

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

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\$1

Insurance costs will go up

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Health insurance costs for Jay School Corporation will go up.

How much, and what impact any changes will have on coverage, is still up for discussion.

Jay School Board on Monday heard its health insurance options, all of which include significant increases.

The school corporation's insurance committee met June 24 to discuss quotes from current health insurance provider IU Health and PHP. Consultant Nick Napier of Brown & Brown Insurance explained that IU Health's renewal would come at an overall increase of 49% for the school corporation while PHP's propos-

School board reviews options after a year of high claims

al would be at a 26% increase. Both of those options would maintain current coverage levels.

Each organization offered an alternative, with IU Health's coming in at a 33.4% increase to offer coverage at its facilities only. PHP made an offer that includes changes — increases

deductibles and out-of-pocket costs for the corporation's most popular plan — that would bring the increase down to 9.3%. (PHP's plans would also put all of Indiana's hospitals, as well as Mercer Health, in network while IU Health offers a tiered system.)

Employee cost increases would vary widely — up to

264.1% for one of the IU Health options — depending on what plan they select.

Anthem, the school corporation's former provider, and United Healthcare both declined to provide a quote.

Even the 9.3% increase, which is the lowest being offered, would be the steepest increase for the school corporation since a 9.8% hike in 2017. (Changes since then have ranged from a 4% reduction in 2021 to an 8% increase the previous year.)

Napier noted that the reason for the increases is because of high claims activity. In the last 12 months, the school corporation has paid \$4.7 million in premiums while IU Health has paid out

\$5.48 million in claims. He pointed to five employees who have chronic diseases for which the cost of treatment has been expensive and is expected to continue to be so. (He said one employee's medications alone total about \$1.8 million annually.) In addition, there are currently six active cancer cases that will continue to require treatment.

"When we've been put in a position like this where we've got a variety of high-cost claimants that are anticipated to need additional and ongoing care over the next 12 months, we just have had a very limited number of health insurance that are interested in us," said Napier.

See **Insurance** page 5

Village, school partner on grant

Funding will go toward adding more sidewalks

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

The village has secured multiple grants in the last few months.

Word of another recently came from the governor's office.

Fort Recovery Village Council heard Monday the village and Fort Recovery Local Schools were awarded \$439,589 for construction projects focused on safety for children walking or biking to school.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Transportation director Jack Marchbanks announced July 2 more than \$8 million will be funded through the Safe Routes to School program, including projects submitted by Fort Recovery and the school district. According to a press release from DeWine's office, the program "supports education initiatives and builds infrastructure such as sidewalks and enhanced pedestrian crossings."

The village and school district jointly applied for funding to complete street projects aimed at pedestrian and biking safety. Now in the works to be completed between 2026 and 2027, the largest project includes installing 625 feet of sidewalk on the east side of Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School and connecting it to Sharpsburg Road. Other projects include building a crosswalk in front of Fort Recovery High School on Butler Street at its intersection with First Street and improving visibility of markings at the five-point intersection of Butler, Boundary, William and Third streets.

Fort Recovery Local Schools also applied for funding for a non-infrastructure project and received \$18,000. (See related story.)

Fort Recovery village administrator Randy Diller noted the projects are 100% funded.

See **Grant** page 5



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

At the auction

Gary Loy of Loy Real Estate and Auction closes a bid during the 4-H food auction at the Blackford County Fair on Monday evening.

Council OKs \$ for wall repair

Contract calls for preparing for potential future mural

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

The city will pay for repairs to the wall of a downtown building after adjacent structures were demolished.

Portland City Council on Monday approved allocating \$49,809 for repairs to the north wall of 206 N. Meridian St.

The city's board of works agreed last week to move forward with a contract for the work, pending the council's approval of the funding.

Attorney Eric Welch, representing Reclaiming Design owner LeeAnn Miller, explained Monday that the north wall is in need of repairs following the demolition earlier this year of 208 and 210 N. Meridian St. The city had declared those structures unsafe in August 2023 and subsequently went through the process to have them torn down. It also purchased the property.

The board of works on Thursday reviewed three quotes Miller provided for the work to repair the north wall. Members Jerry Leonhard, Steve McIntosh and Mayor Jeff Westlake approved moving forward with the low-

est quote — \$49,809 — from Trisco Systems of Lima, Ohio, to repair the wall and leave a flat plaster surface for a potential future mural.

Council member Dave Golden expressed support for the board of works and thanked Miller for her willingness to invest in the city's downtown.

He then joined council members Matt Goldsworthy, Mike Aker and Ashley Hilfiker in approving the funding. (Council members Kent McClung, Michele Brewster and Ron May were absent.)

Also Monday, the council unanimously approved an ordinance regarding the sale of alcohol in city parks on second reading. (It had been approved on first reading at the July 1 council meeting.)

The ordinance requires any organization seeking to sell alcohol in a city park to receive a permit by petitioning the park board. (Previous regulations only allowed alcohol sales at Hudson Family Park.) Vendors must be licensed by the state, have licensed bartenders for the event, provide adequate security and follow any other terms or conditions imposed by the city. The permit application asks for the anticipated number of guests at the event and whether it will be open to those under 21 as well as the time, date and location.

There is a \$250 fine for anyone found in violation of the ordinance.

See **Council** page 5

FRLS ends '24 with \$11.9 million

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — The financial forecast was nearly spot on.

Fort Recovery School Board heard updates about its financials during its meeting Monday.

Fort Recovery Local Schools finished fiscal year 2024 on June 30. Its year-end cash balance came to \$11.9 million, roughly \$100,000 more than estimates shared from May's five-year financial forecast.

Treasurer Deanna Knapke noted the school district spent approximately \$530,000 out of its permanent improvement fund from July 1, 2023, to June 30. She highlighted a few of the larger expenditures, which were:

- Replacing the gym roof at the

- elementary and middle school for \$236,000

- Purchasing a new bus for \$122,000

- Resurfacing a portion of the parking lot at the elementary and middle school for \$30,000

- Installing a new sprinkler system at the football field for \$24,000

- Updating sound systems in elementary classrooms for \$19,500

- Adding cameras to the LeFevre Family Baseball and Softball Complex for \$18,000

- Updating projectors in classrooms for \$16,000

- Completing concrete work on the east side of the middle school for \$12,000

- Updating the bell and intercom system at the high school for \$11,000 — an additional \$33,000 for the project came from Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation's School Safety and Security grant.

Also Monday, the school board learned Fort Recovery Local Schools and the village of Fort Recovery were awarded \$439,589 through Ohio Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School program for construction projects focused on safety for children walking or biking to school. (See related story.)

See **FRLS** page 5

Capital improvement projects this year included gym roof and intercom system

Deaths

Eugene Reinhart, 96, Bryant
Bryant Hedges, 91, Portland
Paul Henkle, 82, Portland
Donnie James, 73, rural Dunkirk
Aaron Schwartz, 85, rural Geneva
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 88 degrees Monday. The low was 70.
Tonight's forecast calls for the low to drop into the mid 50s. Expect mostly sunny skies Thursday with a high in the mid 70s.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Arts Place's Hudson Family Park Amphitheater Summer Concert Series will continue with a performance by Whoa, Man! Band at 8 p.m. Thursday. The band's repertoire focuses on celebrating women in rock. Ryzone's Food Truck, The Scoop Station and The Greazy Pickle will all be on hand. Admission is free.

Coming up

Thursday — Opera House renovations will begin soon in Fort Recovery.
Friday — Coverage of this week's Portland Board of Aviation meeting.
Saturday — Photos from the Jay County Lions Band Contest at Jay County Fairgrounds.



