA); and \$5,000 from Pennville Park Board for its park revitalization project.

- Authorized Jay County Country Living's advisory board to seek bids and accept the lowest bid for a new washer and dryer; and they OK'd repurposing computers from Jay County Clerk's Office to be used by Jay County Country Living.

- Took the following under advisement: emulsion bids from KTech and Asphalt Materials and bids for a Western Star truck for Jay County Highway Department from LindCo Equipment Sales of Merrillville, Stoops

Automotive Group of Muncie and WA Jones of Columbia City.

- Learned the Jay County Clerk's Office new election website — uselectionslive.com/jayin — is now available to the public. The resource provides voting data, including locations of polls for different precincts and candidates' information. It will also be used to share election results in May and November.

- Approved a three-year contract with Perry ProTech for managing printer services for county offices. (Commissioners had reviewed the agreement at previous meetings and requested the addition of a 30-day out clause, which has been added.)

- Were reminded about East Central Indiana Regional Planning District's comprehensive economic development strategy, a five-year plan for Blackford, Grant, Delaware and Jay coun-

ties that serves as a summary of the economic conditions of the region and contains a list of projects identified and prioritized by each county. The district hosted a public forum Tuesday at Jay County Public Library.

- Signed titles for several vehicles that will be going up for sale soon with Loy Real Estate & Auction.

- Renewed an annual agreement at \$18,174.85 with Matrix Integration of Jasper for the backup computer server system used by county offices.

- OK'd paying \$5,600 to TJ's Concrete and Excavation of Portland for repairs to the concrete stairs in Jay County Courthouse and \$2,506.60 to Four-U Office Supplies of Celina, Ohio, for paper.

- Heard about plans to outfit highway department vehicles with first aid kits.

Dunkirk ...

Continued from page 1
Deductibles for management liability for public officials, employment practices liability, law enforcement liability and property damage are all going up, with the last three on that list coming in at \$25,000.

On the positive side, Walter said, the city's umbrella policy increased to \$4 million in coverage and its cyber policy has been enhanced.

Overall, the city is seeing its premium increase to \$112,255.25 this year, up from \$96,240 in 2023.

"If I could make this better, I would have," said Walter, promising that he would continue to work on the policy. (He noted that if the city has fewer claims, it's possible that deductibles and premiums could come down.)

Council member Jesse Bivens advocated for the policy, saying he believes it is the best the city can hope for currently. Walter agreed, saying he would have expected a 10% to 15% increase even without the high amount of claims.

Council members Christy Curts, Dan Watson, Donna Revolt, Randy Murphy and Bivens unanimously approved the bulk of the policy — \$107,542.25 — with the remainder having already been handled via renewals earlier this year.

Also Monday, council seemed to reach an agreement on its street-cutting ordinance as Watson suggested minor changes from the draft proposal. (The ordinance is intended to require anyone cutting a street for a project, such as utility work, to restore it to the same or better condition.) He suggested the permit fee be \$500 for both above-ground and below-ground work. He also suggested that fines be "not to exceed" \$750 for failure to comply for above-ground work and \$3,000 for below-ground work.

His fellow council members agreed, and city attor-

ney Wes Schemenaur said he will make the updates and have the ordinance ready for a vote at the April 22 council meeting.

In other business, council:

- Received an update from Schemenaur regarding a question Watson previously asked about the status of planned solar facilities in the county. He said Leeward Renewable Energy, which is planning Rose Gold Solar just north of Dunkirk, is on Jay County Council's agenda for Wednesday.

- Heard an update regarding the city's detention basin project, with Mayor Jack Robbins noting that there is some work left to be done including fixing washed-out walls, grass seeding and other work. He said \$88,500 has been held back to ensure that the work is completed.

- Approved the following: a \$200 sponsorship for West Jay Community Center; the purchase of a new pump for the city's water department for removing water during water main breaks for \$10,631; \$6,893.23 in repairs through Right Way Collision of Albany to a 2021 Dodge Durango police vehicle that was recently in an accident involving a utility pole; and payment of claims totaling \$179,355.13.

- Heard from Revolt that Dunkirk City Pool will continue to accept applications for summer jobs through April 23, with several more lifeguards needed. She noted that the tentative opening day for the facility will be Saturday, June 1. She added that season passes will not be offered this year after the facility received complaints in 2023 when it was unable to open because of cool temperatures. Admission will be \$3 per day, and 50-cent nights will replace quarter nights this year.

