

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Just Treble places second

Jay choir competed Saturday at showcase

Make it three out of four for Just Treble.

Competing Saturday at the Huntington North Midwest Showcase, Jay County High School's Just Treble show choir finished as the runner-up in the Treble Finals. Patriot Edition placed fifth in the Mixed Division Finals.

Also Saturday, the JCHS Winter Guard placed 14th in Regional A Class at the Indiana High School Color Guard Association competition at Zionsville.

Just Treble, Jay County's all-girl show choir, trailed only Homestead's Elite in the Treble Division. City Lights of Columbia City was third.

The group has finished in the top three in three of its four competitions this year, including taking first place at the Kenton Cup on Feb. 15.

Patriot Edition was second in the Mixed Division - Tier II preliminaries. It went on to take fifth in the finals behind groups from Wheaton North (Illinois), Homestead, Churubusco and Manteno (Illinois).

The JCHS Winter Guard scored 62.48 points to take fifth in its round in the competition at Zionsville. It was 14th overall while Carroll posted the winning total of 73.72.

Jay County's show choirs will continue their busy stretch of five consecutive weekends of competition Saturday when they head to the Churubusco Show Choir Invitational. (The choirs will also perform their competition shows on their home stage at 7 p.m. Monday, March 10.)

The winter guard will compete in the opening round of the Indiana High School Color Guard Association state tournament series Saturday at Franklin Central.

School tour



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay School Board members and others toured Jay County Junior-Senior High School on Monday evening to look at areas being considered for a capital improvement project. Pictured, Jay Schools superintendent Jeremy Gulley explains some of the areas of concern in the band room. The board also visited the choir room, television studio, wrestling rooms, kitchen and pool. Plans are to hold a work session on Monday, March 31, to discuss options for a capital project with a target of making a decision in May.

Jay School Board visits areas for potential capital improvements at junior-senior high school

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

A capital project is on the horizon.

School board members looked at some of the areas that may be involved.

Jay School Board toured areas of Jay County Junior-Senior High School that are being considered for updates during a special meeting on Monday.

The board also unanimously approved the hiring of Eddie Fields as the new JCHS football coach (see related story on page 8).

Following a brief business portion of the meeting in the junior-senior high auditorium Monday, school board members and others visited areas of the school that may be included in a capital project. Those included the band and choir area, the TV studio currently serving as the library, the wrestling rooms, the kitchen and the pool.

During its Jan. 20 meeting, Lindsay Simonetto of accounting and consulting firm Baker Tilly indicated that with debt service rolling off over the next few years the board could bond

up to \$6.6 million for a "non-controlled" project — it would not be subject to a remonstrance — or up to \$18.285 million for a project that would be subject to a remonstrance without raising the tax rate. Brian Bohlender of architecture and engineering firm Barton Coe Vilamaa presented a 406-page report that breaks down recommendations for each building, ranking items of high, medium and low importance, with cost estimates for each.

A committee has been working since then to look at options for a potential project.

Jay Schools superintendent Jeremy Gulley noted that the areas visited Monday have not been finalized for projects and that other areas are being considered as well across the corporation's buildings.

"There's a process to these things," he said. "We're exploring, we're communicating, we're visiting."

In the band room, Gulley noted the need for a larger door leading directly outside, new speakers and improved storage.

See School page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Presley tribute

Ally Roessner and Madeline Hardwick sing Elvis Presley's "Can't Help Falling in Love" during the Fort Recovery junior high and high school cabaret concert on Sunday evening.

Butler project to begin

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Work on Butler Street this year wasn't expected to begin until summer.

That timeline has moved up significantly.

Village administrator Randy Diller reminded Fort Recovery Village Council on Monday that Tom's Construction will begin work next week on Butler Street (Ohio 119) between Fort Site and Main streets.

Originally, the work had been slated to begin in June or July.

Diller pointed out the construction company has indicated the project will take approximately 60 days to complete.

"Which I said, I'm going to hold them to that," he said, smiling. "That seems pretty optimistic to me, but, hey, they can do it."

Partially funded by an

Street will get upgrades between Fort Site and Main

Ohio Public Works Commission grant, the \$1.4 million project calls for an "improved aggregate base and asphalt" to handle heavy truck traffic each day, as well as 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.

Plans are to detour semi

traffic to Ohio 29. Local traffic should be able to travel along streets depending on the portion of road Tom's Construction is working on.

Diller added although most of the work should be completed by the beginning of May, he anticipates new traffic signal poles won't arrive until June. He said the village may need to put up temporary stop lights or a four-way stop sign at the intersection of Butler and Wayne streets in the interim.

See Butler page 2

Deaths

Becky Howell, 73, Portland
Ervin Girod, 5 days, Berne
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 40 degrees Monday. The low was 25.

Tonight's forecast calls for rain and snow with winds gusting to 35 miles per hour and a low in the upper 20s. Expect partly sunny skies Thursday with a high in the upper 30s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Public Library will host its "Club 55+ Top O' the Mornin' Irish celebration" at 10 a.m. Thursday, March 6. The Irish-themed event will include making wreaths, painting a suncatcher and refreshments. Reservations are required by calling (260) 726-7890 or visiting the library at 315 N. Ship St., Portland.

Coming up

Thursday — Results from the JCHS boys basketball team's sectional opener.

Saturday — Coverage of this week's Portland Board of Works meeting.



School ...

Continued from page 1
Director Chuck Roesch said there is plenty of space. "It's just a matter of being able to utilize it best," he said. For the choir area, director Susan Denney identified installing a wood floor, getting a new sound system and improving electrical service as targets. "The first priority that I would love to see is for it to get better acoustically in there," she said. "It's not a good space acoustically. "We can all tell when we go into the warm-up room, which is the choral room, how our sound is totally different than what we're used to," she added, referencing the show choirs' recent trips to competitions.

Gulley noted an overall goal of making the band and choir spaces look "2025 instead of 1975," indicating that some of the equipment is original to the 50-year-old school.

The television studio is also likely to be repurposed. "I loved Jay Today," he said. "I really enjoyed it. ...

"Times change. Kids do not sign up for it. ...

"When you look at the investment versus the number of kids served, it's just changed."

While nothing has been finalized, he said the space could be used for the performing arts because of its proximity to the auditorium.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

The wrestling rooms are an area that could be part of a capital project at Jay County Junior-Senior High School. Assistant coach James Myers explained that the teams are crunched for space since the addition of girls wrestling and shift to a junior-senior high facility.

In the wrestling area on the second level of the gym, Gulley pointed to the need for more space with the addition of girls wrestling and the shift to utilizing the building for grades seven through 12. The traditional wrestling room is used for the boys while a former weight room was converted for the girls team. The junior high teams use the area behind the bleachers until the high school season is over.

Gulley pointed to a rarely used restroom, storage spaces the area at the top of an unused staircase as possibilities for being repurposed to better utilize the space for the wrestling program. "You're in a tight space here

with 40 kids wrestling," said assistant coach James Myers. "We'd like more space in here. We envision getting two full mats."

Upgrades being considered for the kitchen include installing new electrical panels and service.

