

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Bid awarded for tornado repairs

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

A firm has been chosen to handle repairs from the Sept. 22 tornado.

Jay School Board on Monday awarded a \$2.23 million contract to Muhlenkamp Building Corporation for construction on the junior high wing of Jay County Junior-Senior High School that was extensively damaged in the storm.

The board also took no action on a recommendation to extend the contract of JCHS girls basketball coach Sherri McIntire. It approved an increase in fees for preschool

Muhlenkamp will handle \$2.2 million in work on building's junior high wing

and a change in the preschool contract.

Jay School Corporation superintendent Jeremy Gulley presented the board with five bids for the project, ranging from Muhlenkamp's low bid of \$2.23 million to Service Master's high bid

of \$3.13 million. Each of the bids included alternates to install new marker and tack boards, cabinets, countertops and flooring, and to remove existing aluminum in favor of metal studs.

Gulley and architectural firm Barton Coe Vilamaa recommend-

ed selecting Muhlenkamp of Coldwater, Ohio, for the project.

Board members Donna Geesaman, Marcie Vormohr, Chip Phillips, Aaron Clark, Jon Eads and Chad Towell voted unanimously to award the project to Muhlenkamp and to allow

Gulley to select which alternates to include. (Gulley noted that the school corporation's insurance firm must also approve Muhlenkamp's bid. After the meeting, he said the school corporation and the insurance firm have agreed to the scope of damages.)

"It really comes down to mechanical — everybody saw the HVAC blown off the building — electrical, plumbing," he said, "those things above that ceiling grid that now have to be re-done. And you know just by looking at photographs — carpet, furniture and equipment like that."

See **Repairs** page 5

Mayor, council at odds again

Frustration stemmed from issue not on the agenda

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Another meeting turned contentious after the mayor brought up an issue that was not on the agenda.

Portland City Council members criticized Mayor Jeff Westlake at the conclusion of their meeting Monday for introducing an issue involving vacation time for a police officer without providing them information in advance.

Council also tabled discussion of proposed ordinance changes regarding solicitation and noise.

The meeting seemed headed for adjournment before Westlake brought up the city's transfer policy in regard to police officer Jagg Nunez, who returned to the department in December. He had worked as an officer for about three years before leaving for a job in Decatur. He left the Decatur department in August.

Westlake said he'd like the city to honor Nunez's previous time with the department in regard to his vacation time and his years of service.

"Are we going to go by the ordinance or do what you want to do?" asked council member Mike Aker.

Clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips said that based on her reading of the city's ordinance and policy handbook, Nunez does not qualify because there was a four-month gap between his departure from Decatur and his hiring in Portland. It was not a true transfer, she said, providing an example in which an officer came to Portland directly from another department.

City attorney Wes Schemenaur said he had talked with both Westlake and Phillips and suggested that because there is a disagreement, council should weigh in on the matter.

Council member Ashley Hilfiker, who clashed with Westlake at the previous council meeting, asked Westlake why the issue was not on the agenda. The mayor responded that he got busy and did not have time.

See **Odds** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

It's toast!

Six-year-old Sophia Hunt takes a bite out of a piece of toast on Tuesday morning during Jay County's ag breakfast in Ed Schmit Memorial Exhibition Hall at Jay County Fairgrounds. Attendees received a free breakfast of eggs, sausage, bacon, toast and various drink options for a free-will donation.

Butler Street project underway

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — Work on Butler Street has started.

Fort Recovery Village Council discussed its ongoing reconstruction project and related traffic issues Monday.

It also hired Choice One Engineering as the village's consulting engineer

for its Safe Routes to School projects planned for 2027.

The \$1.4 million project on Butler Street (Ohio 119) between Fort Site and Main streets was originally slated to begin in June or July. Tom's Construction workers recently started working on the street and installed a water line last week. Fort Recovery vil-

lage administrator Randy Diller anticipates the company to finish water main work this week.

Partially funded by an Ohio Public Works Commission grant, the project calls for an "improved aggregate base and asphalt" to handle heavy truck traffic each day, as well as the following: improved curbs and side-

walks, 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.

Diller noted semi drivers have been bypassing the

state detour, which directs semi traffic to Ohio 29 while the project is ongoing. Fort Recovery Police Chief Jared Laux pointed out his department has been writing citations for semi drivers ignoring the detour and noted there are several signs set out to indicate the street is closed.

See **Street** page 2

Tweaks made to staffing at FRLS

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

A few tweaks have been made to Fort Recovery Local School's staffing next year.

Fort Recovery School Board approved the district's staffing plan Monday for the 2025-26 school year.

Fort Recovery superintendent Tony Stahl pointed out the staffing plan is based on estimates from the five-year financial forecast prepared and presented by treasurer Deanna Knapke in November 2024. Other factors such as enrollment, budgetary needs for non-personnel funds and staff members' licen-

sure are also taken into consideration.

Per the forecast, the school district is expected to finish the current fiscal year on June 30 with a budget surplus of more than \$2.73 million, bringing its year-end cash balance before encumbrances to \$14.7 million.

Enrollment is projected at nearly the same — down by one student — from the current year to next school year at 897 students. (Elementary principal Laura Brandt noted 70 students are registered for preschool in the fall.)

See **Staffing** page 5

Deaths

Brian Adair, 63, Pennville
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 38 degrees Monday. The low was 29.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the mid 30s with rain and winds gusting to 40 mph. There is a chance of snow and rain Thursday with a high in the mid 40s and continued windy conditions. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Portland Redevelopment Commission has scheduled a special meeting for 8 a.m. Friday, March 21, at Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.

