

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Going to 'School'



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Inara Sanderson and Gavin Hambrock perform together as brother and sister Sharpay Evans and Ryan Evans during Saturday's rehearsal for Jay County High School's production of "High School Musical." Performances are scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday, in the high school auditorium. Tickets are \$7 and are available in advance from cast members and at the high school office. They will also be sold at the door.

Jay County students will bring musical based on 2006 Disney movie to the stage this weekend

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

This year's high school musical is ...

... "High School Musical." Jay County High School is bringing the show based on the 2006 Disney movie to the state this weekend with performances at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday as well as 2 p.m. Sunday.

This will mark the second time directing "High School Musical" for Susan Denney, who also led the production about a dozen years ago while teaching at Seymour High

School. It's a good fit, she said, because it involves a large chorus in support of the lead roles.

"I just thought this is the year for this," she said. "It has huge, huge chorus numbers — this is one of those musicals where the chorus is really, really busy, which is what I try to find ... I want the kids to be actively participating as much as they can in the show."

The show — tickets, which are \$7, will be sold at the door and are available in advance from cast members and at the high school office — follows the

students of East High as they return from their winter break. In their cliques of Jocks, Brainiacs, Thespians and Skater Dudes, they recount their time off and look forward to their time ahead. Upheaval comes when Troy Bolton (played by Ben Heath), the captain of the basketball team, and Gabriella Montez (Laila Waddell), the brainy new girl he met on a ski trip, step out of their cliques to audition for the high school musical.

Those auditions threaten to upset the "Status Quo," one of

the songs in the show, leading Sharpay Evans (Inara Sanderson) to try to sabotage their chances. Troy and Gabriella fight through the adversity, breaking out of cliques and inspiring others in the process.

Along with "Status Quo," the other big number in the show is the closer — "We're All in this Together."

"It is very pop," said Denney. "It's very wired toward appealing to the younger generation. ..."

See 'School' page 2

The CR files a formal complaint

Dispute is over meeting that was held May 2

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

The Commercial Review has filed a formal complaint against Jay County Commissioners.

The newspaper on Tuesday morning filed the formal complaint with the Office of the Public Access Counselor regarding commissioners' May 2 administrative meeting.

The Commercial Review called the discussion of the county's proposed contract with Jay County Development Corporation at the May 2 "administrative" meeting into question after it received a tip May 3 that the meeting occurred.

Typically, 48 hours notice to the public and the media is required for meetings. Indiana Code 5-14.1.5-5 provides an exception to the 48-hour notice rule under the following criteria:

"The executive of a county or the legislative body of a town if the meetings are held solely to carry out the administrative functions related to the county executive or town legislative body's executive powers. 'Administrative functions' means only routine activities that are reasonably related to the everyday internal management of the county or town, including conferring with, receiving information from, and making recommendations to staff members and other county or town officials or employees. 'Administrative functions' does not include:

- (A) taking final action on public business;
- (B) the exercise of legislative powers; or
- (C) awarding of or entering into contracts, or any other action creating an obligation or otherwise binding the county or town."

See Files page 2

Numbers have stayed up

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Medicaid rolls in the Hoosier State are higher today than they were in February 2020, more than four years after the emergence of COVID-19 and accompanying federal health coverage protections.

But outcomes for disenrolled Hoosiers are still unknown.

With 11 of 12 months posted — and the last due to publish in the coming days — the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) wrapped up the yearlong redetermination process in April.

Nearly 2 million Hoosiers rely upon Medicaid for their health coverage, compared to 1.5 million in February 2020. Enrollment peaked at 2.3 million beneficiaries in April 2023.

Medicaid rolls remain higher than pre-pandemic

"Having a global pandemic made Hoosiers poorer and sicker," said Tracey Hutchings-Goetz, the communications and policy director for advocacy group Hoosier Action. "It should not come as a surprise that that's what happened, but I think that's an easy thing to miss."

"In the wake of a health crisis, of course they need health care and, of course, people are struggling more economically," Hutchings-Goetz continued. "It really highlights how essential these services and programs are for people."

FSSA Director of Com-

munications and Public Affairs Michele Holtkamp said the office had delivered on the promise "to be resolved in trying to reach Hoosiers who hadn't completed a redetermination process in four years, if ever."

"We were committed to being really transparent about our data," Holtkamp said. "... being as transparent as possible, as early as possible, really helped in lots of ways. We were able to build trust with stakeholders (and) it allowed for accurate comparisons with other states who are going through similar processes."



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Sectional celebration

Jay County High School junior Jenna Dues celebrates alongside teammate Ariel Beiswanger and coach Joe Imel after the Patriots won the sectional championship in the 4x100-meter relay Tuesday at Delta. Joining Dues and Beiswanger on the winning team were Matilda Mende and Morgan DeHoff. For more on the meet, see page 8.

Deaths

Roger Prescott, 80, Portland
June Bedwell, 90, Sevierville, Tennessee
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 68 degrees Tuesday. The low was 59, and there was about a tenth of an inch of rain.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the low 60s and a 70% chance of rain. Expect showers Friday with a high in the mid 70s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Cincinnatus League is accepting nominations for its Jay County Hall of Fame. Qualifications include devoting time and effort to the community beyond employment and being at least 65. Nomination forms are available by calling Karen Bailey at (260) 729-1249 or Barbara Street at (260) 726-5219. The deadline is May 27.

Coming up

Friday — Coverage of The Portland Foundation's annual meeting.

Saturday — Results from the JCHS boys track team in the sectional tournament.

Tuesday — Photos from Fort Recovery High School's graduation.



Obituaries

Roger Prescott

Jan. 29, 1944-May 9, 2024
Roger D. Prescott, age 80, of Portland passed away Thursday, May 9, 2024, in the Stillwater Hospice Home in Fort Wayne. He was born in Randolph County on Jan. 29, 1944, the son of Robert and Edith (Hiatt) Prescott. He was married on June 13, 1964, to Linda F. Oswalt who survives. Roger was retired as office administrator for Jay Petroleum after 32 years and had worked at Cochran Hatchery for 12 years.

He was a 1962 Ward Jackson High School graduate, a member of Asbury United Methodist Church, Portland Evening Optimists and Silver Sneakers Exercise Class, coached Little League sports, was a Jay County High School sports fan, attending most games, and was an avid pickleball and shuffleboard player. Surviving is his wife Linda;



two sons, Bob Prescott (wife: Laura) of Peru, Indiana, and Stephen Prescott (wife: Jane) of Portland; one daughter, Rogina Prescott (Gene Steveson) of Portland; two brothers, Paul Prescott (wife: Sheridan) of Lakeland, Florida, and Max Prescott (wife: Debra) of Ansonia, Ohio; and five grandchildren, Colton and Hunter Prescott both of Winchester; Skyler Prescott of Portland, Kordell Prescott of Columbus, Indiana, and Lindley Prescott of Peru, Indiana. He was preceded in death by a brother, Fred Prescott.