Food service director Jennifer Gelhaus also pointed to the need for new flooring and relocating a fruit and vegetable sink that currently impedes traffic flow in the facility.

"That would be huge improvements for us here in the kitchen," she said.

The work in the pool area would focus on mechanical

equipment, with the dehumidifier as the biggest part of the project. Gulley noted that the facility is now 20 years old and mechanical areas are due for replacement.

"It's such a great program," he said. "It's been a big part of the community."

Gulley plans to meet with the committee exploring project options on March 18. The board will hold a work session focused on a potential capital project on March 31.

There will also be opportunities for public input via a survey, with Gulley adding that he is hopeful the board can decide on a project at its May meeting.

Obituaries

Becky Howell, Portland, Jan. 20, 1952-March 1, 2025. Services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday at Williamson Spencer and Penrod funeral home in Portland.

Ervin M. Girod, Berne, Feb. 23, 2025-Feb. 28, 2025. Services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Girod residence in Berne.

The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

SERVICES

Thursday

Howell, Becky: 1 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Service listings provided by
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Portland, Indiana 47371
(260) 726-9201
progressiveofficeproducts.com

CR almanac

Thursday 3/6	Friday 3/7	Saturday 3/8	Sunday 3/9	Monday 3/10
38/31	41/28	45/31	50/31	60/42
Thursday looks to be mostly cloudy with temperatures in the 30s throughout the day and night.	Mostly cloudy on Friday when there's a 60% chance of snow during the day	Another day of mostly sunny skies. The low temperature may dip to 31 degrees late.	Mostly sunny on Sunday, when the high may reach the 50s during the day.	Monday looks to be sunny with a high around 60 degrees.

Lotteries

Powerball
Monday
18-20-50-52-56
Power Ball: 20
Power Play: 2
Estimated jackpot: \$295 million

Daily Four: 0-4-1-1
Quick Draw: 5-12-15-25-26-35-36-39-51-55-56-59-60-66-67-69-70-71-75-76
Cash 5: 2-6-23-41-45
Estimated jackpot: \$80,000

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$215 million

Hoosier
Monday
Midday
Daily Three: 4-2-5
Daily Four: 0-4-6-3
Quick Draw: 6-13-16-22-25-26-32-40-43-44-45-47-48-50-61-62-71-73-79-80
Evening
Daily Three: 3-8-7

Ohio
Monday
Midday
Pick 3: 6-9-3
Pick 4: 8-4-2-0
Pick 5: 6-5-0-0-1
Evening
Pick 3: 7-8-2
Pick 4: 5-6-5-3
Pick 5: 5-9-1-4-3
Rolling Cash: 6-20-26-29-33
Estimated jackpot: \$110,000

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery	April beans10.00 Wheat 5.04
Corn.....4.33 April corn4.45 May corn4.51	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.43 April corn4.46 Beans9.86 April beans9.90 Wheat5.09
POET Biorefining Portland	Corn.....4.53 April corn4.59 May corn4.63
The Andersons Richland Township	Corn.....4.51 April corn4.53 Beans9.97
	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.33 May corn4.38 Beans9.74 May beans9.79 Wheat5.01

Today in history

In 1770, British soldiers shot into a crowd on King Street near the Bosto Customs during the Boston Massacre. Five people and eight others were injured, having been a part of the crowd tossing snowballs, stones and sticks at soldiers.
In 1842, more than 500 Mexican troops invade Texas. Led by Rafael Vasquez, the troops occupied San Antonio before returning to the Rio Grande.
In 1971, Led Zeppelin first performed "Stairway to Heaven" live at Ulster Hall, Belfast.
— The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today
4 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners executive session, auditorium, city courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

Thursday
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.

Butler ...

Continued from page 1
Council approved a resolution Monday to transfer \$520,000 for the project from the general fund to the street repair and maintenance fund.

Council also learned Caldwell Tanks is installing the tower portion of the new second water tower in the village this week.

Diller noted the water line attached to the future tower is now connected to the system. Painting is slated for April or May, with the project set to be completed by July.

In other business, council members:

- Heard council will approve an ordinance annexing 7.417 acres in Gibson Township on April 21. (The ordinance will accept the annexation and set zoning classifications, and once approved the annexation will be in effect 30 days thereafter.) Properties included are Miracle Lanes, Mercer Health Medical Group, a portion of Wendel Poultry's property and a lot owned by Fred Westgerdes.
- Learned Fort Recovery's health insurance renewal increased by 9.5%. Diller suggested renewing the current policy and looking into pricing next year, pointing out several longtime employees have retired or will be retiring soon.
- Approved amendments to the village's zoning map and regula-

tions on a second reading. The amendments serve to rezone Brandon and Amanda Wyerick's property at 105 S. Elm St. to commercial and prohibit first-floor residential use in central commercial district buildings.

- Learned the village has received five applications for its village assistant administrator position. (Diller plans to retire at the end of February 2026 and hopes to bring on an assistant to train over the next year before promoting to his role.) Diller noted applications close today.
- Were reminded Fort Recovery Chamber of Commerce's awards banquet is slated for 5:30 p.m. March 9 in the auditoria at Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School.

Painting water tower is set for April, May

Braun expands leave

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

New moms employed by the state of Indiana will now get an additional six weeks of paid leave for "childbirth recovery," or eight weeks for employees who gave birth via a cesarean section.

Indiana Gov. Mike Braun signed an executive order Monday making the change, signaling his openness to future actions in the private sector.

"Previously, many new mothers had to cobble together time off to recover from the physical toll of childbirth by combining maternity leave with six sick days, (paid time off) and reduced salary while on medical leave," Braun said. "We're changing that."

The policy applies to full-time and part-time employees.

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Space for color ads is limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Contact Lindsey at L.Cochran@thecr.com
(260) 726-8141

GRAPHIC PRINTING
NEWSPAPERS

Deadline for ads is Monday March 10th



Photo provided

Oratorical contest

Pictured at left are participants in the Jay County Elementary Oratorical Contest on Feb. 20. Students represented Bloomfield, East Jay, Redkey and West Jay elementary schools, and Jay County Christian Academy. In the front row from left are Ruby Jones, Cavanaugh, Elshiekh and Gibson. In the second row are Aria Barnett, Makenna Wellman, Helena Workman, Cadense Robbins, Kendall Beaty, Anna Fisher, McKenzie Mahon, Izik Hamners.

Neighbor engages in affair

DEAR ABBY: I'm a gay man living in a predominantly straight community. About a year ago, a married couple moved in. One day, the husband asked me to come over and help him put a table together, which I did. He thanked me by opening a bottle of wine. Then he asked me what turns me on. I thought the question was unusual, but I didn't hold back — I showed him.

We've had more encounters since then, and now I'm feeling used and thinking about telling his wife. I think she deserves to know her husband might be gay and sleeping with other men. He used some "gay lingo" that makes me think I may not be the only one.

