

Dunkirk forms commission

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — The city now has a redevelopment commission.

Dunkirk City Council approved its two appointments to the redevelopment commission Monday while Mayor Jack Robbins named his three appointments.

Forming a redevelopment commission is one of the steps toward creating tax increment financing (TIF) districts for the city. Such districts capture additional property tax revenue created by improvements — the

Redevelopment group will oversee planned TIF districts

increment — and set them aside to be used to help fund initiatives related to the district. A redevelopment commission oversees those funds.

Robbins announced his appointments of Craig Faulkn-

er, Brenda Brumfield and Pam Robbins, his wife, to the redevelopment commission. The council then unanimously approved appointing two of its members — Dan Watson and Jesse Bivens — to the remaining two seats.

City attorney Wes Schemaur explained that the newly formed redevelopment commission will need to begin working on an economic development plan, which will set parameters for how its funding can be spent. Once complete it will go through the city's plan commission and council for approval.

Robbins said he will provide the redevelopment commission members with a TIF handbook to help them start the process.

During its March 24 meeting, Robbins told the council that the city had closed on the pur-

chase of about 10 acres located behind Pak-a-Sak (915 S. Main St.) and Dollar General (1001 S. Main St.). Plans are to create a residential TIF district for the property.

Robbins explained Monday that plans are to construct a street extending east from Indiana 167. The street would then turn south and run the length of the property. He said he'd like to build 32 apartment units on the east side of the street while there would be a buffer on the west side of the street.

See **Commission** page 2

Another round of projects approved

Owner-occupied program helps with cost of improvements

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

With work on one round of rehabilitation projects expected to start this week, commissioners signed off on another round Monday.

Jay County Commissioners agreed to move forward Monday with a second round of projects involved in the owner-occupied rehabilitation program. Jay County community coordinator Darlesia Lee also announced some construction projects from the first round are beginning this week.

Jay County received an Office of Community and Rural Affairs grant for taking part in the Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program (HELP) planning process for federal coronavirus relief dollars. Using those funds, Jay County created the owner-occupied rehabilitation program to help make necessary repairs or upgrades — proposed work may include roof, water heater or heating ventilation and air conditioning unit replacements, electrical work or upgrades to make a home more accessible — to residents' homes in the county. Projects are limited to \$25,000 per household, a requirement set by state guidelines. (If a project is set to go over the allotted amount, homeowners are given the option to pay the excess or forfeit the project.)

Lee noted all homeowners involved in the first round of the program have signed agreements. She said some homeowners have been contacted already, with work to start this week or, in one resident's case, on Monday.

"These homes have met all the necessary requirements, and we've submitted their applications and bids to OCRA for review," she said.

Lee asked for approval from commissioners contingent on the Office of Community and Rural Affairs' decisions to move forward with the second round of projects.

See **Projects** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Hot meal

Chris Baker of Cincinnati Circus eats fire Saturday during a duo performance along with Lauren Ashley to close the 2025 Eric R. Rogers Performance Series at Arts Place. Baker and Ashley shared a variety of talents with the audience, including juggling, hula hooping and aerial tricks.



Tribune News Service/Bay Area News Group/Karl Mondon

Celebrating

The Cambodian New Year is celebrated Saturday at the Wat Dhammararam Buddhist Temple in Stockton, California. Amid the Chaul Chnam Thmey festivities traditionally associated with the end of rains and sweet rest after reaping the rice harvest, the Khmer people marked 50 years of survival after a campaign of genocide engulfed the South East Asian county beginning in 1975.

School survey opens next week

Fort Recovery seeking feedback on communication

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — School officials will be opening up a survey next week.

Fort Recovery School Board heard Monday from superintendent Tony Stahl about a survey to be posted online April 21.

Stahl noted goals for the survey include finding ways to improve and receive feedback from stakeholders. Another goal is to improve communica-

tion practices for the district.

"The reason (communication) is so big is, obviously it's a crucial part of the service we offer, communicating and working with parents, community members, et cetera," Stahl said.

The survey ties into gauging communication practices, with Stahl noting the district currently uses both Final Forms Campus Command and One Call Now for messaging needs. He suggested the district could switch to solely using the former.

Stahl said another goal of the survey is to "gaug areas of improvement to realign district resources," specifically mentioning parent-classroom communication tools, such as Remind, Class Dojo and SeeSaw applications.

See **Survey** page 5

Commission ...

Obituaries

Continued from page 1

Robbins also asked the council to consider various issues, including possibly reducing the city’s annual stormwater fee to \$60 from the current \$120. He also noted that it is time to think about potential changes to water and sewer rates for 2026.

Council president Jesse Bivens brought up a possible fee to help cover the cost of water meters. For informational purposes, he said a \$1 monthly fee over a 20-year period would raise enough money to cover about half the cost of this year’s meter replacement.