Coming up

Thursday — Photos from tonight's Jay County baseball red-blue scrimmage.

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

Saturday — Details from Friday's Portland Redevelopment Commission meeting.



Odds ...

Continued from page 1

He also read from a portion of city ordinance, indicating that he feels it gives him the right to run the department.

Council member Matt Goldsworthy expressed frustration with the situation.

"This is what happens when stuff is not put on the (agenda)," said Goldsworthy.

"That's why there's a process guys, and we have to follow the process."

He referred to the mayor not having time to put the issue on the agenda as "malarkey" and said things need to be done the right way.

"The right way is to ... let us know what's going on so we can have an understanding of what we're going into and not just having something thrown at me," he added.

Responding to comments indicating that officers do not want to work for the city of Portland, he argued that the city has done

a lot for its officers over the last several years. He said Portland is a good place to live and work.

"I don't know what the problem is with our police department, with our mayor, with our clerk-treasurer," Goldsworthy said, "but it's got to get fixed."

Phillips addressed Nunez, saying there is no personal issue and that she is just trying to follow policy properly.

"I answer to state board of accounts," she said. "I don't answer to somebody coming in and trying to bully me into doing this."

She also passed out a packet to each council member, saying there are more problems going on within the city government.

Council member Ron May suggested that the vacation issue be placed on the agenda for the April council meeting. Other members agreed and the meeting was adjourned.

Also Monday, council members Kent McClung, Dave Gold-

en, May, Hilfiker, Aker and Goldsworthy, absent Michele Brewster, reviewed and suggested changes to a proposed ordinance regarding solicitation. The current ordinance requires a permit, which is good for 90 days, and a \$5 fee.

Hilfiker, who brought up the issue at the last meeting saying she has had solicitors at her house in the evening, suggested that the time period be shortened and the fee increased. (She said she'd like to see the fee at \$100 while May advocated for \$25.) The new ordinance would also require a background check.

After a brief discussion, council members agreed to table the issue. They said they will look at what other cities have set as fees.

Council members also discussed possible changes to the city's noise ordinance, which had been discussed at their last two meetings after a complaint

from a resident regarding noise coming from a religious service being held at Jay Community Center.

Golden noted that Muncie's ordinance sets a limit of 83 decibels and that a quality decibel meter would cost about \$400.

Council members and the mayor discussed various aspects of the ordinance, including the existing exemptions for emergency vehicles, lawnmowers, athletic events and religious services. Goldsworthy said it doesn't seem to make sense to change an ordinance in a way that would not address the issue, as the event in question would remain covered by the exemption for religious services. (Schemenaur has advised that removing that exemption would lead to Constitutional issues with the First Amendment.)

Westlake said he has reached out to those in charge of the service and would like to give

them a chance to address the issue before making ordinance changes.

Council tabled the issue.

In other business, the council:

- Approved closing Main Street between Meridian Street and halfway between Ship and Pleasant streets from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 17, for a car show.
- Heard questions from Aker and May regarding issues on Meridian Street (U.S. 27). Aker asked about a manhole near Adams Street, with Westlake saying it has been reported to Indiana Department of Transportation. May relayed a concern from a constituent about the cleanliness of the street.
- Learned from Westlake that the city's new code enforcement officer has started and is being trained by another officer.
- Heard a suggestion from May to put up digital signs at the city limits along state highways in an effort to slow down traffic.

CR almanac

Thursday 3/20	Friday 3/21	Saturday 3/22	Sunday 3/23	Monday 3/24
43/26	55/42	49/28	50/40	47/33
Mostly cloudy skies with a 50% chance of snow. The low may hit the mid to upper 20s.	Friday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with temperatures in the mid 50s.	There's a slight chance of showers on Saturday when the high may reach 57.	Another slight chance of rain on Sunday with highs in the mid 50s.	There's a 70% chance of showers on Monday with highs in the upper 40s.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 17-40-47-50-55 Power Ball: 6 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$353 million	Daily Four: 3-1-6-2 Quick Draw: 3-4-6-8-9-16-18-19-29-32-33-37-42-54-55-63-65-74-75-78 Cash 5: 3-15-16-36-40 Estimated jackpot: \$132,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$256 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 0-0-8 Pick 4: 8-2-1-0 Pick 5: 6-7-4-8-1 Evening Pick 3: 4-6-7 Pick 4: 5-0-1-4 Pick 5: 9-0-9-3-0 Rolling Cash: 2-4-9-15-38 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 3-5-1 Daily Four: 7-7-2-8 Quick Draw: 1-3-4-6-7-13-14-28-29-30-31-41-47-48-50-56-64-72-78-80 Evening Daily Three: 3-5-4	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.48 April corn.....4.54 May corn.....4.60	April beans10.20 Wheat 5.24
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.75 April corn.....4.72 May corn.....4.75	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.58 April corn4.61 Beans10.11 April beans10.14 Wheat5.29
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.72 April corn4.72 Beans10.17	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.50 April corn4.55 Beans9.87 April beans9.92 Wheat5.25

Today in history

In 1860, William Jennings Bryan was born in Salem, Illinois. Bryan served as a Nebraska representative in Congress from 1891 to '95 and was known for his religious beliefs and popularity, earning him the nickname "The Great Commoner."

In 1918, United States president Woodrow Wilson established Daylight Savings Time when he signed the Standard Time Act.

In 1931, Nevada legalized gambling. The measure led to casinos cropping up around the state, including the development of Las Vegas' gambling scene.