CR almanac

Thursday 7/18	Friday 7/19	Saturday 7/20	Sunday 7/21	Monday 7/22
75/55	77/56	79/60	80/62	81/65
Sunny skies are on the horizon for Thursday, when the high will be in the mid 70s.	Friday's forecast shows sunny skies with highs in the upper 70s.	Another day of sun is expected Saturday. Temperatures could reach as high as 79.	Mostly cloudy on Sunday. The temperature may hit 80 degrees.	There's a slight chance of thunderstorms on Monday.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 9-31-39-40-45 Power Ball: 23 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$75 million	Daily Four: 5-2-7-3 Quick Draw: 8-12-13-18-23-29-32-34-35-37-52-54-55-57-58-61-62-66-71-78 Cash 5: 1-3-9-18-31 Estimated jackpot: \$75,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$226 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 5-7-7 Pick 4: 4-1-9-7 Pick 5: 9-2-5-8-2 Evening Pick 3: 0-1-3 Pick 4: 3-0-0-3 Pick 5: 4-2-6-5-0 Rolling Cash: 6-9-24-33-37 Estimated jackpot: \$200,000
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 0-8-5 Daily Four: 4-4-6-3 Quick Draw: 5-6-7-9-11-17-29-34-35-38-42-50-51-54-55-59-61-62-67-68 Evening Daily Three: 1-1-0	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....3.85 Aug. corn3.87 Wheat4.57	Aug. beans.....10.02 Wheat 4.82
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....3.95 Aug. corn3.95 Sept. corn3.82	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.76 Aug. corn3.74 Beans11.10 Aug. beans.....10.82 Wheat4.87
The Andersons Richland Township Corn3.77 Aug. corn3.85 Beans11.07	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....3.81 Aug. corn3.81 Beans10.87 Aug. beans.....10.72 Wheat4.58

Today in history

In 1754, King's College — it later became known as Columbia University — opened in New York City. The small academy started with a class of 10 students in a building next to Trinity Church at Broadway and Wall streets. Some of its first students and trustees included the United States' first secretary of the treasury, Alexander Hamilton, and the nation's first chief justice, John Jay.

In 1955, Disneyland's doors in Anaheim, California, opened for the first time. The theme park, dubbed "The Happiest Place on Earth," was opened by Walt Disney.

In 1998, the United Nations established the International Criminal Court intended to investigate and prosecute those charged with genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Four years later, after 60 countries ratified the agreement, the court began sittings at its headquarters in the Netherlands.

In 2012, longtime Fort Recovery School Board member Dan Kahlig resigned after serving nearly 15 years on the board.

In 2014, a Malaysia Airlines flight crashed in Ukraine, killing all 298 people on board. An investigation revealed the plane was shot down by a Russian-made missile.

In 2017, Redkey officials were notified the town had been awarded a \$30,000 comprehensive planning grant to assist in the development of its downtown. Plans were for the money to go toward hiring an engineering firm to establish a detailed redevelopment plan for downtown Redkey.

In 2019, Jay County Council approved tax abatement for projects totaling \$5.13 million for Minnich Poultry (five years) and \$1.02 million for Reier Pullets (three years). Minnich planned to construct four new laying barns at its facility on county road 300 North near the Ohio line, expecting to add four new jobs and help keep 65 jobs. Reier planned to construct three pullet barns, with an expectation of adding two new jobs and retaining two jobs.

— The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.
6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

Thursday
6 p.m. — Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.

6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 Mooney St.

Monday
3:30 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland.
6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St.
7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.

Obituaries

Benton Hedges

July 15, 1933-July 14, 2024
Benton Hedges, age 91, of Portland passed away Sunday, July 14, 2024, in Prairie Lakes Nursing Facility in Noblesville, Indiana.

He was born in Fifty-Six, Arkansas, on July 15, 1933, the son of Thurman and Letcie (Haney) Hedges. He was married on June 1, 1952, to Norma Lou Zerkel and she passed away on Feb. 26, 2017.



Hedges

Benton was retired from Teledyne Portland Forge and had worked at Walmart as a greeter. He was a 1951 Portland High School graduate, attended The Rock Church and was a member of Moose Lodge. Benton enjoyed playing country and bluegrass music, playing the guitar and harmonica. He also enjoyed wood-working.

Surviving are one son, Bruce Hedges (wife: Heather) of Fishers, Indiana; two sons-in-law, Mark Craig of Thomasville, Georgia, and Tom Baldauf of Portland; one brother, Adlie Hedges (wife: Marilyn) of Idaho; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by daughters June Craig and Sheila Baldauf; and brother Ruben Hedges.

Funeral services will be Saturday, July 20, 2024, at 1 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Matt Ransom presiding. Burial will follow in the Green Park Cemetery. Visitation will be Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Memorials can be made to the Jay County Heart Fund.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

worked for G.C. Murphy Co., NAAS Foods and was a truck driver for 23 years.

He was a member of Trinity Arch Bridge Church in Portland. Paul was active in Trinity's food pantry for 22 years.

Paul married Connie Edmundson on May 7, 1967.

Survivors include:

His wife — Connie Henkle, Portland, Indiana

Children — Timothy Henkle, Portland, Indiana, and Bryan Henkle (wife: Kerioka), Portland, Indiana

One granddaughter — Sophia Henkle

Siblings — Linda Combs, Greenwood, Indiana, and Larry Henkle (wife: Laurae), Bluffton, Indiana

A sister-in-law — Carolyn Via, Swansea, Illinois

He was preceded in death by one brother, Donald David Henkle.

Visitation will be held on Friday, July 19, 2024, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Trinity Arch Bridge Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. Memorial services will follow at 7 p.m. on Friday at the church. Pastor Darrell Borders will officiate and military rites will be conducted by Portland American Legion Post #211.

Memorials may be directed to Trinity Arch Bridge Church Food Bank.

Arrangements are entrusted to Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

Donnie James

Oct. 22, 1950-July 14, 2024
Donnie J. James, 73, rural Dunkirk, died Sunday, July 14, 2024, at home following an extended illness.

Born in Muncie on Oct. 22, 1950, he grew up in Dunkirk and was a lifetime resident of the Dunkirk/Redkey area. Donnie was a 1969 graduate of Dunkirk High School and was a graduate of the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. He worked in shipping and receiving at Borg-Warner, Muncie, for 30 years before retiring in 2005. Throughout his life, Donnie was a policeman for several

area departments including Jay County, Albany, Eaton, Dunkirk and Redkey. His involvement with mentoring inmates was always cherished.

Donnie was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Portland. He belonged to U.A.W. 287, was a former union steward and enjoyed being outdoors, attending sporting events and spending time with family.

Survivors include his wife of 34 years, Debbie James; sons Chris James (wife: Kathy), Hartford City, Donnie James (wife: Tonia), New Port Richey, Florida, Eric James (wife: Virginia), Butler, and Darin James (wife: Cortney), Farmland; stepson Travis Hammond (wife: Suzanne), Floyds Knobs; stepdaughter Taran Edwards (husband: Lee), Dunkirk; brother DeWayne James (wife: Barbara), Albany; brother-in-law Robert Hauch, Michigan; sister-in-law Liz James, Churubusco; 25 grandchildren, 4 four great-grandchildren; two nephews; and his two dogs, Fluffy and Yolo.