Memorial services will be held on Monday, May 20, at 7 p.m. in the Asbury United Methodist Church with Pastor Joe Boggs presiding. Burial will be in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. at the church. Memorials can be made to MS Society, Jay County Cancer Society or Asbury United Methodist Church. Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com. **June Marie Bedwell**, Sevierville, Tennessee, Feb. 3, 1934-May 12,

2024. Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier. *The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.*

CR almanac

Friday 5/17	Saturday 5/18	Sunday 5/19	Monday 5/20	Tuesday 5/21
73/60	75/60	79/56	80/62	81/65
Friday's forecast shows an 80% chance of thunderstorms. The low may hit the 60s.	Saturday also has a 50% chance of rain and thunderstorms, with a high near 75.	Mostly sunny skies are in the forecast for Sunday. The high will be in the upper 70s.	A slight chance of rain on Monday under mostly sunny skies.	Another chance of storms on Tuesday. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$59 million	Evening Daily Three: 2-6-5 Daily Four: 2-2-2-7 Quick Draw: 10-12-15-18-20-22-24-25-27-28-29-45-54-57-58-63-67-72-73-78
Mega Millions 13-19-43-62-64 Mega Ball: 6 Megaplier: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$393 million	Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 6-2-2 Pick 4: 4-5-3-2 Pick 5: 9-0-6-7-0 Evening Pick 3: 7-1-6 Pick 4: 1-4-1-6 Pick 5: 8-7-1-7-5 Rolling Cash: 5-16-23-31-38 Estimated jackpot: \$280,000
Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 5-6-8 Daily Four: 4-7-0-4 Quick Draw: 1-8-15-16-19-25-31-32-39-40-48-49-54-56-62-65-69-71-76-77	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.52 June corn4.52 Wheat5.57	June beans12.11 Wheat 6.26
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.57 June corn4.62 July corn.....4.52	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.42 June corn4.44 Beans12.07 June beans12.10 Wheat6.13
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.52 June corn4.47 Beans12.11	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.45 June corn4.48 Beans11.80 June beans11.90 Wheat6.02

Today in history

In 1770, Marie-Antoinette married the future King Louis XVI of France.
In 1804, Elizabeth Palmer Peabody was born in Billerica, Massachusetts. She was an educator who opened the first English-language kindergarten in the U.S.
In 1973, Jay School Corporation was awarded a total of \$250,000 in loans from the Veterans Memorial School Construction Fund to be applied toward the corporation's building projects.
In 2013, the Jay County High School girls tennis and boys track teams each won sectional championships. The tennis team blanked Randolph Southern 5-0 in the championship match while the track team scored 122 points to beat host Muncie Central by 16.5.
In 2018, The Portland Foundation announced that its total assets had surpassed \$37 million with 15 new endowments and strong investments — a 14.4% return — over the course of the previous year.
In 2022, Nancy J. LeMaster and her parents Betty E. and Paul W. LeMaster died as the result of a traffic accident at the intersection of Indiana 67 and county road 75 South. Nancy LeMaster was attempting to turn onto the highway when her vehicle was struck by a 2018 Mack LR garbage truck. —The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 Mooney St.	School Board, community room, high school, 400 E. Butler St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
Monday 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 6 p.m. — Fort Recovery	Wednesday 5 p.m. — Jay County Redevelopment Commission, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.

Madison Hambrock as Ms. Darbus and Ethan Gillum as Coach Bolton have an animated discussion while working on a scene from Jay County High School's production of Disney's "High School Musical" on Saturday.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

'School' ...

Continued from page 1
"I think this might be one that's well-known enough in the community that it would draw the younger generation to want to come support the program. It's also relatable for the cast. "Most of these kids all know these musicals," Denney added. "They know all three movies. They know the musical. They know the music. ... "And it's honestly kind of show-choir, which is what our wheelhouse is here. It's pop music with lots of choreography that's current, so it's something that's very familiar to what we do throughout the year." Denney is also a fan of the song "Auditions," which features the Thespians. "The kids get to be out of their box, eccentric, creative, quirky, silly," she

said. "And they have the direction to just do whatever they want and be free to experiment with it. And the kids that are doing that scene are absolutely having a blast." In addition to Heath, Waddell and Sanderson, the cast features Ashton Castillo as Chad Danforth, Troy's best friend; Austin Curtis as Zeke Baylor, a jock with a secret passion for baking; Gavin Hambrock as Ryan Evans, Sharpay's brother and vice president of the drama club; Hannah Laux as Taylor McKessie, president of the science club; Wyatt Mock as Ripper, a skater with a secret passion for the cello; Madison Hambrock as drama teacher Ms. Darbus; and Ethan Gillum as Coach Bolton, who is also Troy's father. Denney said she's been impressed with her stage veterans — those who

have extensive experience and/or have played lead roles previously — and has also been excited to see some newcomers taking advantage of their opportunities. "That's a really, really big role," she said of Hambrock, a freshman, taking on Ryan Evans. "That's a big deal for a freshman to be thrown into that. "For Ben, he's my show choir rock ... He has never, ever, ever done this before. For him to be the actual lead, that's a big undertaking. "Laila, she's the lead girl and she's not done this kind of thing before. ... "Madison Hambrock is doing Darbus incredible. "I like the kids who haven't ever had an opportunity before to actually, like, take a risk and try it and just thrive. It's really cool to watch."

Filed ...

Continued from page 1
The Commercial Review asserted that discussion of the proposed contract with Jay County Development Corporation is not "routine" and is not "reasonably related to the everyday internal management of the county." County attorney Wes Schemenaur responded to that assertion in a statement near the conclusion of Monday's Jay County Commissioners meeting. In that statement — it is printed in its entirety on today's opinion page — he refers to Indiana Code 36-2-3.5-4. That section of Indiana Code reads that, "All powers and duties of the county that are executive or administrative in nature shall be exercised or performed by its executive, except to the extent that these powers and duties are expressly assigned to other elected officers." Among the executive duties are to "negotiate contracts for the county."

"This statute expressly makes the negotiation of contracts on behalf of the county an executive or administrative function," he said. Once a complaint is filed, the Office of the Public Access Counselor notifies the alleged offending agency. A copy of the

complaint is sent to that agency, which then is given "approximately 20" days to respond. The agency may request more time. An opinion from the public access counselor is typically issued within 40 to 45 days after a complaint is submitted.

Opinions issued by the public access counselor are advisory. In order to pursue further action, the issue would need to be taken to the court system.



Thank you
for voting for me in the
2024 Jay County Primary Election
on Tuesday, May 7th, 2024
I appreciate your support!

Ad Paid for by Friends to Elect Blake Watson

Capsule Reports

Lost control
Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000 after a Portland teen fell asleep while driving on Indiana 1, causing him to crash about 4:30 a.m. Sunday.
Creed A. Beiswanger, 16, was driving his 2005 Ford F-350 south on the highway near county road 650 North when he fell asleep, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report. He woke up after striking a utility pole with his vehicle. Creed showed no visible injuries or signs of impairment. His vehicle was towed.

JAY COUNTY DUST CONTROL PROGRAM

(400 Ft. Minimum) Cost. ... \$1.56 per foot

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION CONDITIONS:

- Your dust control flag markers must be in place, at BOTH ends, of your application area by Thursday, May 30th.
- If potholes appear, during the summer months, in your dust control area; please contact the Jay County Highway Dept @ (260) 726-8701 and request grading or stone applied.
- The Jay County Highway Department retains full control and authority to maintain said dust controlled areas by grading. Grading will usually be necessary if the surface has deteriorated to a hazardous condition in the opinion of the Highway Department.
- I agree to pay, in advance, for the dust control solution applied by GREAT LAKES CHLORIDE, INC.
- Dust mats will be applied in 50 feet increments only. (400 feet minimum)

ONE APPLICATION ONLY
DEADLINE: Thursday May 30th, 2024
LAST DAY FOR PAYMENT
PAYMENT MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE
Cards, Checks or Money Orders Only

Jay County Highway Department
1035 E 200N, PORTLAND, INDIANA 47371

For More Information, call 726-8701

SERVICES

Today
McCord, Russell: 7 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Friday
McCord, Russell: 11 a.m., Golden Years Homestead Chapel, 3136 Goegelein Road, Fort Wayne.
Wolford, Bernadine: 1 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.
West, William: 7 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Saturday
Bedwell, June: 11 a.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.
Sills, Marvin: noon, Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Sunday
Paxson, Bruce: 7 p.m., Hogenkamp Funeral Home, 715 E. Main St., Coldwater, Ohio.

Monday
Prescott, Roger: 7 p.m., Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St., Portland.

June 15
Weaver, Larry: 10:30 a.m., Akron Community Center, 815 Rural St., Akron, Indiana.

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



Photo provided

Blessings donation

Jay County Cancer Society received \$4,000 from Mandy's Blessings in memory of Mandy Theurer. Pictured above is Charlene Theurer presenting the check to cancer society committee chairman Tisha Gierhart.

