

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Rules on conduct receive initial approval

Ordinance sets up time limits, procedure for removal

By **RAY COONEY**

The Commercial Review
Portland City Council took the first step toward setting up clearer guidelines for public comment at its meetings.

Council on Monday approved an ordinance on first reading that details how to get on the agenda, sets up time limits for comment and includes a procedure for removal from meetings.

It will need to be approved on second reading before it goes into effect.

"Where did this come from?" asked council member Ron May in leading off the discussion about the ordinance.

Portland Mayor Jeff Westlake responded that it is an effort to set up guidelines for conduct during meetings.

Council member Dave Golden noted that the current city ordinance addresses the issue in a less-detailed manner. It reads: "No person shall use violent or contemptuous language, behave in a disorderly manner, or refuse to obey the orders of the Mayor or President Pro Tempore in the Council Room while the Common Council is in session."

The ordinance as approved on first reading Monday lays out the following for public participation in city council meetings:

- Anyone interested in addressing the council should contact the clerk-treasurer by the Wednesday before the meeting in order to be added to the agenda.

- Individuals speaking in favor or opposition of a matter being presented will be limited to five minutes.

- Presenters may be limited to three minutes in situations in which a large number of individuals are in attendance in order to allow everyone a chance to address the council.

See **Conduct** page 2

Patriots honored



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay School Board member Phil Ford (right) and former Jay County High School band director Dave Humbert share a laugh Monday during the Patriot Service Award ceremony. Humbert joined Bob Lyons and Ingrid Saxman in receiving the honor this year. It goes to those "who have significantly contributed to the mission of the Jay School Corporation over an extended period of time."

Humbert, Saxman and Lyons make up second class of service award winners

By **RAY COONEY**
The Commercial Review

Jay School Board focused most of its meeting Monday on celebrating.

The board honored its second class of Patriot Service Award winners — Bob Lyons, Ingrid Saxman and Dave Humbert — during the meeting which also included saying goodbye to retiring staff members.

The Patriot Service Awards honor "individuals who have

significantly contributed to the mission of the Jay School Corporation over an extended period of time." Nominees must be past employees who spent at least 20 years working in the school district.

Lyons taught agriculture classes locally for 46 years — the first 15 at Portland High School followed by another 31 after consolidation into Jay County High School. His granddaughter, Katie Loy, who

is now an ag teacher at Jay County Junior-Senior High School, presented him with the award.

Saxman accepted her honor in the same building where she began her teaching career, as the former General Shanks Elementary School now houses the school corporation's administrative offices. She spent 44 years in Jay Schools, contributed to the National Blue Ribbon Award-winning

committee and served 16 years as the school board's representative on Jay County Public Library Board.

Humbert was the director of bands for Portland, Redkey and Pennville high schools before bringing students from across the county together when Jay County High School opened in 1975. He led the Marching Patriots to two Indiana State Fair Band Day championships.

See **Honored** page 5

Village awarded \$499,000 grant

By **BAILEY CLINE**
The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — The village will be granted half a million dollars for its latest reconstruction project.

Ohio Public Works Commission recently awarded Fort Recovery approximately \$499,000 through

the Small Government Program grant for reconstruction of Butler Street between Fort Site and Main streets.

Fort Recovery Village Council heard about the award during its meeting Monday.

The reconstruction project, estimated to cost \$1.53

million, will include an "improved aggregate base and asphalt that will handle the large amount of daily truck traffic," according to the village's description of the project on the Small Government Program's award sheet online. It will also include the following: new and

improved curbs and sidewalks; replacing the water main pipe; new service taps at adjoining properties, including a tap for fire protection at Fort Recovery Morvilius Opera House; and a new traffic signal, pedestrian crossing equipment and fixtures at the intersection

of Butler and Wayne streets.

Fort Recovery village administrator Randy Diller noted plans for Choice One Engineering to update the engineering proposal and move forward with the project sometime this year.

See **Grant** page 5



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Sidewalk smoothing

Portland Street Department workers Joe Jackson, Crist Counterman and Kody Muhlenkamp smooth down a new sidewalk Tuesday along Wayne Street near its intersection with Walnut Street.

FR school financial outlook stays strong

By **BAILEY CLINE**
The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — The school district should continue to operate with a healthy cash balance for the next several years.

Fort Recovery School Board heard its five-year financial forecast update Monday.

The school district is projected to finish fiscal 2024 — it ends June 30 — with a budget surplus of more than \$2.31 million. That would bring its year-end cash balance before encumbrances to

more than \$11.87 million, an increase of more than \$800,000 from estimates in November.

Keeping with the trend, Fort Recovery Local Schools' budget surpluses are expected to continue for years. Estimates include surpluses of \$1.9 million, \$1.2 million, \$755,000 and \$165,000 at the end of fiscal years 2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028, respectively. (By 2028, its year-end cash balance is also expected to jump to about \$16 million.)

See **Outlook** page 2

Deaths

Rowena Miller, 94, Portland
Marcia Highley, 65, Pennville
Wesley Snyder, 50, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

The high temperature Monday in Jay County was 86 degrees. The low was 64.
Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the lower 60s and a 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Expect a high in the upper 70s with a chance of rain and storms again.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The national Click It or Ticket campaign is underway and will continue through June 2. The effort led by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration includes overtime patrols to ensure drivers and passengers are buckled up. For details about proper car seats for children, visit htsa.gov/TheRightSeat.

Coming up

Thursday — Results from the JCHS girls track team at the regional meet.
Friday — Coverage of the Jay County Redevelopment Commission meeting.
Saturday — Results from the JCHS softball team's sectional semifinal game.



Obituaries

Rowena Miller

Jan. 24, 1930-May 18, 2024
Rowena M. Miller, age 94, of Portland passed away Saturday evening May 18, 2024, at her residence.

She was born in Adams County on Jan. 24, 1930, the daughter of Frank and Gertrude (Davis) Fortney. She was married on Sept. 10, 1949, to Eldon Miller who survives. Rowena was a hairdresser and owned Miller's Beauty Salon for many years. She was a 1948 graduate of Pleasant Mills High School and was a member of Asbury United Methodist Church. She loved gardening and working on her flower beds.



Miller

Survivors are her husband of 74 years Eldon; three sons, Larry Miller (wife: Cindy) of Frankton, Indiana, Ron Miller (wife: Lucretia) of Portland and Tab Miller of Portland; eight grandchildren; nine great-

grandchildren; and one great-great-grandson.

Funeral services will be Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 2 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Joe Boggs presiding. Burial will follow in the Gravel Hill Cemetery west of Bryant. Visitation will be at the funeral home Thursday from noon to 2 p.m.

Memorials can be made to Asbury United Methodist Church.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Marcia Highley

May 22, 1958-May 20, 2024

Marcia A. Highley, age 65, of Pennville, Indiana, passed away on May 20, 2024, at her daughter's residence in Celina, Ohio, surrounded by her loving family.

She was born May 22, 1958, in Celina to the late Paul W. and Joanne M. (Craft) Highley.

Survivors include two daughters, Shannon (Joe) Dicke, Celina, and Candy Thees, Celina; her life partner, Dave Bollen-

bacher, Pennville; three brothers, Larry Highley, Coldwater, Ohio, Dave (Judy) Highley, St. Marys, Ohio, and Bevan Highley, Celina; 12 grandchildren, Chelsea, Chase, Jasmine, Taylor, Caleigh, Isiac, Cami, Abigayle, Gaven, Emily, Austin and Olivia; and four great-grandchildren, Jaxson, Kasey, Brooklynn and Paisley.

She was also preceded in death by an infant daughter, Amy Thees; and her sister, Kim Highley.

Marcia was a 1977 graduate of Parkway High School. She worked for many years at FCC in Portland, Indiana. She enjoyed camping, horseback riding, dancing, boating, going to Cedar Point and most of all spending time in Ohio with her grandchildren. She was a loving mother and grandmother and will be deeply missed by all.

Visitation hours will be from 4 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 23,



Highley

2024, at Cisco Funeral Home in Celina.

Funeral services will begin at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 24, 2024, at Cisco Funeral Home in Celina with the Rev. Matt Overman officiating. The family will receive friends from 9:30 to 10 a.m. prior to the service.

Burial will follow at Mercer Memory Garden in Celina.

Memorial contributions can be made to Cancer Association of Mercer County, 218 S. Main St., Celina, OH 45822.

Cisco Funeral Homes of Celina and St. Marys are honored to care for Marcia and her family. To pay respects and to leave condolences or memories, visit ciscofuneralhome.com or the Cisco Funeral Home Facebook page.