- Was reminded by Robbins that street construction in downtown Albany is underway and an Indiana Department of Trans-

portation project to remove a bridge between the city and the Indiana 67/Indiana 28 split to the southwest is expected to begin Wednesday. He cautioned that the city might see more traffic as a result.

- Heard from Robbins that Independence Day fireworks at Dunkirk City Park are scheduled for dusk on Saturday, June 29.

- Learned Lowe has made arrangements for the city to purchase its gas from Pak-a-Sak for two months while tanks are being moved at the Marathon station. Robbins noted that, because Pak-a-Sak does not sell diesel fuel, city vehicles that use diesel will refuel at the city's street department.

- Asked Schemenaur to check on the status of the city's ordinance relating to COVID-19. The ordinance was last addressed in May 2022 when the council agreed to update the ordinance to allow employees to take five days of paid leave in one calendar year if required to isolate or quarantine, reduced from the previous 14. (Council was unclear if the ordinance had been formally approved.)

- Heard from clerk-treasurer Kara Lowe that she is naming Melissa Bantz as deputy clerk. She plans to advertise for the open clerical assistant position with the city.

- Learned from Robbins that Cody Mumbower has resigned as the city's zoning officer.

- Was reminded by Bivens that Dunkirk Volunteer Fire Department will hold a boot drive from 3 to 5 p.m. April 19.

- Learned from Bivens that the city will be flushing fire hydrants from April 29 through May 3.

- Heard a reminder from Curts that permits are required to hold garage sales in the city. They are \$5 and can be obtained at the city building.

- Tabled discussion of the city's golf cart ordinance.

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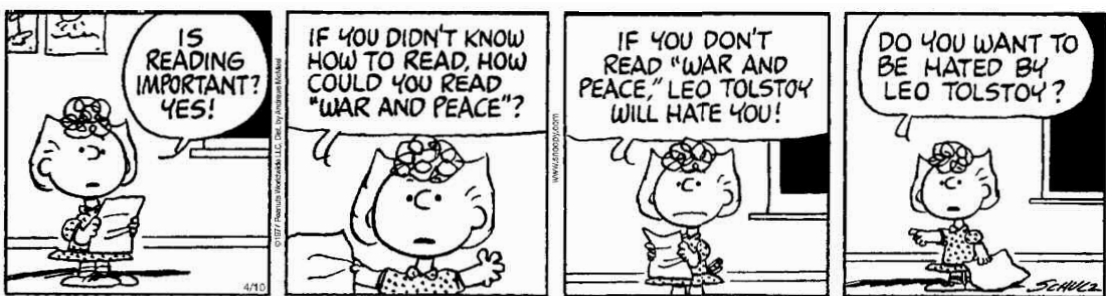
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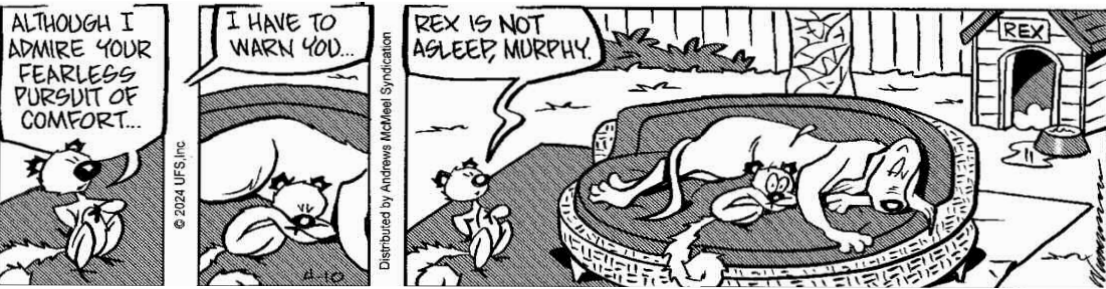


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Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

The exploratory process

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: K 5 3, K 8, 7 6 4 2, Q J 6 4. WEST: 8 4, 9 5 2, K Q J 9 5, 10 3 2. EAST: J 9 7 2, 10 7 6 4 3, 8, 9 8 5. SOUTH: A Q 10 6, A Q J, A 10 3, A K 7.

The bidding: East 3 NT, South Pass, West 6 NT, North Pass. Opening lead - king of diamonds. Counting out a hand might be thought of by some as a difficult exercise, but the fact is that the process is fairly easy, and anyone who can count to 13 should be able to meet the challenge. Assume you're in six trump and West leads the king of diamonds. When dummy appears, you can count 11 sure tricks, and your problem is to find a 12th. The only suit that offers any real hope of producing an extra trick is spades, where you have a reasonably good chance to make four tricks instead of three.