Gifts received look familiar

DEAR ABBY: I recently married "John," the love of my life. I have a great relationship with my mother-in-law, "Sarah." She and my father-in-law are retired and well-off financially. For each special occasion, John and I thoughtfully select gifts for his parents, and we have spent extra to ensure that our gifts convey our love and appreciation for them.

The problem is, Sarah gifts us trash, literally. On several occasions, we have received broken items in random boxes, items with missing pieces and used items, including kitchen and cooking utensils. This happens every holiday. She has also gifted our child second-hand toys and clothes, most of which were already missing pieces or were several sizes too small.

After talking to other family members, I learned that Sarah has been gifting junk for years, but her family members have never addressed the issue with her for fear of upsetting her. My sister-in-law told me she has witnessed Sarah dig items out of her basement and wrap them as gifts.

Abby, this leaves a terrible taste in my mouth and has led me to feel a slight resentment toward Sarah. I believe her actions are disrespectful and in

Dear Abby



poor taste. I don't want to cause hurt feelings, but I need this behavior to stop. How can I convey to Sarah that I need her to quit gifting us junk? — REGIFTED IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR REGIFTED: Do it in plain English, with your husband present, before the next gift-giving occasion arises. Convey that if she has secondhand items she wants to get rid of, she should donate them to her favorite charity thrift shop. Then tell her you don't need anything and, in the future, you would prefer she give you a nice card, preferably one that hasn't been recycled.

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

Community Calendar

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

Today

STITCH AND CHATTER 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.

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 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.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry

building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

CININNATUS LEAGUE — Will hold its next meeting at noon Friday, May 17, at the Harmony Café in Portland.

Saturday

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

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

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

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. Walk-ins accepted.

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. **NARCOTICS ANONY-**

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

Tuesday

COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 11:30 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in the chapel at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital.

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

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk.

WHO DO YOU KNOW

That deserves to be recognized for their lifetime of volunteer service in the Jay County Community?

Tell us what their various volunteer service activities are, or have been, including the number of years and mail to:

**Cincinnatus League
"Service Before Self"**

P.O. Box 513, Portland, IN 47371

Questions? Contact Karen Bailey 260-729-1249 or karenannbailey9@yahoo.com

Deadline to receive nominations is May 27, 2024!!

**PART-TIME
JOB
OPPORTUNITY
Inserters**
Hours vary each week
Apply at

The Graphic Printing Company • The Commercial Review
309 West Main Street • Portland, IN 47371
Office Hours: 10 am - 4 pm, Tuesday - Friday
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. Equal Opportunity Employer

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

HOLE IN ONE Deals!

Advertise Your Golf Course in all one or all of our publications!

Run all the following:

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- One 3x5 Ad in The News Times
- One 3x5 Ad in The News and Sun

\$300 for 8 3x5 Ads!

Or Run 2 3x5 ads in the publication of your choice:

- The Commercial Review **\$156**
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- The News Times **\$120**
- The News and Sun **\$120**

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GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

(260) 726-8141

*Rate does not apply to special sections. Ads must run in May.

Attorney defends commissioners

To the editor:
Indiana Code 5-14-1.5-5(f) permits the county executive to meet without 48 hours' notice if the meeting is held solely to receive information or recommendations in order to carry out administrative functions related to the county's executive powers. "Administrative functions" are routine activities that are reasonably related to the everyday internal management of the county, including conferring with, receiving information from and making recommendations to staff members and other county officials or employees.

Indiana Code 36-2-3.5-4(a) provides that all powers and duties of the county that are executive or administrative in nature shall be exercised or performed by its executive (the county commissioners), except to the extent that these powers and duties are expressly assigned to other elected officials. Further, IC 36-2-3.5-4(b)(9) provides that the county commissioners shall negotiate contracts for the county. This statute expressly makes the negotiation of contracts on behalf of the county an executive or administrative function.

Municipalities enter into numerous contracts each year related to the internal management of the county. These contracts range from contracts for services provided to the county, such as phone and internet, to contracts for the purchase of equipment and supplies, and

Letters to the Editor

contracts with engineers and consultants to carry out the everyday functions of government. One permissible contract that a county, city or town may enter into is a contract with a nonprofit corporation whose primary purpose is to assist government in planning and implementing economic development projects. See I.C. 6-3.6-10-2(7).

The municipal executive routinely negotiates and discusses the terms of contracts prior to them being brought forward for a public vote. The negotiation process itself is inherent within the executive or administrative power of the county executive. This process often involves conferring with legal counsel and/or other county employees or officials. Often there are proposals or items contained in contracts that are amended, deleted or rewritten numerous times with suggestions or counter-proposals from both parties before a final version of the agreement is ripe for public vote.

The Open Door Law only expressly prohibits the awarding or entering into contracts creating a binding obligation on the county in an administrative

meeting. By expressly prohibiting the awarding of a contract in such a session, the legislature clearly contemplated that contracts with the county would necessarily be discussed, otherwise there would be no need to include the express prohibition on voting in the statute. Likewise, if the legislature intended to prohibit the discussion of contracts in the statute, it could have clearly done so. Contrary to commissioner Journey's email, no vote was taken on May 3 to award or deny a contract. The discussions were held to confer with the county attorney regarding a counter-proposal to a potential county contractor, the Jay County Development Corporation, well within their executive and administrative function.

The county commissioners when acting in their executive or administrative function are analogous to the mayor of a city. Mayors routinely, often weekly, negotiate contracts on behalf of the city prior to bringing a contract to a vote before the appropriate body. They routinely seek advice from legal counsel, employees and staff on such matters during the negotiation process. Should the mayors of Portland and Dunkirk invite Ray Cooney to every such conversation? That would be absurd. The county commissioners are no different just because there are three executives instead of one.

Finally, I take issue with the

ultimatum that Mr. Cooney has presented. If Mr. Cooney believed an ODL violation occurred, he should have filed his complaint as outlined in Indiana law. That did not happen here. The public access counselor's job is to issue opinions on a violation of the law after an investigation. However, Mr. Cooney has already tainted this process by seeking an opinion from the public access counselor outside of the formal complaint process which allows for a response to a complaint by the county prior to the issuance of an opinion. Mr. Cooney contacted the public access counselor directly, gave the counselor one side of the story and quoted the counselor in his newspaper article. He even quotes the public access counselor in his demand letter. If this were a judicial proceeding, this type of communication with the finder of fact would be considered an ex parte communication and is absolutely prohibited. The county commissioners were not given an opportunity to respond to the counselor directly. Now Mr. Cooney threatens to file a "formal complaint." Hasn't he already made his complaint and received an answer? How can the county commissioners now expect to receive a fair opportunity to respond to a "formal complaint" where the ruling authority has already given his opinion based solely on Mr. Cooney's one-sided account?

A formal complaint is often a precursor to a lawsuit. A court cannot impose a penalty for a violation unless the public access counselor has first found a violation. The public access counselor has already determined that there was a violation based solely on Mr. Cooney's one-sided account. The county can have no confidence that the public access counselor can impartially judge these facts even if given a chance to respond to a "formal complaint." Under Indiana law, the court may impose a \$100 fine and under certain circumstances award attorneys' fees to the prevailing party. It is a defense to the imposition of a civil penalty that the commissioners relied on an opinion of their legal counsel. Mr. Cooney has already gotten his tainted answer from the unelected public access counselor and his preferred result in the election as a result. As the county's legal counsel, I stand firm in the opinion that they did not violate the ODL and that the meeting was not illegal. If legal action is taken against the county, the county will vigorously defend such a suit and seek all appropriate remedies.

Because of the threat of litigation presented in Mr. Cooney's demand letter, the county will have no further comment on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,
Wesley A. Schemenaur
Jay County Attorney

Make FAFSA debacle end now

The Free Press
(Mankato, Minnesota)
Tribune News Service

Administrations of any party are frequently blamed for things out of their control. That is not the case with the current student aid fiasco; it is purely the fault of the U.S. Department of Education, and while the president isn't personally involved, the people he chose to run the department are.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid — known as FAFSA — has long been the key to unlock the student financial aid treasure chest. It has also long been a cumbersome and complicated form. In 2020, Congress ordered the education department to rework and simplify FAFSA.