Wesley Snyder

Feb. 15 1974-May 15, 2024

A memorial service for Wesley Dale Pierre Snyder will be held Sunday, June 2, 2024, at Portland Church of Christ, 1217 W. Votaw St., Portland. Lunch will be at 11:45 a.m. with the service at 1:30 p.m. Pastors Bob Graham and

Flint Redwine will officiate the service with Lee Funkhouser as the guest speaker.

Wesley, age 50, a resident of Portland, Indiana, passed away at Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie in hospice care.

Wesley was born on Feb. 15, 1974, in Bluffton, Indiana, the son of Marvin Snyder and Barbara (Vance) Snyder Gibson. He worked at Berne Furniture and TLS by Design, Portland.

Survivors include his mother, Barbara Gibson (husband: Bill); stepmother Peggy Snyder; one daughter, Courtney Snyder Franks (wife: Angela); two sons, Jayden Jackson and Landon Snyder; two sisters, Lona Snyder Jackson (husband: Clint) and Rhonda Snyder Walker (husband: Robert); and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father Marvin Snyder.

Memorials may be directed to Portland Church of Christ.



Snyder

CR almanac

Thursday 5/23	Friday 5/24	Saturday 5/25	Sunday 5/26	Monday 5/27
78/60	82/62	83/62	78/61	78/56
There's a chance of rain Thursday. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high in the upper 70s.	Friday's forecast shows a 50% chance of showers under mostly cloudy skies.	Saturday has a chance of thunderstorms as well. Otherwise, mostly sunny.	There's a 50% chance of rain and thunderstorms on Sunday.	Memorial Day shows a chance of rain and thunderstorms. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 1-7-48-64-68 Power Ball: 5 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$100 million	Daily Four: 3-4-9-7 Quick Draw: 7-9-19-21-22-24-25-28-34-39-46-50-52-56-62-68-69-70-76-77 Cash 5: 5-29-33-40-45 Estimated jackpot: \$530,500
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$421 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 1-8-8 Pick 4: 2-9-3-0 Pick 5: 9-9-9-6-3 Evening Pick 3: 6-2-1 Pick 4: 9-7-3-5 Pick 5: 6-5-8-5-8 Rolling Cash: 1-13-18-19-20 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 6-3-0 Daily Four: 6-5-5-5 Quick Draw: 4-18-19-21-24-25-34-44-46-52-53-56-57-59-60-63-66-68-73-78 Evening Daily Three: 6-4-6	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.44 June corn4.44 Wheat5.83	June beans12.22 Wheat 6.54
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.51 June corn4.56 July corn.....4.46	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.36 June corn4.38 Beans.....12.19 June beans12.22 Wheat6.43
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.46 June corn4.41 Beans12.22	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.40 June corn4.43 Beans11.94 June beans12.04 Wheat6.29

Today in history

In 1930, Lou Gehrig became the first person to hit three home runs three times in a Major League Baseball game, helping the New York Yankees to outscore Philadelphia.
In 1992, Johnny Carson's last appearance as host of "The Tonight Show" airs on television. Carson hosted the show for approximately 30 years prior to signing off for the last time.
In 2011, a tornado struck Joplin, Missouri, widely damaging the area and killing nearly 160 people in the process.
— The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 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.	Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:30 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District Board, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland. 7 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 Mooney St.
Tuesday 9 a.m. — Jay County	

Conduct ...

Continued from page 1

•The council reserves the right to deny an individual the ability to comment following a warning from the presiding officer if the individual is behaving in a manner the council deems inappropriate. An individual may also be removed from the meeting on the third warning. (The full ordinance is available for review at thecityofportland.net.)

"In most cases, this is not necessary," said Golden, who is in his second term. "There was one instance when it would have been a very nice ordinance, so I think it's proactive for the most part."

Council members Kent McClung, Michele Brewster, Ashley Hilfiker, Ron May and Golden, absent Matt Goldsworthy and Mike Aker, approved the ordinance.

The ordinance, McClung pointed out, follows the structure set up by State Rep. J.D. Prescott's House Bill 1338 that was approved this year. It creates a structure for local units of government to establish rules for public comment during meetings, including restrictions on time. It sets up a "three strike" procedure — two verbal warnings followed by removal — for enforcing those rules and

clarifies that law enforcement officers can't be held liable for removing individuals from those meetings.

Council members also approved increasing the required deposit for water service to \$150 for meters 1.5 inches or smaller. The current deposit is \$100. (The change will only affect new customers.)

In other business:

•May asked a question about the possibility of providing funding — he suggested \$100,000 — for a grocery store, saying he has an interested party with Save-A-Lot. Both the mayor and clerk-treasurer suggested that economic development income tax (EDIT) funds would likely be the most appropriate source. Requests for such funding start with a review by the city's EDIT advisory board before coming to the council for approval.

•Council tabled a request to spend \$9,000 to hire Charles Braun, a former Indianapolis Law Enforcement Academy staff attorney and law instructor, for consulting services to review the police department's standard operating procedures, rules and regulations, make recommendations and create a new comprehensive document.

See Conduct page 5

Outlook ...

Continued from page 1
"As you can see, overall, our forecast shows a healthy cash balance throughout the future," said treasurer Deanna Knapke.

She noted Mercer County underwent a reappraisal for real estate taxes last year, with the new figures implemented in 2024 collections. (Residential/agriculture values increased by 44.57% and commercial industrial values increased by 11.2%, she explained.) In 2023, the county collected \$135 million from real estate taxes. With the increase in residential/agriculture values, that amount in 2024 has jumped to \$194 million, resulting in an additional \$1 million for the school district by fiscal year 2025.

In terms of state funding, plans for beyond fiscal year 2025 are still not in place. Currently, schools are on the Fair School Funding Plan, with Fort Recovery's allocations of unrestricted funds increasing by \$800,000 from fiscal year 2023 to 2024 and by \$200,000 from fiscal year 2024 to 2025. Knapke noted the three-

year agreement school board approved — board member Sean Kahlig dissenting — in April, with Fort Recovery Education Association calling for raises. Staff will see a 4% salary increase in school year 2024-25, a 3.5% salary increase in school year 2025-26 and a 3% salary increase in school year 2026-27, resulting in an additional \$1 million in expenditures by fiscal year 2027. Per the new contract, Health Savings Account contributions for employees will increase to \$2,500 for a family plan and \$1,250 for a single plan, or an additional expenditure of \$77,000 annually.

Costs for utilities — electric and gas — are also expected to increase between 25% and 30% in coming years. (The school district will enter into a new contract for utilities in January.)

Fort Recovery School Board approved the five-year financial forecast, which is updated and submitted semi-annually to the state.

See Outlook page 5

WANTED

Part-time in-home healthcare worker for an elderly gentleman with flexible hours.

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Marching Patriots
Wednesday, July 10 - CR/NS*

Blackford band
Wednesday, July 10 - NT*

Blackford County Fair preview
Wednesday, July 10 - NT*

*UNIV = appears in all Graphic Printing Newspapers, CR = The Commercial Review, NG = The News-Gazette, NT = The News Times, NS = The News and Sun

JAY COUNTY DUST CONTROL PROGRAM

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

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION CONDITIONS:

- 1.) Your dust control flag markers must be in place, at BOTH ends, of your application area by Thursday, May 30th.
- 2.) 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.
- 3.) 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.
- 4.) I agree to pay, in advance, for the dust control solution applied by GREAT LAKES CHLORIDE, INC.
- 5.) 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

FR Memorial Day service is Friday

Fort Recovery veterans clubs are hosting activities Friday to honor United States military personnel who died in service.

Fort Recovery American Legion Post 345 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6515 will host a Memorial Day service at 7 p.m. Friday starting at the Wabash bridge on Wayne Street. Following the ceremony, those interested may participate in a parade to the Veterans Plaza in Monument Park.

Taking Note

A guest speaker will give a short speech at the plaza, and Fort Recovery High School will play the "Star Spangled Banner."

Building history

Fort Recovery Building

History Group will continue chronicling the town's original buildings and businesses tonight.

Helen LeFevre will lead a discussion at 7 p.m. today at Fort Recovery Morvilius Opera House about the 1888 Schneider Business Building, which now houses Westgerdes Flooring. Nancy Abels will provide histories of the founding families, and Jill Andrews will explain and demonstrate the distinctive architecture and

how it relates to other buildings of Fort Recovery built mostly before the turn of the century. Owners Chuck and Lisa Westgerdes will also be present.