I heard there were some other neighbors talking badly about gays, and he didn't defend or take up for us. That upsets me, too. What do I do? They live a few doors down, and it's uncomfortable when I see him and his wife. She's always waving and is a sweet lady. — RETHINKING IN FLORIDA

DEAR RETHINKING: Your mistake was becoming involved with a married man. You may feel "used," but remember, you went into that affair enthusiastically. I do not think you should be the person to tell his wife her

Dear Abby



husband might be gay. (He could be bisexual.) The person who delivers that tidbit should be her husband, if she doesn't already know. As for you, it's time to step out of the picture, don't you think?

DEAR ABBY: I am a 47-year-old woman who passes for early 30s. I understand that most women would pay money to look 15 years younger than their age, but people often make and voice assumptions about me that are annoying.

I have never felt that people take me seriously despite my two master's degrees and the business I started with three locations. For years, I have suffered a constant and insensitive barrage of questions and assumptions about my reproductive status. I have gotten pretty adept at countering "When are you going to have kids?" with "God did-

n't grant me that superpower, so my husband and I are dog parents who enjoy going on adventures."

I am now going through menopause. Despite being on medications to control the symptoms, I often suffer a hot flash at work while meeting with customers. I keep a paper fan at my desk, but I get funny looks from customers when I grab it and start fanning away at my suddenly red and sweaty face.

I'll usually smile and ask for a minute to recover from the hot flash, but I am inevitably told that I am "too young" to be experiencing hot flashes. If only that were true. My instinct is to snarkily counter, "Well, my doctor would disagree," but that doesn't sound friendly. What would you recommend as an appropriate response? — YOUNG-ISH IN MISSOURI

DEAR YOUNG-ISH: When you are told you are "too young to be going through menopause," rather than snarl, try SMILING and saying, "Tell that to my doctor!" It will get the message across without being confrontational.

P.S. People may not be aware that menopause has been known to strike women who are younger than you.

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.

SINGLES AND SEPARATES SUPPORT GROUP — For anyone who's lost a loved one or has a spouse living in long-term care or suffering from an illness, the group will meet at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in the Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion in Berne. For more information, call Sarah Conrad at (260) 589-4496.

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

Thursday SMART RECOVERY —

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

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

The objective is to fill a nine-by-nine grid with 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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Facebook was just not a good fit

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from March 3, 2010. Some of the things Jack references here changed in the last decade-plus of his life. He eventually started to text. He did make use of a camera in his phone. He loved being able to FaceTime or Skype or Zoom with his grandchildren. But he never used Facebook.

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

Sorry, Sopho Bukia, it's nothing personal, but I'll have to pass.

Sopho, as far as I can tell, is a young journalist in the Republic of Georgia. I don't believe we've ever met. But it's been nine or 10 years since I was in Georgia, and I did do some work with two newspapers where Sopho has been employed.

As I said, it's nothing personal.

Back in the Saddle



The problem is that Sopho's invited me to become her friend on Facebook.

And I don't do Facebook.

My Facebook avoidance has nothing to do with fear of technology. I've been working with computers for more than 30 years now. I've popped their hoods. I've worked on circuit boards. I've spent long hours trouble-shooting software bugs. And just last week I was fussing with a pesky networking problem in the newsroom. (All in

all, that's not a bad record for a guy who was an English major.)

It has nothing to do with a fear of something new.

Much of my free time during the Winter Olympics has been spent building a family Web site and learning new softwares.

And it has nothing to do with an avoidance of the Internet or social networking sites.

While I'm not on Facebook I am on LinkedIn.

In Jay County, pretty much anyone who knows Mark Goldman of Pennville Custom Cabinetry is on LinkedIn. He's brought dozens of us into the fold.

And while the utility of LinkedIn may still be suspect in my mind, I have to admit that it's put me back in touch with former college classmates, for-

mer students, and colleagues I'd lost track of.

But in my mind, Facebook will always be for young people.

It was created originally for college-age kids, a sort of Internet version of the directory of incoming freshmen that colleges used to publish.

And while it has expanded to include everything from middle school students to retirees, it seems to me that the rest of us are intruding when we elbow in to the territory of teenagers and 20 and 30 year olds.

I know, I know, some of my best friends are on Facebook. (The CR is even on Facebook, though I didn't put it there. Younger members of the staff did.)

And I'm not judging the grandmother who keeps in touch with her grandchildren that way.

Okay, maybe I am.

For me, Facebook participation needs to be age appropriate. And I've reached an age where it's not a good fit.

When I wear a baseball cap, I wear it with the bill in the front. Not in the back. Not jauntily to one side.

When I wear jeans, I wear them at my waist.

I have no tattoos and never will.

I do not text.

I will never Twitter.

I know better than to try karaoke.

If I ever own a phone that can take a picture, I suspect that I'll never learn how.

And, sorry Sopho, I do not do Facebook.

It's not you. It's me.

Maybe she can get in touch with me on LinkedIn.

Tax cuts lead to new deficits

Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

The budget resolution that narrowly passed the House on Tuesday represents a significant victory for Republican Speaker Mike Johnson and for the president's fiscal agenda. Whether it's good for the country is another matter.

As it stands, the House budget plan would allow for up to \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts over the next 10 years and calls for perhaps \$2 trillion in spending reductions (specifics TBD). The bill now moves to the Senate, which wants even steeper tax cuts, and will be subject to further favor-trading, arm-twisting and (perhaps) the whims of the White House. Whatever legislation results from this process is, on current trends, likely to add trillions in new deficit spending.

As these talks continue, the crucial question — how much the government can prudently borrow — will barely be mentioned. In what's now standard practice, Republicans aim to move their tax-and-spending package through the Senate using reconciliation, an arcane procedure that was once intended to help restrain fiscal excess but which has long been twisted to facilitate it. Serial abuse of this process has already delivered actual and prospective budget deficits of 6% of gross domestic product with steadily mounting debt, even with the economy at full employment.

The core of the Republican plan — which reconciliation would expedite by making it filibuster-proof — is the proposed extension of most of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, which was itself passed through reconciliation. Congress made the law comply with a rule forbidding higher borrowing beyond the 10-year planning window by scheduling most of its tax cuts to expire at the end of this year. Instead, they'll almost certainly be extended. The new package will doubtless rely on the very same gimmickry — extend, expire, extend, repeat.