He is preceded in death by his parents Harold and Marie (Auker) James; brother Eddie James; and sister Patricia Hauch.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, July 19, 2024, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Portland. Cremation will follow with interment at Dunkirk I.O.O.F. Cemetery.

Visiting hours are Friday from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the church in Portland.

Memorials may be sent to Stillwater Hospice, Fort Wayne, in memory of Donnie.

The funeral mass will be livestreamed from MeachamFuneralService.com where condolences and other expressions of sympathy can also be given.

Eugene Reinhart, Bryant, died Tuesday at his home. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Bryant.

Aaron E. Schwartz, rural Geneva, Aug. 24, 1939-July 16, 2024. Services will be at 9 a.m. Friday at the Schwartz residence, 1665 E. 1000 South, Geneva.

Paul Henkle

July 6, 1942-July 10, 2024
Paul Henkle, age 82, a resident of Portland, passed away on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at Persimmon Ridge in Portland.

Paul was born July 6, 1942, in Indianapolis, the son of Don and Mary (Busch) Henkle. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving on the maiden voyage of the USS Kitty Hawk. He

Capsule Reports

Lost consciousness

A Bryant man drove off the side of Indiana 26, crashing through cornfields and hitting a tree about 3:37 p.m. Monday.

Keegan A. Cavanaugh, 18, was driving his 2013 Ford Escape east on the highway. He told police a black SUV drove into his lane, causing him to drive off the north side of the road and into a ditch. Cavanaugh said he hit his head and lost consciousness. With cruise control

activated, his vehicle continued out of the ditch and into a cornfield at 9564 W. Indiana 26. The car continued northeast, across a driveway, and into another cornfield on the property. His vehicle then entered a woods where it crashed into a tree.

Cavanaugh complained of head pain but refused medical treatment at the scene. His car was towed, with damage estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

Woah, Man! Band

Thursday, July 18 • 8:00 PM
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SERVICES

Thursday

DeHoff, Diana: 2 p.m., Cornerstone Church of Pennville, 190 W. Main St., Pennville.

Friday

Schwartz, Aaron: 9 a.m., Schwartz residence, 1665 E. 1000 South, Geneva.

James, Donnie: 1 p.m., Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 506 E. Walnut St., Portland.

Henkle, Paul: 7 p.m., Trinity Arch Bridge Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland.

Saturday

Reinhart, Eugene: 10:30 a.m., Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 7321 Indiana 67, Bryant.

Hedges, Benton: 1 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

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Optimist donation

Allison Keen from the Purdue Extension Office of Jay County accepts a \$500 check from the Portland Evening Optimist president Linda Aker.

Co-worker can't let go of romance

Dear Abby



DEAR ABBY: I met this guy at work. He was everything I'm looking for in a guy. During a lunch walk, he told me about his breakup with his ex and how he moved out and bought a house. He lives with his son and his nephews and their family. The entire two months we dated were amazing. There may have been a couple of red flags my co-worker and friends noticed. He couldn't message me often after work or on weekends, and he was always so busy with his kid we couldn't go on a date. He told me his ex was not in the picture, which I thought was odd since his son is only 2.

I don't know why I decided to do some internet research on him, but I found out he actually is married and bought the house with that "ex." When I confronted him about this, he insisted he had told me about it when we first started talking, which is not true. Now that the cat's out of the bag, he says he's getting back with her "for his son" but still wants me in the picture as his side piece. I fell in love with him, Abby, and he says he loves me, too. I don't think it's right to do this, but I don't want to stop talking to him. Should I block him and move on or stick around since he still wants me? — SIDE PIECE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR SIDE PIECE: Close your eyes, dig deep and see if you can feel around and locate a shred of your self-esteem. Why would you be content to be a "side piece" in this philanderer's life? He doesn't love you. I doubt he loves anyone but himself. Do yourself a giant favor: Quit listening to his sales pitch, block him and find someone who can give you the love you crave.

DEAR ABBY: Last week my wife and I were at a local function. During intermission, a man walked up behind my wife and

placed his hand on her shoulder. She looked up, shouted "George!", jumped out of her chair and was all over him, fondling his face and head. I had to turn away, but our friends continued to watch as the two carried on. She claims it was not inappropriate behavior and that I am just jealous. Is this really a married woman's normal behavior? — WOUNDED IN MISSOURI

DEAR WOUNDED: Bind your "wound" and let it go. While your wife's reaction may have seemed over-the-top to you, if George is someone your wife cared about and hadn't seen in many years, it wasn't out of the realm of normality for her.

DEAR ABBY: My ex-mother-in-law caught wind that my 6-year-old would be getting her first haircut and took it upon herself to trim my daughter's baby curls without telling me so she could keep some for herself. I am livid. She has taken the first birthday, the first Christmas dress, the first pair of shoes. I get that it's her first time being a grandma, but this is MY first and only time being a mom. She is a delicate woman. How do I approach this? — FIRST-TIME MOM

DEAR FIRST-TIME: Explain to your ex-mother-in-law what you wrote to me, omitting the part about "livid" because she's "delicate." The next time a first approaches, inform her politely that you wish to be consulted before she does anything else involving your daughter.

Fostering event is Saturday

Meridian Health Services' FosterHope program will host Fostering the Future from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the Suzanne Gresham Center in Muncie.

The event is for those interested in becoming foster parents or learning more about being a foster parent. There will be information booths and licensed foster parents to answer questions. The event will also include lunch and door prizes.

The Suzanne Gresham Center

Taking Note

is located at 3620 W. White River Blvd., Muncie. For more information, visit MeridianHS.org or call (765) 685-3912.

Poetry contest open Poetry Society of Indiana is

accepting entries for its annual poetry contest.

Participants can win cash prizes in any of 39 categories. There is a limit of one poem per entrant for each category.

The entry fee is \$10 for Poetry Society of Indiana members and \$15 for non-members, with an additional \$2 for each additional poem. The deadline is Sunday, Sept. 1.

For more information, visit Poetry Society of Indiana at poetrysocietyofindiana.org.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

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

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

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for helping families affected by

addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

JAY COUNTY CIVIC THEATRE — Holds its regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 17, in the boardroom at Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland.

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

A BETTER LIFE — BRIGGS & STRATTON'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 infor-

mation, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

Thursday

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

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.

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

9	7	1	2	5	4	3	6	8
3	4	2	8	9	6	1	7	5
6	5	8	3	1	7	4	2	9
4	3	7	6	2	5	9	8	1
2	9	6	1	8	3	5	4	7
8	1	5	7	4	9	6	3	2
1	2	9	4	3	8	7	5	6
7	8	3	5	6	1	2	9	4
5	6	4	9	7	2	8	1	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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GRAPHIC PRINTING
NEWSPAPERS

Dustin made impact on the cycle

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from July 15, 2004. Jack loved nature. He enjoyed walking nature trails, especially at Loblolly Marsh Nature Preserve. It's no wonder he connected with the interview subject he writes about here.