Robbins also brought up the possibility of extending the city’s buffer zone for zoning purposes to a mile from the current half mile and consideration of instituting an

ordinance regarding battery storage facilities. (Both the county and City of Portland are in the process of addressing battery storage as well.)

Also on the mayor’s mind was zoning to address plans for the Stewart Brothers building, which is being renovated with an intent for commercial space on the main floor with apartments above. Schemenaur said there is no definition in the current zoning ordinance that fits.

Bivens reported that Culy Contracting of Winchester has installed seven new fire hydrants. He said four more hydrants, which will be able to be installed by city workers, are needed at a cost of \$18,163.80.

Council members Christy

Curts, Dan Watson, Donna Revolt, Randy Murphy and Bivens unanimously approved the purchase from Team EJP of Indianapolis.

Bivens also requested that a line item be added to the water department’s budget specifically for fire hydrants. Clerk-treasurer Kara Lowe said it can be implemented for the 2026 budget.

In other business, council:

- Heard from community coordinator Darlesia Lee about a regional effort toward utilizing Safe Streets for All, a U.S. Department of Transportation program that provides grants for safety planning initiatives.
- OK’d extending the city’s property, liability and worker’s compensation insurance with

Barnum Brown Insurance of Dunkirk at a cost of \$123,636.88, up just over \$11,000 from the current year.

- Heard from Revolt that the park board has started accepting applications for work this summer at Dunkirk City Pool.
- Approved the following: a \$500 sponsorship for Glass Days, which is scheduled for Aug. 16; fire department boot drives for Fridays, April 18, May 16 and June 20; and payment of claims totaling \$665,384.98.
- Learned from Bivens that Peerless Midwest recently completed its annual testing of water department pumps and wells.
- Tabled discussion of ordinances related to solicitation and golf carts.

Esther J. Miller, Geneva, June 3, 1940-April 13, 2025. Arrangements are being handled by Downing & Glancy Funeral Home in Geneva.






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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.

CR almanac

Thursday 4/17	Friday 4/18	Saturday 4/19	Sunday 4/20	Monday 4/21
 66/55 <small>Thursday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with highs in the upper 60s.</small>	 78/54 <small>Warm temperatures on Friday when the high will be in the upper 70s. Chance of showers.</small>	 57/45 <small>There's a 90% chance of thunderstorms Saturday with highs in the mid to upper 50s.</small>	 53/50 <small>Mostly cloudy on Sunday. Another slight chance of showers.</small>	 65/50 <small>Monday's weather looks to be mostly cloudy with a 50% chance of showers.</small>

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 3-20-30-52-62 Power Ball: 1 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$113 million	Daily Four: 3-4-4-4 Quick Draw: 1-2-4-9-13-14-15-20-23-25-26-38-43-48-49-51-55-64-72-80 Cash 5: 15-29-34-36-39 Estimated jackpot: \$199,500
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$96 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 8-1-3 Pick 4: 5-2-7-8 Pick 5: 4-7-5-8-0 Evening Pick 3: 2-8-1 Pick 4: 8-0-4-3 Pick 5: 7-3-1-6-6 Rolling Cash: 2-3-13-14-37 Estimated jackpot: \$324,000
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 0-6-9 Daily Four: 1-1-8-7 Quick Draw: 1-3-5-6-7-8-9-13-17-24-32-33-37-39-40-47-51-59-68-80 Evening Daily Three: 5-3-5	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.96 May corn.....4.99 June corn5.03	May beans10.40 Wheat 5.01
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....5.04 May corn5.11 June corn5.13	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.95 May corn.....4.97 Beans10.38 May beans10.41 Wheat5.06
The Andersons Richland Township Corn5.00 May corn5.00 Beans10.40	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.86 May corn4.91 Beans10.27 May beans10.27 Wheat4.88

Today in history

In 1862, president Abe Lincoln abolished slavery in the District of Columbia, setting the stage for later full emancipation for Black citizens in the United States. Four years later, approximately 15,000 people arrived in Washington, D.C., to celebrate the day.

In 1964, The Rolling Stones released its first album.

In 1972, giant pandas Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing, a mated pair, arrived at the Smithsonian’s National Zoo in Washington, D.C. The pandas were a gift from China following presi-

dent Richard Nixon’s visit. (First lady Patricia Nixon had mentioned how much she enjoyed giant pandas to Chinese premier Zhou Enlai.)

In 2015, Redkey Town Council approved an ordinance regarding unkept properties and an ordinance prohibiting planting trees or placing rocks in the town’s right-of-ways. The unkept properties ordinance, approved on a second reading, addressed cleaning abandoned vehicles, trash, garbage, rubbish and public nuisances in town.

— The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Today 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North. 5 p.m. — Jay County Redevelopment Commission, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	Meridian St., Portland.
Monday 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.	
Thursday 6 p.m. — Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals, Community Center, 118 S.	

Projects ...

Continued from page 1

Commissioners then agreed to the request.

In other news from East Central Indiana Regional Planning District, Lee reminded commissioners about a survey intended to gather data for potential grant funding.