In 1962, Bob Dylan released his first self-titled album. Some of his notable songs include "Blowin' in the Wind" and "The Times They Are a-Changin'", which became anti-war movement anthems.

In 1996, a fire swept through a Manila dis-cotheque in the Philippines, killing 159 of the people inside.

— The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 3:15 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation executive session, airport, 661 W. 100 North, Portland.	Tuesday 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 Mooney St.
March 26 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North, Portland.	6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

Obituaries

Brian Adair
Oct. 5, 1961-March 14, 2025

Brian K. Adair, age 63, of Pennville passed away on Friday, March 14, 2025, at IU Health Jay hospital.

He was born in Portland on Oct. 5, 1961, the son of Dale and Phyllis (Boner) Adair. He was married on July 6, 1992, to Cindy Green and she passed away on Feb. 11, 2023.

Brian was owner and operator of Adair Processing in Pennville since 1999. He had also worked at Fort Recovery Industries and was maintenance manager for Oakwood Trailer Park and Persimmon Ridge Healthcare. He was a 1980 Jay County High School graduate, member of Pennville Lions Club and enjoyed

golfing, camping, hunting, fishing and watching sports.

Surviving are his children Craig Imel (wife: Mindy) of Portland, Jamie Shaneyfelt (wife: Amy) of Portland, Kent Wicker (wife: Amy) of Celina, Ohio, and Erin Bollenbacher of Berne; brothers Matthew Adair (wife: Susan) of Portland and Alan Adair (wife: Mary) of Portland; and one sister, Mary Adair of Portland; 10 grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be Thursday, March 20, at 11 a.m. in the



Adair

Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Darrell Borders presiding. Burial will follow in the Green Park Cemetery. Visitation will be Wednesday from 3 to 7 p.m.

Memorials can be made to Jay County Cancer Society or Midwest Pet Refuge.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

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

There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

Street ...

Continued from page 1

Diller said the project is constantly moving, with portions of the street open to local traffic depending on the day.

"I've told all the businesses (along Butler Street), I've said, this is going to be a moving project, so there's going to be times when they can get right to your front door, and there's going to be times when they can't get anywhere close to your front door," said Diller. "You're just going to have to keep an eye on things ..."

The construction company indicated the project will take approximately 60 days to complete. Diller noted the company's schedule estimates asphalt will be completed around June 1. He said it's likely the village won't have new traffic light poles by then, and the village may need to put up a temporary four-way stop at the intersection of Butler and Wayne streets until the poles are delivered.

Also Monday, council selected Choice One Engineering as the village's consulting engineer for its Safe Routes to Schools construction projects.

The village was awarded \$439,589 from the state grant program in July for projects focused on safety for children walking or biking to school. Projects in the works include installing 625 feet of sidewalk on the east side of Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School and connecting it to Sharpshurg Road, building a

crosswalk in front of Fort Recovery High School on Butler Street at its intersection with First Street and improving visibility of markings at the five-point intersection of Butler, Boundary, William and Third streets.

Construction is expected to begin sometime in 2027.

Also, council heard the village received nine applicants for its assistant village administrator role, which is intended to train a new employee to take over Diller's job when he retires in February 2026.

Diller pointed out the hiring committee met prior to council's meeting Monday and it requested an executive session with council to discuss applications.

Council met in executive session following its regular meeting and scheduled interviews with potential candidates for next week.

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

- Approved a recommendation from the tax incentive review council to extend a tax abatement with J&M Manufacturing by one year. (Corresponding taxes will be collected in the current year.)
- Heard plans for environmental consultant Water-Solve to provide a sludge report and tests for the village's wastewater lagoons.
- OK'd paying the following bills: \$5,082 from PMG Consulting for work on

water plant improvements designs and \$1,526.75 from Eagon and Associates for the site study to determine a location for a third well in the village.

- Approved amendments to the village's zoning map and regulations on a final reading. The amendments serve to rezone Brandon and Amanda Weyerick's property at 105 S. Elm St. to commercial and prohibit first-floor residential use in central commercial district buildings.
- Amended the wage ordinance to hire Abels as village solicitor effective April 1.

SERVICES

Thursday
Adair, Brian: 11 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Saturday
Haynes, Vicki: 3 p.m., W.H. Dick & Sons – Hellwarth Funeral Home, 218 W. Market St., Celina, Ohio.

Service listings provided by
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Thursday, March 20, 2025
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Adult ticket: \$15.00
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Activities are made possible in part by the Community Foundation of Randolph County, the Indiana Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. Other sponsors include Bollenbacher & Associates, LLC, Dennis & Marianne Horn, and Dr. Joe Trimmer in memory of Carol Trimmer.



Photo provided

Character Counts

East Elementary School recognized first graders for demonstrating caring. Pictured above in the front row are Kyri Hall, Kalea Olwin and Ivan Clem, and in the second row are Scarlett Cox, Olivia Skirvin and Zoey Skirvin.

Marriage licenses

Emily F. Koble, 23, Laotto, and Denver A. Royer, 22, Bryant
Ryan J. Fourman, 20, Portland, and Jessie R. Harrison, 22, Portland
Mark D. Myers, 61, Portland, and Melissa M. Yap, 30, Portland
Triton D. Moeller, 23, Portland, and Lorena De Los Angeles Urbina, 25, Portland
O'Ryan J. Cochran, 41, Portland, and Kara L. Donahoe, 33, Portland
Eric K. Huey, 55, Dunkirk, and Kristy L. Miller, 46, Dunkirk
Martin R. Cardona, 34, Redkey, and Jeremy D. Barlow, 40, Redkey
Charise N. Barton, 39, Dunkirk, and Jimmy L. Rutland, 47, Dunkirk
Deborah L. Brinkerhoff, 77, Portland, and Steven L. Chrisman, 79, Bryant

Decision to downsize split between couple

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I are retired seniors. We live in a beautiful two-story house we built 14 years ago. At the time, we thought it would be our final home, but in my opinion, it no longer meets our needs. I want to move and downsize. The problem is that my wife doesn't.