Not content with renewing the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the administration and its enablers have many other tax cuts in mind as well. The White House wants to cut the corporate tax rate to 15% from 21%,

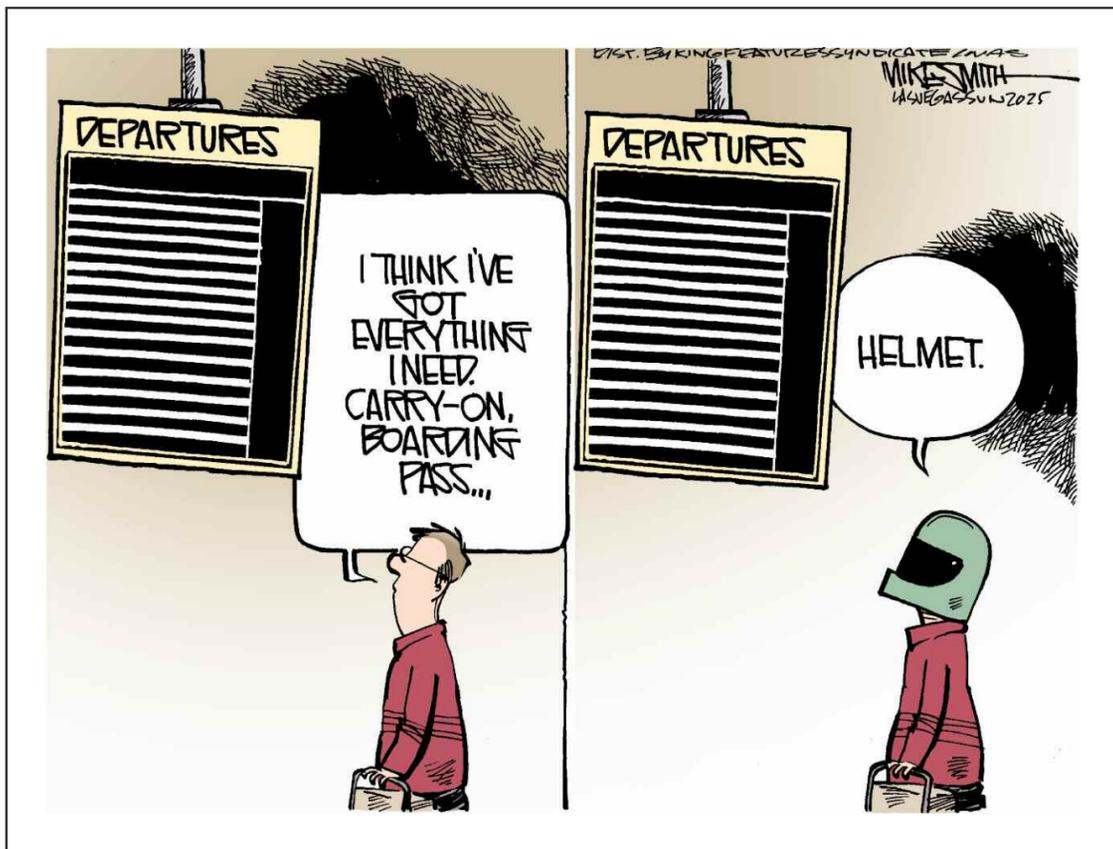
Guest Editorial

...the current Republican majority, which talks a lot about controlling government spending, is on a path to do quite the opposite.

raise the \$10,000 limit on the deduction for state and local taxes, and stop taxing tips and Social Security benefits. High tariffs (taxes by another name) could help to offset the cost of such changes, as the administration insists, but only by making the tax system as a whole much more regressive, burdensome and anti-growth.

In short, the current Republican majority, which talks a lot about controlling government spending, is on a path to do quite the opposite. Total debt held by the public is already on course to rise from \$30 trillion this year to \$52 trillion, or nearly 120% of GDP, by 2035. That's assuming lawmakers let the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act expire as promised and no new economic setbacks arise between now and then. At the moment, Congress has more or less agreed that the best-case scenario will be much, much worse.

At some point, financial markets are going to say that enough is enough. The budget trajectory isn't investors' only concern: Geopolitical instability, steeply priced assets and challenges to the Federal Reserve's operational independence are all in play. Borrowing costs might rise for any or all of these reasons, shifting the fiscal outlook from bad to irretrievable. Another round of this all-too-familiar Capitol Hill ritual will hardly help.



Legislature is all in on big government

By CHRIS DALEY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

The core message coming from this year's legislative session so far: state legislators know best. They know better than local police, sheriffs, athletic directors, teachers, school board members, and on and on. Looking at the bills that will be picked back up this week, it's hard not to conclude that the legislature is in their "big government solutions" era (with apologies to Swifties).

Bill after bill usurping local control and imposing Statehouse-created one-size-fits-all mandates have passed committees. In many cases, the bill's author has little to no data — and few, if any, anecdotes — to support their moves to usurp local control and restrict professional judgment. And a shocking number of these bills passed without a single local official or community member testifying in support.

This inclination toward expanding state power has been obvious for years on big ticket items like reproductive freedom, parental rights on health care, school curriculum, and free speech. But, over time, it has crept into almost every facet of Hoosiers' lives. And few local officials or subject matter experts are off-limits, it would seem.

Behind the bills

For instance, HB 1393 and HB 1531 both passed, doubling down on existing requirements that local police and sheriffs cooperate with federal immigration officials. In testimony on HB 1531, legislators heard concerns from the Indiana Sheriffs' Association about immigration detainers. These are requests from the federal government to hold someone in jail past the time they can be held there under state law. ISA shared

Chris Daley



that sheriffs sometimes receive faulty detainers, including ones that require them to detain U.S. citizens. Nonetheless, the bill passed the committee by a large margin.

SB 289 and SB 442 both include extensive annual mandates for local school districts regarding posting information online about staff anti-discrimination trainings and human sexuality curriculum, respectively. SB 442 goes further by requiring that every school board in Indiana also annually approve all human sexuality curriculum. In advocating for his bill, the author commiserated with how overworked school board members are before mandating more work for them without any additional funding or support.

SB 143 makes every employee of every county and local government a "mandated informer" who is required to turn over "information" (undefined in the bill) broadly relating the minor's well-being if the parent requests it. Local government agencies are then subject to a lawsuit if they do not disclose "information," even if disclosing it to a parent may put the minor's safety at risk. And HB 1041 substitutes the opinions of legislators for the expertise of coaches, athletic directors, and national governing bodies for sports when it comes to inclusion of transgender women in women's college sports.

Stopped for now

And beyond the bills that are still

moving, at least two others came very close to passage. HB 1662 would have required local police to arrest and prosecutors to prosecute some people sleeping on public sidewalks or spaces. Not only would the bill have usurped the expertise of local officials when it comes to how to respond to homelessness, it would have also required those local officials to spend scarce local taxpayer dollars on increased nights in jail and transportation and storage of the belongings of the people they are forced to arrest. Finally, SB 143 would have required all counties in the state to cut early voting days from 28 to 14 regardless of the judgement of local elections officials about the value of those additional two weeks.

Taken alongside similar bills from previous sessions, many of which are now law, it's clear that state legislators are not only comfortable with usurping decision-making from local officials and subject matter experts, but are eager to do it. And, unfortunately, their actions are having real consequences.

The state rarely, if ever, allocates funds to pay for the additional mandates they put on local officials. Just like it doesn't take responsibility when mandates based on their opinions cause harm to Hoosiers that could have been prevented if experts were allowed to do their jobs. State legislation is supposed to focus on the big picture. In their zeal to control more and more aspects of Hoosiers' lives, state legislators are ignoring this; and we're all worse off for it.

Daley is executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana.

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EU proposes defense loans

By **ANDREA PALASCIANO**
and **JORGE VALERO**

Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

The European Union will propose extending €150 billion (\$158 billion) in loans to boost defense spending as the bloc tries to adjust to U.S. President Donald Trump's abrupt pullback of American security on the continent.

After decades of underinvestment, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said that the E.U. also plans to activate a mechanism that would allow countries to use their national budgets to spend an additional €650 billion on defense over four years without triggering budgetary penalties.