The survey, a partnership between Jay County Public Library and the planning district, serves as a way to gauge Jay County residents’ internet access and technology skills and is available through June 1. Data gathered from the survey could help secure a grant to provide free computer and technology classes.

It’s available online at tinyurl.com/ych7f6sf, with paper copies also available at the library. Those who complete surveys will be entered into a raffle for gift cards from local food establishments.

Commissioners also decided Monday to discuss enacting one-year moratoriums on commercial battery storage and commercial solar farms at their April 28 meeting.

Jay County Plan Commission recommended enacting the moratoriums, which officials said will give them time to draft a battery storage ordinance and review the current solar ordinance.

Relatedly, assistant director of Jay/Portland Building and Planning Pati McLaughlin noted that someone requested names and addresses of landowners leasing property for proposed solar farms and later posted the information on Facebook. She pointed out those documents are a part of the projects’ development plans, which are public information.

Also Monday, commissioners passed a resolution opposing Indiana Senate Bill 1. (The Senate con-

Commissioners will discuss moratoriums at April 28 meeting

curred with House changes to the bill later in the day, sending it to Gov. Mike Braun for his signature.)

Aker noted the resolution is similar to legislation approved by Portland City Council last week, which voices disapproval with state bills reducing funding to local government units without offering an alternative revenue stream.

County attorney Wes Schemenaur said the resolution mirrors proposals being enacted around the state as drafted by Accelerate Indiana Municipalities. As of Monday morning, he said, Indiana Legislative Services Agency estimated Jay County alone to lose \$900,000 of projected tax revenue in 2026, \$1.8 million in 2027 and \$2.5 million in 2028.

In related business, commissioners agreed to hire Rick Hall of business law firm Barnes and Thornburg to lobby Senate Bill 1 on Jay County’s behalf.

In other business, commissioners:

- Discussed whether to use security at Jay County Courthouse for meetings and other events after regular business hours. (Currently, courthouse security is present for any activities after designated open hours.) Aker suggested creating a committee involving a commissioner and representatives

from Jay County Council, Jay County Auditor’s Office, Jay County Sheriff’s Office and the courthouse’s custodial staff to determine a policy moving forward.

- Amended an agreement with Rundell, Ernstberger and Associates, reducing the cost of services by about \$2,000.
- Approved the following: an annual contract with LifeWorks Counseling and Wellness; bids for asphalt emulsion from Asphalt Materials and K-Tech; a \$36,187.50 claim from engineering firm EGIS for work related to the owner-occupied rehabilitation program; a \$28,830 claim from 4TC Corporation for electrical repairs and upgrades made at Jay County Country Living; a \$21,400 claim to pay an agreement with Dragos Macelararu in relation to work on the Seventh Street bridge in Portland.
- Heard from Cliff Moser during the drainage board meeting about drainage issues at his property on Charles Street in Portland. Moser voiced concerns about the wastewater system being able to handle the housing project planned on the county’s 68 acres on the west side of Portland.
- Tabled decision on accepting a donation of beds from Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Center of Portland for Jay County Country Living.

Capsule Reports

Left road

Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000 after a Montpelier man’s vehicle left U.S. 27, driving through a field and striking a telephone pole about 10:20 p.m. Thursday.

Alexander D. Monahan, 27, was driving his 2017 Chevrolet Sonic north on the highway near county road 800 North.

See page 5

SERVICES

Wednesday

Fultz, Deloris: 10 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Service listings provided by

PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO

OFFICE PRODUCTS
120 N. Meridian St.
Portland, Indiana 47371
(260) 726-9201
progressiveofficeproducts.com

WHO DO YOU KNOW

That deserves to be recognized for their lifetime of volunteer service in the Jay County Community?

Tell us what their various volunteer service activities are, or have been, including the number of years and mail to:

Cincinnatus League
“Service Before Self”
P.O. Box 513, Portland, IN 47371

Questions? Contact Karen Bailey 260-729-1249 or karenannbailey9@yahoo.com

Deadline to receive nominations is May 2, 2025!!

APRIL SAVINGS

1/4-Page Color Ad - \$275

pick-up color - \$225

pick-up black & white - \$200

*Rates do not apply to special sections
*Ads must run in April

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The Commercial Review

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

FR students make honor roll

Fort Recovery High School released its third quarter honor roll.

Sophomores on the honor roll with all A's were Kendall Buckland, Kenna Dues, Tyler Dues, Carter Fortkamp, Ava Fullenkamp, Alexis Grisez, Russell Hart, Maddie Heitkamp, Makenna Huelkamp, Breaker Jutte, Grace Lochtefeld and Ian McCain.

Also Cameron Muhlenkamp, Isaac Roessner, Madelyn Schoenlein, Kiera Stump, Amber Timmerman, Jennifer Wendel, Brynn Willmann and Jase Wuebker.

Making the list with A's and B's were sophomores

Brody Barga, Tyler Bertke, Deanna Brown, Alex Carreto, Reese Diller and Cadence Eber.

