

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Meeting contentious again

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Another city council meeting turned contentious during a discussion about the handling of personnel issues.

Portland City Council member Matt Goldsworthy and Mayor Jeff Westlake got into a back-and-forth at the conclusion of the meeting following a question from council member Ron May regarding the handling of personnel issues.

May said it was brought to his attention that an employee brought a complaint to a city council member and was sub-

Council members, mayor at odds over handling of employees

sequently told that they are not allowed to do so. Westlake responded, quoting two city ordinances that address sharing information with the public or a third party.

City attorney Wes Schemenaur addressed the issue, say-

ing there is a grievance process that involves going to a supervisor first. If the problem is with an elected official, it is supposed to be addressed with the city attorney.

Council president Kent McClung said the mayor is in

charge of the day-to-day operations of the city. But Goldsworthy noted that in the past, employees who had concerns were able to talk to council members about them.

Goldsworthy also asked about the council's recourse if the mayor is not following city ordinances or telling employees not to do so. Schemenaur responded that the executive branch, led by the mayor, is in charge of enforcing ordinances. He said it's not good practice but added that it's a question for the ballot box.

Goldsworthy then encour-

aged the council and mayor to act more professionally.

"This council and city in general needs to get back to being classy and represent our city the way it needs to be represented, not have arguments up here," he said. "It's embarrassing to be part of this council over the last eight months. And I never felt that way ..."

"I put a lot of work into this council. ... And to come up here and be embarrassed and have to go to work and answer questions as to why we look like a circus ... is getting ridiculous."

See **Contentious** page 2

Board updated about literacy efforts

Jay Schools' passage rate for IREAD-3 was above state average

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Jay School Corporation students passed the 2024 IREAD-3 test at a rate significantly higher than the state average.

They were also above the state average for math for the ILEARN test while sitting at the state average for English.

Jay School Board heard a presentation Monday about how teachers have approached working with students to improve their reading skills.

Principals Julie Gregg (East Elementary) and Erica Tomano (East Jay Elementary) introduced IREAD-3 statistics and their staff members.

For the spring 2024 test, Jay School Corporation third graders passed IREAD-3 at an 88.8% rate. That's 7.3 percentage points higher than the state average. (It was up more than 7 percentage points from 2023 and the highest since the COVID-19 shutdowns.)

Passage rates for individual schools were 90.5% for East Jay, 87.5% for Westlawn, 87.2% for Bloomfield and 85.4% for Redkey.

"They worked very, very hard with our students last year and these changes were remarkable," said Tomano.

Third grade teacher Lexi Pease explained some of the Science of Reading strategy, which includes working on skills such as vowel sounds and blends every morning. Phonics is a major focus. She also has instructional aids join the classroom to assist with other specific skills.

Christa Robinson, the literacy cadre coach for East and East Jay, noted that East Jay was one of about 20 schools to voluntarily join the state's cadre program last year. (Redkey, Bloomfield and West Jay elementary schools joined the program this year.)

See **Literacy** page 5



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

What a card!

Khoden Bentz reacts while looking at a card along with Jase Lewellen (left) and Oaklin Blunk (right) on Saturday during the Jay County Fair Cards Coins Comics and Collectibles Show in the Bubb Building at Jay County Fairgrounds. The next show is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 19, at the fairgrounds.

FR council awards Butler project

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

A construction company has been selected for work along Butler Street.

Fort Recovery Village Council approved a \$1.4 million contract Monday with Tom's Construction of St. Henry for street construction.

Plans are to reconstruct Butler Street between Fort Site and Main streets within the next year. The

project calls for an "improved aggregate base and asphalt" to handle heavy truck traffic daily, and the following: 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.

In May, Ohio Public Works Commission awarded the village \$499,000 through its Small Government Program grant for the reconstruction work.

M&T Excavating of Bradford and Shinn Brothers of Celina also submitted bids for the project estimated at just north of \$1.6 million. Village administrator Randy Diller noted Tom's Construction offered the lowest bid, which came in at \$1,433,997.

Property owners along Butler Street were invited to attend an informational meeting shortly before council's meeting Monday to ask questions and address concerns about the project.

Village administrator Randy Diller said construction is slated to be complete by September 2025, although he anticipates it should wrap up in the summer.

See **FR** page 5

Stahl lays out new goals for schools

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Fort Recovery Local Schools has new goals for the district moving forward.

Superintendent Tony Stahl shared updated plans Monday with Fort Recovery School Board for the next three years.

Stahl explained the

school district created its last culture and commitment guide in 2021. The guide's timeline expired fall 2024, leading to an assessment of Fort Recovery Local Schools.

The district met two of its four goals for the three-year plan. Fort Recovery Local Schools met a 98% success rate

for employment, enlistment or college enrollment for high school graduates and maintained at least 90 days of operating expenditures in its budget.

It did not, however, maintain the first place ranking for school safety in Mercer County at review website niche.com

— currently, Fort Recovery Local Schools ranks third out of six schools — or make a 106.5 performance index score and meet 85% of indicators per state standards. (This past school year the district earned a 102.4 performance index score and met 80% of indicators, as compared to the 2020-21

school year when the district earned a 99.7 performance index score and met 60% of indicators.)

"There's certainly growth there, it just wasn't what we had put in there as our original goal," said high school principal Ryan Steinbrunner.

See **Goals** page 5

Deaths

Margaret Wolf, 95, Fort Recovery
Daniel Diller, 74, Fort Recovery
John Schwartz, 82, Monroe
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 86 degrees Monday. The low was 54.
The forecast calls for a low in the upper 50s. Skies will be sunny Thursday with a high in the upper 80s.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Commissioners have scheduled a special meeting for 2:30 p.m. Friday in the auditorium at Jay County Courthouse.

Coming up

Thursday — Results from the FRHS volleyball match against Minster.

Friday — Coverage of this week's Portland Board of Aviation meeting.

Saturday — Results from the Jay County football game against Bluffton.



Obituaries

Margaret Wolf

Margaret "Peg" Wolf, 95, Fort Recovery, died Sunday at Briarwood Village in Coldwater, Ohio. Arrangements are pending at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, Fort Recovery.

Daniel Diller

Feb. 9, 1950-Sept. 16, 2024
Daniel Luke Diller, 74, of Fort Recovery, Ohio, passed away on Monday, Sept. 16, 2024, at Briarwood Village in Coldwater, Ohio. He was born on Feb. 9, 1950, in Celina, Ohio, to the late Zeno and Anna Marie (Will) Diller. Dan is survived by his siblings Robert (Lynne) Diller of

Fairfield Glade, Tennessee, Ruth Heyne of Celina, Neil (Patricia) Diller of Fort Recovery, Alan (Rose Ann) Diller of Coldwater, and Louis (Jeanette) Diller of Fort Recovery; his brother-in-law, Jim Remaklus of Coldwater; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Dan was preceded in death by his infant brother, Arthur Diller; his sister, Alice Remaklus; his sister-in-law, Marion Diller; and his brother-in-law, Earl Heyne.



Diller

Dan was a 1969 graduate of Fort Recovery High School. He worked for International Paper Co. in Portland for many years. He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church and the Fort Recovery Knights of Columbus.

Dan loved to sing. He was a member of the church choir and was one of the original members of the Thien Snipps Harmony Group, which began in 1991 and remained a member for 27 years. In his free time, Dan enjoyed going to sporting events, fishing and volunteering at the Neurological Center and Mercer Health Hospital.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Fri-

day, Sept. 20, 2024, at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

Guests may visit with Dan's family on Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024, from 3 to 8 p.m. and again on Friday from 9 to 10 a.m. at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, Fort Recovery. A Knights of Columbus prayer service will take place at 7:45 p.m. on Thursday.

Memorial contributions may be given to EverHeart Hospice, 1350 N. Broadway St., Greenville, OH 45331, or the Center of Neurological Development, P.O. Box 117, Burkettsville, OH 45310.

Condolences may be shared

with his family by visiting brockmanboeckmanfh.com.

John H. Schwartz, Monroe, the father of a Bryant resident, Dec. 2, 1941-Sept. 15, 2024. Services will be at 9 a.m. Friday at the John H. Schwartz residence, 555 E. 300 South, Monroe.