By JACK RONALD
The News and Sun

It was 14 years ago when I interviewed Tom Dustin. But if it had been 50 years ago or last week, it wouldn't have mattered. His core principles would have been the same. I interviewed Dustin — who died this weekend — in connection with a book project that never came to fruition. (The publisher and I had different ideas about what the final product ought to look like; that sometimes happens.) Tom and Jane greeted me at their rustic Allen County home, a spot not all that far from the

Back in the Saddle



center of Fort Wayne but which might as well have been in another world. They were, as far as I knew, the most prominent environmentalists in Indiana. Probably, they were on the short list of the most prominent environmental activists in the United States. What I was trying to figure out, during an interview marked by numerous cups of black coffee on my part and an endless string of cigarettes on Tom's part, was what made them tick. What made them care so

much about the natural world that they were willing to risk alienation from friends and neighbors, ridicule in the letters to the editor column, and being labeled — after so many controversies — a crank? They told me that morning 14 years ago over too many cups of coffee. They told me about stopping on a camping trip in 1954 at Dinosaur National Monument in the Northwest and coming home to learn that it was slated for destruction by the Bureau of Reclamation, which planned to build a dam on the Green River which would have flooded the whole thing. They told me about how the dust had barely settled on the Dinosaur National Monument project — the environmentalists won — when they learned that the Indiana Dunes were threatened. And they told me what their

environmental activism had taught them about politics and the need for compromise. Reading Tom's obituary the other day — Jane died about nine months ago — I found myself digging through old files, trying to find what that 1990 interview produced. This is what I found: "A great blue heron interrupts. "Tom Dustin stops in mid-sentence to watch it soar above Cedar Creek. "That really is my religion," he says after a moment, "because I can look off into those woods and see life taking place in all of its aspects. Now we're looking at a season of renewal. Things are coming back. Reproduction, growth — later decline, death, and renewal again. And I relate to that. And I battle mightily to preserve examples and systems of nature like that where people

would have similar opportunities." "He is warming to his topic. It's a sermon he has given before. "I feel that a good bit of humanity, particularly in the developed countries, is increasingly being sealed off from that in the pursuit of a utilitarian framework ... Is it useful? What can I make out of it? How much money can I make out of it? How does it contribute to the economy? I'm not saying those things are not important, but it's not fundamental. Fundamental, to me at least, is this human relationship with my surroundings. In nature there really is no fear. You can see the whole cycle of things happening. And I know I am part of that. Not apart from it." He was part of that cycle then. He is part of it now. And the planet is better off for having hosted him for 80 years.

Nuclear received a much-needed boost

Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

President Joe Biden, as you've no doubt heard, has had a rough few weeks. Yet last week, he signed a bill into law that could well prove transformative for America's energy future. Here's hoping — whatever happens in November's election — that more progress lies ahead.

Known as the Advance Act, the bill seeks to remedy some long-standing flaws in nuclear-energy regulation.

To reach net zero, the world will need to roughly double its nuclear capacity by 2050, according to the International Energy Agency.

Yet constructing new nuclear plants in the US is expensive, time-consuming and encumbered by red tape. Partly as a result, the industry has stagnated: The share of electricity generated by nuclear is projected to decline to about 12% by 2050, from about 18% today.

The Advance Act should help reverse that trend. As a start, it makes useful reforms to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, allowing the agency to hire more staff, reduce licensing fees, speed application processing and ease the burden of environmental reviews. It also makes a small but consequential change to the commission's mission, requiring it — after decades of focusing on potential threats — to also consider the vast public benefits of nuclear energy when making regulatory decisions.

The bill could be especially helpful for advanced reactor designs. Small modular reactors have a lot of potential: They're likely to be cheaper and easier to build, more flexible, and safer than traditional plants, while providing reliable energy for both electricity and industrial uses. Scores of iterations are under development. So far, though, these businesses have faced significant licensing barriers, partly because the rules were written with conventional reactors in mind. In addition to streamlining that

Guest Editorial

process, the bill offers prizes for the first companies that meet specified benchmarks. Combined with tax credits contained in the Inflation Reduction Act, this should set the stage for real progress.

Several other provisions could in aggregate prove significant. One would ease the conversion of retired fossil-fuel plants into nuclear facilities, which should both reduce costs and help areas that might otherwise lose out during the energy transition. Another will facilitate the export of nuclear technology to global markets, which will likely have both commercial and diplomatic benefits. Other provisions aim to boost workforce development, ease supply-chain issues and encourage safer fuels.

Finally, the bill should spur development of nuclear fusion, an embryonic but potentially game-changing industry. With dozens of startups hoping to commercialize various fusion designs, the bill affirms that such reactors — which are inherently safe — won't be subject to the full panoply of rules that governs the traditional fission industry. That should encourage investment and experimentation with an elusive but promising technology.

Nuclear energy won't solve the climate challenge, but it must play an indispensable part. That this effort passed Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support — building, in fact, on provisions passed during Donald Trump's presidency — is further cause for optimism. The green transition has forced the U.S. to confront decades of accumulated red tape, veto points and legal obstacles, which combined have made it all but impossible to build new things at a reasonable cost.

At long last, change is in the air.



Survival was a miracle

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

It is 6:10 p.m. in Butler, Pennsylvania. Former President Donald Trump has been doing his so-familiar thing, blasting "Crooked Joe Biden" at a campaign rally and proclaiming that "We had the strongest border ever — in recorded history. We had the best border."

But then he does something he has never done before. Trump turns to the left, then to the right, pointing at two big screens near his stage. "Do you guys have access to that chart that I love so much? ... Oh there it is — WOW!...Take a look at that chart! ...See the big red arrow, right? That's when I left office. That was the low point...of illegal immigration ever in recorded history into our country. And then ...the worst president in the history of our country took over."

Trump is now posing like a statue, his right arm extended theatrically as he points at the chart with his index finger. What Trump does not know is that his index finger is also pointing at a guy on a rooftop, 150 yards away, whose AR-15 rifle is pointing right at him.

"And if you really want to see something," Trump tells his crowd, "...take a look at what happened." What has also happened, just then, is that the index finger of the guy on the roof has just pulled the trigger.

Crack. Crack. Crack. Trump feels something. His right hand instinctively goes to his right ear. Then he ducks behind his lectern. The New York Times' veteran photographer Doug Mills will later discover his camera had just taken a photo that (when enlarged) shows what seems to be a bullet flying just past Trump's head at ear level.

Trump's head had always faced his rally crowds. But he wanted his crowd to look at the chart he loved, so he posed looking straight at the chart at his right — as if freeze-

Martin Schram



framed. Suddenly, his would-be assassin's target was much narrower. The bullet merely clipped Trump's right ear as it whizzed past.

We all just witnessed the making of a miracle.

We saw Trump rising from the protective Secret Service scrum — and actually stand! Right fist thrust high. Blood oozing from atop his right ear. And we heard Trump's one-word assurance that he was alive and ever-Trump:

"Fight!" "Fight!" "Fight!"

As we watched all that, my mind filled with pain-filled memories of way-too-many assassination tragedies I had covered. April 1968: Martin Luther King was shot dead in Memphis — I arrived hours later. June 1968: I arrived at Robert F. Kennedy's Hickory Hill estate just an hour after his 11 children inside had seen their dad killed in Los Angeles. And then there was 1981: the wounding and almost killing of President Ronald Reagan just outside the Washington Hilton.

But most of all, I was thinking about 1972: the devastating (but often forgotten) shooting of Alabama's third party presidential primary candidate, George Wallace, in Laurel, Maryland. A would-be assassin's five bullets left the former segregationist governor forever paralyzed. Yet Wallace, though paralyzed, became a far better person.

Wallace had been infamous for what he once said after losing a 1958 election to a segregationist — that he'd "never again" be out-N-worded (yes, he made the slur into a past-tense verb). So in 1963, as governor,

Wallace promised "segregation forever" and stood in the schoolhouse door hoping to prevent Black students from enrolling in the University of Alabama. President John F. Kennedy and Attorney General Robert Kennedy sent troops to integrate the university — forever.

But after being paralyzed, Wallace became a born-again Christian, apologized for his segregationist past, was forgiven by Rep. John Lewis and was again elected governor with overwhelming Black support.