Also Brady Evers, Aubree Heitkamp, Meredith Jones, Sydney Jutte, Jake Meyer, Catarina Moura, Emma Schmitz, Angel Serio, Riley Stammen, Ava Timmerman, Ivy Tobe, Kaylor Wendel, James Westgerdes and Reed Westgerdes.

On the honor roll with all A's were freshmen Joscie Bihn, Emily Boeckman, Alivia Brunswick, Haley Easton, Claire Gaerke, Malia Grisez, Paisley Hart, Henry Jutte, Elizabeth Kahlig, Andy

Niekamp, Cora Pearson, Kendall Ranly, Madilyn Reinhard, Ally Roessner, Hoyt Schmitz, Eliza Smith and Charlie Stammen.

Making the list with A's and B's were freshmen Raya Androne, Brooke Bihn, Addison Brunswick, Kyra Brunswick, Riley DeRoo, Evan Diller and Braylon Dilworth.

Also Jackson Dues, Makenzie Evers, Will Faller, Pete Guggenbiller, Madeline Hardwick, Lizzie Heitkamp, Courtney Klenke, Liza Knapke, Kinlee Kremer, Ali Siegrist, Lilah Thien, Maddie Weigel and Jadyn Wyerick.

Expectant mother will adjust contact

DEAR ABBY: My dad is a registered sex offender who has done time for his crimes against children. My mother has continued to have contact with him and has repeatedly chosen him over her own children. She doesn't respect our wishes, and we believe she gives him information about our lives and our images.

With a child on the way, I cannot continue the same level of contact with her because of this. I'm not willing to have my child be at her home because she has Dad there often. I'm also unwilling to give her photographs of my child because I believe she would share them with Dad. I won't leave her alone with my little one because I believe she'd immediately set up a get-together for my sex offender dad to have contact with my child.

How should I handle setting these boundaries? What do I do if other members of my family blame me for splitting up our family? — MAMA BEAR IN OHIO

DEAR MAMA BEAR: You are the mama (bear), and you get to set the rules when it comes to who has access to your child. Because you cannot trust your mother not to ignore the boundaries you are setting, you will have to restrict her access to her grandchild. If this causes problems with other family members, so be it. You don't have to apologize to anyone for doing your job. Sex offenders are supposed to stay away from minor children after they have served their time. If they don't do that, they should be reported to the police.

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DEAR ABBY: Is there ever a way to give unsolicited advice in a way it can be appreciated?

Dear Abby



A co-worker I've become friendly with spent the weekend in the hospital with off-the-charts high blood pressure. She went to the clinic for a headache last Friday, and they sent her to the ER immediately. I'm very worried she's going to have a stroke.

She's in an unhappy marriage to a man who is mean. When they fight, which is often, she retreats and goes out to eat in order to avoid him and feel better. She has also started drinking every night (she kids about how much wine she buys) and has put on a lot of weight. When she talks about trying to get healthy, we plan walking dates or to go to yoga at lunch.

What I really want to do is ask, "Have you thought about marriage counseling?" because if she could lower her relationship stress, the other things might be easier. She hasn't asked for my advice. Should I give it anyway? — MINDING MY BUSINESS

DEAR MINDING: Eventually, yes. However, before you do that, please tell your co-worker she needs to have a serious talk with her physician about her blood pressure problem. There is medication for it, as well as certain dietary restrictions. After she has done that — and her blood pressure is stabilized — would be the time to suggest she talk with a marriage and family therapist about how to improve her relationship with her husband.

Arts Place offers open mic

It's your chance to shine. Jay County Campus of Arts Place will host an open microphone night in the green room at 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their own instruments, sing, read a poem, perform comedy or any other family friendly talent at the free event. Sign-up begins at 6:30 p.m., with 10-minute time slots to be allotted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Performances will begin at 7 p.m. Attendees may enter through the door located on Main Street. Lawn chairs, snacks and non-alcoholic beverages are welcome.

For more information or questions on how to be involved, contact Arts Place by calling (260) 726-4809 or emailing jcc@myartsplace.org.

Series announced

The Muncie Three Trails Music Series will host seven concerts this summer.

The series will open with a

Taking Note

performance by Steep Canyon Rangers on Saturday, May 31, at Canan Commons. The bluegrass band is a member of the North Carolina Music Hall of Fame.

Dates for other shows are as follows:

- Friday, June 13 — Harlem Gospel Travelers at Canan Commons
- Saturday, Aug. 16 — Blue Moon Marquee at Canan Commons
- Saturday, Aug. 23 — Vanessa Collier at Brown Family Amphitheater at Ball State University
- Saturday, Aug. 30 — Jennie Devoe at Canan Commons
- Saturday, Sept. 6 — Colby T. Helms & the Virginia Creepers

at Brown Family Amphitheater

•Saturday, Sept. 20 — The Afro Peruvian Jazz Orchestra at Brown Family Amphitheater

All shows begin at 7 p.m. For more information, visit munciehreetrains.com.