And it has been a debacle. The new form debuted in December 2023, more than a year later than promised and riddled with technical errors that made it impossible for many to complete the application. Submissions piled up at the education department, which found that a key formula was being incorrectly calculated, corrupting the data. The department fell behind in processing applications, preventing colleges from issuing financial aid awards.

The department repeatedly said it was fixing the problems, but its announced target dates were consistently illusionary.

The numbers are depressing for prospective students and colleges alike. By late March, a month before the customary May 1 deadline for college decision, completed FAFSA applications were down 40% from the previous year. Since 85% of college students receive some form of student aid, the lack of certainty made it difficult if not impossible to commit to enrollment.

The invisible hand of the market — one of those

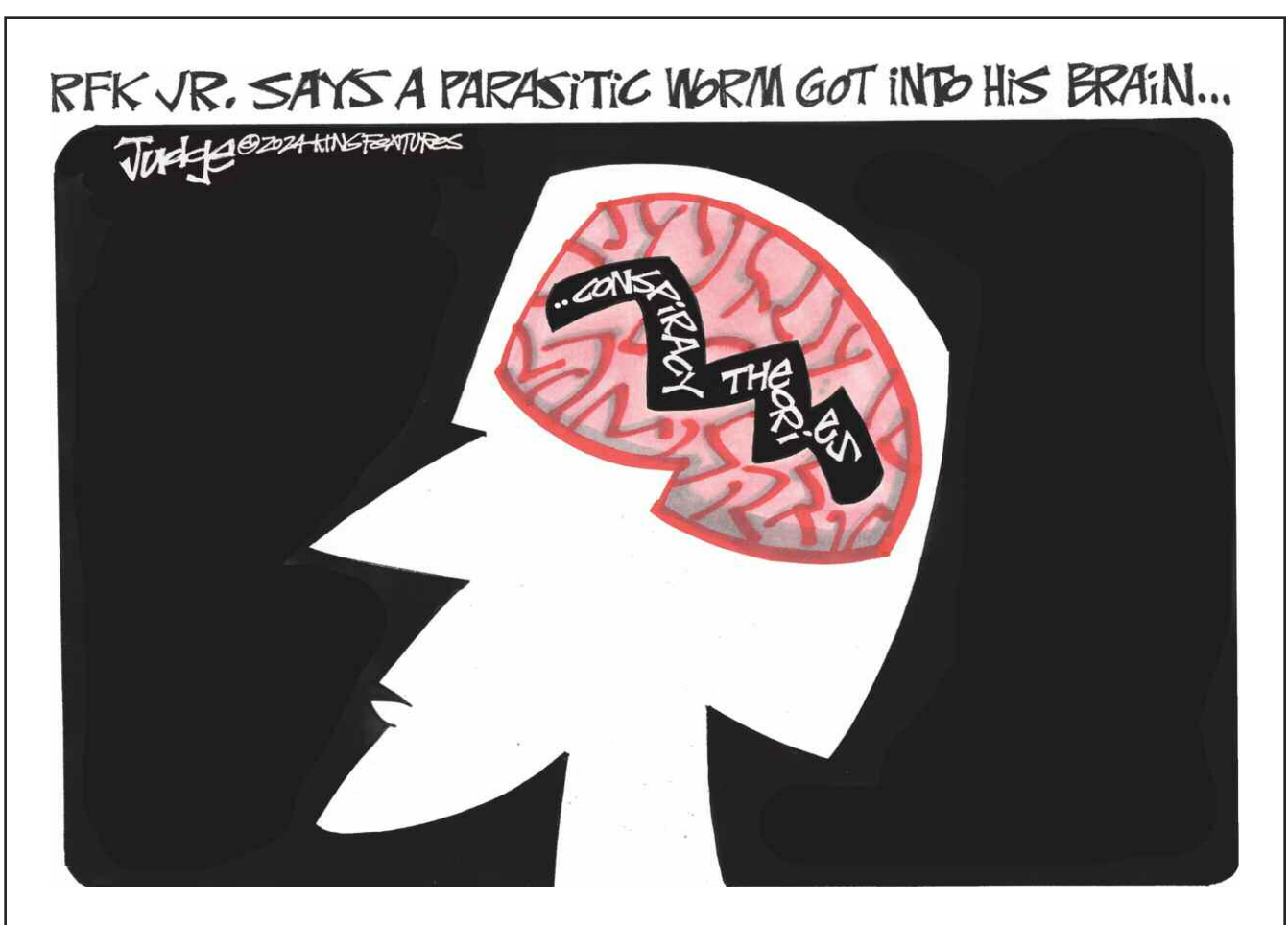
Guest Editorial

The department repeatedly said it was fixing the problems, but its announced target dates were consistently illusionary.

things that administrations cannot control — has been working against higher education anyway. There are fewer Americans in the traditional college-going age bracket, and as the price of college continues to escalate, the value of a degree has been questioned. A number of small private colleges have gone under in recent years, and to the extent that the FAFSA debacle discourages enrollment, more may follow.

Miguel Cardona, the secretary of education, told Congress this week that the problems have been largely resolved. He also says the next cycle will start on time.

But the draft FAFSA for next year, usually published in February or March for comment, is not yet available, and given the department's failures in this cycle, Cardona's assurances are meaningless. It's the results that matter.



State has slipped in jobs, wages

By MORTON J. MARCUS

At last we know the candidates for the election day ballot in November.

The suspense was terrible, but now, maybe, we can begin to think about what's actually important to Hoosiers.

It's going to be tough with so many of the current legislators unopposed. Yes, the folks who gave us the past are poised to give us the future. And what has that past been?

According to the dedicated folks who have been running things, it's been glorie-us. We're doing just fine, particularly compared to our Midwestern neighbors. Yes, we're not necessarily healthy, but those other states in this part of the country are downright sick.

Let's examine just two sides of the economic coin.

Jobs. We know the diligent folks at the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) have been working hard every hour of every day of every year as far back as anybody can remember.

If the data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) in Washington, D.C., were up to speed in producing the data, we'd see things better. But we'll settle for 2002 to 2022 BEA

Eye on the Pie



numbers because they are more complete than any other numbers around.

In 2002, when many of those protesting Hoosier college students were being born, this state had almost 3.6 million jobs. That was a right-proud 2.15% of all U.S. jobs.

Over time, that number grew to 4.1 million jobs, but fell to 1.95% of all U.S. jobs. It was an increase of nearly 600,000, but nonetheless, we slipped from 14th to 18th place after growing by only 0.77% per year (32nd-highest among the 50 states).

But it's OK because Kentucky was only one place higher in the growth rankings. Plus, our competition in Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio and Michigan didn't see any better job growth than we did.

Then there's compensation, which is wages and salaries plus what

employers kick in for private and public pensions and medical insurance. Average compensation for Hoosier workers went from the 28th-highest nationally in 2002 to 36th in 2022. That's from 10.3% below the U.S. average to 15.7% behind the nation.

The average Hoosier worker realized an average pay increase of 2.9% per year (fifth-lowest in the U.S.), just over the 2.4% annual increase in consumer prices for that 20-year period.

Indeed, everything's been swell because Michigan came in last among the states. Even Alabama, Mississippi and West Virginia advancing faster than we did doesn't bother us. We're naturally good-natured and like to see our distant cousins do well.

Yes, this is the record of the past 20 years. We're hoping all those investments IEDC anticipates and all those jobs they are forecasting will turn these numbers around. After all, our brave business boosters insist Indiana's the nation's business hot spot and they surely know what's what.

Marcus is an economist. Email him at mortonjmarcus@gmail.com.

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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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"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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Area churches are listed with location, pastor and phone number, services and website or email address. All services are Sunday, unless otherwise indicated.