And that's what I began thinking about Saturday, as Trump's SUV whisked him away to safety. Could Trump be capable of a heartfelt conversion toward national unity and personal humanity?

Sunday, Trump began posting and proclaiming that he was changing his Thursday Republican convention speech from an all-out attack on Joe Biden to a noble call for national unity.

Trump posted on his Truth Social account that "it was God alone who prevented the unthinkable from happening." Trump also mentioned the fact I had noted and transcribed Saturday — that the turning of his head minimized the gunman's target and probably saved his life.

But while proclaiming he is all about unity now, Trump used a most non-unifying term to characterize the other side. He posted: "In this moment, it is more important than ever that we stand United, and show our True Character as Americans, remaining Strong and Determined, and not allowing Evil to Win."

Unity? Evil? Hmmm. Will we be seeing a heartfelt conversion? Or a contrived conversion of political exploitation? The future remains to be seen — maybe Thursday night.

.....
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The Commercial Review



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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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Insurance ...

Continued from page 1
Following Monday's presentation to the board, a survey was scheduled to be sent Tuesday to employees to provide them with information on the plan options and seek their feedback. The survey will be due July 25, with the school corporation's insurance committee to meet the following week. A report will then be sent to the school board, which is expected to vote on the committee's recommendation at its Aug. 5 meeting. (The current plan with IU Health expires Aug. 31.)

Jay Schools made the switch to IU Health for a 4.6% cost increase two years ago compared to a proposed 15% increase from Anthem. (Those rates were locked in for the 2023-24 year as well because the school corporation achieved at least 50% participation in its

Health Results wellness program.)

The board and administrators also talked with Napier about options moving forward, with Gulley asking about getting involved in a consortium. Napier agreed that would be a good idea but added that the school corporation's cohort has been seen as too high-risk for those groups.

Board member Phil Ford asked about Medicaid or Medicare, which Napier said would not be viable options for those in need of high-cost treatments. The question led to a discussion about Medzown, a precision medicine management firm that offers patients access to new treatments and therapies including clinical trials.

Participation in the voluntary program, which has a capped cost for the school corporation and comes at no cost to the patient,

could potentially remove some of the high-risk cases from the school corporation's portfolio and thus make it more attractive to a consortium.

"Partnering with Medzown we believe gives us an additional resource to try to help your members get access to these clinical trials, where the cost of their care would be shifted outside of the group health plan," said Napier. "They'd have access to the standard of care, plus beyond, with very high quality physicians and it would also provide them with the opportunity to not pay for their deductible and their out-of-pocket expenses for that particular care."

"It sounds like it would only be a plus," said board member Vickie Reitz.

In other business, board members Ron Laux, Marcie Vormohr, Chip Phillips, Donna Geesaman,

Ford and Reitz, absent Jason Phillips:

•Approved the following: Its meeting schedule through the end of 2026 with meetings generally continuing to be held at 5 p.m. on the third Monday of each month; Hiring various new employees, including Christiane Griffin as a reading teacher at Bloomfield and Redkey Elementary Schools; a series of resignations, including from junior high English teacher Tavia Price, high school biomedical teacher Katie Daniels and East Jay Elementary School fifth grade teacher Taylor Schwarck; a leave of absence for Bloomfield sixth grade teacher Shannon Neargarder; extracurricular assignments including Bruce Wood as high school cross country coach; service contracts with Anointed Hands for sign language interpreters, Soliant Health for occupational therapy

services, Otis R. Bowen Center for Human Services for mental health needs assessments and Traci Clark/Hillsdale Therapy for occupational therapy services; applying for the Educational Flexibility Program that offers flexibility in paraprofessional requirements; and increasing the junior-senior high parking tag fee to \$5, up by \$1 from the previous level.

•Heard a back-to-school update from Gulley. He noted that about 50% of students have registered since the online portal opened July 8. In-person registration will be held July 22. Parents will receive class rosters and bus assignments Aug. 1 and the first day for students is Thursday, Aug. 8.

•Accepted the retirements of vocational radio/TV director Lori Reece and maintenance technician Mitch Murphy.

FRLS ...

Continued from page 1
The school district also secured \$18,000 through the program for a non-infrastructure project related to safety in 2025. Plans are to use the funding for purchasing safety equipment such as radios, crossing guard materials and bike storage, providing annual walking and biking safety information to students and parents through the mail and planning safety-related events. Superintendent Tony Stahl noted hopes to host an interactive bike safety presentation for students.

Also, school board OK'd purchasing a new 10-passenger 2024 Ford transit van from American Bus and Accessories through the Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council for \$76,028.

In other business, board members Sean Kahlig, Don Wendel, Nick Wehrkamp, Mitch Fullenkamp and Greg LeFevre:

•Heard work on the turf putting green being created in memory of former golf coach Joe Bruns will begin in the next few weeks. The new golf facility — landscaper Nature's Green Nursery is handling the work — will be located near the right-field line of the baseball field at the LeFevre complex.

•Approved the following: transferring \$32,000 from the general fund into the early childhood education fund (\$10,000), Title IA fund (\$10,000), Title IIA (\$7,000) and Title IVA (\$5,000); a contract with Courtney Westgerdes at \$30 an hour not to exceed 20 hours, effective Tuesday through Aug. 30 on an as-needed basis; supplemental contracts with various employees, including athletic contracts with junior high track coach Bob Heitkamp, girls track coach Christy Diller, boys track coach Charlie Vasey and baseball coach Kevin Eyink; using \$2,074 in credit card rewards as statement credit; handbooks for pre-kindergarten, elementary, middle school and high school; a resolution declaring Fort Recovery Board of Education participate and authorize the Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council to advertise and receive bids on the board's behalf for the cooperative purchase of school buses and other vehicles, materials and supplies.

•Set tuition and student fees for preschool through eighth grade for the upcoming school year. Fees either stayed the same or decreased from previous years and are as follows: preschool, \$20; kindergarten, \$55.70; first grade, \$55.70; second grade, \$57.20; third grade, \$57.40; fourth grade, \$49.45; fifth grade, \$75.25; and sixth grade, seventh grade and eighth grade, \$61.

•Set lunch prices for the upcoming school year as follows: preschool

Work underway on green in honor of coach Joe Bruns

through fifth grade, \$2.45; sixth grade through 12th grade, \$2.70; adults, \$3.80; main dish only, \$1.60.

•Accepted Greg LeFevre — LeFevre abstaining — as a volunteer boys golf coach

•Selected Nick Wehrkamp as the board's delegate to the annual capital conference with Don Wendel as the alternate delegate.

•Hired Tanya Storie, Trisha Dues and Lacey Tipton as non-teaching employees — Tipton will be transitioning into the preschool lead teacher role — and the following as substitutes on an as-needed basis for the upcoming school year: Samantha Bruggeman, Denise Bruns, Mary Diller, Marilyn Fortkamp, Shirley Gruss, Maria Hartings, Kelly Hein, Tammie Hiser, Karli Jutte, Vickie Jutte, Sandy Kaiser, Lisa Lennartz, Shelly McCain, Sarah Nearon, Elaine Pax, Kathleen Portz, Nancy Reinhard, Janet Roessner, Barb Sautbine, Carol Storie, Tanya Storie, Kylee Sutter and Jill Walter.

•Authorized the superintendent to enter into a memorandum of understanding with Fort Recovery Education Association in relation to creating the position of junior varsity golf coach.