Local residents are invited to attend and share memories, pictures or articles about the changes to the building, as well as their owners and corresponding businesses through the decades. The group will move to the Schneider-Westgerdes

building for on-site viewing after initial discussion.

Seeking veterans

The Jay County Fourth of July Committee is looking for Korean War veterans to serve as grand marshals for the 4th of July parade in Portland.

Veterans should call (260) 729-7017 for more information.

Civic tickets

Tickets are still on sale

for Jay County Civic Theatre's production of Disney's "Finding Nemo Jr."

Shows are scheduled for 7 p.m. June 6, 7, 8 and 9 at the Jay County Campus of Arts Place.

Tickets are \$10 for students and children and \$12 for adults. (There is a \$1 charge per ticket for credit card purchases.) They are available by visiting bit.ly/JCCTNemo24, calling (260) 726-4809 or visiting Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland.

Grieving man's new 'friends' concern wife

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 42 years. Three months ago, I started seeing changes in my husband's behavior. He had lost two good friends within two months, so I attributed it to that.

Then one day, he asked me to look up something on his phone and that's when I saw text messages between him and a girl named "Ginger" who works for him, inviting her to come to the shop every night to have a beer. Of course she never said no. She also would text him looking for him if he couldn't make it, telling him she would miss him.

My husband is 60; Ginger is 30. He also tells me he also has a woman friend (also 30) who works at a local business. He has confided personal family business to her that I know she has shared with other people.

Dear Abby



I'm at a loss. I'm retired but I'm always ready to go and do anything with him. I have supper ready when he gets home after spending an extra hour with Ginger every night. What can I do to bring my husband home to me? I take care of myself, always look my best and listen when he talks. — WHAT TO DO IN THE EAST

DEAR WHAT TO DO: This may have nothing to do with you and everything to do

with your husband's fear of his own mortality. In light of the fact that he has just lost two close friends in the last three months, he may find the company of these young women to be a distraction. That said, what he's doing is disrespectful to you and possibly a threat to your marriage.

Have you discussed how this has made you feel? If you haven't, you should. You appear to be trying your best to do your part, but you can't fix this alone. It may be time for you to start concentrating less on what pleases him and more on what is good for you. And while you're at it, begin monitoring his/your financial records to see if there have been any "out of

the ordinary" expenditures. If there have been, it may be time to consult a lawyer.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for 30 years but have never really been happy with each other. For years I have had painful skin infections on my face, which have required trips to multiple dermatologists. They have done biopsies, and they still can't pinpoint the cause of my skin problems.

Recently, because one of my infections was spreading to my sinus cavity and my eye, I moved out of the master bedroom into one of the kids' old rooms. My skin is clearing up now, and I'm pain-free.

I always suspected that my husband might have had some-

thing to do with this, plus I found a book he had about wild mushrooms. In it, he had underlined a part that said mushrooms are parasitic. What do you think, Abby? — SUSPICIOUS IN FLORIDA

DEAR SUSPICIOUS: I think you should discuss this with the doctors who have been trying to diagnose the cause of your repeated infections. If you are correct in your suspicions, you should talk to the police because your husband may be guilty of assault with intent to harm you. This may be your chance to end your long, unhappy marriage. Do NOT return to the master bedroom until this matter has been resolved to your satisfaction.

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.

JAY COUNTY REPUBLICANS — Will meet at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 22, at John Jay Center for Learning. Precinct committeemen and vice committeemen, candidates, elected officials and supporters are encouraged to attend.

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

EUCHRE CLUB — Will meet at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at Chalet Village Health and Rehabilitation in the North Lounge.

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMI-

LY 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.

PORTLAND EAGLES — Will meet at 6 p.m., on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Eagles' lodge, 320 N. Meridian St., Portland.

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

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

Thursday

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.

LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES — Free and confidential consultations with a lawyer are available from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics including divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant/landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating should sign up in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

MISSISSINEWA CHAPTER OF NATIONAL SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION — Will meet at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 23, at Jay County Historical Society. Paula Book, Indiana DAR committee chair, will be the guest speaker. For more information, call Kathy Selman at (260) 251-1694 or Sue Sommers at (260) 726-2678.

DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 5:30 p.m. at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Centre, 200 N. Park 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 informa-

tion, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

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.

Tuesday

JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 8 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Richard's Restaurant.

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.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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

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Selflessness was signature moment

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from May 20, 2009. If you read this column regularly, you know by now that Jack was a regular at the ballpark. He usually came back with a story. In this case, it had nothing to do with the action on the field but rather some selflessness in the stands.

By JACK RONALD

The Commercial Review

The place was crawling with Cub Scouts.

Not that I have anything against Cub Scouts. I was a Cub Scout myself.

But I've never seen quite so many as were at Sunday's baseball game at Victory Field in Indianapolis.

Some sort of special promotion guaranteed that there were Cubs everywhere. Most were in uniform, but some were not. And after awhile it became a little difficult to tell who was a Cub and who was not.

We'd gone down to Indy to catch a game and spend the afternoon with Sally and her boyfriend, Ben, who had made the trip up from Bloomington.

Back in the Saddle



The weather, finally, was marvelous. And the game was a good one, with a nice run-down between first and second in the first inning and some very smart defensive play.

But it was about the seventh inning when something special happened.

We were sitting a few rows up from the dugout on the first base line, a great area to be if you're interested in snagging a foul ball.

Several flew over us onto the roof or into the upper deck. A number went straight back into the net.

Then, with a right-hander at the plate, one sailed up and over in our direction.

I jumped up, though I guessed it would be out of reach.

It was.

But one row up, the father of a Cub Scout caught the foul in his glove. A cheer went up. Then like any good dad, he handed the ball to his son. The Cub Scout beamed. He was in his blue uniform, and the badges on his chest noted that he had earned his Tiger Cub status along with Bobcat and Wolf.

He couldn't have been happier. That's when something remarkable happened.

Another boy, a kid who may or may not have been a Cub Scout, was sitting in front of me. He was wearing one of the free promotional t-shirts that had been passed out to early arrivals at the gate.

He turned to his mother, and there was some huddled conversation.

Then, as the inning ended, the boy's mom turned and called up a couple of rows to the family with the Cub Scout and the foul ball.

"Did number 12 hit that foul ball?" she asked.

There was some consultation,

but the answer was yeah, it was number 12 who hit the ball that the Cub Scout was now cradling.

The boy in front of me held out his ticket.

"Number 12 autographed his ticket," the boy's mother explained.

The Cub Scout's family nodded and smiled and said something like, "That's nice."

Then the mother of the boy with the autographed ticket said, "He wants to know if you'd like to have it to go with the ball."

Right there. Bam. A home run of spontaneous generosity. The kind you don't get to witness every day.

The Cub Scout nodded wildly. Sure, he'd love to have the signed ticket to go with the ball. What could be better?

The ticket was passed, and the two families returned their attention to the game.

But I couldn't stop smiling.

The boy in front of me exchanged high fives with his dad, a man who was — at that moment — the proudest human

being in the ballpark. Or to be precise, one of the two proudest human beings in the ballpark. Mom and dad both had a role in this one.

I thought for a moment about congratulating them, telling them what a good job they were doing raising kids who were so thoughtful and kind to others.

But that would have struck a wrong note.

That would have been implied that the kindness shown was somehow extraordinary, and what the boy's parents were teaching was something different. They were teaching that thoughtfulness and kindness and unselfishness are the expected norm. It's called doing what you should do, without applause and whether it's witnessed or not.

Just the same, I left the ballpark lifted up a little bit, reminded of some useful lessons.

And I suspect the Cub Scout with the baseball and the autographed ticket given to him by a stranger learned something as well.

Debates have right balance

New York Daily News

Tribune News Service

The last time the Democrats and the Republicans held a White House rematch with the same two contenders was 1956, when Ike beat Adlai Stevenson for the second straight time. Earlier, there were redos with William McKinley and William Jennings Bryan (McKinley won both in 1896 and 1900) and Grover Cleveland vs. Benjamin Harrison (in 1888, Harrison defeated the incumbent Cleveland, who then staged a comeback victory in 1892).

In the pre-Civil War days, before the GOP existed, when there were Whigs and such, Martin Van Buren beat William Henry Harrison in 1836 and lost to him four years later. The same for John Quincy Adams besting Andrew Jackson in 1824 and falling to Jackson in 1828 and way back in the beginning, John Adams was victorious over Thomas Jefferson in 1796 and was ousted by Jefferson in 1800.

All the losers accepted the outcomes (although Jackson's bitter 1824 defeat in the House of Representatives was known as the "corrupt bargain") and such good sportsmanship is something we can't count on this year from one of the candidates. Something else that all these prior repeats shared was that none of the competitors ever face off against each other on stage, as presidential debates only started in 1960.