Throughout our 50 years of marriage, we have lived in four houses, and each time I wanted to move, she did not. She becomes emotionally attached to a house. I have explained to her that we need a one-story house or condo closer to our kids, who live across town. Just bringing up the subject gets her very upset. I believe I will die before she does. It would give me peace knowing that after my funeral, she would return home and not be faced with a lot of problems.

When I die, our children are going to want her to move closer anyway. She will then have to coordinate and handle the move on her own — a massive job even with the help of our two sons.

I could easily take the position that I'll be gone so what do I care, but I do care. I have looked out for her our entire marriage, and I would like to finish the job.

Dear Abby



Advice? — HERO HUSBAND IN OHIO

DEAR HERO HUSBAND: I do have some. You signed your letter "Hero Husband," but hasn't it occurred to you that in your zeal to take care of and protect your wife, you may have infantilized her?

Her feelings on this subject should be respected. Many widows (may it be many, many years before she becomes one unless she dies first) find strength and resourcefulness they didn't know they had after the death of their husbands. What happens to this house should be a family decision, not yours alone.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeane Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips.

Contact Dear Abby at Dear-Abby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

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 - BRI-

ANNA'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. Meridian St. in Portland. For more informa-

tion, 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.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SUICIDE GRIEF — Meets from 1 to 2:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month. The support group serves to help individuals who have lost a loved one to suicide. To register, contact Stephanie Patterson at (260) 251-3259.

ORGAN TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the IU Health Blackford main conference room.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

Friday

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month in the former WE. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

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

Saturday

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

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRI-ANNA'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.

Monday

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

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

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

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SPECIAL AGRICULTURE SECTION

Our agriculture special section will be distributed in

The Commercial Review (Portland)
The News-Gazette (Winchester)
and The News Times (Hartford City)

full-page color — \$500 (only one available)
1/2-page color — \$400
1/2-page B&W — \$325
1/4-page color — \$275
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, April 14.

GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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

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Friendship survives across decades

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from March 17, 2005. There are all kinds of friends. Some are for life. Some are with us for a short time. All make an impact. Catching up with an old friend can be something special.

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

Would I recognize him? I wasn't sure. Sitting in a big city bar, waiting to meet up with someone you haven't seen in almost 20 years can be a little intimidating. I was in town to do a press seminar, and thanks to a high school class connection I'd learned that an old friend was affiliated with a major university in the same city. From there, it was a matter of a couple of quick e-mails to set up a time to meet for dinner. But would I recognize him? I wasn't sure.

Back in the Saddle



Watching the entrance, I assessed everyone who came in. When one guy with a partially-shaved head wandered by, I gave him a close look. Maybe rebellious enough, but too young. When another guy with a ratty ponytail came by, I thought back to my old friend's rock n roll days and decided he was a bad fit. Finally, about the time I was beginning to think the reunion wouldn't happen, the most dapper guy in town walked in. It was my old friend, although

he looked a lot more like Frank Sinatra. His suit was perfectly tailored. His tie was silk, with a designer label. In other words, he looked a little different from the last time I saw him at our 20th class reunion and a heckuva lot different from our graduation back in 1966. We made quite a pair as we went off to dinner. If there's a word for the opposite of dapper, it would have applied to me. Though I can be presentable when need be, my turtleneck and tweed sport jacket were not in the same league as my friend's tailoring. In some ways, the differences in our wardrobes were symbolic of the different paths our lives had taken since high school. I've been married almost 34

years; he's divorced, having been married to another of my best friends for a couple of decades. He has no children; I have three charming daughters. His parents — though in their late 80s — are living; mine have been gone for years, Dad died 22 years ago this week. His career as an engineer has been built upon numbers; mine has been based upon words. He's a self-described Libertarian. I'm, well, not a Libertarian. Our lives have taken very different paths since high school graduation. But it wasn't our differences which mattered over dinner. It was our connections. Seamlessly we moved from conversation to conversation, trading stories and anecdotes and opinions that dated back to first grade at Judge Haynes Elementary School.

We reflected on how blind we were to other classmates' potential, how quickly we got caught up in all the adolescent nonsense which clouds human judgment, and — most of all — how glad we were that we'd been able to re-establish connection after all these years. We told stories from elementary school. We told stories from junior high gym class. We laughed over our teachers, our friends, and primarily at ourselves. And when the evening ended, when we gave one another a hug at the entrance to his subway station at the base of my hotel, we both realized what a wonderful thing it can be when your friends at age 56 just happen to be some of the same folks who were your friends at age 6. That's tough to beat.

Case stresses vaccine importance

The Virginian-Pilot
Tribune News Service

It's a nightmare scenario for public health officials: A traveler infected with a highly contagious virus passes through an airport while asymptomatic, unknowingly transmitting the disease to others and sparking a widespread outbreak.

Virginia health officials hope that won't be the case with a Maryland resident who passed through Washington Dulles International Airport before testing positive for measles. But the incident should have sirens flashing and alarms screaming as separate outbreaks of that disease in New Mexico and Texas have killed two people and sickened hundreds more.