Auditions upcoming

The next chance to audition comes in May.

Jay County Civic Theatre will hold auditions for its September production of "Legally Blonde The Musical" from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, May 5, and Tuesday, May 6, at the Jay County Campus of Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland.

Those who are unable to attend the auditions but still want to be part of the show should contact director Brad Younts at bmyounts@gmail.com. For more information, visit jaycountycivic.org or email info@jaycountycivic.org.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

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

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

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for help-

ing 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 (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.

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.

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.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

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

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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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

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+ \$200 Off Your Entire Purchase Minimum purchase of 4



Our summer festivals special section will be distributed in:

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

1/2-page color – **\$450** (limited availability)

1/2-page B&W – **\$375**

1/4-page color – **\$350** (limited availability)

1/4-page B&W – **\$250**

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, May 12.

Contact Lindsey at L.Cochran@thecr.com

or (260) 726-8141



Our lives break into different roles

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from April 14, 2005. Just over 17 years after it was printed, I wrote the obit of my friend and mentor — Jack Ronald. Like the friend Jack references in this piece, we couldn't sum up a meaningful life in a handful of words. We can only hope that we come close to living up to the three (or more) Jacks he was during his life of service to his community.

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

One of the things they don't tell you when you get into community journalism is that eventually — if you stay in it long enough — you end up writing the obituaries of family members and old friends.

The hardest part of that job — aside from the emotional wear and tear — is figuring out the “who” phrase, which is essential to the lead.

As in, “John Doe, who taught the world to sing, died Tuesday night. He was 75.”

It's not easy, and often the obit writer fails to do the person justice. You can't sum up a meaningful life in a handful of words.

And with someone like Jim Luginbill, you barely scratch the surface.

In Jim's case, it was his public life which took precedence in his obit. When you run for public office, a part of your life forever belongs to your constituents. That's particularly true when you serve those constituents as well and as wisely as Jim Luginbill did during three terms as mayor of Port-

Back in the Saddle



land and two terms on the city council.

But like any public figure, Jim had a private life as well, as a father, a husband, and as a friend. In Jim's case, it's safe to say that while the public accomplishments were great, the private accomplishments were every bit their equal.

For me, however, Jim Luginbill doesn't break down into the public man and the private man.

Instead, I've been reflecting on the privilege I've had of knowing Jim three completely different ways over the years.

The first was simply as “Uncle Jim.”

At the Luginbill home, first at Meridian Heights and later — and most memorably — on East Arch Street, I had the opportunity to enjoy Uncle Jim the way all uncles ought to be enjoyed — as an adult figure who always seemed to be more fun than my own parents.

It was at the Luginbill household, for example, that Sunday supper was often popcorn and vanilla ice cream, gathered around the TV on one of those Dunbar sofas that Aunt Jean seemed to be able to buy for \$3 at local auctions.

The second Jim Luginbill I had

the pleasure of knowing was the public Jim, “Mayor Jim,” as Mayor Bruce Hosier dubbed him.

This was the Jim Luginbill who could talk — endlessly, it seemed — about stormwater drainage and separated sewers. The Jim Luginbill who followed city garbage trucks for miles to see if manpower was being used efficiently.

It was also the Jim Luginbill who was, as Vicki Tague pointed out last week, the right guy at the right time for the city of Portland and Jay County.

It's not an overstatement to say that this community faced a crisis in the early 1980s. Sheller-Globe had closed its plant, efforts to attract new industry were uncoordinated and ineffective. By most estimates, a thousand jobs had been lost in the county over a few short years.

When most retirees would have been checking out condos in Florida, Jim set to work. He brought together a core group of individuals which started gathering for breakfast weekly at Richard's Restaurant. They talked. They argued. They plotted. They picked up ideas and tossed them aside.

But mostly — thanks to Jim's leadership — they stayed focused on the problem at hand and kept working on ways to fix it. Did everything they tried work? Of course not.

But the track record — which was included in last week's obituary — is pretty remarkable: Two industrial parks, hundreds of new jobs, major improvements to the city's infrastructure.

One thing that stands out from that era was Jim's insistence upon thinking of Jay County as a single community. He simply rejected out of hand the notion that Portland and Dunkirk and Redkey and the rest should be facing the future on their own. We're a community of 22,000 people, he used to say. That's the way we need to think, and that's the way we need to act.

The third Jim Luginbill I had the pleasure of knowing is the Monday Jim, the guy I got to know in a completely different way after he moved to Swiss Village.

Believe it or not, Jim was the one reading “Tuesdays with Morrie” when I started making my weekly trips up to Berne. I didn't get around to reading it until a few years later.

There was a familiar ritual in those days. Bob Weinland, whom I also had the pleasure of knowing when I was a kid and as an adult, would join us in Jim's apartment. There would be a bottle of wine — usually a good California red — maybe some pistachios or some sharp aged Swiss cheese and a few crackers.