.....
The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Thursday 9/19	Friday 9/20	Saturday 9/21	Sunday 9/22	Monday 9/23
87/57	88/61	89/62	85/60	84/56
Thursday's forecast calls for mostly sunny skies with a high in the low 80s.	Sunny skies are expected Friday. The highs may hit the mid to upper 80s.	Another day of sun is expected Saturday, when the high will be near 89.	Mostly sunny skies on Sunday. The low at night may dip to 60 at night.	There's a chance of showers Monday when the high will be around 84.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 1-16-21-47-60 Power Ball: 5 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$134 million	Daily Four: 5-9-8-8 Quick Draw: 2-4-6-7-15-26-32-33-36-37-41-47-51-59-62-65-68-71-72-73 Cash 5: 6-9-15-19-30 Estimated jackpot: \$584,500
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$800 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 0-8-7 Pick 4: 7-6-2-0 Pick 5: 7-2-6-3-4 Evening Pick 3: 2-5-8 Pick 4: 0-9-2-3 Pick 5: 1-3-1-9-9 Rolling Cash: 20-25-26-29-31 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 6-7-6 Daily Four: 0-5-5-1 Quick Draw: 1-2-7-9-10-16-18-21-22-24-27-31-32-36-42-50-67-69-76-78 Evening Daily Three: 0-8-0	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....3.60 Oct. corn.....3.63 Wheat.....4.50	Oct. beans.....9.57 Wheat.....5.24
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....3.66 Oct./Nov. corn.....3.66 Dec. corn.....3.91	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.61 Oct. corn.....3.63 Beans.....9.58 Oct. beans.....9.58 Wheat.....5.05
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....3.63 Oct. corn.....3.63 Beans.....9.57	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....3.46 Oct. corn.....3.46 Beans.....9.35 Oct. beans.....9.74 Wheat.....4.94

Today in history

In 1635, Emperor Ferdinand II declares war on France, launching the Thirty Years' War.
In 1905, Greta Garbo was born in Stockholm, Sweden. She later starred as an actress in several movies.
In 1934, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) joined the League of Nations. A few years later, it was expelled for actions made against Finland.
In 1998, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) was founded by the United States Department of Commerce. The now non-profit group maintains Domain Name Systems online. — The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, municipal airport, 661 W. 100 North.	Friday 2:30 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners special session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
Thursday 5:30 p.m. — Jay County Country Living Advisory Board executive session, senior area, Jay Community Center, 115 E. Water St., Portland. 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 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 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.

Contentious ...

Continued from page 1
As the discussion continued — May asked about the process of hiring a code enforcement officer and McClung said he doesn't want to undermine the mayor — Goldsworthy expressed concern regarding how employees are being treated.

"I would advise that we start treating our employees better or we're not gonna have any," he said. "Because some of the things that I've been told, I wouldn't work here ..."

Westlake said he treats employees well.

"I am not against our guys," he said. "But they will go out there and tell you that since I have been in that position.

"I treat everybody in this town with respect. I don't expect it back, and I do expect to get a little backlash. But I'm not gonna put up with the behaviors if they're upset because they're acting a certain way.

"The only way we can build the confidence of our city is if we start acting like ... Some of those guys, they don't want to act right."

Also Monday, council approved a \$50,000 allocation to Jay County Development Corporation contingent on the organization signing a contract with the city.

McClung, who made the motion, included in it that the contract should be at the status quo, meaning no requests for changes to board membership or new definitions of duties that have been requested by Jay County Commis-

sioners in their separate contract negotiations. (Any such contract with the city would need to be approved by Portland Board of Works.)

JCDC executive director Travis Richards explained that the organization has been working this year with no funding from the county or the City of Portland. He noted that reserves that have been used to operate this year are expected to be used up next month.

May asked if a contract is required. Schemenaur said his reading of state statute is that a contract is required and he recommended that one be in place before any funds are dispersed. (He said there had been a contract in the past, but there has not been one in place for five or six years.)

Council members Mike Aker, Dave Golden, Ashley Hilfiker, McClung, Goldsworthy and May unanimously approved the funding, which was included in the 2024 budget, contingent on a contract between JCDC and the city.

Also Monday, city council approved the Portland Downtown Economic Development Plan.

The plan, which lays out plans for how Portland Redevelopment Commission funds can be spent, was approved by the redevelopment commission in December and then by Portland Plan Commission.

It includes acquisition and construction of projects or property, enhancing public safety, providing financial incentives, updating zoning ordinances, job training, hous-

ing attraction, public amenities, park improvements, infrastructure, tourism, sidewalks/streetscapes, transportation enhancement and utility projects.

It would also create a new residential tax increment financing (TIF) district around the Hood Building, home of The Commercial Review. (The building has been targeted for redevelopment via construction of apartments in the upper floors.)

The plan was approved 5-1 with May dissenting. It now moves back to the redevelopment commission, which will hold a public hearing before voting on final approval.

In other business, council:

•Forwarded a tax abatement request to the city's tax abatement advisory committee. Pioneer Equipment is requesting a three-year abatement on \$2 million in new equipment. The abatement is estimated to save the company \$51,000 while generating \$159,000 in property taxes.

•Heard a request from wastewater department superintendent Brad Dues to change the classification of one of his maintenance employees to a foreman in 2025. He said the two employees will be handling essentially the same duties as the wastewater plant transitions through its ongoing renovation project. Golden expressed support for the change, which council as a whole asked for time to consider. Dues also questioned why the wastewater department's manager is paid less than the parks manager.

Capsule Reports

Intersection crash

A Redkey woman complained of chest and leg pain after her vehicle collided with another car at the intersection of Indiana 67 and Tyson Road about 6:49 a.m. Friday.

Alvin L. Confer, 85, Dunkirk, was driving his 2016 Mazda 6 east on Tyson Road and passing through its intersection with the highway. He told police the sun obstructed his vision, and he couldn't see the oncoming 2020 Chevrolet Sonic driven by 54-year-old Rebecca J. Shrack. Confer drove into Shrack's path, causing an accident.

Shrack was transported to IU Health Jay for her injuries. Both vehicles were towed, with damage estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

Failed to stop

A Redkey man failed to stop his truck at the intersection of Indiana 67 and Como Road, causing an accident about 5:43 p.m. Monday.

Douglas G. Saxman, 79, was driving his 2016 GMC Canyon northwest on Como Road when he failed to stop at its intersection with Indiana 67.

See page 5

SERVICES

Thursday

Timmerman, Irene: 10:30 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpshurg Road, Fort Recovery.

Friday

Schwartz, John: John H. Schwartz residence, 555 E. 300 South, Monroe.

Diller, Daniel: 10:30 a.m., St. Joseph Catholic Church, 1689 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery.

Service listings provided by

PROGRESSIVE

DEL TORO

OFFICE PRODUCTS

120 N. Meridian St.

Portland, Indiana 47371

(260) 726-9201

progressiveofficeproducts.com

GREAT SELECTION
of
newspaper roll ends
FOR SALE!

Stop by our office or call TODAY!

The Graphic Printing Company
The Commercial Review
309 West Main Street
Portland, IN 47371
260-726-8141
Office Hours:
Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm

YOU NEED TO **VOTE!**

but first you need to **REGISTER**

TO

VOTE!

Indiana Voters.com

Submit design for poll sticker

The Indiana Secretary of State is hosting a contest to design the "I Voted" sticker that will be handed out at the polls in November.

The contest is open to all Indiana students, with the competition divided into groups for kindergarten through third graders, fourth through eighth graders, and high school students. Submissions can be sent to sticker@sos.in.gov or Indiana Secretary of State, I Voted Sticker Competition, 200 W. Washington St., Room 201, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

"Our 'I Voted' sticker is a symbol of pride for young Hoosiers to get involved in the election process," said secretary of state Diego Morales in a press release. "By inviting children to design stickers, we're not only encouraging their creativity, also helping them learn about the importance of voting and civic engagement at a young age. I encourage parents and teachers to spread the word about the contest. I can't wait to see the sticker designs Hoosier kids create!"

For more information, visit sos.in.gov.

Taking Note

Walk is Saturday

West Jay Optimist Club and Dunkirk Kiwanis will host "A Walk in the Park" from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 21, at Dunkirk City Park.

Visitors are invited to join their neighbors in checking out the new walking trail in the park. There will be refreshments, activities and information from local clubs and organizations.

Denver tribute

A John Denver impersonator will be taking the stage in Fort Recovery in a few months.

Ted Vigil will perform a tribute concert to John Denver at 2 p.m. Sept. 22 in the Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School auditoria.

Vigil's performance and appearance mirrors that of the popular artist, whose music releases included

"Country Roads," "Rocky Mountain High," "Leaving on a Jet Plane," "Thank God I'm a Country Boy," and "Annie's Song."

Advance tickets are \$20, or \$25 at the door the day of the show. Tickets are available in-person at Kaup Pharmacy, Fort Recovery, or by calling (937) 375-3034. Profits from the show will go toward renovations at Fort Recovery Morvilius Opera House.

For more information about Vigil, visit tedvigil.com. To learn more about the concert, call (419) 852-6110.

Coming to Emens

Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland and The Oak Ridge Boys have been added to the upcoming lineup for Emens Auditorium at Ball State University.

Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland is scheduled for 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, with The Oak Ridge Boys' American Made Christmas Farewell Tour set for 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21.

Tickets are on sale now and are available at ticketmaster.com or by calling (765) 285-1539.

Mother's affair ruins relationship

DEAR ABBY: I am in my late 20s. My mom and dad will soon have been married for 30 years. I accidentally found evidence recently that Mom is having an extramarital affair. When I confronted her, she said I should go to therapy to help deal with my overreaction to her "doing something I don't like." She totally ignored the fact that it's not just a minor thing that I'm upset about, but something wrong, immoral, hurtful and disrespectful to my dad, my brother and me.

Mom and I were very close, but this has ruined our relationship. I feel like she is putting reconciliation all on me. What do I do? — **THROWN IN MARYLAND**

DEAR THROWN: I am sure that what you discovered was a shock. However, you know nothing about the reason(s) your mother may be having an extramarital affair and whether your father knows about it. What's going on has nothing to do with you and your brother. Discuss this mess and your feelings about it with a licensed family therapist, and you may gain some insight.