•Authorized the superintendent and treasurer to enter into food procurement contracts that exceed \$15,000 through the Educational Purchasing Council consortium bid process or other consortiums.

•Recognized the Fort Recovery High School baseball team for advancing to the OHSAA Division IV state championship game in June. "The best part about the tournament run was just seeing the whole community behind us at all the games and everything, just the atmosphere was so fun to play in," said Troy Homan. "Even though we lost the state championship game, I told these guys that, like, I'd play it 100 times over again if I knew we'd lose just because how fun the atmosphere was." LeFevre added, "From the community side, I would say the same thing — it was just a ton of fun."

•Accepted \$120 in donations from Be You Floral to middle school and high school drama clubs.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Bond-ing with the baritone

Alex Garcia plays the baritone Saturday for the Jay County High School Marching Patriots during the Archway Classic at Centerville. The JCHS show this year has a James Bond theme.

Grant ...

Continued from page 1

To be eligible for the grants, communities must develop formal plans that outline their intentions to encourage students to "engage in active transportation," according to the department's website. Fort Recovery created its School Travel Plan in July 2023 after a nine-month planning process in which a group of local representatives identified construction projects and programs aimed at increasing safe pedestrian and bike travel to school.

This year, the Safe Routes to School program is funding 29 projects in 19 counties.

"Creating the opportunity for children to walk and bike to school is so important, and this funding will help communities ensure that these routes are as safe as possible," said DeWine in the press release. "Motorists should

also do their part by paying attention, especially in and around schools."

Also Monday, village council approved its budget for 2025.

Next year's budget sits at approximately \$4.2 million, a roughly \$600,000 increase from the current year. Fiscal officer Roberta Staugler pointed to various capital purchases slated for next year. Diller explained they could include replacing a 30-year-old pump station on the north side of Wayne Street and replacing the village's leaf vacuum. The village may also purchase a new police cruiser, estimated at \$65,000, in 2025.

Construction projects slated for next year include constructing a new water tower, with the village's share at approximately \$600,000 and reconstructing Butler Street between Fort Site and Main streets — hopes are to have the

project, which is being funded by a \$499,000 Small Government Program grant through Ohio Public Works Commission, completed by July 2025.

Council addressed plans for street superintendent Jerry Guggenbiller to retire in February. Diller noted hopes to transition street maintenance employee Brandon Weyerick — he's been working for the department since 2021, having worked for the police department for 14 years prior — into Guggenbiller's position. (Diller is also considering retiring at the end of next year.)

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

•Heard plans to begin working on the final design for water plant improvements. The final design plans will take four to six

months to complete. Hopes are to convert the plant into a reverse osmosis facility.

•Learned traffic signals have been installed at the intersection of Elm and Butler streets. Diller noted a few more steps in the process, including concrete work July 22 and painting and sign work Aug. 5, before the signals are activated.

•Gave permission to Schmitz and Knapke to join the committee for improvements to Ambassador Pool. (Ohio's capital budget bill signed into law June 28 dedicated \$450,000 toward renovations to Fort Recovery's pool.) Officials are working with pool companies on specifications for the project.

•OK'd an economic development transfer (TRES) of an issued liquor permit from another jurisdiction for a proposed business at 112 N. Wayne St.

Council ...

Continued from page 1

The ordinance does not address individuals bringing their own alcoholic beverages to parks or the consumption of alcoholic beverages in the parks.

In other business:

•Golden thanked everyone who visited the Jay County Fair last July 6 through 13 and especially those who supported the stands run by local service organizations. (He is a member of the Optimist club.) He noted that funds raised by those groups are returned to the community.

•Approved Rollin J Lanes' compliance with its development agreement

tied to an economic development income tax (EDIT) loan. The loan was eligible to have 50% forgiven if terms were met, mostly regarding employment. Goldsworthy noted that the city's EDIT Advisory Committee reviewed the agreement and determined that Rollin J Lanes had met the conditions. Council then voted to forgive 50% of the loan, dropping the amount owed to \$25,000. Payments on the loan will begin in September.

•Heard Golden say he has received comments from residents regarding the four-way stop at the intersection of Main and Pleasant streets. The four-way stop was put in place during

the John Boggs administration after a four-way stop was removed at the intersection of Main and Ship streets. Earlier this year, the council voted to bring back the four-way stop at Main and Ship streets. The four-way stop at Main and Pleasant streets has remained in place. Golden said he'd like council to consider shifting the intersection of Main and Pleasant streets back to a two-way stop with through traffic on Main Street. Hilfiker repeated her request that a process be put in place to record resident concerns and allow council members the opportunity to review them before they are addressed at meetings.

Felony arrests

Sexual misconduct

A Portland man was arrested Saturday for sexual misconduct.

Derrick A. Miller, 42, 701 S. Western Ave., was preliminarily charged with a Level 5 felony for sexual misconduct with a minor.

He was being held in Jay County Jail on a \$10,000 bond.

Dealing drugs

A Portland woman was arrested Monday for dealing methamphetamine.

Angela K. Timmons, 45, 623 1/2 E. Votaw St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 4 felony for the alleged crime, along with two Class A misde-

meanors for dealing methamphetamine and possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for operating a motorboat while intoxicated.

She was being held on an \$18,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Possession

A Richmond woman was arrested Monday for possession of methamphetamine.

Dee Ann E. Littleton, 21, 1313 N. Letter C St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 4 felony for the alleged crime.

She was being held in Jay County Jail on a \$15,000 bond.

JAY COUNTY

BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT SERIES

Hosted by the Jay County Health Department

Bryant Community Center
Thursday, July 18th
6:00-8:00 PM

Dunkirk Community Center
Tuesday, July 23rd
6:00-8:00 PM

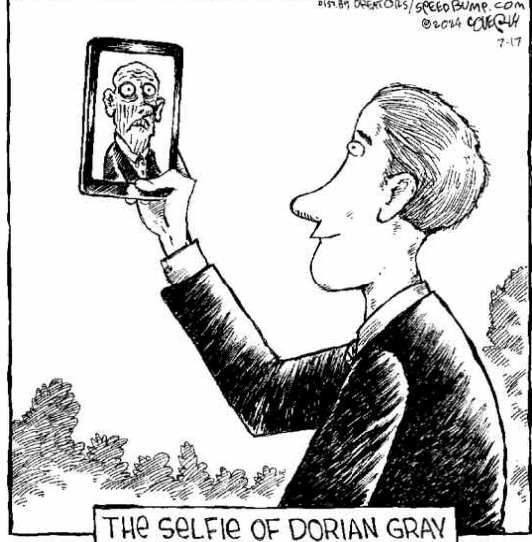
Redkey Park Cabin
Thursday, July 25th
6:00-8:00 PM

What will be provided: hygiene and school supplies, community resources, education, vaccinations, and a meal

Public Health

SPEED BUMP

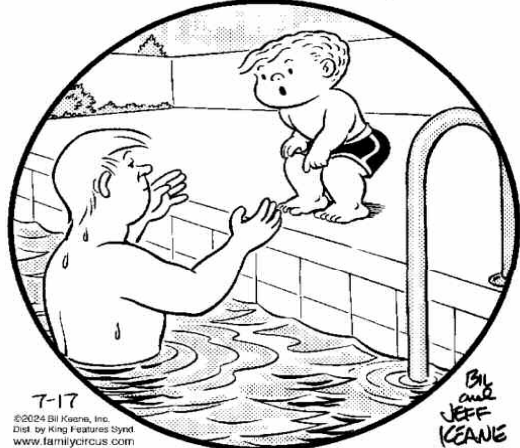
Dave Coverly



THE SELFIE OF DORIAN GRAY

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



“Couldn’t we wait till the tide goes out so it won’t be so deep?”