Asbury United Methodist
204 E. Arch St., Portland
Joe Boggs
(260) 726-8464
Services: 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.
asburyministries.org

Bellefountain United Methodist
440 S. 600 East
Pamela Freeman
Services: 9 a.m.

Bluff Point Friends
80 E. 650 South
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Boundary St. Paul
Corner of Treaty Line Road and county road 300 East
Ava Gannon
(260) 726-2373
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Bryant Wesleyan
209 S. Hendricks St.
Paul VanCise
(260) 997-6231
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.
bryantwesleyanchurch.com

Calvary United Methodist
301 N. Main St., Dunkirk
Susan Durovey-Antrim
(765) 499-0368
Services: 10:30 a.m.
susan.duroveyantrim@in.unc.org

Christ Chapel
2535 Wabash Road, Fort Recovery
(419) 733-1469
christchapelfr.com

Church of the Living God (Miracle Missions)
8472 S. 800 East, Union City
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Church of God of Prophecy
797 N. Creagor Ave., Portland
Nanette Weesner
(260) 766-9334
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nanybell@yahoo.com

Church of the Brethren
Floral and Chicago avenues, Portland
Kevin McClung
(260) 729-7295
Services: 10 a.m.

Church of the Living God
South Broad Street, Dunkirk
Services: 7 p.m., 7 p.m. Friday

Collett Nazarene
450 South, 1 mile west of U.S. 27
Billy Stanton
(260) 251-2403
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Cornerstone Baptist
211 E. Main St., Portland
Wayne Ward
(260) 726-7714
Services: 10 a.m.

Cornerstone Church of Pennville
190 W. Main St., Pennville
David Davidson
(260) 202-9718
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Dunkirk Nazarene
226 E. Center St., Dunkirk
Tom Fett
(765) 768-6199
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Evangelical Methodist
930 W. Main St., Portland
Steve Arnold
(260) 251-0970
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

Fairview United Methodist/Jay County
2875 E. 200 South
Pamela Freeman
Lay leader: Beth Stephen
(260) 726-9184
Services: 10:15 a.m.

Faith Community
9560 W. 200 South, Dunkirk
Joe Schmit
(260) 251-5254
Services: 10 a.m.

Family Worship Center
200 E. Elder St., Portland
Ronald Willis
(260) 726-4844
Services: 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
thefamilyworshipcenter.org

Fellowship Baptist
289 S. 200 West
Hugh Kelly
(260) 726-8873
Services: 9 a.m., 11 a.m.
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
pastorkelly@fbc-portland.com

First American Baptist
427 S. Main St., Dunkirk
Dan Coffman
(765) 768-7157
Services: 10:40 a.m., 5 p.m.

First Church of Christ
1049 Union City Road, Fort Recovery
David J. Nicholson
(419) 375-2860
Services: 10:30 a.m.
fccftrecovery.org

First Community Baptist
341 S. Meridian St., Redkey
Everett Bilbrey Jr.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; 7 p.m. Wednesday

First Free Will Baptist
12369 W. 600 South, Dunkirk
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Services: 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m., 6 p.m. Wednesday

First Presbyterian
402 N. Ship St., Portland
Rev. M. Rex Espiritu
(260) 726-8462
Services: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 10:15 a.m.
firstpcportland.org

Fort Recovery Church of the Nazarene
401 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery
Revs. Brad and Kate Ratliff
(419) 375-4680
Services: 10:30 a.m.
frnaz@frontier.com

Fort Recovery United Methodist
309 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery
Rev. David Yinger
(937) 337-5781
Services: 9 a.m.

Full Gospel Lighthouse Tabernacle
468 E. Washington St., Dunkirk
Robert Thomas
(765) 348-4620
Services: 6:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Thursday

Geneva First United Methodist
100 W. Line St., Geneva
Barry McCune
(260) 368-7655
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Geneva Nazarene
225 Decatur St., Geneva
(260) 525-8609
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.
Prayer meeting: 6 p.m. Wednesday

Gilead Church
County road 650 North, one-quarter mile east of Balbec
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Hickory Grove Church of the Brethren
Indiana 1 and Indiana 26
Earl Doll
(260) 731-4477
Services: 10:30 a.m.

High Street United Methodist
435 High St., Geneva
Rev. Joseph Hampton
(260) 368-7233
Services: 9 a.m.

Holy Trinity Catholic
7321 E. Indiana 67, Bryant
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Fr. Martin Sandhage
Services: 8 a.m., 4:30 p.m. Saturday

Hopewell of Life Ministries
County road 200 South, 2 miles east of Indiana 1
Rev. Ruth Funk
(260) 251-8581
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Catholic
506 E. Walnut St., Portland
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Fr. Martin Sandhage
(260) 726-7055
Services: 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Kingsley Full Gospel
4030 S. 700 East, Dunkirk
Stuart Phillips
Services: 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday

Mary Help of Christians
403 Sharpshurg Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
(419) 375-4153
Services: 4:30 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.

Mount Tabor Community Church
216 W. Pleasant St., Dunkirk
Scott McClain
(765) 768-7273
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Mount Zion United Methodist
County roads 600 East and 200 North
Rev. Darrell Borders
(260) 726-4786
Services: 9 a.m.

New Beginnings Holiness Church of Blaine
4017 W. 200 South
Randy Smith
(260) 251-2406
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nbholiness.com

New Covenant Fellowship
1238 W. 450 South
Chuck Myers
(260) 251-0063
Services: 10:30 a.m.

New Life Ministries
415 S. Helen St., Portland
Dr. Kay Fairchild
(260) 223-2961
Services: 4 p.m.
drkayfairchild.com

New Mt. Pleasant United Methodist
5905 S. Como Road
Neil Butcher
(765) 499-7838
Services: 9 a.m.

Noble Congregational Christian
1964 N. 800 East
Aaron Huey
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Oak Grove United Methodist
829 S. Indiana 1
Neil Butcher
(765) 760-9085
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Pleasant Hill
9945 N. 800 East, Union City
Bruce Bryan
(765) 964-3664
Services: 9 a.m., 6 p.m.
mypleasanthillchurch.org

Portland Church of Christ
1217 W. Votaw St., Portland
Bob Graham
(260) 726-7777
Bible class: 9:15 a.m.
Services: 10:20 a.m.
Bible School: 6 p.m. Wednesday
portlandcoc.com

Portland First Church of Nazarene
920 S. Shank St., Portland
Steve Cecil
(260) 726-8040
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Portland Friends
226 E. Main St., Portland
Herb Hummel
(260) 202-9732
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.

Praise Chapel Church of God
4527 E. 1000 North (Jay-Randolph county line)
Rev. Josh Canfield
(765) 584-7045
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Redeemer Lutheran
Malin and Elm streets, Bryant
Father Dan Layden
(260) 997-6787
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Redkey Faith Ministries
9811 W. Indiana 67, southwest of Redkey
Rev. Craig and Robin Cotherman
(765) 369-2920
Services: 10 a.m.
RedkeyFaith.org

Redkey First Christian
Union and Malin streets
Jeff Hammers
(765) 468-6172
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Redkey United Methodist
122 W. Main St.
Lori McIntosh
(765) 369-2085
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Redkey Church of the Nazarene
801 W. High St.
Chuck Hollandbeck
(765) 369-2676
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

River of Life
722 W. Main St., Portland
Susan Hathaway
(260) 729-1095
Services: 10:30 a.m.

The ROCK
1605 N. Meridian St., Portland
Matt Ransom
(260) 726-7474
Services: 10 a.m.
matt@therockkjc.org

Salamonia Church of Christ
3900 S. 600 East
Bruce Phillips
(260) 335-2017
Services: 9 a.m.

Second Chance at Life Ministries
228 S. Meridian St., Portland
Dave Keen (260) 251-8792
Mike Eads (260) 703-0733
Services: 10:30 a.m.