Tomorrow: Sylvia takes up Stayman. ©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

4-10

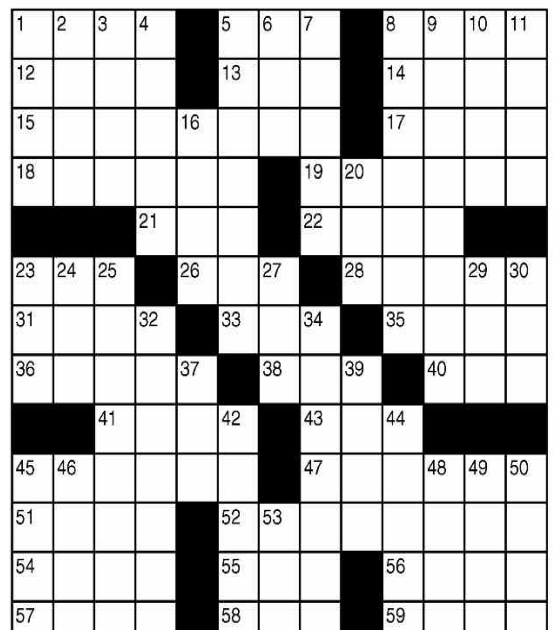
CRYPTOQUIP

LCJO XCJ CROJNZJJ CFS RXCJHV FX AXV HJVASJOIJ, AX LRMUS VFN, "LJUIRWJ XR WN ZMWZUJ FZRSJ." Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEBODY TRIES ON A SMOOTH SYNTHETIC FABRIC FOR FIT, I'D SAY THEY'RE TAKING A RAYON CHECK. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals B

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Couch, 5 Squid, 8 Is in debt, 12 Frank-furt's river, 13 Transcript no., 14 Narc's measure, 15 Sail over water, 17 - uproar, 18 Arizona resort, 19 Benevolent, 21 Harry Potter pal, 22 Now, in a memo, 23 Mandible, 26 Method, 28 Packing string, 31 During, 33 Bottom line, 35 Each, 36 "Water Lilies" painter, 38 Dog's "dog", 40 Mound stat. DOWN: 1 Scatters seeds, 2 "Garfield" dog, 3 Ward (off), 4 Deep passion, 5 Tropical lizards, 6 "Fresh Air" ailer, 7 "The Trial" author, 8 1945 Pacific battle site, 9 Trachea, 10 Airline to Tel Aviv, 11 Electronics giant, 16 Winter blanket, 20 Follower (Suff.), 23 Bread spread, 24 "I love," to Ovid, 25 - Islands, 27 "Uh-huh", 29 Neither here - there, 30 Clean air org., 32 Pantheon members, 34 Purplish hue, 37 Texter's "Enough!", 39 Travel, 42 Stitched anew, 45 Commanded, 46 Actress Lena, 48 Malek of "Oppenheimer", 49 Mom's mom, 50 Village People hit, 53 British verb ending. Solution time: 23 mins.

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READ THE CR THEN RECYCLE

Badger ...

Continued from page 8
The last year has given me some great opportunities to learn. I feel a lot more confident in quickly finding the story within a game. This was something I knew I could do but was worried about in respect to sports I didn't know as well like golf, tennis or even football. Now I feel confident that at any sporting event, I will be able to find something to write about. I also feel like my ability to do my job efficiently has skyrocketed. I went from needing a solid five hours to write my main story, digest all of the stats from games I didn't attend and write the local roundup. Now, it feels like I can produce a solid story in under an hour and I've cut

the time for local roundups nearly in half. Along with just getting better and starting to learn more, I have had a couple of opportunities to get a glimpse into what I want to do in the future. There are two stories I have already written that had to do with recruiting and choosing a college — Fort Recovery High School seniors Mara Pearson (track at Marshall University) and Paige Guggenbiller (rowing at Ohio State University). Writing those stories was a little different from the stories I'm used to reading about recruiting. Oftentimes, I would read stories from beat reporters who were introducing commits to the school's fanbase, while the stories I wrote introduced the athletes'