DEAR ABBY: For years, I have traveled with my cousin to my

two time-shares. She's now in her mid-70s and has become grumpy and unpleasant. She complains often about various health issues, and there may be some dementia involved. I am more stoic, so I find this grating, especially during a vacation in which I want to relax. I'd really rather she not come. How do I broach this in a compassionate manner? She tends to get emotional. — **READY FOR CHANGE IN TEXAS**

DEAR READY: When the subject of a vacation comes up with your cousin, tell her you realize she isn't feeling as well as she used to and ask what her doctor is doing about it. If she says she hasn't talked about it with a doctor, tell her you would like her to do that BEFORE you travel together, because it is clear to you that she no longer enjoys these vacations, which makes you enjoy them less.



Dear Abby

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.

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

Thursday

STITCH AND 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. Meridi-

an 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.

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.

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.

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will hold its next meeting at noon, Friday, Sept. 20, at Harmony Café in Portland.

Saturday

LOCAL'S MARKET — Will be held from 8 a.m. to noon each Saturday in June through October in the parking lot at Jay

Community Center in Portland. For more information, contact Bill Cook.

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

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

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

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

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

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland.

LET THE PROS HANDLE IT! LeafFilter GUTTER PROTECTION

Say "NO" to Cleaning Out Your Gutters. Protect Your Home With LeafFilter.

20% OFF + 10% OFF
Your Entire Purchase* Seniors + Military

++ We offer financing that fits your budget!

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE INSPECTION!
1-877-361-4260

* See Representative for full warranty details. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. Subject to credit approval. Call for details. AR 36609023, AZ 8007, CA 1855795, CT 616071520, FL C80056678, IA C12728, ID REC-51604, LA 559544, MA 176447, MD MHC111225, MI 262300173, 262300198, 262300228, 262300329, 262300358, 262300381, MN 90731804, MT 228192, ND 47384, NE 50145-22, 50145-23, NJ 13489955000, NM 408883, NV 80990, NY H-19114, H-52229, OR 218264, PA 179643, 903983, RI GC-4154, TN 10861, UT 10780839-5501, VA 270510445, WA WAFF4W62022, WY W058912.

Jacuzzi BATH REMODEL

YOUR BATHROOM. YOUR WAY. IN AS LITTLE AS

ONE DAY

CALL NOW 866.937.1159

SPECIAL OFFER
Waiving All Installation Costs

Ask1 terms apply. Offer subject to change and vary by dealer. Expires 8/25/2024.

Your One-Stop Print Shop

We save you time and money

GRAPHIC PRINTING
309 West Main Street, Portland, IN 47371
print@thecr.com

We design, copy and deliver on many orders!

260-726-8141

Count on us for all of your copying needs:

Flyers • Posters • Business Cards • Carbonless Forms
Full-color or B & W Postcards • Brochures

DEVELOPER LIQUIDATION
PAY THE BALANCE OWED ONLY!

4 LOG HOME KITS SELLING FOR BALANCE OWED. FREE DELIVERY

- 1) 402 ST LOUIS \$40,850 BALANCE OWED \$19,000
- 2) 303 LITTLE ROCK \$38,525 BALANCE OWED \$16,000
- 3) 501 TULSA \$43,750 BALANCE OWED \$17,500
- 4) 302 DAKOTA \$49,950 BALANCE OWED \$24,500

BEFORE CALLING: VIEW at www.americanloghomesandcabins.com Click on House Plans

NEW - HOMES HAVE NOT BEEN MANUFACTURED

- Make any plan design changes you desire!
- Comes with Complete Building Blueprints & Construction Manual
- Windows, Doors, and Roofing not included
- NO TIME LIMIT FOR DELIVERY!

Offer not available to American Log Home Dealers*

AMERICAN LOG HOMES & CABINS

SERIOUS ONLY REPLY. Call (704) 602-3035 ask for Accounting Dept.

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Tuesday's Solution

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

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.

Plain white bread was right for job

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Sept. 15, 2004. Jack was a lover of art. When we rearranged our offices in Portland, his sister Louise had, and is still working on, the job of finding a home for all of the art. So far, she hasn't had to buy any Wonder Bread.

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

About a week ago, I spent a couple of days hitting my mother-in-law in the face with a couple of loaves of bread.

Wonder Bread, to be precise. Two loaves.

Re-reading those last two paragraphs, I figure that some sort of explanation is in order.

My mother-in-law — a great lady — died in the spring of 2003.

An art teacher, she was a talented artist in her own right. And

Back in the Saddle



in the process of sorting out things from her estate, there's been no shortage of paintings to go around.

Though the sorting process is not complete, Connie spent a week with her siblings this spring trying to bring some order to the chaos.

As a result, a number of pictures have come our way. Some are in good shape. Others need framing. And some need repairs or other work.

On Labor Day weekend, we took two of them over to our framing friend Heather so she could give us some guidance.

One of them was no problem. It's a Japanese woodcut that had been a gift to Connie's parents in 1960. At some point, it had fallen off the wall; the lower section of its frame was split and cracked. Choosing a replacement frame was relatively easy.

The other picture was another story entirely.

It's a portrait of my mother-in-law as a very young woman. She's perhaps 21 in the painting, and she's lovely.

Our best guess is that it was painted by one of her fellow students at Moore Institute of Art in Philadelphia in the 1930s.

The frame, however, looks as if it came from a Five and Dime

Store in the 1950s. Meanwhile, the canvas needed to be re-stretched to get out some wrinkles.

It wasn't until we got it out into the light of day that we saw the real problem.

The portrait was dirty. Black specks and accumulated gunk soiled the image. One particularly bad spot was on the neck, but there were several bad spots to be addressed.

Heather gave it a look and shook her head. Cleaning and restoration of an oil painting can be expensive, she said. And when the picture has solely sentimental value, it can be a tough call.

We were just about to give up, when Heather had another thought: Wonder Bread.

It may be an old wives' tale in art circles, but Heather had heard that good old fashioned white

sandwich bread — the kind I've never cared much for — can be used as a cleaner.

So, there I was a few hours later, with the painting removed from its stretcher and spread out on the kitchen table. Peeling away the crust, I gathered up the slice of white bread like a gum eraser and started tamping it on the surface of the painting.

Sure enough, the white dough started to become discolored as it lifted soil from the surface of the canvas, all without affecting the paint.

It's an odd way to spend an afternoon, and it didn't clear up all the discolored areas. But my mother-in-law was looking better after I'd finished.

Just the same, I think she would have preferred whole wheat.

Google monopoly must come to end

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

This week began the federal antitrust trial against Google for alleged monopolistic practices when it comes to the online advertising space, with the Justice Department contending that the company has outsize dominion over what is a lifeline for industries including online publishing. Google, of course, doesn't see it that way.

Google seems keen on deploying the arguments that monopolists always do in these scenarios: that its dominance makes things more seamless, integrated and navigable to publishers and ad sellers. That is not really the point; an illegal monopoly can be rather frictionless, but that doesn't make it not a monopoly. The problem is that it's allowed to set prices and features and has no incentive to improve its services or face loss of customers to competitors.

The government's case will include a number of publishers — yes, including news publishers like ourselves — laying out how they're all but forced to use Google's ad services technologies, which dominate every part of the process, from the mechanisms to list ad space for sale to the methods of buying, placing and displaying that ad space. This makes the company indispensable for practically entire industries, which gives it plenty of leeway to squeeze.

That Google is a monopolist had already been legally established last month, when another federal judge ruled against the company in a separate lawsuit contending its eponymous search engine was itself a monopoly. The penalties for that ruling have yet to be determined, but for both these cases the consequence could eventually be a breaking up of the giant. We hope for another victory for the free market here, part of a drumbeat that can finally rectify the very lopsided landscape in the digital services and internet platforms and infrastructure world.