And there would be gossip. I served as the pipeline for political information and stuff that hadn't yet made its way into print. They provided endless tales of past scandals and intrigues.

Mostly, I just listened. It was a rare treat, as I wrote in a column after Bob's death, to watch and listen to two guys who had formed such a deep and profound friendship so late in life.

Like Jim's public record — his

long list of achievements after age 65 — it served as a concrete reminder that it's never too late to grow, to build new relationships, or to face new challenges.

Parkinson's, of course, played the role of Jim's final challenge. He faced it in typical fashion, plunging headlong into research about the disease and going public with his condition so he could educate others. The disease, he knew, was one tough, long road.

But even when he hit the tough spots, Jim did whatever he could to assert control over his life.

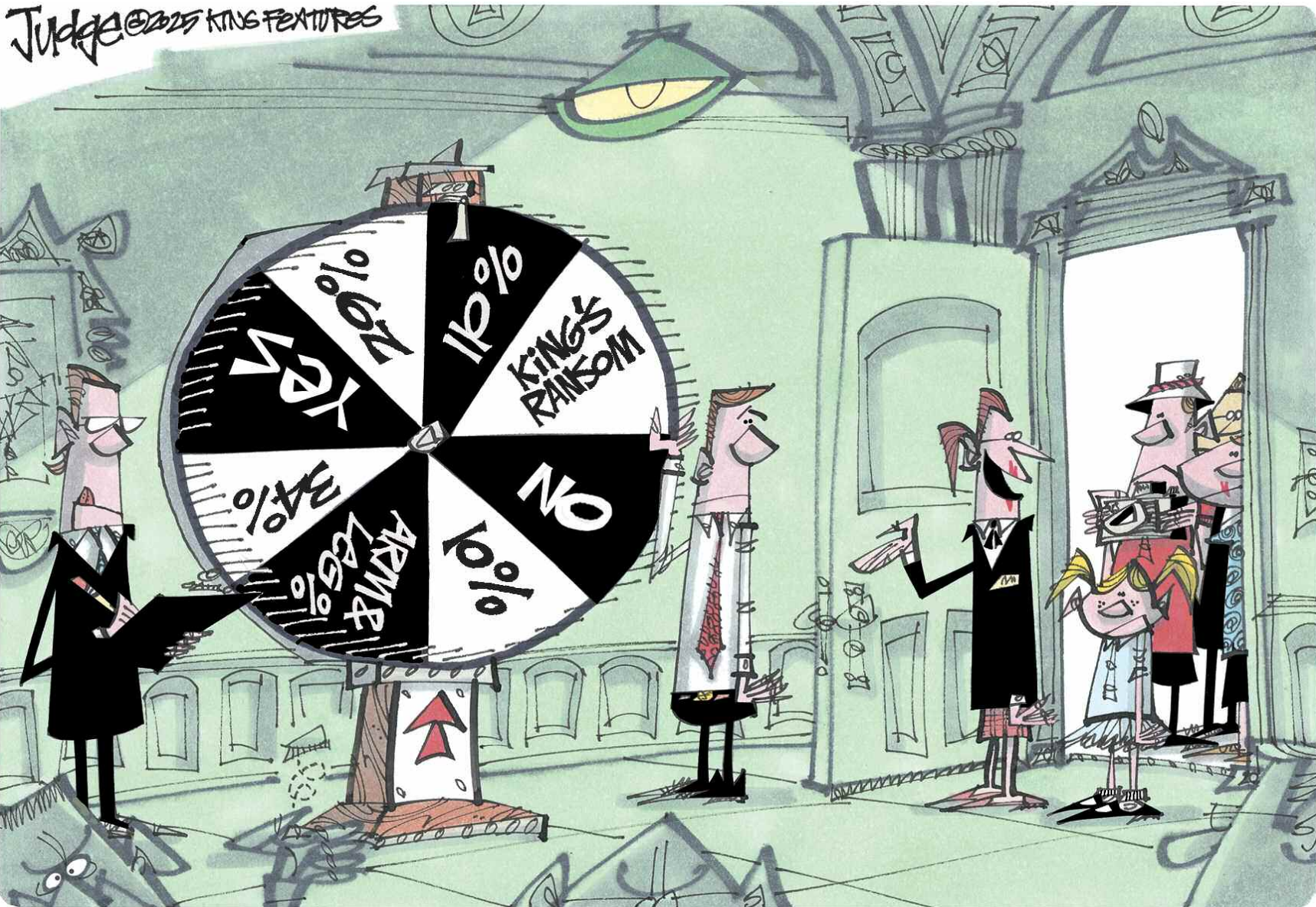
In some ways, in spite of all his other accomplishments, I think one of his proudest moments came when he decided to move into Edelweiss, the health care unit at Swiss Village.