Now is the time to make sure children are vaccinated from that virus and have their health records up to date. And now is the time to ensure robust communication and solid planning, recognizing the federal government's retreat from sound science relating to disease control and prevention.

Most Americans fairly view measles as a disease from history, a virus that ravaged previous generations that is now all but eradicated following development of a safe and effective vaccine more than 60 years ago. Cases would pop up from time to time, but they were incredibly rare and swiftly contained.

A new outbreak could well change that. With a vaccine skeptic in charge of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the likelihood of a robust federal response is slim, meaning we must protect by ensuring their vaccines are up to date.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, measles was a legitimately terrifying disease. Between 3 million and 4 million people, usually children under the age of 15, were infected each year, about 48,000 of them were hospitalized and the virus killed about 500 to 600 people annually.

That changed in 1963 when researchers using the isolated measles virus successfully developed a vaccine for widespread distribution. Typically combined with mumps and rubella vaccines, or the mumps, rubella and varicella vaccines, the landmark breakthrough inspired dreams of finally extinguishing measles for good.

That became official U.S.

Guest Editorial

policy in 1978 when the CDC set out to eradicate measles by 1982. Health officials updated their strategy to recommend two doses of the vaccine for all children, and the new approach delivered remarkable progress. By 2000, the United States formally declared measles eliminated as a public threat.

That's when complacency set in. Americans raised in a world without measles came to take it for granted. They cast doubt on a vaccine program confirmed by countless studies to be safe and which was unquestionably effective.

As skepticism blossomed, vaccination uptake shriveled just enough for measles to return.

Already, the United States has recorded the largest number of measles cases in a calendar year since 2019 and, at this rate, 2025 would be the worst year of infections in more than 30 years. The two deaths this year — a 6-year-old in Texas and an adult in New Mexico — are the first measles-related fatalities since 2015.

To now learn of someone infected at Dulles is undeniably concerning.

It was reassuring to see Virginia Department of Health officials encourage anyone at Dulles on March 5 between 4 and 9 p.m. to monitor for symptoms and contact their health providers for guidance regarding vaccinations. That stands in contrast to HHS Secretary Robert Kennedy, who cast doubt on the research behind the measles vaccine in a Fox News interview, blamed the measles deaths on poor diet and recommended snake oil, ahem, cod liver oil as a preventive measure to guard against illness.

The fact is, the measles vaccine successfully eliminated the virus from circulation and its absence allowed for a resurgence. While officials such as Kennedy should be shouting that from the rooftops, this outbreak makes clear that the commonwealth may need to organize our own defenses, grounded in proven science, to protect our communities.



Indiana has an opportunity

By ADDIE ANGELOV
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The 2025 General Assembly is arguably the health session. With so much focus being placed on Medicaid, less fiscally impactful issues are struggling to bubble up to the top of committee agendas. One issue that Democrats and Republicans, in both the Senate and the House, seem to agree deserves attention is Hoosier children's access to social media.

This session, Senate Bill 11 and House Bill 1321, are both focused on providing families and caregivers much needed support to navigate the murky waters of social media and kids. Just like last year's ban on cellphones in classrooms, this year's child-focused social media legislation is set to bring schools and families one step closer to much needed guardrails.

Leading the way

While Hoosiers are not historically fans of regulation, when it comes to children and access to technology, we are big fans. In addition to the cell phone ban in 2024, Indiana was the first state in the country to pass legislation related to nonconsensual AI nudity. Both have been adopted by other states and have been overwhelmingly popular with families and educators alike. This year's legislation focused on social media is set to keep this trend rolling.

At Northview Middle School in Indianapolis, the school and the PTO are working together to offer programs like Wait Until 8th and parent nights focused on Healthy Relationships with Technology. According to Principal Thom Hakim, "The pandemic put technology in kid's hands so much earlier with so little guidance. We really wanted to get our classrooms back. We chose to take cellphones away a year before the law went into place. It took that first year to put some teeth in the rules, but

now it's the norm. Kids are interacting with each other again. It's really the impact of social media outside of school that we worry about now."

It's a girl thing

According to Dr. Jonathan Haidt, "social media use is a cause of anxiety, depression, and other ailments, not just a correlate." He goes on to note that social media is especially damaging to girls due to its reliance on visually oriented platforms that provide girls unrealistic standards of perfection and offer endless ways to damage other girls' relationships and reputations. Girls who are heavy users of social media are three times more likely to be depressed than nonusers. His studies further found that social media harmed the social lives of students who stayed away from it.

This national research appears to be playing itself out with Hoosier girls. According to the 2024, Indiana Girls Report, "Being bullied online puts girls at risk for depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation — and a loss of connection with caregivers and peers. Girls in Indiana share that cyberbullying is relentless — and inescapable."

Additionally, as technology advances, bullying tools are keeping pace — requiring that school policies and federal and state laws evolve quickly to keep up. Danielle Shockey, CEO of Girls Scouts of Indiana shares "The Indiana Girl Report is an invaluable resource that has shed significant light on the hardships girls



Addie Angelov

are facing in Indiana and is already being used as a tool to shape policy to address those challenges."

The Paramount Health Data Project has also been examining the effects of social media on girls as part of their work for the Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction's ALL IN program. According to Dr. Mary Jo Rattermann, chief research officer for the project, teenage girls know the dangers but need our help to navigating a healthy relationship with social media. According to Rattermann, "Based on our research, teenage girls are sophisticated consumers of social media. They understand how algorithms work. They understand everything is carefully curated, but they still have a deeply emotional response to it."