The behemoth, once a search company that has since branched out to touch almost every aspect of online commerce, business infrastructure and services from maps to artificial intelligence, cannot hold itself as unfairly or uniquely targeted. In

Guest Editorial

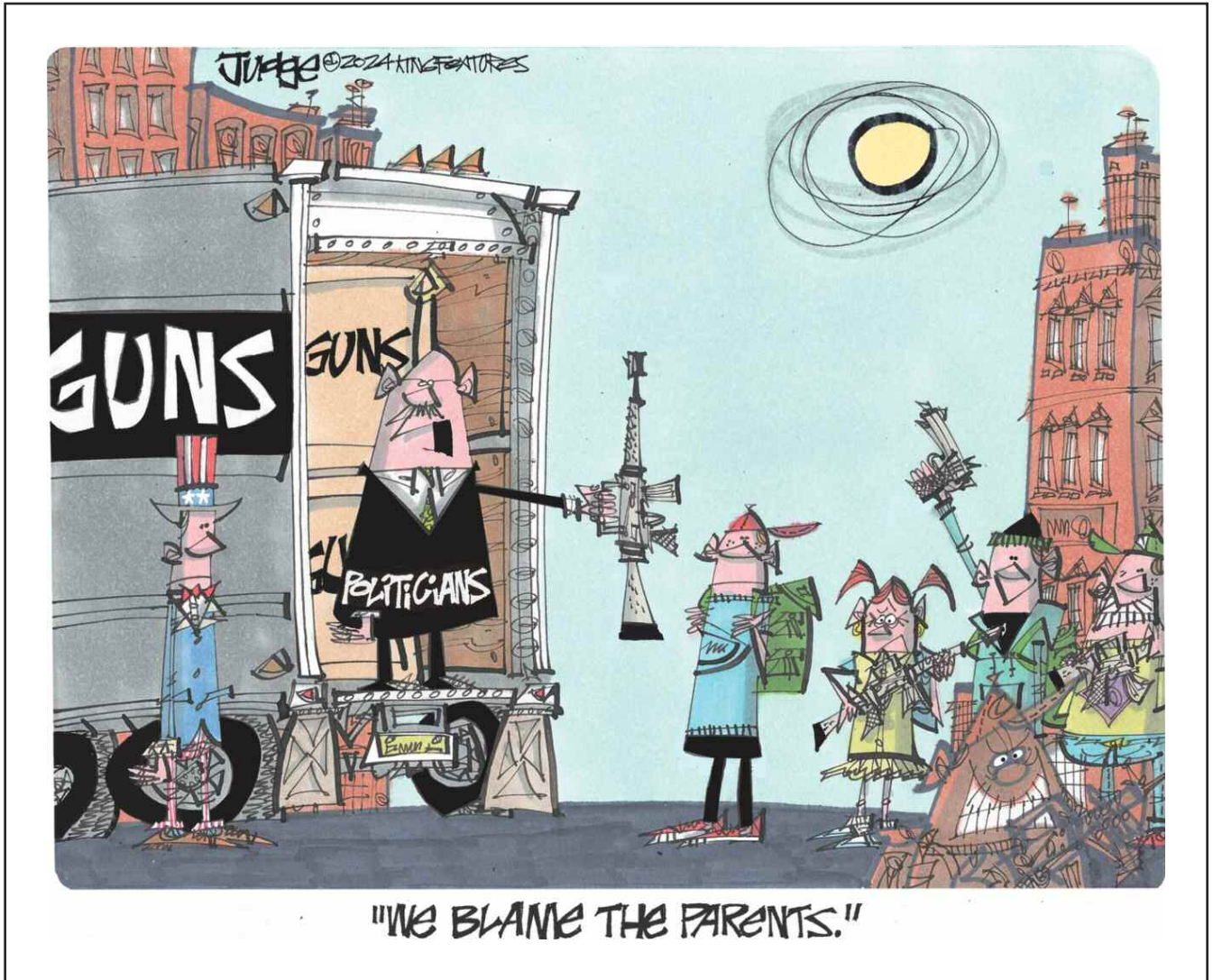
We hope for another victory for the free market here, part of a drumbeat that can finally rectify the very lopsided landscape ...

recent years, Uncle Sam has gone after the range of tech giants, from Apple to Meta to Amazon, often under similar arguments. These companies grew out of an earlier Wild West of internet culture, where they saw themselves as frenzied upstarts trying to make it big in this new landscape.

Those times are long past, but these companies have kept that same attitude of scrappy startup that have to fight their way to the top even as they've become some of the world's most valuable and powerful corporations, and often still frame these regulatory actions as the government overreaching against the innovators.

But monopoly has always been antithetical to innovation, going back to Standard Oil. How many other innovations and advancements could be accomplished if newcomers had any chance of competing with individual parts of Google's business without being either crushed or absorbed?

These corrective steps are actually the surest way to preserve that culture of improvement and competition that Google and its contemporaries claim to hold dear. If and when they aren't able to call the shots on whole sections of contemporary online life and commercial activity, new players will have the opportunity to step in and do things differently in ways that will help customers and consumers.



Lawmakers must take action

By DEANNA BEHRENS
Tribune News Service

Earlier this month, four people were shot to death on a train in Chicago. Two days later, four people were shot to death at a school in Georgia. No one is safe. It can happen when people are at their most vulnerable: The victims in Chicago were shot as they slept. They can be shot where they are supposed to be safe: The victims in Georgia were shot at school.

In remarks in June, the United States surgeon general declared firearm violence a public health crisis. It is the leading cause of death in children in our country. I am not just devastated by the loss of life this month: I am angry that we continue to permit this. Have we done all that we can? I hear this plea repeatedly as a pediatrician when a child is sick or dying. When we hear calls for thoughts and prayers, they are sincere and heartfelt. The country is in agony. But they are not enough; they will never be enough.

For every child who dies from a bullet, there are at least four others who are injured. Those children might never walk, talk, eat or even breathe on their own again. If they manage to survive, they might suffer from mental health issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder. Even children who are not injured directly by guns feel the effect of it. This violence is so pervasive that our children grow up surrounded by trauma and pain, drowning in toxic stress caused by the sounds of gunshots and the thoughts of active shooter drills. This constant exposure to violence can literally change the brain chemistry of children and can expose them to lifelong risks of

mental health problems, addiction, obesity and heart problems.

Voting is a small act that can make an enormous difference. As a physician, I help my patients and their families register to vote. As a citizen, I am serving as an election judge. It is my responsibility to keep children safe and to advocate for them, and that includes utilizing the power of the vote. The intersection between health and voting is strong.

When you cast your ballot for the 2024 election, please consider how your vote directly affects children. We must elect leaders at all levels of government who prioritize children's health and pass policies that will allow every child to reach their full potential. The 14-year-old shooter in Georgia is reported to have used an AR platform styled assault weapon. The United States had an assault weapons ban from 1994-2004, and during that time, deaths from mass shootings decreased by 70%. Legislators have the power to pass a federal assault weapons ban again, and research shows that 60-70% of Americans favor this.

About 76% of youth school shooters get their firearms from home, thus secure storage is vital to preventing school shootings. And secure storage, where firearms are locked and ammunition is locked and stored separately, also reduces

accidental shootings and deaths from suicide. Strong laws on the state level help save lives. I live in a state that has some of the strongest firearm injury prevention laws in the country, but it is not enough. Illinois is surrounded by other states that have weak laws, and death and violence bleed across state lines.

We need legislators who will enact strong laws on all levels: local, state and federal laws.

Most gun owners are responsible, reasonable citizens who want to keep their children safe. Most Americans support common-sense laws related to gun violence prevention, including safe storage and limitations in assault weapons. Why don't more elected officials?

Until we vote for legislators who will vote for kids, children will continue to suffer. Every three days, guns kill enough kids to fill an entire school bus. Children cannot vote, but their parents, their loved ones and their communities can. I can and will vote for them and work with any candidate from any party who will fight for children. After the unbearable tragedy at Uvalde, Texas, in June 2022, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act was signed into law. This extraordinary law was the first piece of federal legislation on firearms in two decades, and it proves that legislators can come together to prioritize the needs of all citizens.

Together with our elected officials, we will not let firearm violence rob our kids of their childhood and their futures, of their mental health, of their neighbors and their families. Please join me in voting for kids.



Deanna Behrens

The Commercial Review



US PS 125820

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

RAY COONEY
President, editor and publisher

LOUISE RONALD
Board chair

TONIA HARDY
Business manager

BRIAN DODD
Production manager

"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

The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and four holidays (New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas — holidays are observed on Tuesday when they fall on a Monday) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

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

VOLUME 151—NUMBER 109
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

www.thecr.com

Subscription rates
Internet-only: Three days — \$3; Monthly auto-pay — \$10; 13 weeks — \$32; six months — \$60; one year — \$108.
City (walking — where available): Monthly auto-pay — \$11; 13 weeks — \$36; six months — \$68; one year — \$122.
Motor route (where available): Monthly auto-pay — \$12; 13 weeks — \$44; six months — \$74; one year — \$140.
Mail: Monthly auto-pay — \$13; 13 weeks — \$49; six months — \$80; one year — \$151.
Home delivery problems: Call (260) 251-9588

Literacy ...

Continued from page 1
It provides professional development for teachers “based on the science of reading, a compilation of evidence-based research on reading, reading development, and reading instruction.”

Robinson added that diagnostic tests and the resulting data have been key to helping teachers identify gaps in reading skills and address them. Curriculum mapping has been used to create specific plans for students.

Jay Schools superintendent Jeremy Gulley noted that in its first year as part of the literacy cadre, East Jay’s passage rate jumped from 77.3% to 90.5%. “You hardly ever see that,” he said.

School board member Phil Ford asked about state funding for the program. Gulley noted that there is state funding to help cover the cost of literacy coaches for two years.

The board later received a review of ILEARN scores from assistant superintendent Trent Paxson. Jay School Corporation students passed math at a 46% rate and English at 41%. The state averages are 41% for both. (The English passage rate was up 3 percentage points from 2023 while the math passage rate was down 3 percentage points.)

Bloomfield had the highest passage rate for math at 53%. East Jay, West Jay and Bloomfield all had passage rates of 44% for English. Redkey came in at 31% for English and 36% for math.

“You can see that we have a little bit of work to do in some of the areas, but overall we’re progressing,” said Paxson.