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Active or passive defense?

South dealer. North-South vulnerable. NORTH: ♠K Q 6, ♥A, ♦9 7 5 3, ♣J 9 5 4 3. WEST: ♠J 5 4, ♥9 7 3, ♦J 8 6 2, ♣Q 8 2. EAST: ♠A 10 8 2, ♥8 5 2, ♦A Q 10 4, ♣10 7. SOUTH: ♠9 7 3, ♥K Q J 10 6 4, ♦K, ♣A K 6.

If you decide to defend passively, you return a diamond at trick two. Declarer ruffs, leads a trump to dummy's ace, a club to his ace and continues with two more rounds of trump. He then plays the king and another club.

West wins with the queen, but whatever he returns, the only other trick your side can score is the ace of spades. So, South makes the contract, losing only a spade, a diamond and a club.

This is a predictable outcome if you play a diamond at trick two. South must have very good clubs on the bidding, so you can't expect West to take more than one club trick. Therefore, your only realistic hope is to score two spade tricks.

To that end, your best shot is to lead a low spade from the A-10-8-2 at trick two, hoping to develop two spade tricks for yourself when and if West gains the lead with a club.

This is clearly a time for active defense, even though it presupposes that your partner has the jack of spades. This assumption is not far-fetched, and it is unlikely to do any harm if you're wrong.

In the actual case, your low spade lead at trick two is eminently successful. After partner takes the queen of clubs, his spade return allows you to score the A-10, and the contract goes down one.

The bidding: South 1♥, West 2♣, North 3♥, East 3NT. Opening lead — two of diamonds.

The question the defenders must resolve on each deal is whether to adopt an active or passive defense. Every deal has its own characteristics, and even though general rules are frequently helpful, the most reliable guide usually is plain common sense.

Assume you're East and partner leads a diamond against South's four-heart contract. When you play the ace, declarer produces the king, obviously a singleton.

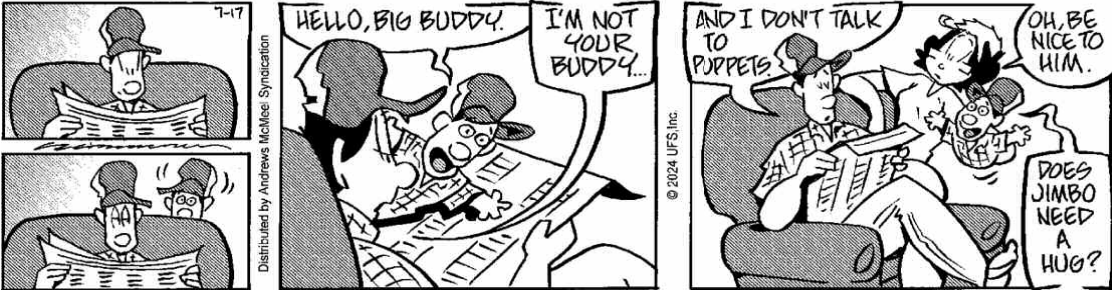
Tomorrow: Steppingstone to success.

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Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



CRYPTOQUIP

KCYA B TYFVBRA QZIAP LBJY RAXYTV EJZBVX ZA VCY KBVYF'X XIFEBTY, RV LRPCV UY B UIZQBAV UZQ BAV.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TRENDY DANCE CLUB THAT HAS A BIG BALL EMITTING INDIGO-COLORED LIGHT BEAMS: BLUE-RAY DISCO.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals B

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-61.

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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Swim awards

The Jay County Summer Swim team dished out post-season awards on Sunday. Pictured from left are Most Improved Swimmer Kynlee Homan, Jacqui Baxter Sportsmanship and Team Leadership Award winner Aubrey Millsbaugh and Rookie of the Year Laynie Mann.

Pacers' Furphy improves on debut

By GARY BEDORE

The Kansas City Star
Tribune News Service

Former Kansas Jayhawks guard Johnny Furphy of the Indiana Pacers improved on his 12-point NBA summer-league debut by scoring a team-high 18 points in Sunday's 105-94 loss to the Minnesota Timberwolves in Las Vegas.

The 6-foot-9, 19-year-old Furphy scored in a variety of ways versus the Wolves. He hit 7 of 14 shots, knocking down two 3s in eight attempts. One of his 3's was a spectacular step-back bucket in the fourth quarter that barely beat the shot-clock buzzer.

He also had multiple dunks plus seven rebounds, two steals, two

blocks and one assist against two turnovers in 30 minutes. On Friday night, he had 12 points on 4-of-11 shooting (3-of-8 from 3) with four rebounds in a 97-95 loss to the Brooklyn Nets.

"The flashes from Johnny Furphy at summer league thus far have been promising," wrote Olgun Uluc of ESPN Australia. "He has such a useful plug-and-play skillset for a wing in the NBA. That's also a need for the Australian national team, of which he should be a staple for every major tournament campaign beyond 2024."

Furphy on Sunday scored 13 points and grabbed four rebounds in the first half.

"The first and the youngest of the Pacers' three second-round picks in the 2024 draft showed again that he's further along in his development than many realized," wrote Dustin Dopirak of the Indianapolis Star.

"Johnny Furphy, the 6-9 wing from Kansas and the No. 35 pick in the draft, followed a 12-point effort in the opener with even more offensive potency. Furphy scored 13 points on 5-of-8 shooting in the first half, hitting a 3 but also showing effectiveness around the rim and in transition, counting multiple dunks among his 2-point buckets."

The Pacers, 0-2, will next play on Tuesday versus Phoenix.

Morris ...

Continued from page 8

His efforts earned him numerous awards, including 17 honorary doctorates, the Sagem Award from Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb in 2021. An Eagle Scout as a youth from Troop 8 in Terre Haute, Morris was named a 2022 Silver Buffalo Award recipient by the Boy Scouts of America National Court of Honor, and he received the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award from President Barack Obama in 2016.

He is survived by his wife, Jackie; his children

Tim Morris (Barb), Todd Morris (Shannon), and Jennifer Schaefer (Pat); his grandchildren Zoë Kuhn (Mark), Phoebe Morris, Alexis Morris, JT Morris, Riley Morris, Kennedy Schaefer, PJ Schaefer, and Charlie Schaefer. He was preceded in death by his parents, Kathlyne Sparks and Howard Morris.

A service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday at Second Presbyterian Church, 7700 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis.

His obituary is available at www.dignitymemorial.com.

Burnes to start for AL All-Stars

By JACOB CALVIN MEYER

The Baltimore Sun
Tribune News Service

ARLINGTON, Texas — When the Baltimore Orioles traded for pitcher Corbin Burnes this offseason, they expected their new ace to start opening day and Game 1 of a playoff series.

Starting the All-Star Game is just a cherry on top.

Burnes will start on the mound for the American League at the All-Star Game on Tuesday, AL manager Bruce Bochy announced Monday afternoon.

Orioles shortstop Gunnar Henderson and catcher Adley Rutschman will also start the game against Pittsburgh Pirates rookie flamethrower Paul Skenes, who was named starter for the National League. Henderson will bat second and Rutschman eighth.

Burnes and Rutschman will be the first Orioles battery to start the All-Star Game together. It is both their first time earning a starting nod at the Midsummer Classic.