That also will change on June 27, when Joe Biden and Donald Trump, a pair of presidents, current and former, have a one-on-one on CNN, with a second debate, on ABC, on Sept. 10, the day after Labor Day. There are many good things here in this arrangement, which was sealed yesterday via social media (Twitter/X for Biden and Truth Social for Trump).

Even though neither man is formally yet their party's nominees (the Republicans gather in Milwaukee for their con-

Guest Editorial

vention in mid-July, while Chicago welcomes the Democrats five weeks later) this election has been well underway since Trump closed down Nikki Haley's challenge in March, so there is no reason to wait until the fall.

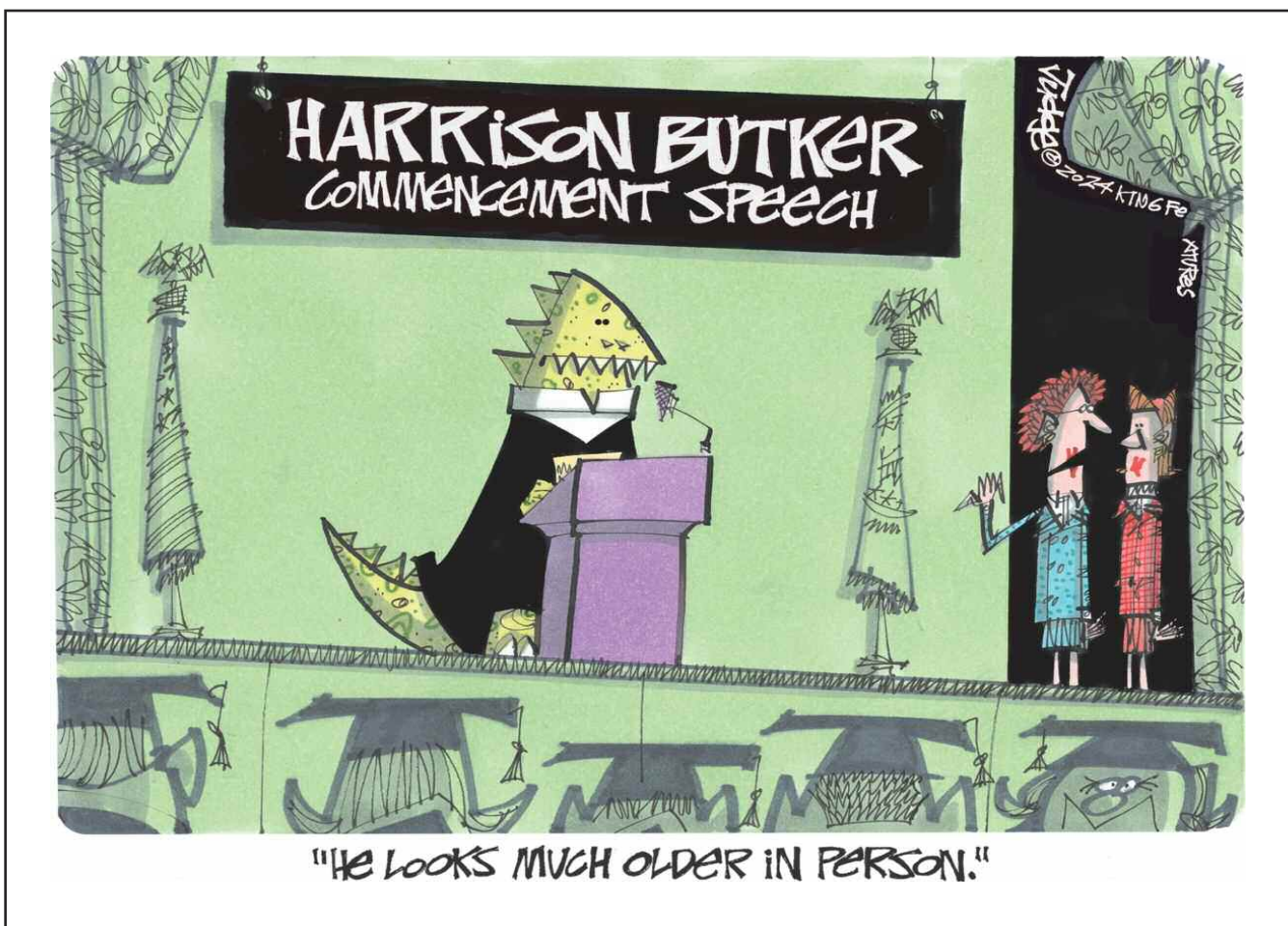
The Commission on Presidential Debates, created by the two parties, and which has run the debates since 1988, is being boycotted by both campaigns. Just as well, as the commission's debates were to be on Sept. 16, Oct. 1 and Oct. 9. That calendar just doesn't work with early voting starting on Sept. 20 in Minnesota, South Dakota and Virginia.

Besides having the debates before balloting starts, we also like they are keeping out spoilers like Bobby Kennedy Jr., who cannot win. We were likewise pleased when Ross Perot was excluded from the debates in 1996 with our headline, "Ross toss no loss."

It's also helpful that there will be no audience to applaud and boo. Let the contenders duke it out sans cheering sections.

Biden only wants two debates, Trump wants more. We wouldn't be opposed to a third, as two or three have been the norm since debates became a regular feature starting in 1976. They did debate twice four years ago, so that's four in total. And Americans might get sick of these guys.

In all, it was a highly productive Wednesday, which Trump has off from his Manhattan criminal trial. A day well spent by him and Biden. To their credit, ABC will let others carry their broadcast so it can be seen by the whole country. CNN should as well. It's their debate, but CNN should let everyone, even those without cable, watch.



Vulnerable are left without insurance

By JESSICA GARCIA

OtherWords

In an era of climate disasters, Americans in vulnerable regions will need to rely more than ever on their home insurance. But as floods, wildfires, and severe storms become more common, a troubling practice known as "bluelining" threatens to leave many communities unable to afford insurance — or obtain it at any price.

Bluelining is an insidious practice with similarities to redlining — the notorious government-sanctioned practice of financial institutions denying mortgages and credit to Black and brown communities, which were often marked by red lines on map.

These days, financial institutions are now drawing "blue lines" around many of these same communities, restricting services like insurance based on environmental risks. Even worse, many of those same institutions are bankrolling those risks by funding and insuring the fossil fuel industry.

Originally, bluelining referred to blue-water flood risks, but it now includes other climate-related disasters like wildfires, hurricanes, and severe thunderstorms, all of which are driving private-sector decisions. (Severe thunderstorms, in fact, were responsible for about 61 percent of insured natural catastrophe losses in 2023.)

In the case of property insurance, we're already seeing insurers pull out of entire states like California and Florida. The financial impacts of these decisions are considerable for everyone they affect — and often fall hardest on those in low-income and

Jessica Garcia



historically disadvantaged communities.

A Redfin study from 2021 illustrated that areas previously affected by redlining are now also those prone to flooding and higher temperatures, a problem compounded by poor infrastructure that fails to mitigate these risks. This overlap is not a coincidence but a further consequence of systemic discrimination and disinvestment.

This financial problem exists no matter where you live. In 2024, the national average home insurance cost rose about 23 percent above the cost of similar coverage last year. Homeowners across more and more states are left grappling with soaring premiums or no insurance options at all. And the lack of federal oversight means there is little uniformity or coordination in addressing these retreats.

This situation will demand a radical rethink of how we approach investing in our communities based on climate risks. For one thing, financial institutions must pivot from funding fossil fuel expansion to investing in renewable energy, natural climate solutions, and climate resilience, including infrastructure upgrades.

What about communities in especially vulnerable areas?

One strategy is community-driven relocation and managed retreat. By relocating communities to low-risk areas, we not only safeguard them against immediate physical dangers but also against ensuing financial hardships. Additionally, preventing development in known high-risk areas can significantly decrease financial instability and economic losses from future disasters.

As part of this strategic shift, financial policies must be realigned. We need regulations that compel financial institutions to manage and mitigate financial risk to the system and to consumers. We also need them to invest in affordable housing development that is energy-efficient, climate-resilient, and located in areas less susceptible to climate change in the mid- to long-term.

Meanwhile, green infrastructure and stricter energy efficiency and other resilience-related building codes can serve as bulwarks against extreme temperatures and weather events.

The challenge of bluelining offers us an opportunity to forge a path towards a more resilient and equitable society. We owe it to the future generations to do more than just adapt to climate change. We also need to confront and overhaul the systems that harm our climate. The communities most exposed to climate change deserve no less.