In other business, board members Ron Laux, Phil Ford, Donna Geesaman, Jason Phillips, Vickie Reitz, Chip Phillips and Marcie Vormohr:

•During the Patriot Pride moment, recognized students involved in the East Jay Elementary School Care and Share project. Students held a pie-in-the-face event to raise money for Jay-

Vormohr expresses concern again

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

A school board member has taken issue with hiring teachers who do not have a traditional teaching license.

She addressed the issue again Monday, specifically in regard to a special education position.

Jay School Board member Marcie Vormohr expressed her objection to the hiring practice in regard to the proposed hiring of Chantel Beiswanger as a high school resource teacher. (She emphasized that her issue has nothing to do with the individual, but rather with hiring teachers who are not licensed.)

“My problem is that we are putting a person in a classroom who is not a certified teacher,” Vormohr said.

She also expressed overall frustration in regard to special education, including that she felt the school corporation didn’t properly support or seek to retain a teacher who resigned after the first day of school. She added that she felt she is not being heard on the topic.

Vormohr also asked questions about individualized educational plans (IEPs) and case conferences.

The parent of a student who was in spe-

cial education, she said the process of advocating for him was frustrating.

“I had to fight for his life to get him out of special ed and in a gen ed classroom,” Vormohr said.

She said the school corporation can’t afford to lose certified teachers and put non-certified teachers in classrooms.

Phillips added that he could not vote to put an individual in a special education classroom who had not had been licensed.

Jay Schools director of special education Annie Van Horn noted that Beiswanger had expressed interest in the position in April and again in August. She was approved through the Indiana State Approved Alternative Licensure Program through Taylor University and has a substitute teaching license. She would have three years to complete her license.

Van Horn added that she would have support from a retired Jay Schools teacher who is licensed in special education and receive training regarding IEPs.

She added that no licensed special education teachers applied for the position.

Gulley noted that adjunct teachers are not permitted for special ed. But, he said, “there are state programs created to address the shortage of special education

teachers. We have, and do participate in these programs.”

He said Beiswanger would be one such employee going through such a program to obtain her license.

Gulley added that eight teachers are currently participating in the program through Jay Schools and the process is working well.

“We monitor their performance and progress closely,” he said. “We hope they will stay.”

He said the preference is to hire licensed special education teachers, but that often there are no such applicants.

Following a question from board member Phil Ford, Gulley said that if Beiswanger was not approved the students affected would be assigned to other teachers already on staff.

The board approved Beiswanger’s hiring as part of the overall consent agenda on a 5-2 vote, with Ron Laux, Phil Ford, Donna Geesaman, Jason Phillips and Vickie Reitz in favor while Vormohr and Chip Phillips dissented.

Gulley later indicated that he would be bringing a proposal to the board at a future meeting to offer a signing bonus for licensed special education teachers.

land Homeless Shelter: In partnership with The Portland Foundation, the students donated \$946.50.

•Heard concerns from Joseph Vormohr regarding the junior-senior high school track. He said conditions were not good — unsafe in some cases — for athletes who had to practice at West Jay Elementary School in the spring while the field at Harold E. Schutz Memorial Stadium was being renovated. Looking at the new field now, he expressed concern about a lack of finishing along one of the track’s turns and that the high jump, pole vault and long jump areas are incomplete. He also asked about plans for the track if the stadium is moved to the other side of the field. Later in the meeting, Gulley said athletics director Alex

Griffin has been seeking quotes to fix problem areas with the track.

•Accepted the resignation of high school English teacher Michelle Christensen.

•Heard an update from food service manager Jennifer Gellhaus of Chartwells that noted that more than 68,000 meals were served during the summer breakfast/lunch program. That number is up from last year’s 43,000. (The previous peak was just over 64,000 in 2021 when bulk meals were first allowed. It dropped to 12,314 under the traditional format in 2022.) She also noted that the new special option at the junior-senior high school, following a student vote, is Big City Barbecue. She also shared a Chartwells marketing video that highlights Jay Schools.

•Accepted federal grants — a \$1.03 million Title I grant, a \$161,293.08 Title II grant and a \$78,901.85 Title IV grant.

•Approved the following: on a 5-2 vote with Vormohr and Chip Phillips dissenting (see related story), the hiring of Chantel Beiswanger as a high school resource teacher as part of the consent agenda that also included leaves of absence for Brittany Martyne and Kristy Blalock, extracurricular assignments including Ava Stockton as an FFA sponsor, out-of-state or overnight field trips for high school FFA students to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, eighth graders to Washington, D.C., and high school choir students to New York City and contracted services agreements with Community

Development Institute Head State for services to preschool students with disabilities, Ball State University Graduate Assistant Sponsorship for psychology services and Adapt Ability Autism Services for support on strategies and individualized behavior plans; a food service agreement with Westminster Preschool to provide food service at Jay County Early Learning Center; which is housed in the former Judge Haynes Elementary School; and adding an exercise science pathway course.

•Accepted a \$3,000 grant from The Portland Foundation to Jay County Robotics for new fields and game elements and a \$750 grant from Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition for special education teachers to attend training.

FR ...

Continued from page 1
Also Monday, council learned about plans for Cooper Farms to expand its east mill located along Railroad Street. Fort Recovery Zoning Board approved a variance request Sept. 11 for the project, which calls for an additional three grain bins and a grain dump building. Diller explained the company will be re-routing traffic in

the area. He talked about Cooper Farms acquiring an encroachment easement from the village for the feed load-out area, which has been on the property for more than 20 years and encroaches on the right-of-way of Railroad Street.

Also, Diller noted plans for annexing four properties along Wayne Street. They include a portion of

Wendel Poultry, Miracle Lanes, Mercer Health Medical Group at Fort Recovery and a lot owned by Fred Westgerdes. He explained legislation for the matter is forthcoming.

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

•Approved an annual resolution authorizing village

officials to authorize Mercer Savings Bank and St. Henry Bank as depositories for the village.

•Heard from police chief Jared Laux that his department’s new 2025 Dodge Durango Pursuit has been delivered. Its final cost — the village approved its purchase Sept. 3 — came in at \$45,044. Plans are to decommission the village’s 2015 Dodge Charger for

\$880 at KE Rose of Huber Heights and sell it.

•Were informed Fort Recovery Police Department bought redaction software for its body cameras. Laux explained the software is used to blur faces, license plates or other information in videos that would not be legally sharable in the event of a public access request.

•Learned parking lots at Community Park have been resurfaced and concrete work is complete for the upgraded pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Center and Elm streets. Hopes are for the flashing beacon signs to be delivered and installed by the end of September.

•Heard about plans to replace a broken aerator at the wastewater lagoons.

Goals ...

Continued from page 1
Stahl explained updates to the guide have come from multiple planning phases over the last nine months, starting with a school board work session in January. Staff members completed surveys and met in February to help determine focus areas for the guide. Between March and August, the district leadership team met and reviewed information to compile into goals for the next three years.

Goals were broken into four categories and are summarized as follows: academic achievement, to achieve and maintain an overall 5-star Ohio School Report Card; climate/culture, to foster a safe and positive atmosphere for everyone; student engagement, to align and strengthen student engagement activities; and fiscal accountability, to provide high quality learning environments and operational excellence in all aspects.

Hopes for academic achievement are to maintain a 5-star rating in achievement and gap closing components, increase the ratings of early literacy, graduation and progress components to 5 stars and identify data contributing to the new rating for the new college, career, workforce and military readiness component.

School district focusing on academic achievement, 5-star status, climate/culture and student engagement

Plans for climate/culture include building self-advocacy and leadership skills among students and staff, promoting common practices and language for the district character development curriculum and increasing opportunities for positive staff, student, family and community interactions.

Goals for student engagement include promoting student engagement in relevant co-curricular and extracurricular activities and fostering connections and community involvement that promote real world experiences. Another goal is to monitor and evaluate student engagement at the end of each school year.

Addressing fiscal accountability, the district aims to maintain at least 80% of projected capital outlined funds needed to address identified areas on 2024 facility assessment, develop an accurate transportation purchasing plan based on fleet, driver and student needs, and increase fiscal awareness among all stakehold-

ers through transparency and communication.

Also Monday, school board members heard about efforts to repair damage after a water leak at Fort Recovery Elementary and Middle School on Sept. 5. Fort Recovery Local Schools closed operations the following day, Sept. 6, as a result of the leak.

Treasurer Deanna Knapke explained ServiceMaster of Wapakoneta cleaned and sanitized the area, testing carpet and removing damaged carpet Sept. 6. She noted the school district will pay the first \$1,000 of the service cost to meet its deductible, but the remaining \$7,000 will be covered by insurance.

Also, Stahl shared hopes to host a dedication ceremony for the new putting green at Fort Recovery Middle School in October. Work on the new space created in memory of late golf coach Joe Bruns wrapped up Aug. 1.

Stahl publicly thanked

Wabash Telephone Company — Bruns was on its board of directors for 10 years — for donating electrical work services related to the project.

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

•Heard about the new “Lunch and Learn” series coordinated by career exploration teacher Brian Reichert. He explained the lunchtime event brings business professionals to Fort Recovery High School for students to learn more about their occupations.

•Learned about a new incentive program at the high school to encourage students to be involved in at least one club or sport throughout the school year.

•Accepted the resignation of girls varsity basketball assistant coach Kourtney Diller and hired Brent Niekamp in the position.