Combined with the new defense spending loans, von der Leyen said the package could mobilize nearly €800 billion — if governments take full advantage of the new leeway.

"We are in an era of rearmament," she told reporters in Brussels Tuesday. "Europe is ready to massively boost its defense spending."

The euro rose as much as 0.3% to \$1.0521, its highest level since Feb. 26, after von der Leyen's announcements. European bonds trimmed earlier gains, with the yield on 10-year German debt trading around 2.46% compared to about 2.43% before the news.

The new loan instrument would be similar to one set up during the Covid pandemic to support member states' short-time work schemes and similar measures. The legal basis cited by the commission indicates that it won't require the unanimous support of all member states, which means it could avoid potential vetoes by countries like Hungary, according to



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/AFP/Nicolas Tucut

President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen gives a press conference Tuesday on the "Defence package" at the EU Commission headquarters in Brussels. The European Union will propose extending €150 billion (\$158 billion) in loans to boost defense spending.

people familiar with the matter, who were granted anonymity to discuss sensitive talks.

Any broader push for new E.U. borrowing to provide non-refundable grants, however, would have to win the backing of the 27 member states, a significant hurdle. Germany's election winner, Friedrich Merz, has signaled he may be open to such plans, but Hungarian Premier Viktor Orban has indicated he's likely to block efforts aimed at aiding Ukraine.

The E.U. has previously managed to get around Orban's opposition to sustain support for Ukraine over the past months, but the Hungarian

leader's stance has hardened since Trump's victory.

Europe is looking to mobilize hundreds of billions of euros in additional financing as it seeks to continue support for Ukraine at a critical moment, particularly after Trump ordered a pause in all military aid to Kyiv. Von der Leyen has called this a "once-in-a-generation moment" and previously said the E.U. faces defense investment needs of around €500 billion over the next decade.

"This is about basically spending better and spending together, and we're talking about pan European capability domains, like, for example, air and missile defense, artillery systems, missiles and ammunition, drones

and anti-drone systems, but also to address other needs from cyber to military mobility, for example," she said.

Separately, urgency is building for Germany's new government to not just to boost defense outlays but also ramp up investments in things like infrastructure that have been neglected for years. The Bundesbank recommended Tuesday that Berlin loosen constitutional borrowing limits, known as the debt brake, to free up as much as €220 billion of fiscal space through 2030, while preserving "sound public finances."

Defense stocks rose again on Tuesday as investors bet that European countries will have to

keeping ramping up military spending. Thales SA rallied as much as 13%, while Dassault Aviation and Leonardo SpA were also up. The sector is up nearly 20% so far this week.

Von der Leyen sent a letter to the member states listing possible options to bolster national defense in the near term.

The proposal will be discussed by E.U. leaders at an emergency meeting Thursday, although they're unlikely to agree on a proposed €20 billion military aid package for Ukraine. The latest draft of the summit's conclusions seen by Bloomberg has no reference to a detailed initiative and instead just "calls for the urgent stepping up of efforts."

The leaders are expected to assess their preferred ideas and mandate the commission, which is the E.U.'s executive arm, to work further on them before concrete proposals are put forward as early as their next gathering on March 21-22, according to people familiar with the matter, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Many E.U. countries, including France and Italy, face challenging budgetary situations and don't have much fiscal capacity to dramatically increase borrowing.

The letter also listed some other options including mobilizing private financing through the capital markets, facilitating the use of some E.U. funds for defense purposes or expanding the lending practices of the European Investment Bank to include some military projects currently excluded.

The EIB is separately set to propose expanding its mandate to projects dedicated to military uses, a move that would broaden its investment mandate to include more defense spending, according to a letter seen by Bloomberg.

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SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

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"I'm putting my autograph book by my tooth for the Tooth Fairy to sign."

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Haste makes waste

West dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 7 2
♥ J 10 5
♦ 7 6 4 3
♣ A Q 10 5

WEST
♠ J 8 5
♥ A K 9 3
♦ A J 2
♣ J 9 4

EAST
♠ Q 4
♥ Q 8 6 2
♦ Q 10 9
♣ 8 7 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A K 10 9 6 3
♥ 7 4
♦ K 8 5
♣ K 6

The bidding:
West North East South
1♣ Pass 1♥ 1♠
2♥ Pass Pass 2♠
Opening lead—king of hearts.
Let's say you're West, defending against two spades. You lead the king of hearts, partner signaling with the eight, continue with the ace and play a third heart, which South ruffs.
Declarer cashes the A-K of trump and plays four rounds of clubs, on which he discards two diamonds. Whether or not you ruff the last club, South winds up making the contract with an overtrick, losing only a trump, two hearts and a diamond.

Afterward, you realize that if you had defended differently, you could have done quite a bit better. When partner played the eight of hearts at trick one—a signal which, in view of the bidding, obviously denoted possession of the queen—you could have led the three of hearts next rather than the ace.

Had you done so, you would have been well-rewarded. East would have won the queen and returned a diamond, allowing you to grab three diamond tricks and thereby defeat the contract.

The deal illustrates that a defender must always be ready to adapt his plays to the situation at hand. While it is true that a defender who leads the king from an A-K combination normally continues with the ace if he decides to play the suit again, this is by no means an invariable rule.

East's play of the eight in the present case, after having bid hearts, should be taken as a guarantee of the queen, and West should have no compunctions about underleading the ace at trick two in order to coax a diamond return from East at trick three.

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Peanuts

HAVE YOU MADE AN APPOINTMENT WITH AN OPHTHALMOLOGIST YET, SIR?

I DON'T WANT TO BE TOLD THAT I HAVE TO WEAR GLASSES, MARCIE!

YOU COULD BE SQUINTING AND NOT EVEN KNOW IT, SIR... THAT CAN CAUSE EYE FATIGUE, AND MAKE YOU SLEEPY...

BESIDES IF YOU WORE GLASSES YOU MIGHT LOOK LIKE ELTON JOHN!

Rose is Rose

YOU SHOULD GET ONE, JIMBO.

IT'S STYLISH AND WEATHERPROOF.

I'M NOT GOING TO WEAR A PORTABLE TENT, CORKY.

Agnes

LILIAN THE LEPRECHAUN? I THOUGHT ALL LEPRECHAUNS WERE DUES.

WHO KNOWS? THEY RARELY PARADE AROUND NAKED.

BESIDES THAT, IT'S BAD IN THIS DAY AND AGE TO SPECULATE. WHY SHOULD A LEPRECHAUN NEED TO DECLARE GENDER?

BIG RED BEARD... I'M GUESSING DUDE.

HATER SEXIST BIGOT.

Hi and Lois

URP!

GOT IT!

SO CUTE!