Hitting close to home

Recently, a student at Mooresville High School, was stopped from engaging in a mass shooting planned for the cafeteria at lunchtime on Valentine's Day. According to the probable cause affidavit, she had been involved in unmonitored chats on a social media platform displaying her plans. She also shared that she had been bullied and had struggled to receive mental health supports recommended by the school. This proved to be a dangerous mix that put every student and staff member at Mooresville High School in harms' way.

The big question now is whether comprehensive legislation specific to social media will make it out of this session.

.....
Angelov is a career long educator and co-founder and CEO of the Paramount Health Data Project.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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

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Staffing ...

Continued from page 1
(Another 76 students are enrolled for kindergarten so far.) Open enrollment trends show projections at 56 students outside of Fort Recovery registering for classes in the village with 14 students living in Fort Recovery enrolling in classes elsewhere.

Other considerations included a projected high retention among staff members — Stahl noted two staff members are retiring with plans to fill one of those positions — and a 37% participate rate among juniors and seniors in Tri Star Career Compact programs.

The current plan is to maintain a 1 to 16 teacher-to-student ratio for kindergarten through fifth grade, utilizing four teachers for each grade level between kindergarten through fourth

grade and three teachers for fifth grade.

The staffing plan suggests reassigning two elementary and middle school personnel — Kristy Keller from elementary intervention specialist to second grade teacher and Breanna Madaj from fifth grade to fourth grade — based on grade level enrollment for next year. (The school board approved Keller's reassignment at its January meeting and, later in the meeting Monday, also approved Madaj's reassignment, effective Aug. 1.)

Per the plan, the school board will also need to hire a new third grade teacher. (It also needed to hire a new elementary middle school intervention specialist. In February, school board hired Wes Wenning for the role. He's also serving as

head high school football coach.)

School board members approved the staffing plan.

Also Monday, Stahl noted plans to open bids Tuesday with Garmann Miller architects for the heating, ventilation and air conditioning project at Fort Recovery Elementary/ Middle School. The district hosted an open house for contractors to conduct a site review at the building March 6.

Stahl shared hopes for school board to approve a contract for the project before its next regular meeting, potentially at a special meeting at 7 a.m. Friday.

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

- Learned Fort Recovery FFA

hosted the district FFA agriculture mechanics contest March 4. High school principal Ryan Steinbrunner noted 15 schools competed, with Fort Recovery placing first. Individually, Fort Recovery students Kyle Huntsman, Riley Grieshop and Clete Timmerman placed first, third and seventh, respectively. The team qualified for state competition on April 3. Steinbrunner also noted Fort Recovery's FFA banquet is Tuesday, March 25.

- Were reminded Fort Recovery High School's prom is slated for April 25, with promenade to begin at 6 p.m. at the high school gymnasium with the dinner and dance to follow at Romer's Catering and Entertainment Facilities in St. Henry, Ohio.

- Heard from Knapke that per ongoing state biennial budgetary discussions the school's funding

could decrease by \$680,000 over the next two years with Ohio's Fair School Funding plan.

- Made a few annual approvals, including a resolution adopting special education policies and procedures and an open enrollment policy for Fort Recovery Local Schools to accept students from all of Ohio.

- Approved a one-year contract for mowing and trimming services with Jutte's Landscaping. Mowing services are \$800 per week, with mowing at athletic facilities set at \$215 per mow as needed.

- Hired volunteer junior high track coach Abby Ashbaugh for the current school year.

- Accepted \$250 for middle school activities and \$250 for high school activities from Fort Recovery Academic Booster Club.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

A tornado that blew through Jay County on Sept. 22 caused extensive damage in the junior high wing at Jay County Junior-Senior High School. Jay School Board awarded a \$2.23 million repair project Monday to Muhlenkamp Building Corporation of Coldwater, Ohio. The work has an expected completion date of Sept. 30.

Repairs ...

Continued from page 1
The school corporation originally set a goal of having construction substantially complete by the start of the 2025-26 school year in early August. The timeline was adjusted Monday, with a new goal of substantial completion by Sept. 30.

Mobile units that have been in use since Dec. 1 will remain on site and be utilized until construction is complete.

The board took no action on a recommendation to extend McIntire's contract for one year, to June 30, 2027, after a motion died for lack of a second. (She is already under contract for the 2025-26 season.)

During the public comment portion of the meeting, the board heard from two Jay County residents about the proposed extension.

Carrie Petro, who has had two daughters in the girls basketball program, spoke against the extension, saying players have left the program because of McIntire and that there are different standards for different

players. She alleged that the team does not work on fundamentals and said, "It's got to change."

Phil Ford, former JCHS athletics director and principal who finished a two-term stint on the school board in December, offered his support for McIntire. He said she knows the game, knows how to run a practice and has coached successfully at all levels of the program for 30 years. He complimented the job she did this season.

No board members commented on the extension, with Vormohr making the motion to approve the recommendation. Her motion died for lack of a second.

The board also approved the following fee increases for preschool:

- Two days — \$736, up from the current \$355
- Three days — \$1,077, up from the current \$480
- Five days — \$1,710, up from the current \$630

Business manager Shannon Current explained at the board's February meeting that the corpo-

ration's preschool program is running a \$382,723 deficit.

The approved fee increases are the "middle option" among three presented to the board and are based on the mid-point between the current charges and the fee for Westminster Preschool Portland at Jay County Early Learning Center. (The other options were to set fees at half of the Westminster charge or to match the Westminster charge.)