•Rescinded a motion

(Wehrkamp abstaining) to hire Kristy Wehrkamp and re-approved her employment as a long-term substitute for the upcoming school year. Kristy Wehrkamp will be paid \$110 per day for the first 10 days and then \$120 until her 60th day, after which she will be placed on the preschool teacher salary schedule and earn full benefits.

•Accepted the resignation of part-time cook and custodian Lindsey Bruggeman effective Aug. 16.

•Hired Lacy Tipton and Kelly Whitacre as non-teaching employees with one-year contracts and Kimberly Wendel as a substitute for the current school year.

•OK’d FFA members to attend National FFA Convention from Oct. 22 to Oct. 25 in Indianapolis.

•Accepted donations, including \$625 for high school student council and \$375 for art club from Fort Recovery Athletic Boosters Win on the Wabash Raffle.

Capsule Reports

Continued from page 2
He continued into the intersection into the path of a 2021 Hyundai Palisade driven by 52-year-old Earl T. Muhlenkamp of Portland.

Witnesses Dyllan Gar- ringer and Amber Bran- don told police Saxman

attempted to drive away after the crash.

A passenger in Mulenkamp’s vehicle, 46-year-old Carrie A. Muhlenkamp of Portland, complained of arm pain.

Saxman had a scratch on his neck from the crash. He was administered a

drug and alcohol blood test with results pending.

Both vehicles were towed, with damage estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

View obstructed

Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and

\$25,000 after a Muncie man drove into the path of an oncoming vehicle at the intersection of county roads 800 South and 1150 West, causing an accident about 6 p.m. Friday.

Clayton S. Bradley, 49, was driving his 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe north on

county road 1150 West when he stopped at the intersection. He told police he couldn’t see oncoming traffic because of the corn field on the west side of the road as well as the sun obstructing his vision. He drove into the intersection and

into the side of an east-bound 2014 Ford Flex driven by 28-year-old Shane T. Sheipline of Noblesville.

The vehicle Sheipline was driving — it’s registered to Ashleigh D. Southline of Noblesville — was towed.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Thursday
Jay County — Boys tennis vs. Winchester — 5 p.m.; Boys soccer at Belmont — 5:30 p.m.; Girls soccer vs. Belmont — 6 p.m.; Junior high football vs. Monroe Central — 5:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls golf vs. Fort Loramie — 4:30 p.m.; Volleyball at Coldwater — 5:30 p.m.; Middle school volleyball vs. Coldwater — 5 p.m.; Middle school football at St. John's — 6 p.m.

Friday
Jay County — Football at Bluffton — 7 p.m.; Junior high cross country at Selma — 4:45 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Football vs. St. John's — 7 p.m.

TV sports

Today
6:40 p.m. — MLB: Atlanta Braves at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)
7 p.m. — College volleyball: Louisville at Kentucky (ESPN)
8 p.m. — College volleyball: Stanford at Nebraska (BTN)
8:15 p.m. — MLS: Charlotte FC at Orlando City (FS1)
9 p.m. — College volleyball: Texas at Baylor (ESPN)
10:30 p.m. — MLS: Austin at Los Angeles FC (FS1)
Thursday
1:10 p.m. — MLB: Atlanta Braves at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)
5 p.m. — ARCA Menards Series: Bris-

tol (FS1)
7:15 p.m. — MLB: Arizona Diamondbacks at Milwaukee Brewers (FOX)
7:30 p.m. — College football: South Alabama at Appalachian State (ESPN)
8 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: UNOH 200 presented by Ohio Logistics (FS1)
8:15 p.m. — NFL: New England Patriots at New York Jets (FOX)

Local notes

JC Tumbling hosting
JC Tumbling and gymnastics will host an open gym on Saturday, Sept. 21. The event will start at 9 a.m. and last two hours.
Admission costs \$10 and all proceeds go to the JC Flipsters competitive gymnastics team.

Outing announced
The Rocket Rally for 18 holes golf tournament is set for Sept. 29 at Portland Golf Club with a 10 a.m. start time.
The tournament still has space for up to six more teams. It costs \$240 per team that includes green fees and cart rental.
There will also be a fellowship meal at the Greazy Pickle at 3 p.m. following the outing.
Hole sponsorships are also available with a minimum of \$100 for the spot.
The Rockets are also collecting items for a Facebook Auction and raffle prizes for the golf outing. Items need to be donated by Sept. 20 so that the auction can go live on Sept. 23.

To sign up a team, inquire about a hole sponsorship or donate an item, contact coach Randy Miller by calling (260) 703-2003 or Sam Murdock by calling (260) 251-5514.

Final races
The second-to-last race in the Adams County 5K Challenge is the Callithumpanian Center on Oct. 8.
A fun run will start a 1:30 p.m., with the 5K to follow at 2 p.m. at the River Greenway.

Preregistration is \$20 for the 5K and \$10 for the fun run until Sept. 23. Admission will be raised to \$25 and \$15 after Sept. 23.
Preregistration can be done at adamscounty5kchallenge.com.
The final race of the season, the Rainbow Lake 5K Run/Walk, will take place on Nov. 26.

Turkey Trot sign-up open
Cooper Farms will be hosting its 17th annual Turkey Trot Saturday, Nov. 2 at the Cooper Farms Turkey Harvesting Plant in St. Henry, Ohio.
Participation costs \$15. All proceeds benefit EverHeart Hospice.
The race will begin at 10 a.m. There will be splits at each mile of the 3.1-mile course. There will also be chip timing for participants operated by Speedy Feet.
Water will be provided throughout the race, as well as a to-go turkey meal at the end.
You can register by visiting bit.ly/cooperfarmsturkeytrot, or search for "Cooper Farms Turkey Trot 5k" on speedy-feet.com.

MLB players union sues DraftKings

By JEF FEELEY

Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Sports-betting platform DraftKings Inc. has been using names and images of Major League Baseball players without permission and in violation of Pennsylvania law, their union alleged in a lawsuit.

Boston-based DraftKings and another popular betting site — Bet365 — are misappropriating pictures of hundreds of professional baseball players and using them in marketing campaigns, according to the suit filed Monday in federal court in Philadelphia. The city is home to Philadelphia Phillies, which currently have more wins this season

than any other MLB team.

"Defendants' use of player images within their sportsbook platforms is not merely informational — it is promotional," the union's lawyers said in the complaint. "Users could bet that the Phillies will beat the Marlins, or that Bryce Harper will hit more than two home runs in a given game, without seeing Harper's valuable image. Indeed, both DraftKings and Bet365 offer the same types of bets in other sports without using player images."

Representatives of DraftKings and Bet365 couldn't immediately be reached for comment.

The suit comes as

DraftKings expands its offerings. Last month, it acquired the website Simplebet Inc., which specializes in wagers placed during live sporting events. Simplebet, founded in 2018, provides pricing information on such wagers to other betting operators for games involving MLB, the NFL and the NBA.

DraftKings, a U.S.-based pioneer in online fantasy sports gaming.

Revenue has expanded at DraftKings as it attracted more loyal bettors, even as it faced increased competition from online peers and legacy casinos. That has forced the company to spend millions on advertising and gambling incentives.

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

GUARANTEED LIFE Insurance! (Ages 50 to 80). No medical exam. Affordable premiums never increase. Benefits never decrease. Policy will only be cancelled for non-payment. 833-535-1043

HEARING AIDS!! High-quality rechargeable, powerful Audien hearing aids priced 90% less than competitors. Tiny and NEARLY INVISIBLE! 45-day money back guarantee! 877-581-1734

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET. We instantly compare speed, pricing, availability to find the best service for your needs. Starting at \$39.99/month! Quickly compare offers from top providers. Call 1-844-961-0666

JACUZZI BATH Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 8/25/24.) Call 1-866-937-1159

LIVE PAIN FREE with CBD products from AceWellness. We guarantee highest quality, most competitive pricing on CBD products. Softgels, Oils, Skincare, Vape & more. Coupon Code: PRINT20 Call Now 833-226-3105

MILITARY DISCOUNTS SAVE HUNDREDS!! Finally a company with affordable prices. 800-350-0591*

NEVER PAY For Covered Home Repairs Again! Complete Care Home Warranty COVERS ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. 30 DAY RISK FREE. \$200.00 OFF 2 FREE Months! 1-855-408-3894

NEW WINDOWS from Window Nation. Special money saving offer — zero down, zero payments, zero interest for TWO years AND buy 2 windows and get 2 FREE! Offer is valid for select models. Labor not included. Other restrictions apply. Call Window Nation today! 866-553-0725

PORTABLE OXYGEN Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 877-930-3271

PREPARE FOR power outages with Briggs & Stratton® PowerProtect(TM) standby generators - the most powerful home standby generators available. Industry-leading comprehensive warranty - 7 years (\$849 value.) Proudly made in the U.S.A. Call Briggs & Stratton 1-877-798-0270.