He had been having blackout experiences and had fallen several times. Finally he fell while shopping at the locker in Berne. Though he had hit his head and was bleeding, he managed to get back in his car and drove back to Swiss Village.

Lost amid the various Swiss Village roads, confused, and probably with a concussion, he finally made his way back to his garage and his apartment. There, he made a firm decision. He would give up the car, though he loved to drive, and give up the apartment, though he loved the independence.

He would, in short, take control of the situation. Parkinson's was attacking his body, but he was still in charge of his own life.

That was Jim's way.



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Students encouraged to dream big

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Just look at the ear-to-ear smiles of the students in this photograph of NASA astronaut Jeanette Epps during a recent appearance at Corcoran High School, her alma mater. They appear delighted to be standing near someone who sat on top of

Guest Editorial

a SpaceX rocket, blasted into space and lived for 235 days on the International Space Station.

More than that, Epps once stood in their shoes. She grew up in a working-class family in Syracuse, lived in a tough neighborhood, went to their school and faced many of the same challenges they face.

“Whatever you want in life, you're going to have to work hard for it,” Epps told the students. “Regardless of how much money you have.”

Epps also dispensed some solid advice for graduating seniors: “Try just about anything and make it big. Don't go small.”

Few things in life are bigger than blasting off into space as a NASA astronaut. It's an elite group: Only 360 people have been named to the astronaut corps. Sixty-one of them were women. Eighteen were African

Americans. Five were African American women.

“You can't be what you can't see,” the children's rights activist Marian Wright Edelman said.

Maybe a child in the audience at Corcoran will be inspired to become an astronaut. Maybe not. The important thing is that they know they can. They saw it with their own eyes.

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“Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter.”
—Thomas Jefferson

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Survey ...

Continued from page 1
He referenced Ohio Senate Bill 29, which he said sets parameters for districts to control usage of such applications.

Made up of 25 questions, the survey will be posted on social media and the district’s website, with paper copies to be made available as well. Plans are for the survey to be open for a month.

Feedback will be taken into consideration for planning purposes going into the 2025-26 school year.

High school principal Ryan Steinbrunner also reminded board members of a few upcoming events:

- Promenade — 6 p.m. Friday, April 25

- Senior Fest — An all-day event at the end of the school year for high school seniors on Friday, May 16

- Graduation — Sunday, May 18

Also, the school board was reminded it will review its five-year financial forecast during a work session 6 p.m. Monday, May 19, with its regular meeting to follow.

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

- Approved various policy changes on a first reading. Stahl explained many of those are state requirements dating back to December prior to new administration. Two substantial changes, he added, regard student expulsion — schools are now able to expel students if they are “imminent threats” — and changes as required by House Bill 8, which he said requires schools to “notify parents of a substantial change in a student’s educational placement” and sets guidelines for education on sexually explicit material, amid other differences.

- Hired Isaac Osterfeld as a third-grade teacher, effective Aug. 1, for the 2025-26 school year. Osterfeld has taught second and fifth grade classes at Greenville Elementary School for the last three years.

- Heard 16 high school students took a class on drone piloting in the community room last week and take an exam for the course next week. (The class was provided as a part of a grant.) Steinbrunner noted juniors who took the class will have the opportunity to take another drone class related to agriculture next school year, allowing those students to obtain a license to spray chemicals on crops before graduating.

- Approved various high school athletic contracts for the 2025-26 school year, including contracts with volleyball coach Travis Guggenbiller, cross country coach Christine Diller, boys golf coach Dean Sanders, girls golf coach Jeff Vaughn, boys basketball coach Bob Leverette, girls basketball coach Tyler Deutsch and weight room supervisor Wesley Wenning.

- OK’d contracts for the 2025-26 school year with the following junior high coaches: Devin Post, volleyball assistant coach; Robert Heitkamp, cross country coach; Valerie Alig, basketball coach; Kendyl Mick, basketball assistant coach; Jordan Winner, boys basketball coach.

- Learned elementary school principal Laura Brandt has received no public feedback regarding usage of Title I funding — a federal program providing funding to schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families — and dollars for special education services. Brandt explained the school is required to provide the public an opportunity to assist in planning usage of the dollars.

- Accepted the following as volunteer coaches for the 2025-26 school year: girls golf coach Amy Bihn, assistant junior high volleyball coach Tammy Post, high school assistant volleyball coach Mandy Diller and high school assistant football coaches Dave Blockberger and Stacy Drew.

- Approved the following: various contracts with other employees for the 2025-26 school year, including supplemental contracts for high school vocal music programs with Tracy Evers-Westgerdes and Reid Knuth, non-teaching contracts with Trisha Dues and Kate Timmerman and certified personnel teaching contracts with Heather Addington and Sophia Homan; an annual service agreement with Mercer County Educational Service Center for the 2025-26 school year; FFA Ag Mechanics Team to attend state finals at Ohio State Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster, Ohio, retroactive to April 2 and 3;

- OK’d employing Kristy Wehrkamp as a substitute pre-school teacher again for the first semester of the 2025-26 school year, Nick Wehrkamp abstaining.