St. Joseph Catholic
1689 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 7:30 a.m. Sunday

St. Mary's Catholic
346 S. Broad St., Dunkirk
Rev. Kevin Hurley
Services: 5 p.m. Saturday, 5:30 p.m. Thursday

St. Paul Catholic
517 Meiring Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 11 a.m. Sunday

St. Peter Catholic
1477 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 9 a.m. Sunday

Sugar Grove Nazarene
3984 N. 550 West, Portland
Pastor Mike Heckman
(615) 517-1017
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Bible study: 6 p.m. Wednesday

Sugar Grove Church
County roads 600 South and 1150 West, Dunkirk
Scott McClain
Services: 9 a.m.

Temple Baptist
17920 Indiana 167, Dunkirk
John Elam
(765) 768-7708
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Services: 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday
7pillarsdirector@gmail.com
templebaptistin.com

The Church at Westchester
4487 E. 400 North
(260) 726-6311
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:35 a.m.
churchatwestchester.org

Trinity Lutheran
301 N. Wayne St., Fort Recovery
Robin Owen
(419) 375-4498
Services: 9 a.m. (contemporary service, fourth Sunday)
pastorrobino@gmail.com

Trinity ArchBridge Church
323 S. Meridian St., Portland
Dan Vore
(260) 726-8391
Sunday school: 9 a.m.
Services: 10:15 a.m.
portlandtrinity.com

Union Chapel
6200 N. 375 West, Bryant
Interim Pastor Chris Kruckow
(260) 849-0687
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

Union Chapel Church of the Nazarene
County road 900 North (Jay-Wells county line)
Fred Stevens
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Walnut Corner
County roads 200 North and 500 West
Steve Rogers
(260) 251-1113
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

West Walnut Church of Christ
204 W. Walnut St., Portland
Gil Alicea
(260) 726-4691
Services: 10 a.m.
westwalnutchurchofchrist.org

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Robin Owen
218 E. High St., Portland
(260) 726-8832
zionlutheranportland@gmail.com
Services: 10:30 a.m.

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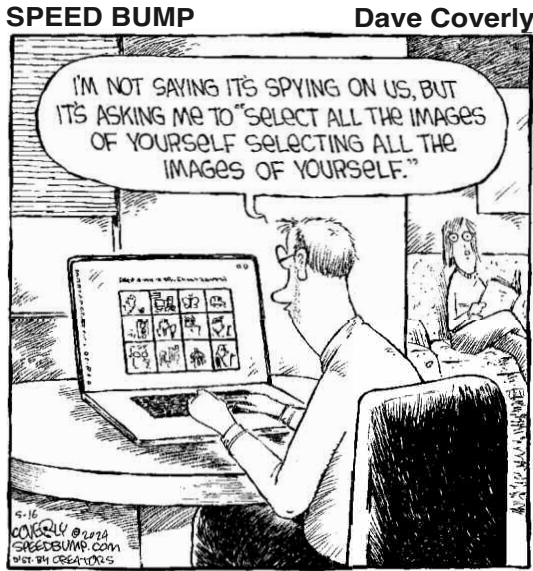
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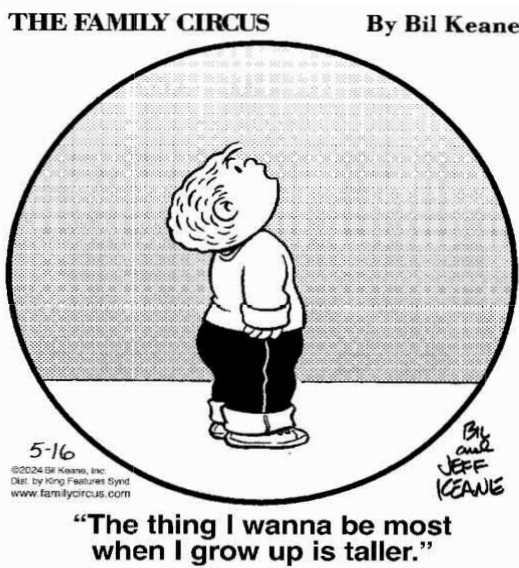


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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

The art of conversation

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ 3
 ♥ K 10 8 5 3
 ♦ K Q 7 5 2
 ♣ 8 4

WEST
 ♠ A 6 5
 ♥ A J 6 2
 ♦ 9
 ♣ A K 7 5 2

EAST
 ♠ 8
 ♥ Q 9 7 4
 ♦ J 10 8 3
 ♣ Q J 10 6

SOUTH
 ♠ K Q J 10 9 7 4 2
 ♥ A 6 4
 ♦ 9 3

The bidding:
 North Pass East Pass South 4♣ West Dble
 Opening lead — King of clubs.

Here is a case that offers as many possible outcomes as an Agatha Christie whodunit.
 It all began with South's four-spade bid, doubled for penalties by West. (In this situation, West would bid four notrump if he wanted East to name a suit.) West led the club king, on which East played the queen to show he had the jack. West then switched to a diamond, obviously a singleton, taken in dummy with the queen.
 When declarer now led a trump, West took his ace and led the club deuce to partner's ten. East there-

upon returned a diamond, and West's ruff sank the contract.
 "Nice defense," South muttered disconsolately.
 "Agreed, but you should have made it anyway," North said to his partner. "Instead of leading that trump at trick three, you should have led the king of hearts from dummy and discarded your other club on it. Then East could never have gained the lead to give his partner the diamond ruff."
 "True," East chimed in, "but if my partner had led his singleton diamond initially, there would have been no way to make the hand. Even if you discarded a club on the heart king, West could then underlead his A-K of clubs to put me on lead for the diamond ruff."
 "Big deal," West interjected. "What bothers me most is that all we got was a measly 100 points when we were cold for five clubs."
 "Not so fast," said South. "If everybody is going to be a genius, don't leave me out. If East was in five clubs, I would underlead my diamond ace at trick one and get a heart ruff. You'd still have to lose a heart and go down one."
 "And if West was in five clubs," North added, "I could lead a heart or even a high diamond and switch to a heart..."
 And so it went, on and on, far into the night.

Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



CRYPTOQUIP

J V M I J U D Y T W U D N M Y Y
 Y Z I I Z C P U L M T E Q C M I Q U B
 P Z B I I U " I V Z B M B B W " M N I C Z P P

TCZPNVZC? LCMB EMQY.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE GUY PERFORMED HIS FIRST LUNGE IN THE GYM'S AEROBICS CLASS, IT WAS A BIG STEP FORWARD.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals N

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Novelist Waugh
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 14 German car name
 15 Culture medium
 16 — Paulo
 17 Fed. accident investigator
 18 Trail the pack
 20 Aspiring atty.'s exam
 22 Casual "Behold!"
 26 Now
 29 Tin Man's need
 30 Compass dir.
 31 Twistable treat
 32 Feedbag bit
 33 Clothing

DOWN

10 Luggage tags, e.g.
 11 Bro or sis
 19 Bashful
 21 Part of RSVP
 23 Seaboard captain
 24 Nullify
 25 Try out
 26 Work hard
 27 Roughly
 28 Drying out, so to speak
 32 Very best
 33 Michigan city
 35 Japanese "yes"
 36 "— Kapital"
 38 Poker pot
 39 Not flat
 42 With the bow, musically
 43 Nobel Prize subj.
 44 Highway division
 45 Chest-beating beast
 46 Glitch
 48 Epoch

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 5-16

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

34 Follower (Suff.)
 35 Some printers quality
 36 Station
 37 Casual "Behold!"
 40 13, in old Rome
 41 Jordan's neighbor
 45 Slightly
 47 Actor Ferrer
 49 Sea predator
 50 Fourth-down play
 51 Web address
 52 PC picture
 53 Like custard

DOWN

54 Has per-mission
 55 Vocal quality
 6 Docs' bloc
 7 Carpentry gear
 8 Rushed toward
 9 "Oh, shush!"

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 5-16

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Solution time: 24 mins.