The change to the contract calls for the fee for the first month to be paid up front. Those who fall behind on fees will risk having their child removed from the program.

Following a question from Towell, Gulley said the process is underway to make Jay Schools eligible to accept Child Care Development Fund vouchers.

In other business, the board:

- During the Patriot Pride moment, recognized the Why Try program at Redkey Elementary School. The program works with students on communication skills, goal setting, overcoming obstacles and other goals. It has

also involved students interacting with the residents at The Waters of Dunkirk nursing home.

- Accepted donations totaling more than \$14,000, including \$5,031 from the National Rifle Association for the JROTC program, a \$3,0037 matching grant from The Portland Foundation for new band equipment, a total of \$2,750 for the PVE Club trip and \$2,609 from The Cooper Farms Family Foundation for a projector.

- Heard a reminder from Gulley that the board will hold a work session regarding possible capital improvements at the junior-senior high school at 5 p.m. March 31. He added that there will be a survey to seek community input and that he expects decisions to come in May at the earliest.

- Accepted the resignations of junior high instructional assistant Joe Fennig, bus driver Richard Davis and custodian Judy Sanders.

- Heard from Current that the school corporation passed its biennial audit.

Felony arrests

Failed to appear

A Portland man was arrested Monday for failure to appear in court.

Derek A. Reynolds, 46, 1237 N. U.S. 27 Lot 1B, is charged in Jay Superior Court with a Level 6 felony for intimidation, a Class C misdemeanor for operating a vehicle while intoxicated and a Class A misdemeanor for operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol level of 0.15% or more.

He was being held without bond in Jay County Jail.

Felony courts

Unlawful possession

A Muncie man was sentenced to half a year in jail for unlawful possession of syringe.

Jacob J. Westlake, 34, 3012 E. Royerton Road, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to the Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail and given 180 days credit for time served.

Westlake was fined \$25 and assessed \$189 in court costs. As part of his plea agreement, a Class A misdemeanor for resisting law enforcement was dismissed.

Battery

A Portland man was placed on probation after pleading guilty to battery.

Sean M. Ashley, 23, 206 W. Main St., pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to battery, a Level 6 felony. (The charge was lessened from a Level 5 felony.)

He was sentenced to 910 days in Indiana Department of Correction with all of his sentence suspended and given two days credit for time served. Ashley was placed on probation and assessed \$189 in court costs.

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

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South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 7 3
♥ 7 6 5 4
♦ Q 8
♣ 10 9 7 6 2

WEST
♠ 9 5
♥ J 10 9 8 2
♦ 10 7 4
♣ A K 5

EAST
♠ J 10 6 4 2
♥ K
♦ J 9 6 3 2
♣ 8 4

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 8
♥ A Q 3
♦ A K 5
♣ Q J 3

The bidding:
South West North East
3 NT Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead — jack of hearts

The great majority of mistakes made in bridge are of the common garden variety. A player who errs usually knows better than to commit the particular error he makes, but for some inexplicable reason, he takes his eye off the ball at the critical moment.

Consider this deal where South failed to make three notrump in a fairly routine hand. West led the jack of hearts. Declarer won East's king with the ace and returned the club queen. West went up with the king and led the ten of hearts, forcing out the queen.

South now had to go down one, whatever he did next. In practice, he tried the jack of clubs, but West won with the ace and cashed three heart tricks to put a quick end to the proceedings.

Declarer would have made the contract had he taken the simple precaution of ducking East's king of hearts at trick one. He should have realized that if East had another heart to lead, the defense could score at most two hearts and two clubs to hold him to nine tricks, while if East did not have another heart to lead, the contract could not be stopped regardless of what other suit East returned.

The only combination of cards that could prevent South from getting home safely was for West to have five hearts and the A-K of clubs. South should therefore have ducked the king of hearts at trick one to protect against this possibility. There was no good reason to take the king, and a very good reason not to take it.

Tomorrow: Not all equals are equal.
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Peanuts

Rose is Rose

Agnes

Hi and Lois

Between Friends

Blondie

Snuffy Smith

Beetle Bailey

3-19 CRYPTOQUIP

XZJR PMYKU EMY PJKK HLUN'
WMCAN OCJU ZJNRLKE JTU
XLRZ NMAC KLTCN NHLWWCU?

PYONMOE OZEACN.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF THERE WERE A REGULATION ABOUT THE PREPARATION OF CABBAGE SALAD, WOULD IT BE COLE'S LAW?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals C

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Online guffaw
4 Used a chair
7 Venus de —
8 Swiss mathematician
10 Chutney fruit
11 Houston base-baller
13 Does something in a novel way
16 Small batteries
17 Step
18 French pronoun
19 Passion
20 Tries the espresso
21 Ruhr Valley city
23 Holiday seasons
25 Neural transmitter
26 Contradict
27 Tavern
28 Hairnet

DOWN

1 Queues
2 "Three Sisters" sister
3 Quick glance
4 Japanese menu item
5 Modify
6 School session
7 Kate of "House of Cards" actress
8 Really annoy
9 Rent sharer
10 CEO's deg.
12 Feeds the pigs
14 Jazz great
15 Insult, slangily
19 QVC alter-native
22 "on" community
23 "Last Christmas" band
24 Endure
25 NYPD alert
26 Indulges, with "on"
28 Type of trap-shooting
29 "Bye Bye Band"
30 "Star Wars" villain
31 Burden
32 B'way show purchase
34 Pulitzer winner
35 Smokey — (U.S. Forest Service symbol)

Solution time: 23 mins.