"That'd be awesome," Burnes said when asked about the possi-

bility of starting earlier this month. "Obviously, never done it before. Not very many guys get the opportunity to start an All-Star Game, so that would be really cool. And to have Adley back there would make it even better."

Since acquiring Burnes late in the offseason, the 29-year-old right-hander has been as advertised as a former NL Cy Young Award winner and now an All-Star in four consecutive seasons. His 2.43 ERA through 19 starts in the first half is among the best in baseball.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Thursday
Portland Rockets in Carrington Red Tourney vs. Fort Wayne Blues — 7 p.m.

Friday
Portland Rockets at Carrington Red Tourney — TBD

TV sports

Today
12 p.m. — International friendly basketball: Serbia vs. USA (FS1)
5 p.m. — NBA 2K25 Summer League: Toronto Raptors vs. Utah Jazz (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — WNBA: Indiana Fever at Dallas Wings (ESPN)

8:30 p.m. — MLS: Orlando City at Nashville SC (FS1)
9:30 p.m. — NBA 2K25 Summer League: Los Angeles Lakers vs. Atlanta Hawks (ESPN)
10:45 p.m. — MLS: Real Salt Lake at Los Angeles FC (FS1)

Thursday
4 p.m. — Golf: The Open Championship (USA)
4:30 p.m. — NBA 2K25 Summer League: Indiana Pacers vs. Denver Nuggets (Bally Indiana)
7 p.m. — NBA 2K25 Summer League: Washington Wizards vs. Sacramento Kings (ESPN)
9 p.m. — NBA 2K25 Summer League: Los Angeles Lakers vs. Cleveland Cavaliers (ESPN)
11 p.m. — NBA 2K25 Summer League: Minnesota Timberwolves at Houston Rockets (ESPN)

Local notes

Season tickets for sale
Jay County High School will begin selling season tickets Monday, July 22. Tickets can be purchased Monday from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-7 p.m. Starting Tuesday, they will be available during office hours from 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

The Patriot Pass and Senior Patriot Pass (for those 65-and-older) cover all high school and junior high events. The former costs \$105 while the latter is \$60.

For just high school events, High School Adult Super Tickets (\$80) and Senior Super Tickets for those 65-and-older (\$45) are available. Junior High Super Tickets are available for \$60.

Also available are a Pre-Paid Sports Pass, good for 12 games at \$50, boys basketball season passes for \$50 and football season passes for \$25.

Swiss Days Race next

The next race scheduled for the Adams County Challenge Series will be the Swiss Days Race. The race that takes place in Berne is being held on Saturday, July 27 at 8:15 a.m.

The race is a 5K, or kids can participate in a one-mile course. To sign up, visit www.adamscounty5kchallenge.com.

Classic set

The 11th Annual Adams Health Foundation Golf Classic is set to be held on Sept. 13 at Wabash Valley Golf Club.

Teams of four can participate for \$400, with tee times at either 7:30 a.m. or 1 p.m.

Included are an 18-hole round of golf, a best, non-alcoholic beverages, a cooler bag and lunch. All proceeds go to school healthcare scholarships and community health. For more information, contact Kim Trombley by emailing kim.trombley@adamshealthnetwork.org or by calling (260) 724-2145 ext. 13062.

Date set

The 42nd annual Cancer Association of Darke County/Annie Oakley Golf Tournament is set to take place on July 22 at Turtle Creek Golf Course in Greenville, Ohio.

Lunch will be served at 11:15 a.m., with a shotgun start to follow at 12:15 p.m.

All proceeds will go to the Cancer Association of Darke County. For additional information or an entry form call (937) 548-9960 or email director@cadccinco.org.

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

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260 PUBLIC AUCTION

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JAY COUNTY, SS:
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IN THE MATTER OF THE
UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION OF THE
ESTATE OF
DONNA J. OVERMYER,
Deceased
CAUSE NO.
38C01-2203-EU-000016
NOTICE OF
ADMINISTRATION
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
JAY COUNTY, INDIANA
In the Matter of the Estate of
Donna J. Overmyer, deceased.
Notice is hereby given that
Joseph E. Andrews was, on
the 1st day of April, 2022
appointed personal representative
of the Estate of Donna J.
Overmyer, deceased, who
died on the 6th day of March,
2022.

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 5 day of April, 2022.

James S. Forcum (6917-05)
FORCUM & FORBES LLP
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Sports



High point winners

Pictured are the Jay County Summer Swim Team's high point winners from the 2024 season. First row from left are Sam Benirschke (9-10-year-old boys), Henry Warvel (8-and-younger boys), Laynie Mann (8-and younger girls) and Isabelle Byrum (11-12-year-old girls). Back row from left are Addisyn Champ (9-10-year-old girls), Lincoln Clamme (15-and-older boys), Elly Byrum (13-14-year-old girls), Cooper Glentzer (13-14-year-old boys) and Aubrey Millspough (15-and-older girls). Not pictured is boys 9-10-year-old high point swimmer Sam Gibson.

The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Pacers vice chair Jim Morris dies at 81

Kokomo Tribune, Ind. Tribune News Service

Terre Haute native James T. "Jim" Morris, vice chair of Pacers Sports and Entertainment and longtime central Indiana civic and business leader, died Friday. He was 81.

The Pacers announced his death in a statement Saturday.

"There are no words that would do justice to how consequential Jim's life truly was," the Pacers said. "To his very last day, he was hard at work bringing people together to help those most in need and make our city and our state stronger, more civil, and more united. No one loved Indiana and Indianapolis more than Jim.

"To us, though, Jim was family, a lifelong friend, a mentor, and the ultimate fan. He was a constant presence in Gainbridge Fieldhouse and an endless source of optimism on the future of his beloved Pacers, Fever and Indiana University."

Said Gov. Eric Holcomb, "Indiana lost a favorite son and true servant leader. Jim Morris, the quintessential Hoosier, didn't just preach of the blessings of his faith, family, friends and vocation, he brought fullness to them all.

"He cared as much about helping a hungry stranger as he did dining with any pope or princess. His love for his childhood home in Terre Haute was

equaled by his devotion to his alma mater Indiana University

"We all have Jim Morris to thank for being such a relentless positive force and builder of our capital city into the international destination it is today. Everyone could learn from Jim's wisdom, giant heart for humanity and appetite for the arts. Janet and I will miss our dear friend, everyday, and are praying for Jackie and the Morris family during this challenging time."

Morris graduated from Indiana University with a degree in political science. He completed his master's of business administration degree at Butler University and served as chief of staff to Indianapolis Mayor

Richard G. Lugar from 1967 to 1973.

In 1973, he joined the Lilly Endowment, eventually becoming its president from 1984-1988. Beginning in 1989, he spent 13 years as chairman and CEO of IWC Resources Corporation and Indianapolis Water Company.

He was executive director of the United Nations World Food Program from 2002 to 2007. He also was appointed to serve as United Nations' Secretary General Kofi Annan's Special Envoy for the humanitarian crisis in southern Africa.

In 2007, he joined Pacers Sports & Entertainment ultimately becoming vice chairman. He served on the IU Board

of Trustees, including multiple years as chairman.

His work with Lugar in the late 1960s and early 1970s is credited with helping create Unigov, develop Market Square Arena, launched IUPUI and stabilized downtown Indianapolis.

Morris served on many boards, including those of Indiana University, Indiana State University, Butler University, UNICEF, the Boy Scouts of America, One America Financial, the U.S. Olympic Committee, Riley Children's Foundation, the American Red Cross, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, the Eiteljorg Museum and many more.

See Morris page 7



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