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Junior high tennis face Bluffton in developmental match

BLUFFTON — Junior high athletics often is for the purpose of learning and developing skills in a sport. The Patriots and Tigers put together a meet that exemplified that cause. The Jay County Junior High School tennis team traveled to Bluffton on Monday for a five-round meet that included four rounds of doubles matches and a final round set up in the style of a high school match. In the match, each player swapped doubles partners and each of the first four rounds lasted 20 minutes. The final round featured No. 1, 2 and 3 singles matches, No. 1 and 2 doubles contests and four more singles contests that only lasted one set. Claudia Dirksen and Kaitlyn

Fisher had the best day of all the Patriots, finishing 5-0 between all rounds. A trio of girls, Elly Byrum, Hallie Homan and Maria Laux, finished just behind them at 4-1. Madison Clark and Izzy Huelkamp managed to tie a doubles match, leading to a final record of 3-1-1. Paul Dirksen was the other Patriot to boast a positive record of 3-2. Trailing behind, Henry Dirksen and Grady Warvel both finished 2-3. None of Jay County's netters finished 1-4 or 0-5. **Keller leads** Williams Auto Parts claimed a 7-5 win over POET Bioprocessing in Portland Junior League Rookie baseball on Tuesday. Thobe Keller ended as the top

hitter for Williams Auto Parts with three hits, including a double, and three runs scored. Corbin Hutzler countered with three hits of his own, two of which were doubles, and touching home plate twice. The difference maker was Williams Auto Parts having five other players with multiple hits, while POET only had Harvey Hemmelgarn to join Hutzler. Brett Huntsman and Zander Williams both slashed three singles, while Carson Dailey, Hudson Roussey and Daylan Winters secured two each. **Kiwanis wins** Kiwanis needed a group effort offensively to edge past PG14 with a 5-4 victory on Tuesday in Portland Junior League

Willie Mays baseball. Easton Steed and Conner Richman narrowly led the offense for Kiwanis. Steed had two singles and two runs. Richman finished with a home run, an RBI and two runs. Royce Kaigler also had an extra-base hit for Kiwanis in the form of an RBI double. Brantley Robinson made up the other run for Kiwanis, while L.J. Carter, Parker Huntsman and Griffen Lambert all drove in a run. A pair of players from PG14 finished 2-for-3 at the plate. Eli Homan smacked two doubles to drive in a pair of runs and scored one himself. Beckham Hough hit a double and a single and scored one run. The other two runs for PG14 came from Ethan Wilson.

Tie game Pak-A-Sak and Matt's Garage finished in a 14-14 tie in Portland Junior League Rookie baseball on Tuesday. Pak-A-Sak's Paxson Hudson put together the strongest day with five hits and four runs scored. Right behind him were two players from both teams with four runs and four base knocks. From Pak-A-Sak, Ricky Heitkamp and Cage Reynolds added to Hudson's effort, while Duke Armstrong and another player from Matt's Garage countered with four hits and four runs scored. A third standout player from Matt's Garage also had four hits, while crossing home plate three times as well.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Reece Wendel of the FRHS baseball team makes a sliding catch in left field to save a run during the Indians' 5-2 victory over Waynesfield-Goshen in the Division IV sectional opener on Tuesday. Wendel tallied two hits and an RBI to help the Indians advance to the sectional title against Crestview.

Indians ...

Continued from page 8 The Indians scored a run in the first, third and fifth innings and two in the second. On the flip side, the Tigers struggled to find success with the sticks, despite some hard-hit balls. They finished with four hits and only one RBI. Garrett Stump ended with two hits and a run, and Keaghan McKercher drove in the run. "Their pitchers did a really good job," WGHS coach Josh Spencer said. "Defensively, they made some nice plays. "Early it seemed like we were able to get the bat on the ball, we had a couple of nice hits in the gap that they ran down. It felt like it took every-

thing we had and a lot of things had to go our way to scratch a couple of runs across." Rex Leverette picked up the win after 3 1/3 innings of one-run baseball. He only gave up a pair of base knocks and hit two batters while striking out four. Alex Gaerke relieved Leverette and surrendered three walks and gave up an unearned run. Both of the Tigers' runs came on a series of mistakes by FRHS. In the second inning, Stump reached base by getting hit by Leverette. He advanced to second base on a passed ball and third on Carter's single. He scored as a result of Gaerke walking McKercher.

The third-inning run came as the result of a walk and two passed balls. While Eyink wants to see his team clean up some of those mistakes, he's still thrilled with the win and happy to secure it without needing to use his ace, Alex Dues. Now all that's left is to travel to Convoy and take on the Knights for a chance at Fort Recovery's first sectional title since 2019. "We're going to have to play clean, no mistakes," Eyink said. "Everybody's confident with Alex on the mound. Hopefully we can keep the bats going. If we can hit like that, I feel like we have a good chance to win."

Stars ...

Continued from page 8 "I was a little nervous ... because we had someone pretty close, and then Ariel really ran well on this curve and got me a little bit of a lead going into the finish, which was wonderful for me," said DeHoff, pointing to the north end of the track at Delta. Jay County finished in 51.51 seconds, 0.23 seconds faster than runner-up Muncie Central. All of the rest of the Patriots' regional berths came with third-place finishes. Jordyn Hutzler was in the lead in the shot put only to have Zoe Ogden (34 feet) of Union (Modoc) and Ruth Sherck (33 feet, 11 inches) of Delta surpass her on their final attempts. Her toss of 32

feet, 9 inches, was still good for third place and a regional berth. "She's been coming along here as of late," said Imel. "She was in first all night long, and then the two girls on the very last throw threw their PRs to take first and second. So you've got to take your hats off to those two girls — really clutch performances ..." DeHoff claimed the No. 3 spot in the 100 hurdles, coming up just short of a runner-up finish. She crossed the line in 17.25 seconds, just one hundredth behind runner-up Lanie Burger of Winchester. (Delta's Jillian Barr won in 16.41.) Senior Cash Hollowell gave JCHS a second regional qualifi-

er in the hurdles as she placed third in the 300 event in 50.69. She was less than two tenths of a second behind the top two finishers — Analyn Hymas (50.53) of Yorktown and Barr (50.56) of Delta. "Morgan's a workhorse. She's been a workhorse for a long time," said Imel. "100 hurdles, third place ... She's the anchor of that 4x1 team. "Cash in the 300s, I'm just really happy for her to get out this year. Freshman year is the last time she competed in sectional. ... I'm just really, really happy for her, personally, to make it out, move on, to finish up her high school career." (Hollowell suffered a season-

ending knee injury early in her sophomore campaign and missed last year's sectional following injuries sustained in a car accident.) The Patriots also earned a regional berth in the final race of the night, with Makinsey Murphy, Aixa Lopez, Mya Kunkler and Hollowell posting a time of 4:23.62 in the 4x400 relay. They weren't in contention for the win, but had a five-second advantage over fourth-place Randolph Southern. Jay County has a chance to get several more athletes through to the regional to fill out the field of 16. That group includes Mende, Dues and Lopez, who finished fourth in the 100 dash, 200

dash and 400 dash, respectively. (Those athletes will have to wait for an answer, as the Pendleton Heights and Lawrence Central sectionals were both postponed until Wednesday, as were the field events at the Decatur Central sectional.) Also scoring with top-eight finishes for the Patriots on Tuesday were aDues (fifth — 100 dash), Hollowell (fifth — 100 hurdles) and DeHoff (fifth — long jump, eighth — 300 hurdles), Mende (sixth — long jump), Molly Muhlenkamp (seventh — high jump) and Kunkler (seventh — high jump). The 4x400 relay team of Alexis Sibray, Molly Muhlenkamp, Willow Hardy and Murphy placed seventh.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys Track sectional at Delta — 5 p.m.; Baseball vs. Belmont — 5 p.m.; Softball at Huntington North — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high baseball vs. McCullouch — 5:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Baseball sectional championship at Crestview — 5 p.m.
Friday
Jay County — Softball vs. Richmond — 5:30 p.m.; JV baseball at Blackford — 5 p.m.