THIS "BURPING BABY" VIDEO WILL GO VIRAL ON TIKTOK.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

Between Friends

BENoit IS COMING TO CANADA NEXT MONTH... AND HE'S BRINGING HIS EX-WIFE WITH HIM

WHY IS HE STILL ASSOCIATING WITH HIS EX-WIFE? THEIR MARRIAGE IS OVER - THAT SEEMS RATHER ODD TO ME

- BUT THEN SOMEONE POINTED OUT THAT THEY DO SHARE A DAUGHTER AND GRANDBAM HERE

WHO MENTIONED THAT? MY EX-HUSBAND

Blondie

IT'S WEIRD THAT ON A LOT OF SOCIAL MEDIA NOW, WE CAN USE AI TO MAKE POSTS FOR US

AND DON'T FORGET AUTOMATIC AI RESPONSES TO COMMENTS ON POSTS, TOO

KINDA TAKES THE "SOCIAL" OUT OF SOCIAL MEDIA, DOESN'T IT?

YEAH

I KNOW

Snuffy Smith

NEW DRESS, HAZEL?

NOPE !!

SWIPED IT OUTTA MY SISTER'S CLOSET YEARS AGO !!

Beetle Bailey

BEETLE AND I HAD A BIG ARGUMENT

ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE UP?

THAT'S WHY I'M PUTTING ON EXTRA MAKEUP

GREG MORT WALKER 3/5

CRYPTOQUIP

UWZV JWZ FEXDPDNOA KNS UEA
DZXZQBEJVPVS WPA QEB FPJILEW,
UWEJ KPK ZLZBHQNKH DBH?

"FOIIXZ JNL!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A WAREHOUSE PLATFORM WERE MADE OUT OF BALSAMWOOD, WHAT WOULD IT BE? A SOFT PALLET.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals D

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Walk unevenly

5 Part of UCLA

8 Quarrel

12 Vicinity

13 Bando of baseball

14 Poi base

15 Community in Los Angeles

17 "Karenina"

18 Peer

19 Bent out of shape

21 Hip-hop's — Yang Twins

24 Hit CBS series

25 Luke's mentor

28 Landed

30 Actress Saldana

33 Comedian Gasteyer

34 Exams for future attys.

35 Buddhist sect

36 Boxer Norton

DOWN

1 Emit coherent light

2 Neighbor of Kuwait

3 Diner's card

4 Tropical fruit

5 Leary's drug

6 Rowboat need

7 Leisurely

8 Luminaries

9 Deep-dish comfort food

10 "Alfred" composer

11 Frog's relative

16 Yale grad

20 Deeds enhancer, for short

22 "Apollo 13" org.

23 Tumbler

25 Tibetan beast

26 Small bill

27 "The Da Vinci Code" author

29 "Suffice — say ..."

31 British ref. work

32 Away from WSW

34 "Exodus" author Uris

38 Like Sukkot observers

40 Awaken rudely

42 Flavor enhancer, for short

43 Improvise

44 Sci-fi race

45 Miles away

47 Folk singer Guthrie

48 Ker-plunk

49 Swift jets

52 "— you ready?"

53 Kibosh

Solution time: 23 mins.

D	O	L	T	O	R	S	L	A	M	P	
I	B	I	S	M	O	O	C	H	A	I	
M	I	L	K	W	E	E	D	H	O	S	T
T	A	N	A	P	A	T	H	I			
A	M	A	S	S	M	C	I	I			
L	U	R	K	G	O	A	T	M	I	L	K
U	N	A	I	R	O	N	S	M	O	I	
M	I	L	K	B	A	R	S	A	C	S	
N	I	N	E	T	A	X	I	S			
H	O	W	O	D	D	D	A	L			
M	A	R	L	S	K	I	M	M	I	L	K
O	R	E	L	O	A	S	O	T	O	E	
S	S	N	S	N	T	H	N	E	O	N	

Yesterday's answer 3-5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12					13				14			
15				16					17			
18							19	20				
		21		22	23		24					
25	26	27				28		29		30	31	32
33				34							35	
36					37					38		
		39	40			41		42				
43	44				45			46		47	48	49
50					51	52	53					
54					55					56		
57					58					59		

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Fields ...

Continued from page 8
“I think his passion and desire (made him stand out),” Griffin said. “I think we was probably, out of all our candidates, the most prepared. ... He’s very disciplined and has desires and (new) approaches for our program from weights and nutrition and maximizing our athletes’ potential, figuring out what that is and putting that forward. That was definitely attractive.”

Two more key points that made Fields a desirable candidate to administration was his passion to become a Patriot and the effort and his planned involvement at the youth football level in Jay County.

To the former point, the hiring committee had a candidate they were nearly ready to move forward with in the hiring process during school board’s Feb. 24 meeting. Prior to the meeting, the two parties decided to move forward in different directions

due to Jay County wanting someone who specifically wanted to be a Patriot according to Griffin.

To the latter point, Griffin mentioned that Fields already has planned to handwrite letters to elementary school kids to try and get them excited about football, while interacting with youth athletes through other avenues as well.

“We are looking for something to build,” Griffin said. “It’s not an overnight thing. Obviously we want success starting next year, but at the end of the day, we know and we want to push and continue to push building something. That has to start young and grow into what he wants and I think he has a good vision for that.”

Fields and his family currently live in Georgia but will now begin looking to make the move back to the Hoosier state now that he has been officially hired by the Patriots.

Roundup ...

Continued from page 8
Warvel made his state cut in the 100 butterfly (58.97) while Glentzer’s cut was in the 1,000 freestyle (10:56.26).

Fourteen Jay County swimmers combined to make 30 new divisional cuts. Jaley Knapschafer and Aubrey Millspaugh had the strongest days, advancing in four events each. The former made divisional cuts in the 100 freestyle, 200 freestyle, 100 butterfly and 100 breaststroke, while the latter shaved time in the 200 backstroke, 400 individual medley, 100 breaststroke and 100 butterfly.

The Jay County Winter Swim Team will open the divisional meet on Friday.

Runkle leads

WESTFIELD — The JC Flipsters gymnastics team competed in its final regular season meet over the weekend at the Grand Park Classic.

Charlie Runkle, out of the Silver Xcel division, had the best day for the Flipsters. She

finished third in the all-around with a score of 36.725. She performed the best on the floor exercise, earning 9.25 points for fifth place. Runkle also had a pair of sixth-place finishes on the vault and the uneven parallel bars.

Aubrey Foreman and Paylin Vance finished fifth and seventh, respectively, in the all-around competition in the silver division. Both found success on the bars, as Vance earned sixth place and Foreman claimed seventh.

Aubree Shannon had the highest finish in the Gold Xcel division, accruing 36.875 points for fourth in the all-around. She finished third on the balance beam with a score of 9.275 points and fourth on the floor with 9.35.

The Flipsters also had a pair of ninth-place finishes in the gold division from Jordyn Champ and Charli Stephens.

Emalee Miller’s eighthth-place all-around finish (36.05) was the top performance for the Bronze Xcel division.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Thursday
Jay County — Junior high swim at Bluffton - 5:30 p.m.; Junior high wrestling at Bluffton - 5:30 p.m.

Friday
Jay County — Track and Field at Marion HSR Qualifier - 5:30 p.m.