decisions to their existing fans. Still, it gave me an opportunity to write something adjacent to what I plan to be writing in the future. Just like writing the college stories, getting to write at state provided me with an opportunity to taste what it could be like to cover the events I dream of being at. While I've covered state tournaments for cross country, track and bowling, those championships were more "boots-on-the-ground" experiences during which I was focused on taking photos while balancing my notes right near the field of competition. Getting to sit at press row was a different experience. Ray Cooney focused on taking photos, allow-

ing me to take on more of a true reporter's role. Rather than scrambling to record the bare minimum on each play, I took more in depth notes on things that happened. Instead of spending timeouts moving to get different angles or reviewing photos, I took the opportunity to utilize X (formerly Twitter) to give game updates, regardless of if anyone read the posts or not. It even provided the opportunity to get a little bit of an advance on writing the story, rather than waiting until long after the final buzzer to get anything in the Google Doc. Those are some key things I need to learn to do to focus on my personal growth as a reporter to take the next steps.

To achieve those goals of personal growth, I am going to try to make more of an effort to continue doing what I did at the state finals on a regular basis. I won't necessarily be able to get an advance on writing, but the slower pace of sports of the spring season could allow me to utilize social media more or record more detail rather than just short hand. I may not get the following of CBS' Jon Rothstein or be as detailed or as connected as 247 Sports' Evan Flood, but to get the experience is valuable. It's just about moving forward and getting closer to the dream of being a collegiate beat reporter, even if it's just one little inch at a time.

UConn ...

Continued from page 8
UConn's 68 wins over the past two seasons are the most in a two-year span in program history. The Huskies finish 4-0 this season against the Big 10, three of them in the NCAA Tournament (Northwestern, Illinois, Purdue). They are 19-1 over the past two seasons against Power Five foes, with all 19 wins by double digits. Really, there are too many ways to describe UConn's dominance these past two seasons, particularly this one. This was the Boilermakers' first trip to the Final Four since 1980 and first to the national championship game since 1969. The program, one of the richest in tradition in college basketball, has never won a national title. Every time Purdue (34-5) seemed to have momentum, with seemingly 75-percent of the crowd behind them, UConn had an answer. Edey dominates inside with 16 first-half points? UConn's guard trio of Newton, Spencer and

Diarra combine for 25 and the Huskies lead by six at halftime. Reserve Camden Heide throws down an incredible, one-handed putback dunk off an Edey miss? Johnson, in after Clingan picked up his third foul, slams home consecutive lob dunks from Newton. As they do, the Huskies pulled away in the latter half, keyed by Castle and Newton but getting some late contributions from Alex Karban. Scoreless over the first 30 minutes, Karban knocked down a 3-pointer with 9:53 left to put the Huskies up 54-40. He slammed home a dunk to put UConn up 15, then had perhaps his biggest play of the night. Newton missed a 3-pointer, but Karban skied for the rebound and kicked it back out, ultimately leading to a Castle layup that put the Huskies up 17 with six minutes left. Edey dominated in the opening half with 16 points and a pair of blocks. And yet, the Huskies entered halftime with a 36-30 lead as Purdue had little answer for

UConn's guards. Newton had 11 points at the break and Spencer and Hassan Diarra seven apiece. Clingan added seven in his battle down low with Edey. On the other end of the floor, the Boilermakers' backcourt couldn't do much against the Huskies' more athletic guards. Purdue, the second-best 3-point shooting team in the nation (40.2 percent) attempted just a pair of treys over the opening 20 minutes, making one. But Edey was just about unstoppable on the low post, slamming home an alley-oop dunk, swishing hook shots and scoring on low-post moves. It didn't help UConn that Clingan's backup, Samson Johnson, picked up two fouls in a five-second span, forcing Clingan to play all but one minute of the opening half. Johnson wound up fouling out in just four minutes of action. Clingan finished with four fouls. Didn't matter. UConn finished with its second straight national championship.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

First timer

Jay County High School sophomore Faith Faulkner hits a forehand during the No. 3 singles match against Blackford on Saturday. Faulkner ended up falling in her varsity debut 7-5, 6-2 as the Bruins took down the Patriots for the first time since 2014.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Thursday
Jay County — Boys golf vs. Wapahani — 4:30 p.m.; Baseball at Yorktown — 5 p.m.; Girls tennis vs. Bluffton — 5 p.m.; Softball vs. Fort Recovery — 5 p.m.; Track at Delta — 5 p.m.; JV baseball vs. Muncie Central — 5 p.m.; Junior high golf vs. Driver — 4:30 p.m.; Junior high track at Wes-Del — 5:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Track vs. 6-team meet — 5 p.m.; Baseball at St. John's — 5 p.m.; Softball at Jay County — 5 p.m.; JV baseball vs. St. John's — 5:30 p.m.