TV sports

Today
11 a.m. — PGA Championship: Valhalla Golf Club (ESPN2)
12 p.m. — PGA Championship: Valhalla Golf Club (ESPN)
1 p.m. — PGA Championship: Valhalla Golf Club (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — NHL playoffs: New York Rangers at Carolina Hurricanes (TNT)
8:30 p.m. — NBA playoffs: Denver Nuggets at Minnesota Timberwolves (ESPN)
10:10 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds

at Los Angeles Dodgers (Bally Indiana)
Friday
11 a.m. — PGA Championship: Valhalla Golf Club (ESPN2)
12 p.m. — PGA Championship: Valhalla Golf Club (ESPN)
1 p.m. — PGA Championship: Valhalla Golf Club (ESPN2)
3 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: Wright Band 250 (FS1)
5:40 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: NASCAR All-Star Open (FS1)
8:30 p.m. — NBA playoffs: Boston

Celtics at Cleveland Cavaliers (ESPN)
10:10 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Los Angeles Dodgers (Bally Indiana)
Local notes
JCC outing set
The 22nd iteration of the annual J. Gordon Meeker Golf Tournament will be held May 17 at Portland Golf Club. Registration for the event will begin at 11 a.m. with a shotgun start at noon. The late Lee Newman will be this year's honoree for the outing. To register online, visit

www.JayCC.org.
For more information, email Kcook@jaycc.org or Amuhlenkamp@jaycc.org.
Outing scheduled
The annual City of Portland Mayor's Golf Outing has been scheduled for Friday, June 14, at Portland Golf Club. Registration for the event will be held from 11 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. on the day of the outing. A meal will also be provided for the four-person teams at this time. Registration is limited to the

first 20 teams and must be completed by June 10 and submitted to 321 N. Meridian St., emailing mayorsoffice@thecityofportland.net or calling (260) 726-9395.
Golfing will begin with a shotgun start at noon. Those interested can also sponsor the event. It cost \$150 to sponsor a hole, \$200 to sponsor a team and a meal or \$300 for to sponsor a team, a meal and hole sponsorship.
.....
To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@thecr.com.

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Sports

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Patriots win 4x100 relay, finish third in sectional

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

MUNCIE — The Patriots didn't have the individual speedster who could dominate a race.

Put their top four sprinters together, though, and no one could catch them.

Jay County High School's girls track team earned its lone championship in the 4x100 relay during Tuesday's sectional meet at Delta, utilizing its depth of talent to overcome the teams that were able to beat them in the individual sprints.

The victory from Morgan DeHoff, Matilda Mende, Ariel Beiswanger and Jenna Dues led the Patriots to a third-place finish in the 13-team field with 74 points. They advanced athletes to the regional — the top three finishers automatically move on to the meet Tuesday at Pike — in five events.

The host Eagles won their third consecutive title with 161 points while Yorktown was the runner-up with 120. Wapahani trailed Jay County with 50 points.

"We did what we set out to do," said JCHS coach Joe Imel,

"just to get as many kids out as we could. ...

"I'm really proud of the girls," he added of the 4x100 team. "They took pride in that. I think they wanted to do better than that in the individual races, but that just shows how tight a group they are."

Having lost their top sprinter from a year ago to graduation, the 4x100-meter relay didn't seem to be the likely highlight event for the Patriots. But with the additions of Mende, an exchange student from Germany, and Beiswanger, a freshman, the sprinting group has thrived.

Having already broken the school record in the 4x100 relay to win the Allen County Athletic Conference championship, the JCHS quartet showed off its speed again Tuesday. It looked as if the race might be close at the midway point, but Beiswanger staked the Patriots to the lead on the third leg and DeHoff ran a strong final 100 meters with no one making a serious challenge.

See Stars page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jenna Dues (left) and Ariel Beiswanger of Jay County High School cross the finish line side by side Tuesday during the 200-meter dash as part of the sectional meet at Delta. They teamed with Morgan DeHoff and Matilda Mende to earn the Patriots' only title of the event in the 4x100 relay.

Indians move on

FRHS tops Waynesfield-Goshen in sectional opener 5-2

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — Troy Homan already had a strong day at the plate when he was called on to take over on the mound.

Sporting a three-run lead, he just needed to secure six outs to earn the save and get the Indians to the next round.

His sixth-inning performance was nothing short of dominant and he got the job done in the seventh as well.

Troy Homan led the sixth-seeded Fort Recovery High School baseball team's offense and closed out the game on the mound Thursday as the Indians down the 11th-seeded Waynesfield-Goshen Tigers 5-2 in the OHSAA Division IV Northwest 3 Sectional opener.

"A win in the tournament is a win, so we're just happy we did what we need to do to move on," FRHS coach Kevin Eyink said. "With the conditions and the way things were, I think we played pretty well. A couple of things we would like to see cleaned up for the next round but obviously we're happy we did what we needed to do."

The win earns Fort

Recovery (11-12) a date in the sectional championship against No. 2 seed Crestview at 5 p.m. today.

Homan had an all-around strong performance for the Indians.

When he came in to pitch in the sixth inning, his team boasted a 5-2 lead. The senior leader faced the bottom three batters in the order and each of them suffered a similar result — a strikeout looking.

"I was just feeling good in warm ups," he said. "I just told myself, 'If I hit the zone, these guys are gonna make plays behind.' I was able to hit zones and get some swings and misses and that brought energy to the team and that's what we needed at that time."

Homan didn't have as dominant of a seventh inning on the bump, but despite a pair of singles, he got out without any damage. A strikeout swinging and a pair of groundouts earned him the save and the Indians the victory over the Tigers (8-9).

Homan also found a decent bit of success with the bat. It started with a leadoff double on a hot shot past Jay Carter at first base in the first inning. Two bat-



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Fort Recovery High School senior Troy Homan slings a pitch during the sectional opener against Waynesfield-Goshen on Tuesday. Homan struck out the side looking in the sixth inning in the 5-2 win over the Tigers.

ters later, he came around to score on Caden Homan's double to deep center field.

In Troy Homan's second at bat, he smacked an RBI-single up the middle

that scored Gavin Faller.

"I was just seeing the ball well coming in," Troy Homan said. "As the season's gone on, I've adjusted to not try and

pull everything, but just put the ball in play and use the whole field. So, that's what I've been doing lately and it's been working for me."

Alongside the Homans, Reece Wendel put together a solid day at the plate with an RBI double and a single.

See Indians page 7

Box score

Waynesfield-Goshen Tigers vs. Fort Recovery Indians

Waynesfield-Goshen (8-9)				
	ab	r	h	bi
Kaufman c	4	0	1	0
Jordan cf	3	1	0	0
DeWitt p	4	0	0	0
Stump ss	3	1	2	0
Porter lf	2	0	0	0
Carter 1b	3	0	1	0
Siebeneck pr	0	0	0	0
Spencer 3b	3	0	0	0
McKercher dh	2	0	0	1
Waitman rf	3	0	0	0
Totals	27	2	4	1

Fort Recovery (10-11)				
	ab	r	h	bi
THoman cf	4	1	2	1
Dues ss	3	0	0	0
CHoman dh	2	0	1	1
Evers pr	0	1	0	0
Gaerke 2b	2	1	0	0
Wendel lf	3	0	2	1
Grisez 3b	2	0	0	0
Faller 1b	2	1	0	1
Tobe c	2	0	0	0
Leverette p	3	1	0	0
Totals	23	5	5	4

Wan.-Gshn 000 110 0-2
 Ft. Recovery 121 010 0-5

LOB — Waynesfield-Goshen 9, Fort Recovery 5. 2B — Waynesfield-Goshen 1 (Stump), Fort Recovery 3 (THoman, CHoman, Wendel). SB — Fort Recovery 2 (THoman, Evers).

Waynesfield-Goshen						
	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
DeWitt	6	5	5	2	3	6

Fort Recovery						
	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Leverette	3.1	2	1	1	0	4
Gaerke	1.2	0	1	0	3	2
THoman	2	2	0	0	0	4

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Wednesday, May 29 - CR/NS*

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Wednesday, May 29 - NT*

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