REPLACE YOUR roof with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-866-781-6023

SERIOUSLY INJURED in an AUTO ACCIDENT? Let us fight for you! Our network has recovered millions for clients! Call today for a FREE consultation! 844-517-6414

TIMESHARE CANCELLATION Experts - Over \$50,000,000 in time-share debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 877-329-1207

WAIT UNTIL you taste it! Send 100% guaranteed, delivered-to-the-door Omaha Steaks! This package comes with 8 FREE PureGround Filet Mignon Burgers! Order The Protein-Packed Assortment Package! ONLY \$129.99. Call 1-833-498-2009 and mention code 75432VLD or visit www.oma-hasteaks.com/Grill

00 CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS 260-726-8141
ADVERTISING RATES 20 Word Minimum Effective 07/01/2018: Minimum charge.... \$12.40

1 insertion.....62¢/word
2 insertions.....81¢/word
3 insertions.....96¢/word
6 insertions.... \$1.14/word
12 insertions. \$1.52/word
26 insertions. \$1.77/word
Includes Online.....FREE
Classified Display \$6.95/per column inch
No borders or logos allowed on Classified Page

Card of Thanks Up to 100 words.... \$13.00
In Memory Up to 100 words.... \$13.00
Advertising Deadline is 12:00 p.m. the day prior to publication.
Pre-Payment required for: Rummage sales, business opportunities, jobs wanted, boats and sporting equipment, wanted to rent, motorized vehicles, real estate and mobile homes.

40 NOTICES

PLEASE NOTE: Be sure to check your ad the first day it appears. We cannot be responsible for more than one days incorrect copy. We try hard not to make mistakes, but they do happen, and we may not know unless you call to tell us. Call before 12:00 pm for corrections. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland, Indiana 260-726-8141.

60 SERVICES

J. L. CONSTRUCTION & ROOFING LLC. Amish crew. Custom built homes, new garages, pole barns, interior/ exterior remodeling, drywall, windows, doors, siding, roofing, foundations. 260-726-5062, leave message.

60 SERVICES

AMISH CONSTRUCTION CREW Building new & remodeling. Garages, Pole Barns, Roofing, siding, windows, ect. Call 567-279-2591

"SEAMSTRESS NAN" **HOMEMADE** Sewing and Alterations, Quilts, Baby Blankets, Appliqué, Zippers, Hemming, Memory T-Shirt, Special Orders, Wedding & Prom Gowns. 260.766.9334
GOODHEW'S ALL SEASON Construction- Specializing in standing seam metal roofs. When Quality Counts, Count On US. A company you can trust. Member of the BBB. New Installation and repairs. Call Rodney Thornbury, owner 765-509-0191

90 SALE CALENDAR

ONLINE ONLY-COMMERCIAL REAL Estate Auction Tuesday, September 24th 10AM
Located: 030 E 500 S Portland, IN
OPEN HOUSE: Monday, Sept 16th from 10am-12pm
COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE 19,008 sq. ft. building, 352' long x 56' wide, 16' ceiling height, Wood heater & LP Furnace, fully insulated with aluminum ceiling and side walls.

6" Concrete Floors with drains, Office Area, Situated on 3.4 +/- acres, Year built 2002.
OWNERS: JACKIE & SHARON WALL
Krueckeburg Auction / Realty
260-724-7402
Josh Krueckeburg AU# 19800008 AC # 31500055
Note: See Terms on Website www.kjauction.com

PUBLIC AUCTION Located: 2400 N 400 E Winchester, IN Saturday Morning October 12th, 2024 10:00 A.M.

REAL ESTATE 3 bedroom, 2 bath, ranch style home 1232 sq. ft of living area and 2 car attached garage. Home has gas forced air furnace with central air, gas fireplace and a large rear composite deck with gazebo. 2 outbuildings. Property includes 20 acres with 2 acres tillable, a pond and woods. This is a must see property that has been well maintained and is move in ready. For more information or a private showing contact

LOY REAL ESTATE & AUCTION 260-726-2700 or Gary Loy Auctioneer 260-726-5160
Personal property will sell immediately following the real estate. **JAMES V. LEWIS ESTATE**

By Dave Tillman Personal Representative
Loy Auction AC#31600027
Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY OCTOBER 12TH, 2024 TIME 10:00 A.M. LOCATED: 715 E MAIN ST

PORTLAND, IN.
OPEN HOUSE SEPT. 29TH 1-3PM. Both properties will be offered at 715 E Main St. REAL ESTATE 715 E Main St.-3 Bedroom, 1.5 bathroom bungalow containing 1984 sq ft finished living area. Central air, Det. garage w/heated shop. Move in condition.

660 E Water St.-2 Bedroom home containing 936 sq ft finished living area, Central air 20" x 24 " detached garage. GUNS

Ruger security six 357mag revolver, Savage hex barrel 22cal.pump, Parker Brothers 12ga side by side with rabbit ears. Large lot of ammo. ANTIQUES-FURNITURE-MISC

Cedar chest, Shoe shine box, Victor combination safe, Old Radios, Coke Cooler, Wooden Keg, Sofa and coffee table. WOODWORKING-SHOP-MISC
Grizzly 10" table saw, Grizzly router, Powermatic 12" planer, roll away tool box, Utility carts and cabinets, V bottom aluminum boat and trailer, Fishing Poles and supplies. Several items not mentioned.

OWNERS: DONALD SUTTON ESTATE, HELEN (Toni) SUTTON
Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
SHAWVER AUCTION-EERING AND REAL ESTATE AC31800004 AUCTIONEERS Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229 Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587

PUBLIC AUCTION Saturday September 28th, 2024 TIME 10:00 A.M. LOCATED: 1854 W SR 28, RIDGEVILLE, IN. **MOWERS-TRAILER-SHOP TOOLS** Grasshopper 725K with 1453 Hours, JD 345 riding mower with 54" cut. Single axel utility trailer, Bulls 1050 garden tractor, Craftsman roll around tool box, Chainsaw sharpener 8 chain link panels, Dewalt and Craftsman battery powered tools. GUNS

Rugar 22cal single 6 pistol, Rugar 9mm with clip, Deutsche-Waften model 1908 military rifle bolt action w/sight. Ammo, knife sets. ANTIQUES-FURNITURE-MISC
Sessions mantel clock, Trunk, Child's chair, Setee, Galvanized Tubs, Indiana glass, & other collectible glassware, Longaberger baskets, Overstuffed chair, Linden wall clock, Glider Swing, Fishing poles & supplies.

OWNERS: MAX WINNINGHAM, DECEASED
Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
SHAWVER AUCTION-EERING AND REAL

90 SALE CALENDAR

ESTATE AC31800004 AUCTIONEERS Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229 Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587

PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21TH, 2024 TIME 10:00 A. M. LOCATED: 1136 N 550 W PORTLAND, IN VEHICLES-GUNS 1967 Chevrolet Camero (non running), 2018 Chevy Colorado quad cab 4x4 with 32,000 miles, 1987 Chevrolet S10, 1992 Jeep Wrangler, Case NF tractor, Smith & Wesson model 22A Cal. camo with peep sight, Ruger 57 5.78x28 cal. w/clip, Baylor 12 guage side by side, Large lot of ammo, Reloading equipment, Compound bows and arrows.

ANTIQUES-HOUSEHOLD-GARAGE ITEMS Drink Royal Crown Cola Thermometer, Crank telephone, Handmade quilts, Pie Safe, Vintage tricycle, Violin, Banjo, Crocks, 5 gallon milk cans, pull type combine, steel wheel spreader, Wood stoves, Rally rear tine tiller, Go cart frames, Yard roller, Large lot of hardwood lumber-oak and walnut, Collectible coins.

OWNER: Darry Rowles Estate- Lydia Rowles Executor
NOTE: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
SHAWVER AUCTION-EERING AND REAL ESTATE AC31800004 AUCTIONEERS Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229 Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587
www.auctionzip.com

PUBLIC AUCTION Located: Woman's Building Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 E. Votaw St. Portland, IN Thursday Afternoon September 19th, 2024 5:00 P.M.

HOUSEHOLD GOODS - OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS
Lazy Boy electric lift chair, 3 cushion sofa, vanity dresser, king size bed, Lazy Boy leather recliner, Webcor stereo/record cabinet, 5 gallon crock, old eyeglasses, Toys: Tonka car hauler, Tonka dump truck, Ford Bronco, Tonka bulldozer, Lincoln Logs, Walt Disney School Bus lunch pail, McCoy vase, Fire King, old ball gloves, and other items not listed.
MOWER-TOOLS Craftsman LT2000 riding mower, Husky 1650 psi power washer, Craftsman toolbox, Craftsman 12 amp edger, tree saw, furniture clamps, cement urns, and other items not listed.
Auctioneers Note: Please note we will be running 2 rings. Doors will be open day of auction at 4:00 p.m.
CHARLES SANDERS, Deceased
SHIRLEY SANDERS, MARGARET PATTISON, Deceased
Loy Auction

90 SALE CALENDAR

AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112

100 JOBS WANTED

AMISH CREW LOOKING FOR any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489.

110 HELP WANTED

TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR Dunkirk Fire Dept.. Applicant must be flexible with days and hours. Willing to work 24 hour shifts. Plus Hazmat Awareness and Operations and Firefighter I & II certified. Pick up and drop off applications at the Ciry Building in Dunkirk, IN.

130 MISC. FOR SALE

PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information.