TV sports

Today
1 p.m. — MLB Spring Training: Detroit Tigers vs. Philadelphia Phillies (ESPN)
6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Maryland at Michigan (BTN); DePaul at Providence (FS1)
7 p.m. — NBA: Miami Heat at Cleveland Cavaliers (ESPN)
7 p.m. — College basketball: Florida

at Alabama (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NHL: Washington Capitals at New York Rangers (TNT)
8:30 p.m. — College basketball: Marquette at UConn (FS1); Wisconsin at Minnesota (BTN)
9 p.m. — College basketball: Tennessee at Ole Miss (ESPN2)
9:30 p.m. — NBA: Oklahoma City Thunder at Memphis Grizzlies (ESPN)
10 p.m. — NHL: Toronto Maple Leafs

at Vegas Golden Knights (TNT)
10:30 p.m. — College basketball: Washington at USC (BTN)
10:30 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: UNLV at Wyoming (FS1)
10:30 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Los Angeles Kings (FDSN Indiana)

Thursday
3:50 p.m. — AFL rugby: Geelong Cats at Brisbane Lions (FS1)

1 p.m. — MLB Spring Training: St. Louis Cardinals vs. Washington Nationals (FDSN Indiana); New York Yankees vs. Minnesota Twins (ESPN)
6 p.m. — MLB Spring Training: Atlanta Braves at Miami Marlins (NBC)
7 p.m. — College basketball: Florida Atlantic at UAB (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — NHL: Buffalo Sabers at Tampa Bay Lightning (ESPN)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at

Atlanta Hawks (FDSN Indiana); Philadelphia 76ers at Boston Celtics (TNT)
8 p.m. — College basketball: Michigan State at Iowa (FS1)
9 p.m. — College basketball: Charlotte at North Texas (ESPN2)
9:30 p.m. — NHL: San Jose Sharks at Colorado Avalanche (ESPN)
10 p.m. — NBA: New York Knicks at Los Angeles Lakers (TNT)
11 p.m. — LIV Golf: Hong Kong (FS1)

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word
2 insertions.....81c/
word
3 insertions.....96c/
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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
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Advertising Deadline is
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ized 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

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90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Bubb Exhibition Hall at the Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 W Votaw St., Portland, IN

March 8th, 2025
9:30 A. M.
ANTIQUES-OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS
CAST IRON: Wapak #9, Griswold #8 & #9, Wagner chicken fryer and Sidney griddle;
GRANITE AND PORCELAIN: coffee pots, pans, roasters and other pieces, Carnival Glass, Milk Bottles to include Union City, McCoy pitcher, Fiesta plates, Green Depression Glass, tobacco tins, Edison records, wood pulleys, Pepsi and Coke cases, Quaker State oil can, wood Barrel, CROCKS AND JUGS; #8 Clover, #5 UHL, #3, crock bowls, metal signs, wood spigots, feed sacks including Haynes Milling, pulleys, printer trays; and many other items not listed.
AUCTIONEERS NOTE: This is only a partial listing of the many items to be sold.

ROGERS FAMILY
Loy Auction
AC#31600027
Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112
Kayden Khayyata AU12400069

PUBLIC AUCTION

Saturday March 15th, 2025
TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 783 S 600E Portland, IN.
OPEN HOUSE Sunday March 2nd & Sunday March 9th 1-3p.m. or for private showing phone auctioneers.

REAL ESTATE
30 Acres in Section 21, Noble Twp., Jay County. Sold in parcels and combinations.

Tract 1: 2 Acres with 3 bedroom farmhouse containing 2272 sq. ft. finished living area and 30 x 48i pole barn/garage. Partial basement. Pole barn has cement floor, 3 overhead doors and office area.

Tract 2: 28 Acres with approx.. 20 tillable, balance being wooded and road frontage on CR 600 E.

OWNER: LARRY BICKEL ESTATE By Kent Bickel, PR.

Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.

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

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
SATURDAY, MARCH 29TH, 2025
9:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 3430 W State Road 67, Portland, IN or 3 Q miles west of Portland at the corner of Hwy 67 and County Road 200 South.

NOW ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS UNTIL
NOON. THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH, 2025.
Farm Tractors-Farm Equip.-Construction Equip.-Trucks-Trailers-Vehicles-Riding Mowers-ATVs-Attachments-Misc
TERMS: CASH OR GOOD CHECK NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS
NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR NO SHOWS
AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Indiana Sales Tax will be collected at this auction.
AREA CONTRACTORS & FARMERS OWNERS
AUCTIONEERS
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110 HELP WANTED

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JAY. SS:
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT
COURT
CAUSE NO:
38C01-2501-ES-000001
IN THE MATTER OF THE
SUPERVISED ESTATE OF:
LARRY L. MOSER
(Deceased)
NOTICE OF SUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that Jennifer Gray was appointed as Personal Representative of the estate of Larry L. Moser, deceased, on January 31, 2025, who died on the 21st day of November, 2024. 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 2/3/2025
Melissa Elliot
CLERK
COLDREN, FRANTZ & SPRUNGER
Attorneys at Law
940 N. Meridian St.
Portland, IN 47371
260-726-4220
CR 3-5-12-2025 -HSPAXLP

110 HELP WANTED

am - 4 pm, Tuesday - Friday NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. Equal opportunity employer.

130 MISC. FOR SALE

SCRATCH PADS ARE BACK various bundles sizes and XL pads. \$1.25 plus tax. Pick up at The Commercial Review Tuesday thru Friday 10am to 4pm.

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

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

Madison Township, Jay County, Indiana
Cash and Investments Combined Statement - 2024

Local Fund Number	Local Fund Name	Beg. Cash and Inv. Bal. Jan 1, 2024	Receipts	Disbursements	End Cash and Inv. Bal. Dec 31, 2024
			Governmental Activities		
01	withholding	\$438.00	\$458.97	\$438.00	\$458.97
1	Cumulative Fire	\$66,201.11	\$13,952.00	\$9,000.00	\$7,153.41
2	Fire Fighting	\$47,373.99	\$6,641.20	\$3,331.00	\$50,684.19
3	Levy Excess	\$67.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$67.00
4	Rainy Day	\$3,630.52	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,630.52
5	Township	\$25,785.65	\$17,329.64	\$12,820.84	\$30,294.45
6	Township Assistance	\$18,207.25	\$3,159.37	\$1,700.00	\$19,666.62
	Total All Funds	\$161,703.52	\$41,541.48	\$27,289.84	\$175,955.16

CERTIFICATION
State of Indiana
SS: Jay County
I, Scott Hilfiker, Trustee of Madison Township, Jay County, Indiana, do solemnly affirm under the penalty of perjury that the preceding report is complete, true and correct; that the sum with which I am charged in this report are all of the sums received by me; and that the various items of expenditures credited have been fully paid in the sums stated; that such payments were made without express or implied agreement that any portion thereof shall be retained by or repaid to me or any other person. I further affirm that a complete and detailed annual report, together with all accompanying vouchers showing the names of persons having been paid money by the township, have been filed as required by law in the office of the County Auditor, and that copies of such annual report are in custody of the Township Board and the State Board of Accounts. Said report is subject to inspection by any taxpayer of the township.
Scott Hilfiker, Madison Township Trustee
Telephone: 260-726-5135
Date this report was to be published 3-5-2025.
Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, the Chairman of the Township Board of Madison Township at its annual meeting this 27th day of February, 2025
Patty Starr, Madison Township Board Chairman
This report was received, accepted, and approved by the Township Board at its annual meeting, this 27th day of February, 2025
Madison Township Board:
Patty Starr
Charlene Theurer
Greg Shreeve
CR 3-5-2025- HSPAXLP

130 MISC. FOR SALE

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.