TV sports

Today
1:15 p.m. — MLB: Philadelphia Phillies at St. Louis Cardinals (Bally Indiana)
3 p.m. — The Masters: Par 3 Contest (ESPN)
3 p.m. — UEFA Champions League: Barcelona at PSG (CBS)
6:40 p.m. — MLB: Milwaukee Brewers at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Dallas Mavericks at Miami Heat (ABC)
8 p.m. — NHL: Chicago Blackhawks at St. Louis Blues (Bally Indiana)
8:15 p.m. — CONCACAF Champions Cup:

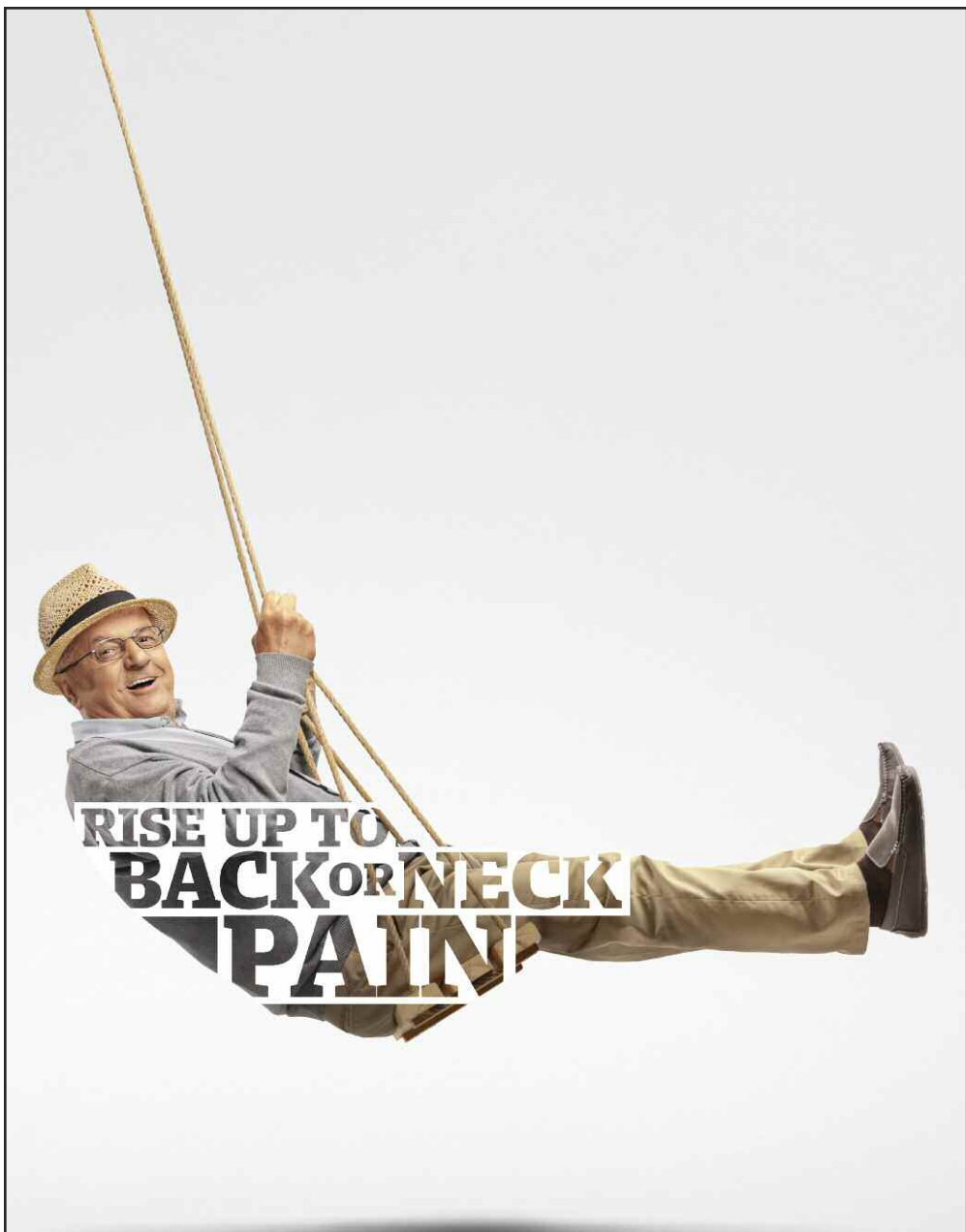
Herediano at Pachuca (FS1)
8:30 p.m. — NHL: Vegas Golden Knights at Edmonton Oilers (TNT)
10 p.m. — NBA: Minnesota Timberwolves at Denver Nuggets (ESPN)
10:30 p.m. — CONCACAF Champions Cup: Inter Miami at Monterrey (FS1)
Thursday
1:10 p.m. — MLB: Milwaukee Brewers at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)
3 p.m. — The Master golf tournament (ESPN)
5 p.m. — College hockey: Denver vs. Boston U. (ESPN2)
5 p.m. — High school baseball: Steubenville