NOPE	TAM	CLAM			
TREX	ADA	OAHU			
SEEP	BONANZAS				
BONITOS	DRESS				
	ROO	BEA			
DUVET	BONDING				
ASA	SOW	OOP			
BONNETS	HONDA				
	OLD	DER			
RHINO	BONBONS				
BONFIRES	IRON				
ISLA	ETE	TERA			
SEAT	PAD	SLAP			

Yesterday's answer 3-19

	1	2	3	4	5	6		
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Sports



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Back out on the mound

Caden Grisez, a senior on the Fort Recovery High School baseball team, cocks back to throw a pitch during the Indians' scrimmage against Lima Central Catholic on Monday. Grisez will work as one of the Tribe's primary pitchers in 2025 after helping FRHS to the state tournament last season. For a preview on the Fort Recovery baseball team, see Friday's edition of The Commercial Review.

Tokyo Dome breaks out in 'Go Cubs Go' chant

By MEGHAN MONTEMURRO

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

TOKYO — Chicago Cubs left-hander Matthew Boyd stays focused on checking all the boxes.

Keeping his delivery sound. Staying behind the baseball. Driving down on the pitch. And in Sunday's unique atmosphere, embracing the moment in front of a vocal crowd of Yomiuri Giants supporters.

"Getting to pitch in a place like this, the history of the Giants — there's a handful of international venues that have that same history," Boyd said after tossing four shutout innings in relief. "So it's pretty cool to get to be here and just compete out there."

Hitting 95 mph in the sixth inning of the Cubs' 4-2 victory wasn't something he had been aiming for, though Boyd conceded that anytime there's an uptick in velocity, it's a welcome development.

He hadn't touched that number since Sept. 12, 2019, and threw only 15 pitches above 94 mph last season. And he did it Sunday at a time on the calendar that typically falls in the thick of spring training.

"It's a day further away from (Tommy John) surgery," Boyd said. "That's what everyone's told me is the further you get away from that and the more normalized everything starts to get, the more reps you get under your belt, just the better it is. But, yeah, grateful for where we're at right now."

Those underlying sequences in exhibition games like Sunday's can provide a glimpse of what could be on the horizon for the Cubs.

They gladly would take the combination of defense and power that shortstop Dansby Swanson displayed in two dazzling defensive plays in the first inning and his double in the second. Clutch singles from Matt Shaw (two RBIs) and Gage Workman (RBI), both of whom would make their major-league debuts in the Tokyo Series, highlighted the upside each possesses, to varying degrees.

Pete Crow-Armstrong earned attention from the crowd with his bat (double), legs (stolen base) and defense, cutting off a ball to the left-center gap to hold the runner to a single.

"It was a game that shows what Pete can do on the field," manager Craig Counsell said. "He can do everything, really, and he can affect the game in many ways."

The Cubs' four-run fifth inning propelled them to the win in front of 42,026 fans, setting off "Go Cubs Go" in the Tokyo Dome when Boyd ended the game with his sixth strikeout.

Right-hander Jameson Taillon got the start and held the Giants to one run in 4 1/3 innings, walking two and striking out four. He had been looking forward to pitching in Japan since reporting to camp, and it became apparent he would get to face one of the Nippon Professional Baseball teams in an exhibition.

See Cubs page 7

Pacers end Minnesota's winning streak

By JACE FREDERICK

Pioneer Press
Tribune News Service

That's one way to end a winning streak.

Facing an Indiana Pacers team that tipped off the game without six of their rotational players, and proceeded to lose three more throughout the contest for various reasons, Minnesota delivered one of its poorest performances in recent memory to fall 132-130 in overtime Monday at Target Center.

Obi Toppin drilled his seventh triple of the night, this one falling away from the corner, to put the Pacers up with 3.5 seconds to play in the extra session.

"Big time shotmaking by them," Wolves coach Chris Finch said,

"but they seemed to feel that comfort all game."

Julius Randle's mid-range jumper at the horn was just short to conclude the contest.

"That's a look that I made previously in the game and make all the time," Randle said, "but just short."

But the game was lost long before that. Minnesota played about six minutes of good basketball against its short-handed opponent. Entering the game as winners of eight straight, Minnesota came out lifeless against a clearly lesser foe, got down by as many as 15 points in the first half and paid the ultimate price.

"I don't know what necessarily was going on, but our mindset

from the jump wasn't right. We've just got to be a little bit more professional no matter who's on the court. They're all good players, and we've got to take the game seriously," Randle said. "We weren't professional enough, and we gave them too much life."

Andrew Nembhard was Indiana's best player through two and a half quarters Monday. The guard ignited the Pacers' offense and was Indiana's best and only matchup for Anthony Edwards. Indiana won his 19 minutes by six points and was leading Minnesota by eight with eight minutes to play in the third quarter when Nembhard turned the corner to attack the rack.

Rudy Gobert threw a shoulder

into Nembhard to halt the driving attempt. That earned the center a flagrant-2 foul and an ejection. But after the foul, Nembhard threw the ball at Gobert. That marked Nembhard's second technical of the night, which meant he was done.

Still, Minnesota looked to be in a good spot heading into overtime against a team that was missing so many bodies. And Minnesota led by as many as five points in the extra session. But every time there was an opportunity for a kill shot, the Wolves — who had endless success attacking the paint on Monday — took an ill-advised shot.

Edwards finished with 38 points, 19 of which came from the free-throw line, but was 1-for-11 from deep.

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