Garcia is a senior policy analyst for climate finance at Americans for Financial Reform Education Fund.

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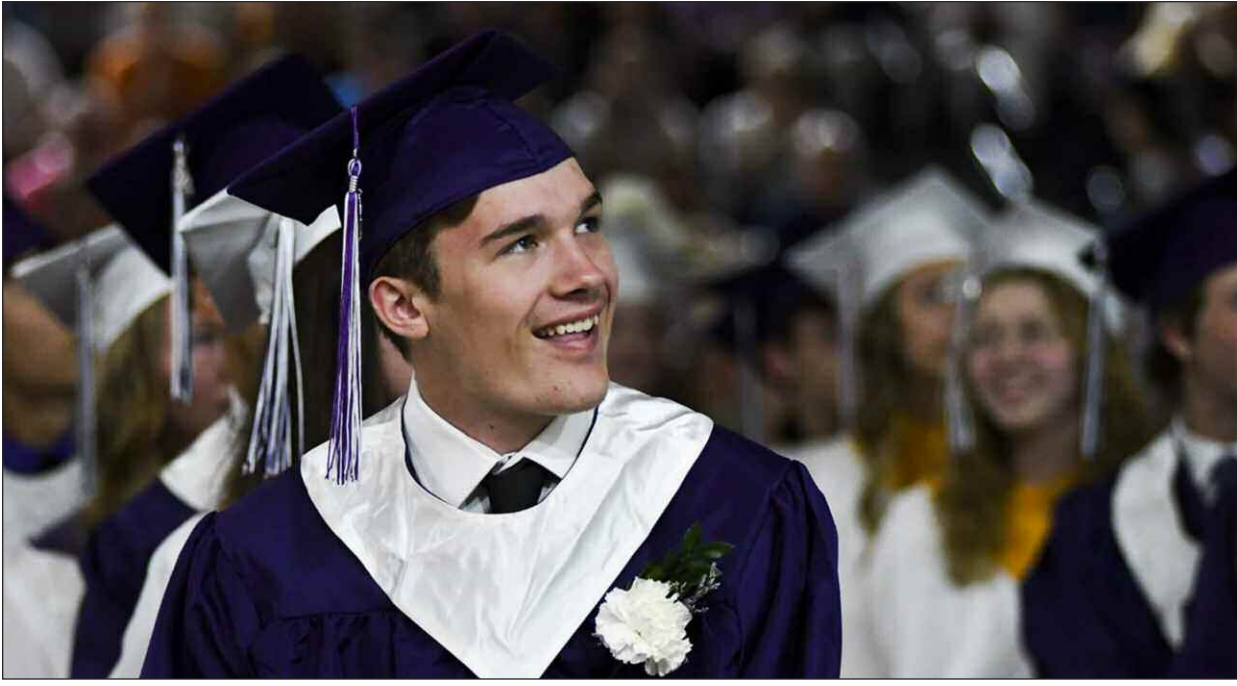
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—Thomas Jefferson

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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Fond memories

Nate Jutte grins while watching the senior memories video during Sunday's graduation ceremony at Fort Recovery High School. Jutte is one of 77 graduates in the Class of 2024.

Grant ...

Continued from page 1
Council also authorized Diller to enter into an agreement with Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's Water Supply Revolving Loan Account for a \$266,120 loan. The money would be used for planning and design work related to switching the village's water plant to a reverse osmosis facility.
Fort Recovery applied for \$4 million through Ohio Department of Development's Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program for the water plant project, which is estimated previously at \$4.35 million for construction. The new softening process would decrease the village's chemical costs by around \$210,000 annually.
Diller explained the five-year, 0% interest loan is intended solely for the engineering portion of the project, which will be completed by PMG Consulting. Diller noted completing the design work would allow the village to move forward with

construction quickly if it receives the \$4 million grant, which must be allocated by the end of the year.
Also Monday, council approved a \$36,530 contract with Ohio Department of Transportation for additional patch work while paving Ohio 119 (Boundary and Butler streets) and Ohio 49 (Broadway and Elm streets) through village limits.
Diller noted the village has approved two other pieces of legislation regarding the project, explaining the contract stipulates the village's share for additional repairs to the roads. Paving is scheduled to begin in August or September.
In other business, council members Al Post, Cliff Wendel, Scott Pearson, Erik Fiely, Greg Schmitz and Luke Knapke:
•OK'd paying a \$64,307.71 work order from Capital Electric for pole foundations, pedestal foundations and installation of an underground conduit for the new traffic signal

planned at the intersection of Elm and Butler streets (Ohio 49 and Ohio 119). Hopes are to finish up the project sometime in July.
•Learned the wastewater lagoons are experiencing an influx of algae, which Diller noted is typical for the spring. Additional aerators have been installed in the ponds, and the village has put in its first dose of sludge reduction material for the season. (It will be administered once a month for the next three months, after which point the village will conduct a sonar report to view results.) Diller also mentioned plans to meet with a representative from Ohio Rural Water Association and discuss current operations and long-term solutions for the lagoons.
•Heard from Ryck Morales of Small Business Association, who offered information about funding available to those impacted by the March 14 tornado
•Were reminded Ambassador Pool opens on Monday for Memorial Day.

Conduct ...

Continued from page 2
"Our current rules and regulations, SOPs and ordinances need to be updated to align to state statutes," said Portland Police Chief Dustin Mock. He said the process would take about six months. The request was tabled after May said he would prefer to talk with city attorney Wes Schemenaur before moving forward. (Schemenaur was not in attendance at the meeting.)
•Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition presented council with information regarding the planned recovery residence in the city. The coalition and IU Health Jay last week

announced a partnership for the new facility, which is planned for the house at 422 W. Votaw St., Portland. IU Health Jay has agreed to donate the property for the project. The facility's intake policy once opened will include an extensive application and interview process, drug screening and a trial period. New residents will have their rent supplemented through Indiana Family and Social Services Administration. Once employed, residents must pay weekly rent. They also have to follow the facility's rules and complete chores. Council members thanked coalition members for their work and praised

the cooperative effort between the coalition and the hospital.
•May said he has continued to hear complaints regarding Spruce Alley, which runs east-west connecting Meridian and Commerce streets just south of Bricker Auction Company, being blocked by trailers from the business. Chad Bricker explained that he was under the impression that the alley had been vacated, but that is not the case. He said communication regarding concerns would go a long way and that his business is happy to address whatever issues may exist.
•Westlake asked council

to think about the possibility of adding stop signs to create four-way stops at the intersections of Middle and Water streets, Pleasant and Race streets, Arch and Pleasant streets, and Race and Park streets and Meadow Lane, and a three-way stop at the intersection of Water Street and Blaine Pike. Council members suggested having the city's board of works and police departments weigh in before any action is considered.
•May asked a question about tall grass. Portland Police Chief Dustin Mock said any complaints that have come in have been taken care of quickly.

Outlook ...

Continued from page 2
The school board also heard an update about creating a turf putting green in memory of former golf coach Joe Bruns.
Superintendent Tony Stahl noted Bruns' family and others have secured enough funding to begin construction on the project, which will be located near the right field line of the baseball field at the LeFevre Family Baseball and Softball Complex. Plans are for the work to begin this summer, with completion set before the golf season begins in the fall.
Also Monday, the board heard high school students earned 37 relevant licensures — credentials for industries recognized by the state — this year at the high school. They included certifications in retail industry, customer service, agriculture commodity testing and basketball officiating.
High school principal Ryan Steinbrunner voiced hopes to offer more credentials for students to earn in the future, such as those for utilizing Microsoft Office or Adobe products, CPR or drone piloting, among other certifications.
Also, Steinbrunner noted the high school has transitioned most of its Advanced Placement classes to college-credit courses, with one AP class remaining. Hopes are to transition the class into a college-credit course in the future.