at Wheeling Park (FOX)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: New York Knicks at Boston Celtics (TNT)
8 p.m. — The Master golf tournament (ESPN)
8:30 p.m. — College hockey: Michigan vs. Boston College (ESPN2)
10 p.m. — NBA: New Orleans Pelicans at Sacramento Kings (TNT)
Local notes
Challenge set
The Adams County 5K Run/Walk Challenge for the 2024 season will begin April 20, where participants 19-years-old or older can compete in a

total of eight races within Adams County. The cost to register for the challenge is \$150 and will enter participants in all eight races, with five needing to be completed for the Challenge Series award. Challengers don't need to be from Adams County, but only the first 100 entries will compete. Participation in individual events is available as well. To sign up or for more information, visit www.adamscounty5kchallenge.com.
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To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details@sports@thecr.com.

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Indiana University Health

UConn downs Boilermakers

Huskies guards come alive in second half to overpower Purdue

By DAVID BORGES
The Middletown Press
(Conn.)
Tribune News Service

— Eclipsed!

The UConn men's basketball team surpassed some of the great programs in the history of both the sport and the Huskies' own illustrious outfit, winning its second straight national championship on Monday night at State Farm Stadium.

In front of 74,423 fans (about 50,000 or so pulling for Purdue), the Huskies' overall depth trumped Purdue's one-man, Zach attack in a 75-60 victory over the Boilermakers.

Zach Edey (37 points) may have won his 7-foot showdown with Donovan Clingan, but UConn's depth won out with yet another double-digit win, the Huskies' 12th straight in NCAA Tournament play.

Tristen Newton scored a team-high 20 points, freshman Stephon Castle added 15 and Cam Spencer 11. And, despite combining for nine fouls, Clingan (11 points) and Samson Johnson contributed just enough. Newtown was named the Final Four Most Outstanding Player.

"You can't even wrap your mind

around it because you know just how hard this tournament is," Hurley said after the game. "What a special group of people and a special coaching staff. An incredible group of players — the best group of players you could possibly do it with. And UConn: UConn is a special place this time of year. They give us all the resources we need to do it like this in March and April."

UConn (37-3) becomes the first men's program to repeat as national champions since Florida in 2006 and 2007. It's the Huskies' sixth national title, vaulting them past Kansas and Indiana and tied for third overall with North Carolina. Only UCLA (11) and Kentucky (eight) have won more. (And no, Dan Hurley won't be heading to Kentucky to try to win No. 9).

Hurley joins Billy Donovan and Mike Krzyzewski as the only living coaches to win back-to-back titles.

"It means a lot because I'm a student of the game," Hurley said about joining the likes of those two, John Wooden and others. "Basketball has been life and I've got so much respect for the history of this game."

See UConn page 7

Let Me Badger You



One year down, several steps forward

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

Indiana is known for its love of basketball.

I got to experience the pinnacle of the state's adoration for the sport — the high school boys state championship — a couple of weekends ago at Gainbridge Fieldhouse.

I got to experience walking through the service level, watching the Class 2A game between Wapahani and Brownstown Central courtside, interviewing coaches and athletes in the press room and writing my stories in the media room.

After the job was done, I got the opportunity to reflect, realizing that just six days prior, Ben Steele, the Marquette basketball beat reporter for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel took many of the same steps I had just taken as the Golden Eagles competed in the first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament in the same facility.

So after only a year and some change into my first full-time job, I felt closer to achieving my dream than ever.

It's no secret that my career goal is to be a college basketball beat reporter. It's also no secret that I'm not the biggest fan of the Golden Eagles, but at the end of the day, being able to draw those comparisons makes me feel like I'm on the right track.

See Badger page 7



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