ALUMINUM SHEETS 23"x30",.007 thick. Clean and shiny on one side..35 cents each or four for \$1.40, plus tax. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland 260-726-8141.

APPLES-CIDER-PUMPKINS FOR SALE. Daily 1pm-7pm Menchhofer Farms; 5679 Wabash Rd., Coldwater, OH. 419-942-1502

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY, SS: IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT CAUSE NO. 38C01-2407-MF-000013
Nationstar Mortgage LLC Plaintiff, vs.
John D Rector, et al. Defendants.

NOTICE OF SUIT SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
TO: The Unknown heirs devisees, legatees, beneficiaries of John D Rector, and their unknown creditors; and, the unknown executor, administrator, or personal representative of the estate of John D. Rector and The Unknown heirs devisees, legatees, beneficiaries of Carolyn A. Rector, and their unknown creditors; and, the unknown executor, administrator, or personal representative of the estate of Carolyn A. Rector.
BE IT KNOWN, that Nationstar Mortgage LLC, the above-named Plaintiff, by its attorney, Nicholas M. Smith, has filed in the office of the Clerk of the Jay Circuit Court its Complaint against Defendants The Unknown heirs devisees, legatees, beneficiaries of John D Rector, and their unknown creditors; and, the unknown executor, administrator, or personal representative of the estate of John D. Rector and The Unknown heirs devisees, legatees, beneficiaries of Carolyn A. Rector, and their unknown creditors; and, the unknown executor, administrator, or personal representative of the estate of Carolyn A. Rector, and the said Plaintiff having also filed in said Clerk's office the affidavit of a competent person showing that the residence and whereabouts of the Defendants, The Unknown heirs devisees, legatees, beneficiaries of John D Rector, and their unknown creditors; and, the unknown executor, administrator, or personal representative of the estate of John D. Rector and The Unknown heirs devisees, legatees, beneficiaries of Carolyn A. Rector, and their unknown creditors; and, the unknown executor, administrator, or personal representative of the estate of Carolyn A. Rector, upon diligent inquiry are unknown, and that said cause of action is for default on the promissory note and to foreclose a mortgage on the following described real estate in Jay County, State of Indiana, to wit:
Lot Number Twenty-five (25) in South Portland, now a part of the City of Portland, Jay County, Indiana, commonly known as 703 South Meridian Street, Portland, IN 47371. NOW, THEREFORE, said Defendants are hereby notified of the filing and pendency of said Complaint against them and that unless they appear and answer or otherwise defend thereto within thirty (30) days after the last notice of this action is published, judgment by default may be entered against said Defendants for the relief demanded in the Complaint.
Dated Clerk, Jay Circuit Court
Nicholas M. Smith (31800-15)
Stephanie A. Reinhart (25071-06)
J. Dustin Smith (29493-06)
Chris Wiley (26936-10)
Attorneys for Plaintiff
MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC
P.O. Box 165028
Columbus OH 43216-5028 Telephone: 614-220-5611
Facsimile: 614-220-5613 Email: sef-NMSmith@mdklegal.com
CR 9.4.11.18-2024 HSPAXLP- HSPAXLP

Visit Us At:
thecr.com

Fort Recovery volleyball fell to Crestview in four games, see story below

JCHS girls soccer hosts Belmont Thursday, see Sports on tap

Sports

Patriots beat the Bruins

Jay boys tennis nearly sweeps Blackford in 4-1 victory

By **ANDREW BALKO**

The Commercial Review

HARTFORD CITY — Eli Dirksen set the tone early for the Patriots.

Blake Kahlig and Carter Wellmen followed suit.

Tucker Griffin and Jacob Monroe needed a little bit extra to pull out their wins.

Kadyn Carpenter and Alex Miller came up just short of the sweep for the Patriots.

The Jay County High School boys tennis team cruised to a 4-1 victory over the Blackford Bruins on Monday, but came up short of the sweep in a highly contested No. 1 doubles match.

“They played well,” said Jay County assistant coach Andrea Garringer, who stood in during coach Donald Gillespie’s absence. “We had a switch in our lineup and I think it went OK. I don’t know Blackford’s official record, but I felt like we were stronger in the long run anyway.”

Dirksen stumbled in the first game against Blackford’s No. 1 singles player Trenton Norton. A pair of double faults and two forehands Dirksen hit too hard gave Norton the opening game, but the senior righted the ship to cruise to a 6-1, 6-0 victory.

“Eli I wasn’t too concerned (about),” Garringer said. “Eli is Eli. He plays consistently and comes to win every time.”

Blake Kahlig and Carter Wellman followed Dirksen’s lead by taking down Hunter Huffman and Colt Pennington in the No. 2 doubles match 6-3, 6-2. Huffman and Pennington struggled to handle the Patriots’ serves at times leading to the pair’s second victory on the season.

Kahlig and Wellman previously won on Aug. 26. They took a loss on Sept. 5 and hadn’t played together since as Gillespie tried different combinations at the position. Out of all No. 2 doubles combinations, this is just the fourth win for Jay County (5-8). (Kahlig and Monroe have the other two.)

“I mean, we knew we could have played better, but we still got it done at the end of the day,” Kahlig said of the first set. “We were just hitting better in the second set. We were talking more to each other.”

Playing in his first singles match, Monroe needed to win seven games to claim the first set of the No. 3 singles match against Owen Norton.

After the 7-5 victory, Monroe jumped on his opponent early



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School senior Eli Dirksen runs up to backhand a ball during the No. 1 singles match on Monday at Blackford. Dirksen made quick work of Trenton Norton for a 6-1, 6-0 triumph to give JCHS its first point.

in the second set to take the first three games. With a 5-2 advantage, the JCHS junior trailed 40-love, but came back to win the set without needing an eighth game.

While the first set of the No. 3 singles match was tightly contested, Tucker Griffin dominated the opening set of the No. 2 singles contest for a 6-1 victory, only dropping the second game.

To take the set, Griffin had to run up on a short ball and hit

a forehand out of Tanner Roberts’ reach. The second set didn’t go quite as smoothly. Griffin and Roberts went back-and-forth, neither able to gain more than a two-game advantage. Eventually, the Jay County senior prevailed for a 6-4 victory capped off with a hard volley out of Roberts’ reach.

“I just need to put in 100% effort every time,” Griffin said. “That’s one thing I pride myself on and I got lazy in that second set and it almost slipped

away from me. So just making sure to (give 100% effort) every-time is important.”

Carpenter and Miller edged out the Bruins’ No. 1 doubles duo of Jake Dillon and Mason McFeely for a 7-5 win in the first set. Things started to slip for the Patriots in the later half of the second set, as they fell 6-4.

Dillon and McFeely then got the jump on them in the third, taking five of the first seven games. An error by both the

Bruins and a pair of Miller volleys gave the Patriots some hope as they cut the deficit to 5-3, but Blackford prevailed in the ninth game despite JCHS forcing deuce five times.

Despite the individual loss, Jay County has now won four of its last six matches after a tough start to the season. The Patriots followed the win with a road trip to Adams Central on Tuesday before they host the Winchester Golden Falcons on Thursday.

Crestview tops FRHS in four

FORT RECOVERY — The Knights halted the Indians’ eight game winning streak in 2023 in three sets.

A year later in the rematch, the Indians managed to force a fourth game, but couldn’t complete their revenge.

Fort Recovery High School’s volleyball team fell to the Crestview Knights 25-14, 20-25, 25-16, 25-18 on Monday.

The Indians had a balanced attack, as six players tallied multiple kills. Kennedy Muhlenkamp led the way with six kills, while Bridget Homan and Karlie Niekamp finished just behind her with five.

Local roundup

Cameron Muhlenkamp put four balls down, and Brynn Willmann tied setter Kayla Heitkamp for three kills.

Heitkamp had all 18 assists for Fort Recovery (6-5).

Niekamp and Kennedy Muhlenkamp led the defensive efforts for the Indians. Niekamp played well at the net, blocking four Crestview (8-2) attacks. Kennedy Muhlenkamp tal-

lied two blocks to go along with her team-high 18 digs.

Willmann matched the elder Muhlenkamp with two blocks, while Cameron Muhlenkamp and Kenna Dues followed with 15 and 14 digs, respectively.

Junior high sweeps

The Jay County Junior High School volleyball teams took down Muncie Southside Monday.

The eighth graders topped the MSJH 25-11, 25-7 and the seventh graders also only needed two sets.

Both teams controlled the service line as the seventh graders racked up 15 aces and the eighth graders added 12.

Come to Wings and Rings for our signature wings, seasonal specials, drinks and beers, then stay for more.

Sports on TV

Cold Beer on Draft

Great Food on the Grill

WINGS and RINGS

1204 W. Votaw St., Portland, IN
(260) 726-9647

BUY 1 GET 1

3X7 – FIRST AD IS \$273, SECOND AD FREE
3X6 – FIRST AD IS \$234, SECOND AD FREE
3X5 – FIRST AD IS \$195, SECOND AD FREE

*ADS MUST RUN IN SEPTEMBER
*RATE DOES NOT APPLY TO SPECIAL SECTIONS

The Commercial Review

CONTACT LINDSEY AT:
L.COCHRAN@THECR.COM OR CALL (260) 726-8141

FREE!