In other business, school board members Mitch Fullenkamp, Greg LeFevre, Nick Wehrkamp, Don Wendel and Kahlig:
•Heard a proposal to increase substitute pay. Currently the school district offers \$100 a day and \$110 after 10 consecutive days subbing. Stahl noted other local districts have a nearly \$20 daily pay difference.
•Learned Minster architecture and engineering firm Garmann Miller has assessed the school district's facilities and will return to school board in coming months to present its findings.
•Were reminded about Fort Recovery Middle School/Elementary activities this week, including field day events starting at noon Thursday
•Accepted the following: non-teaching employee Karen Schwieterman's resignation — she is retiring from her position after 17 years — effective June 1; preschool program director, grant administrator and lead

teacher Courtney Westerges' resignation, effective May 31; non-teaching employee Tony Rogers' resignation, effective at the end of the 2023-24 school year; high school football assistant coach Joshua Muhlenkamp's resignation, effective April 23; various donations, including \$2,936 from Fort Recovery Education Association for materials and supplies at the middle school and \$1,245 from various donors for Senior Fest at the high school.
•Hired Sophia Homan as a third grade teacher and Hannah Siegel as a middle school English and language arts teacher, effective Aug. 1, and Samantha Bruggeman as a substitute teacher on an as-needed basis
•Approved the following: a contract beginning July 1 and ending June 30, 2025, with West Central Ohio Assistive Technology Center; a service agreement for the 2024-25 school year with Mercer County Educational Service Center; a contract from July 1 through June 30, 2025, with Mercer County Health Department for public health nurses' services; athletic supplemental contracts for the 2024-25 school year with Robert Heitkamp as junior high cross country coach, Beth Homan as high school reserve volleyball coach and Devin Post as junior high assistant volleyball coach.
•Changed the following employee's work assignments for the 2024-25 school year: Anna Bergman from fourth grade teacher to third grade teacher; Breana Madaj from middle school English and language arts teacher to fifth grade teacher; and Kate Timmerman from part-time high school cook, morning crossing guard and afternoon route driver to high school assistant cook; Amanda Diller from high school reserve volleyball coach to high school volleyball varsity assistant coach.
•Recognized junior high student Maddie Weigel for winning the Mercer County Bar Association Law Day Essay contest.
•OK'd the following: reimbursing Nina Faller for her tuition and fees to become a credentialed college credit plus teacher; FFA members to attend FFA Officer Retreat from May 29 to 30 in Dayton, Ohio; FFA members to attend State FFA Camp from July 8 to 12 in Carrollton, Ohio.

Honored ...

Continued from page 1
"When this came up, I thought of Dave Humbert almost immediately because when Jay County High School was formed, I think it's fair to say there was a little bit of dissension," said school board member Phil Ford. "And I thought you did as much as anyone to bring that together the way you structured everything."
The first class of Patriot Service Award winners last year included Glen Bryant, Larry Paxson and Doug Johnson.
The board also recognized retiring staff members Connie Aker, Steve Boozier, Rene Denton, Lisa Hodson, Kim Hyatt, Connie Lyons, Terri Mast and Rhonda Clott. Hodson, who started in Jay Schools in 1994, and Aker, who followed in 1996, are the longest-tenured of the group.
Board members Ron Laux, Donna Gessaman, Jason Phillips, Chip Phillips, Vickie Reitz, Marcie Vormohr and Ford also approved spending up to \$20,000 for the addition of a JROTC obstacle course on the junior-senior high grounds.
Drew Houck of Portland Rotary Club explained that two high school students had served on the club's board and suggested the JROTC project as a way to give back to the school. The rotary club provided \$800 in contributions as the start of raising \$11,625 toward the project.
In other business, the board:
•During the Patriot Pride moment, honored the Jay County junior high and high school academic teams. The junior high

Teacher on administrative leave resigns

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

A teacher who was placed on administrative leave last month has resigned.
Jay School Board on Monday accepted the resignation of Joel Bowers.
His resignation was accepted as part of the consent agenda during the meeting along with various other resignations, retirements, hirings and other items.
"Mr. Joel Bowers has resigned as a teacher at Jay County Jr-Sr High School and is no longer employed by the

Jay School Corporation," said Jay Schools superintendent Jeremy Gulley in a prepared statement provided to The Commercial Review after the meeting. "Mr. Bowers remains under investigation by the Jay County Sheriff's Office. Should the Jay School Corporation receive any actionable information from the Jay County Prosecutor's Office in regard to allegations related to this former employee, we will promptly report that information to the Indiana Department of Education as required by law."

No charges have been filed in connection with the incident.
Bowers was placed on leave April 11 after school officials received a report involving an allegation of misconduct that had occurred the previous day. He has been on leave since then. (The 2023-24 school year ends Thursday.)
At the time he was placed on leave, Gulley referred to "allegations of conduct in violation of JSC Policy 3213 Student Supervision and Welfare." (That section of

school corporation policy details standards such as providing proper instruction, reporting threats of violence, not fraternizing with students in an inappropriate manner and only communicating with students via electronic means directly related to school matters.)
Gulley did not characterize the nature of the allegation. Information regarding the allegation was turned over to the school resource officer.
Bowers has also resigned from his role as chair of the Jay County Democrats.

social studies team finished fifth in the state in its class while the high school English team placed third out of 49 schools in Class 2A statewide and the math team won the Eastern Indiana Academic League championship. Also honored were students who were named as academic rising stars and Gage Sims as an academic all-star nominee.
•OK'd the junior-senior high and elementary school handbooks, including updates to the dress code. Those updates include other recommended changes include using the term "mid-thigh" for shorts, skirts and dresses rather than "fingertip length"; removing pajamas,

wristbands and biker shorts from the restricted list; and adding sunglasses and flags to the restricted list. Staff will be trained to pull students aside rather than disciplining them in front of other students and to maintain a respectful demeanor in order to reduce student embarrassment. Processes and documentation will be put in place to help with consistency of enforcement.
•Approved the following: the hiring of Olivia Niekamp as a fourth grade teacher; leaves of absence for teachers Kari Brotherton and Kayla Luginbill; extracurricular assignments including Brandy Foster as jun-

ior class sponsor, Ryan Fritze as assistant football coach, Mindy Weaver as assistant cheer coach, Erin Roesch as assistant band director and Andy Wellman and Marc Bogenschutz as assistant girls basketball coaches; field trips for high school cheerleaders, foreign language clubs, FFA students and high school band students; services contracts with BlazerWorks and First Steps; a new food service management agreement with Chartwells, which was the only vendor to submit a proposal; and elementary science textbooks from publisher SAVVAS.
•Heard from business manager Shannon Current that the

heating, ventilation and cooling project at West Jay Elementary School will start at the conclusion of the school year with a completion date of Aug. 6.
•Accepted a \$40,238 High Ability Grant.
•Approved the retirement of high school science teacher Connie Aker.
•Presented proposed policies for first reading. They will be up for a vote at the board's June 17 meeting.
•Accepted the resignations of junior high English/language arts teacher Kaylee Leary, preschool teacher Angelana Carter and bus aide Kendra Sizemore.

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SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Pinpoint bidding

South dealer. North-South vulnerable. NORTH: ♠9 5 2, ♥K 10 8, ♦K 7 4, ♣K 9 5 2. WEST: ♠K Q 10 7, ♥9 5 2, ♦10 6 5 3, ♣7 3. EAST: ♠A J 8 6 4, ♥6 3, ♦Q J 9, ♣10 8 6. SOUTH: ♠3, ♥A Q J 7 4, ♦A 8 2, ♣A Q J 4. The bidding: South 1♥, West Pass, North 2♥, East Pass. South 3♣, West Pass, North 4♣, East Pass. South 4♣, West Pass, North 5♣, East Pass. Opening lead — king of spades. When a partnership has a choice of playing in a 4-4 or 5-3 trump fit, it is usually better to select the more evenly divided suit. This is because declarer can often gain a trick by playing in the 4-4 fit. For a typical example, consider this deal where North-South found their heart fit immediately, but then found a secondary fit in clubs on the next round of bidding. At this point, South realized there might be a slam despite his partner's initial raise to two hearts, ostensibly indicating six to 10 points. So he next bid four diamonds, a cuebid showing the ace of diamonds, and North cooperated by raising to five diamonds, promising the king or a singleton. Applying the principle of playing in the more evenly divided suit, South now bid a slam in clubs, knowing that there might be an advantage to having clubs as trump rather than hearts. And, not surprisingly, this proved to be the case. Had hearts been trump, South would have finished with only the obvious 11 tricks — five hearts, two diamonds and four clubs. There would have been no way to avoid losing a spade and a diamond. But with clubs as trump, making 12 tricks was easy. West led the king and another spade, and that was essentially the end of the play. Declarer ruffed the spade, drew trump and claimed the balance. South's 12 tricks consisted of a spade ruff, his four natural trump tricks, five hearts and the A-K of diamonds. The slam depended entirely on the bidding and the all-important decision by South to play in the 4-4 trump fit.

Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



CRYPTOQUIP

YGBW S PWZYQSW RBXZQBP MWXZWVTZCCSRCF WBTZMP, NZ FZM PMEEZPB LV YLCC GSAB S QBCVNZYW? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A GROUP OF APES ARE THREE, FIVE, SEVEN AND ELEVEN YEARS OLD, I GUESS THEY ARE PRIME-MATES. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals L

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Small battery, 4 Greek salad cheese, 8 Actress Merrill, 12 Clothes line, 13 One-named super-model, 14 Russian river, 15 Shapiro of NPR, 16 Up-to-date, 18 Tennis star Becker, 20 Ultimate, 21 Gulf War missile, 24 Allayed, 28 Have debts, 32 Small plateau, 33 Photos, slightly, 34 Messy places, 36 Legislation, 37 Miles away, 39 Start of a Whitman poem. DOWN: 2 Prefix with dynamic "Sisters" actor, 4 Debacles, 5 Outback bird, 6 Tic-toe, 7 Soon, poetically, 8 Home of Duke, 9 401(k) alternative, 10 Indian bread, 11 Flight stat, 17 Salt Lake athlete, 19 Doctrine, 22 A law — itself. 23 Unfreeze, 25 Ward of "Sisters" Morales, 27 First light, 28 October stone, 29 Laptop connection, 30 Pre-diploma hurdle, 31 Pro votes, 35 Least decorated, 38 Civil — abbr., 40 Calendar, 42 Casual shirt, 45 Hosp. scans, 47 Smoke an e-cig, 48 Send forth, 49 Overdue, 50 Globe, 51 — polloi, 52 Abel, to Adam, 53 Fan's shout, 54 Texter's "I think"

Solution time: 23 mins. Crossword grid with letters filled in. Yesterday's answer 5-22

Large crossword grid with numbers 1-61.

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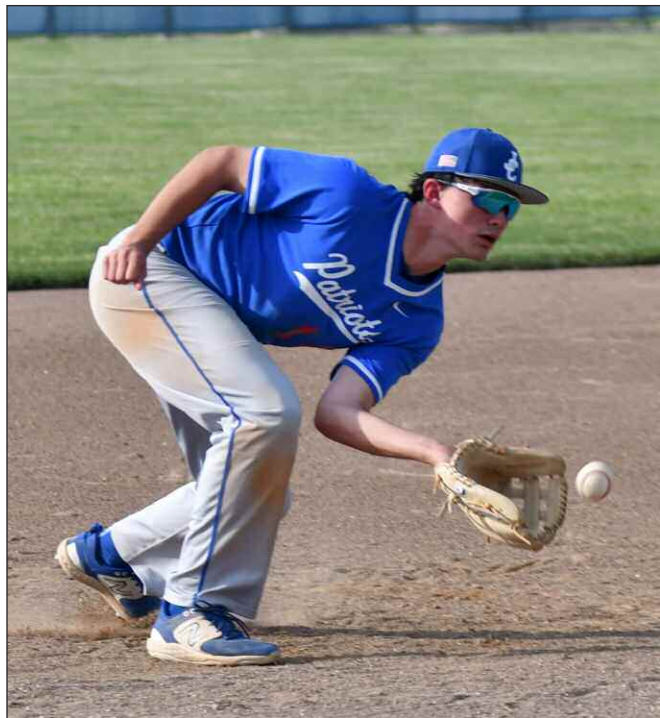
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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Aiden Phillips, a sophomore at Jay County High School, fields a grounder on Monday's regular season finale against Blackford. Phillips pitched the final inning during the Patriots' 9-4 victory.

Finish ...

Continued from page 8
"At the end of the day, it's about moving your guys around and getting them in," Myers said. "Even if you aren't getting hits, you have a job to do."
"That's basically all I can do. If I'm not getting hits, who cares? It's just a stat and I've got to be a team player."
Other runs in the sixth came on a ground ball by Parker Nichols, an error on Max Bonewit in left

field and a single by Joe Geesaman.
Blackford coach Tony Uggan felt the two runs in the second inning acted as a turning point, as both came as a result of mistakes. The first was an errant throw by Nick Ely on a dropped third strike and the second was a pick-off attempt that McIntire threw wide of first base.
"I told them the game changed when our catcher lobbed the ball down to

first base on the strike-out," Uggan said. "If he makes that play, they don't score two runs, it's 1-1 and a completely different ballgame."
The Patriots ride a pair of wins as they prepare for the sectional later this week. Their first game will be on Friday at approximately 7:30 p.m. at Yorktown against the winner of Wednesday's opener between Centerville and New Castle.

Box score

Jay County Patriots vs. Blackford Bruins						
Blackford (18-8)						
	ab	r	h	bi	o	
Morris ss	2	2	1	0	0	
Teer cf	4	0	1	0	0	
Baker 2b	4	1	1	2	0	
Bonewit lf	4	0	1	1	0	
Ely c	2	0	0	0	0	
Cameron cr	0	0	0	0	0	
Merkel 1b	4	0	3	1	0	
McIntire p	4	0	0	0	0	
Norton 3b	2	0	1	0	0	
Nnschwndr pr	0	1	0	0	0	
Patrick dh	3	0	0	0	0	
Totals	29	4	8	4	4	
Jay County (13-11)						
	ab	r	h	bi	o	
Edwards lf	3	2	2	0	0	
Schemenaur c	4	0	1	1	0	
Jetmore cr	0	0	0	0	0	
Myers ss	4	1	1	3	0	
Nichols 2b	4	1	0	1	0	
Goldsworthy 1b	3	1	1	0	0	
Geesaman dh	3	0	2	1	0	
Brown rf	4	1	1	0	0	
Phillips 3b	2	1	0	0	0	
Rowles cf	3	1	0	0	0	
Totals	30	9	8	6	6	
Blackford 100 000 3-4						
Jay County 120 204 X-9						
LOB — Blackford 9, Jay County 8.						
2B — Blackford 1 (Merkel), Jay County 1 (Myers). 3B — Jay County 1 (Edwards). SB — Blackford 1 (Teer), Jay County 2 (Jetmore, Rowles).						
IP H R ER BB SO						
Blackford						
McIntire	3	4	3	1	0	4
Bonewit	2	1	1	1	1	2
Norton	1	2	4	1	1	1
Jay County						
Vazquez	2	1	1	0	2	1
Rowles	2	2	0	0	1	5
Myers	1	1	0	0	0	1
Edwards	1	0	0	0	0	1
Phillips	1	3	3	3	2	1

Smith preparing for seventh season

By MARK INABINETT

al.com
Tribune News Service

Braden Smith joined the Indianapolis Colts in the second round of the 2018 NFL Draft after earning first-team All-American recognition from The Associated Press and winning the SEC's Jacobs Blocking Trophy as Auburn's right guard in 2017.

After a knee injury sidelined his 2023 campaign, Smith is working to be ready for his seventh season as the Colts' right offensive tackle.

"It's just kind of crazy how fast it's really gone," Smith said on Tuesday. "I'm very thankful I even made it this far. Going in as a rookie, I was like, 'I don't know how long I'm going to last.' Obviously, the coaches and my teammates have helped bring me along, and, God willing, God's let me play this long. He's given me the talent. Been very blessed."

"I got a lot of praise for the people around me because without them I wouldn't be here. I wouldn't have had the opportunity to play ever."

The Colts went all in on guards during the 2018 off-season. Indianapolis used the sixth selection in the NFL Draft on Notre Dame's Quenton Nelson, used the 37th choice on Smith and signed 10-year NFL veteran Matt Slauton.

In the first four games of the 2018 regular season, Indianapolis used three right tackles, with two landing on injured reserve. In Game 5, a Thursday night contest against the New England Patriots, the Colts turned to Smith at right tackle. He took every offensive snap for the Colts at right tackle for the remainder of the season, earned a spot on the Pro Football Writers of America's NFL All-Rookie team and has been Indianapolis' starter at the spot when healthy ever since.

"I definitely know getting drafted I thought I was a guard all the way," Smith said. "Obviously, that wasn't the case. You get an opportunity, you just got to make the most of it. Strange things happen. You just got to go with it, have trust, have faith and just go with it."

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Fort Recovery — Track regional meet at Troy — 7:30 p.m.; Baseball district opener vs. Parkway at Coldwater — 7:30 p.m.

Thursday
Jay County — Boys golf vs. Adams Central — 4:30 p.m.; Junior high baseball at Eastbrook — 5 p.m.