190 FARMERS COL-UMN

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

Pennville Civil Town, Jay County, Indiana
Cash & Investments Combined Statement - 2024

Local Fund Number	Local Fund Name	Beg. Cash and Inv. Bal. Jan 1, 2024	Receipts	Disbursements	End Cash and Inv. Bal. Dec 31, 2024
			Governmental Activities		
0	General	\$194,359.26	\$207,629.98	\$242,444.39	\$159,544.85
0	Motor Vehicle Highway	\$45,026.47	\$91,799.03	\$27,382.44	\$109,443.06
0	Local Road And Street	\$12,625.92	\$18,069.44	\$0.00	\$30,695.36
0	Sanitation	-\$3,881.55	\$36,894.00	\$34,073.51	-\$1,061.06
0	Riverboat	\$75,088.61	\$3,556.43	\$8,920.31	\$69,724.73
0	Rainy Day	\$103,184.80	\$0.00	\$3,728.61	\$99,456.19
0	Heh1001-2007 Ptrc Final	\$2,434.38	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,434.38
0	Cumulative Capl Imprv				
0	Cigarette Tax	\$19,969.82	\$3,990.51	\$3,991.98	\$19,968.35
0	Fire Equipment (Not Debt Service)	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
0	Co Economic Development Income Tax	\$1,306.00	\$8,692.00	\$7,042.00	\$2,956.00
0	Cash Change	\$130.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$130.00
0	Law Enforcement	\$2,694.54	\$129.04	\$0.00	\$2,823.58
0	Public Safety	\$28,962.68	\$7,354.00	\$0.00	\$36,316.68
0	Grant	\$8,595.61	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,595.61
2021-2024	ARP	\$3,781.63	\$0.00	\$3,781.63	\$0.00
	Sub/Total	\$495,778.17	\$378,114.43	\$331,364.87	\$542,527.73
	WASTEWATER				
0	Wastewater Utility-Operating	\$45,367.57	\$106,450.30	\$125,015.56	\$26,802.31
0	Wastewater Utility-Deprec/Improve	\$59,505.58	\$6,924.00	\$15,591.47	\$50,838.11
0	Wastewater Cash Reserve	\$21,390.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,390.00
	Sub/Total	\$126,263.15	\$113,374.30	\$140,607.03	\$99,030.42
	WATER				
0	Water Utility-Operating	\$185,875.59	\$167,227.05	\$244,668.27	\$108,434.37
0	Water Utility-Depreciation/Improve	\$40,789.02	\$1,929.12	\$19,165.00	\$23,553.14
0	Water Utility-Customer Deposit	\$40,199.92	\$3,500.00	\$1,400.00	\$42,299.92
	Sub/Total	\$266,864.53	\$172,656.17	\$265,233.27	\$174,287.43
	GRAND TOTAL	\$888,905.85	\$664,144.90	\$737,205.17	\$815,845.58

CR 3-5-2025- HSPAXLP

Sports



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Seniors at state

The Fort Recovery High School boys and girls bowling teams competed in the OHSAA Division II state tournaments at H.P. Lanes over the weekend. Pictured above is Eli Lennartz, one of two seniors on the boys team, while below is Ella Schoen, one of four seniors for the girls.



Fields hired as next JCHS football coach

Whitko graduate has made stops at Fort Wayne South Side, Manchester and southern states

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

The Patriots are looking to build something, and the first brick has just been laid.

Jay School Board unanimously approved Eddie Fields to be the next Jay County High School football coach during a special session on Monday. (For more on the meeting, see the story on page 1.)

"I'm very appreciative to the administration all the way across the board from Alex (Griffin) as the AD all the way up to the superintendent," Fields said. "All those guys have been very helpful along the way and I'm grateful for that. ... I can't wait to get stared and contact the parents and get to know the kids."

Fields, a graduate of Whitko, takes over for Indiana Football Hall of Famer Grant Zgunda, who retired following the 2024 season in which the Patriots went 3-8. After his time as a Wildcat was over, he played football at Anderson University before he transferred to Purdue Fort Wayne after his career was derailed by injuries.

Fields got his start in coaching as an assistant at the former Fort Wayne Elmhurst before landing the head coaching position at Fort Wayne South Side in 2010. He captained the Archers for three seasons, leading them to 9-21 record with the best season coming in 2011 at 4-7. He was also the baseball coach at

South Side and has worked as a wrestling assistant.

Looking for a new start, Fields moved south for the next nine years, serving in a variety of assistant roles at Space Coast in Cocoa, Florida, Brantley County in Nahunta, Georgia, and Hannah Pamplico in Pamplico, South Carolina.

As his son, Bryan, entered high school, Fields returned to Indiana as the coach at Manchester. He led the Squires to a 5-7 season, their best since going 8-2 in 2009. He moved back to Georgia after his teaching position got eliminated at Manchester and he served as an assistant coach at Wayne County this year.

He wanted to bring his family back to Indiana for the remainder of his son's high school career when he found the job at Jay County.

"As we were looking to come back, the Jay County position became open, as did other positions," Fields said. "But Jay County all the way was just a great spot that I really felt like I could build a program and meet my personal goals, but also bring my kid in there and be a great experience where he could have great educational opportunities as well as athletics. So, really excited about it from that regard."

There were a few keys that helped Fields stand out to Jay County Athletics Director Alex Griffin. Among them were the depth of experience and passion he has for football and how that has provided him a different mindset on how to put Jay County into a position to be successful.

See Fields page 7



Fields

JC winter swim team makes four state cuts in finale

MUNCIE — The tankers showed out in their final performance of the regular season.

The Jay County Winter Swim Team had four new state cuts and 30 divisional cuts as it closed out the regular season at the CARD Last Chance Meet at Muncie Central High School over the weekend.

Carsyn Guggenbiller secured two of the state cuts in the 200-yard individual medley with a

Local roundup

time of 2 minutes, 49.50 seconds and in the 50 backstroke with a 36.33 swim. She will be joined at the Indiana University Natatorium on March 21st by Grady Warvel and Cooper Glentzer.

See Roundup page 7

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AD SPECIALS

IT'S SPRING HOME IMPROVEMENT TIME!

Our spring home improvement special section will be distributed in
The Commercial Review (Portland), The News-Gazette (Winchester) and The News Times (Hartford City)

full-page color – **\$550** (only one available)

1/2-page color – **\$475**

1/2-page B&W – **\$300**

1/4-page B&W – **\$225**

Big business card (3x3.5) – **\$100**

Business card (2x2) – **\$60**

Space for color ads is limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Deadline for ads is **Monday, March 10**

Contact Lindsey at
L.Cochran@theocr.com
or **(260) 726-8141**