TV sports

Today
1:15 p.m. — MLB: Baltimore Orioles at St. Louis Cardinals (Bally Indiana)
6:40 p.m. — MLB: San Diego Padres at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)
8 p.m. — NHL playoffs: Florida Panthers at New York Rangers (ESPN)
8:30 p.m. — NBA playoffs: Dallas Mavericks at Minnesota Timberwolves (TNT)

Thursday
1:10 p.m. — MLB: San Diego Padres at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)
7 p.m. — College softball: Florida State at Oklahoma (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — NBA playoffs: Indiana Pacers at Boston Celtics (ESPN)
8:30 p.m. — NHL playoffs: Edmonton Oilers at Dallas Stars (TNT)
9:30 p.m. — College softball: Georgia at UCLA (ESPN2)

Local notes

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 mayoroffice@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.
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Travis Theurer AU11200131
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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

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CR 5-22-2024-HSPAXLP

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA
JAY COUNTY
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF
CHERYL A. MINNICH,
Deceased
38C01-2405-EU-000014
NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that NEIL D. POGUE and WESTLEY N. MINNICH were, on the 9th day of May, 2024, appointed personal representatives of the estate of CHERYL A. MINNICH, deceased, who died on March 26, 2024, and were authorized to administer said estate without court supervision.
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the clerk of this court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 9th day of May, 2024.
Timothy K. Babcock
Attorney No. 21526-90
DALE HUFFMAN & BABCOCK
30 Premier Avenue
Bluffton, Indiana 46714
(260) 824-5566
Attorney for Estate
CR 5-15-2024-HSPAXLP

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By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Jay Circuit Court of Jay County, Indiana, in Cause No. 38C01-2402-MF-000001 wherein Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for the benefit of the Freddie Mac Seasoned Loans Structured Transaction Trust, Series 2019-2 was Plaintiff, and The Unknown Heirs and Devisees of Lloyd E. Adcock, Deceased, The Unknown Tenant, Eugene S. Miller and Betty J. Miller were Defendants, required me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 27th day of June, 2024, at the hour of 10 am, or as soon thereafter as is possible, at Jay County Courthouse/3rd Floor - Main, Portland, IN 47371, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Jay County, Indiana.

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BRYAN K. REDMOND, Plaintiff Attorney
Attorney# 22108-29
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8415 Allison Point Blvd., Suite 400
Indianapolis, IN 46250
CR 5-22-29,6-5-2024-HSPAXLP

Patriots finish strong

JCHS uses five pitchers in 9-4 regular season finale victory over Blackford

By **ANDREW BALKO**

The Commercial Review

The first and final innings didn't go the smoothest for the Patriots in the regular season finale.

Yet, they have a lot of positives to build upon as they transition into the postseason.

The Jay County High School baseball team finished the regular season with a 9-4 victory over the Blackford Bruins on Monday on the backs of five different pitchers.

"A win is a win," JCHS coach Farr said. "It was good to end the regular season with a win going into the tournament, so that's good for them."

Jay County (13-11) used a committee of pitchers against Blackford (18-8), with each seeing a maximum of nine batters.

Zedrian Vazquez and Cody Rowles both only tossed two innings, while Sam Myers, Jackson Edwards and Aiden Phillips finished the game out with an inning each.

Vazquez and Phillips were the only two to give up runs in the game.

In the first inning, Vazquez gave up a walk to Ethan Morris and shortly after committed an error on a pickoff attempt to allow Morris to reach third base. Morris then scored on a groundout by Gabe Baker.

After the early mistakes, the Patriots kept things clean until the seventh.

"The guys have had the same level mentality all through the year," Farr said. "I get uptight about that stuff because I expect us to make those plays consistently and they're high school kids and won't be perfect. I get that."

"But, we're getting down to tournament time where you've got to make those plays, because other teams are going to capitalize on them and that can be your season."

While JCHS didn't commit any errors in the seventh, Blackford got to Phillips a bit by drawing two walks and slashing four singles on hard-hit balls through gaps in the infield. The sophomore gave up three runs before buckling down and blowing three straight fastballs by Trey McIntire.

Rowles, Myers and Edwards all threw scoreless innings. Rowles shut down the third and fourth innings with five strikeouts, Myers gave up a leadoff single but managed three outs in the fifth and Edwards never allowed a runner to reach base in the sixth.

"I thought everybody threw really well," Farr said. "Cody had a couple good innings, but that consistency right there was his best."

Along with pitching in the fifth inning, Myers played a big role at the plate for JCHS. He was involved in three of the four innings in which the Patriots scored runs.

In the first, Myers hit a ground ball to second base that scored Edwards. In the fourth, he smoked a ball at Mason Merkel who recorded the out but let Edwards score. In the sixth, Myers finally reached base as he smashed an RBI double to deep left field to plate Rowles. He later came around to score as part of a four-run inning.

See **Finish** page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School's second baseman Parker Nichols fields a ground ball during the first inning of the Patriots' 9-4 win over Blackford on Monday. The Patriots utilized five pitchers in the regular season finale.

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Tribe drops added game

COLDWATER, Ohio — The Indians got a break from their postseason run with an added game, but their bats couldn't carry them to victory.

Fort Recovery High School's baseball team dropped an added game 4-2 to Coldwater on Monday evening.

The game that broke up an otherwise five-day stretch without a game, was played at the same site where the Division IV district opener against ninth-seeded Parkway will take place.

The Indians (11-12) scored both of their runs in the first inning on doubles by Caden Homan and Caden Grisez.

Rex Leverette only gave up one run in the bottom of the first inning on Braylen Harlamert's double.

Coldwater (23-5) claimed the lead in the second inning off of Troy Homan. A single and a walk put runners on base before a sacrifice bunt put both in scoring position. A ground out and a single then gave the Cavaliers a 3-2 lead.

A final run scored in the fifth as M Welsch smacked an RBI single off of Alex Gaerke.

Haines honored

The All-Allen County Athletic Conference girls tennis teams were announced on Monday,

Local roundup

with Brenna Haines being the sole selection from Jay County.

Haines was honored as the First-Team Singles along with Hillary Tobias of Adams Central and Chloe Summersett of South Adams.

Haines finished the regular season 8-4 with a 2-1 record in conference play. Her only loss came to Tobias, while she beat the No. 1 singles player from both South Adams and Bluffton.

Named to the First-Team Doubles were Alexa Brotherton and Anna Leyse of ACHS and Hazel Pfister and Sophie Eisenhut of Bluffton.

Second-Team Singles included ACHS' Melanie Bertsch, BHS' Emma Schwartz and SAHS' Ava Kinsey. Making the Second-Team for doubles were Alainia Bertsch and Alayna McCullough of Adams Central and Grace Barkley and Sam Weigel of South Adams.

Joyce Dayton wins

Joyce Dayton just edged out REMC for a 10-9 victory

in Portland Junior League Rookie softball on Monday.

Four players smashed three hits for Joyce Dayton in the win. Adalyn Overla and Annabelle Wiggins both hit a triple and two singles, while Renlee Hummer and Ailayla Money collected three base knocks each.

Overla scored three runs, Wiggins and Hummer both crossed the plate twice and Money touched home once.

Ivy Trinidad also contributed to the offense with two singles and two runs scored.

The only other hits for Joyce Dayton came from Kaelyana Castillo and Payten Twigg.

Offense exploded

Wings and Rings put up over 20 runs on Homestead in a 24-9 win on Monday in Portland Junior League Rookie softball.

Six players collected a hit in every single at bat for Wings and Rings. Hayden Guggenbiller, Skye Ingram, Kynslee Kavy, Nora Stultz, Charlee Taylor and Maddie Theurer all slashed a perfect 4-for-4 at the plate.

Four more players were only one hit behind. Anna Blizzard, Maitlynn Castillo, Kat Conn, Josey Taylor and Zoey Williams all finished the day 3-for-4 at the plate.

Fight breaks out at North Wilkesboro Speedway

By **MARK HEIM**

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Kyle Busch and Ricky Stenhouse Jr. traded punches Sunday night after the NASCAR All-Star race at North Wilkesboro Speedway in North Carolina.

Stenhouse wasn't happy with Busch during the race during a pit stop. Stenhouse Jr. crashed and blamed Busch. He waited for Busch after the race.

"Yeah we got a really good start, he left the door wide open, went through the middle, almost had him clear, the 34 kind of ran up the track and we all just kind of touched there," Stenhouse said after the

wreck. "Nothing major. Then Kyle tried to wreck me in three and four and finally did wreck me there in one and two."

He added: "I told Randall that, first I parked it there because I figured that Kyle would probably do something similar. Then just told Randall that you can tell Kyle that I'll see him afterwards over the radio since there's no tunnel here I can't leave. So, I'll be here when the race is over."

Joey Logano dominated at North Wilkesboro Speedway leading all but one of the 200 laps to win his second All-Star Race on Sunday night and earn \$1 million.