Indiana Capital Chronicle/Whitney Downard

State Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle), who represents Jay, Blackford, Adams and Wells counties as well as part of Allen County, presents his tax bill before the Senate on Jan. 28. By a 27-22 vote Monday night, the Indiana Senate approved the bill that makes changes to property taxes, makes changes to business personal property taxes and calls for the elimination of Union School Corporation in southwest Randolph County.

Senate Bill 1 passes

Governor says he plans to sign bill that addresses property taxes

By **CASEY SMITH**
and **LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ**
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Shortly after midnight Tuesday, Indiana Senate Republicans agreed to significant changes in an immense local property and income tax plan — avoiding risky negotiations in favor of sending it to Gov. Mike Braun.

Despite earlier reservations — and a pressure campaign to veto — the governor appeared resolute immediately following the Senate vote.

“This is historic property tax relief. Senate Bill 1 cuts property taxes for most Hoosier homeowners, farmers, and businesses, limits future tax hikes, and makes the tax system fairer, more transparent, and easier to understand,” Braun said in a statement. “Real property tax relief was a core promise of my Freedom and Opportunity Agenda and with the collaborative leadership of our legislators, we are delivering real savings and protections for taxpayers. I look forward to signing the bill as soon as I receive it.”

The 27-22 tally came well ahead of an end-of-month deadline and followed a marathon day in the Senate chamber. Twelve Republicans joined Democrats in opposition: Sens. Ron Alting, Eric Bassler, Vaneta Becker, Mike Bohacek, Jim Buck, Cyndi Carasco, Spencer Deery, Dan Der-nulc, Aaron Freeman, Jim Tomes, Mike Young and Andy Zay

None of those senators spoke on the bill.

Senate Bill 1 would save homeowners a collective \$1.2 billion in property taxes over three calendar years, from 2026 through 2028, according to a Thursday fiscal analysis. It does so largely by creating a credit for 10% off every homestead’s bill, up to \$300 each.

That’s after House lawmakers on Wednesday made sweeping edits featuring the governor’s blessing and Senate input. It’s a far cry from Braun’s original plan.

Democrats discussed lost revenue for schools and communities that will force either local income tax hikes or severe service cuts.

Local units of government would lose a projected \$1.5 billion

over the three years, per the fiscal analysis. Public school corporations alone represent about half the anticipated loss, at \$744 million — although Democrats contend other tax changes push that figure to almost \$800 million.

“We’ve heard relief, relief, relief,” said Sen. Andrea Hunley, Indianapolis. “But the efforts that we have in Senate Bill 1 are complex, and I don’t feel like they go far enough, and I do think that they create winners and losers.”

But Republicans noted revenue still goes up for most units — just not as much as under current law.

For instance, the city of Fort Wayne would see its property tax revenue rise from \$167 million in 2025 to \$201 million in 2028 if no changes are made. Under Senate Bill 1, the city will see revenue rise from \$167 million to \$187 million in 2028.

”I want to make sure we know it’s not loss, it’s unrealized potential gain,” said Sen. Scott Baldwin, R-Noblesville.

Still, Democrats weren’t the only ones unhappy with the deal. “NOBODY understands this thing ... including me!” Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith, Braun’s second-in-command, posted Saturday. “On that basis alone we can’t let this become law. The Gov needs to VETO this thing, call a special session and demand the legislature pass something that the average Hoosier can understand without hiring army of lawyers and accountants!!”

Focused on LIT

Senators started debate on the bill at 10:35 p.m. A vote followed nearly two hours later at 12:18 a.m. Tuesday.

During the discourse, bill author Sen. Travis Holdman, R-Markle, emphasized that Indiana’s property taxes “are very complicated” — and that “it’s taken the legislature 50 years to make it as complicated as we possibly could” — but under this bill, two-thirds of homeowners will receive a lower bill in 2026 compared to 2025.

The legislation caps total local income tax rates for all counties to 2.9%, down from 3.75%. Municipalities would be authorized to impose rates up to 1.2% within that county total — a tool they have not had before. Under current law, they have to get

county officials on board to nab a local income tax.

Indianapolis Democrat Sen. Greg Taylor said Hoosier taxpayers were promised relief on property tax bills, “but I guess we didn’t add the comma and say, ‘But you really end up paying more on your income tax.’” He worried that locals will be forced to cut essential services if they resist income tax hikes.

“When your city council comes to you and says, ‘What do you want us to do? Cut services or increase (local income taxes)?’... we’re going to say, ‘Well, we gave you an option,’” Taylor said.

“We know what the option is going to be. We’re going to cut services. You mark my words. You’re going to cut services,” he continued. “You think we’ve got road problems? You think we’ve got access to government service problems? Just wait.”

Holdman held that while higher local income taxes “may be the case in some situations,” raising those taxes remains optional.

Instead, he preferred for local governments to become “more efficient” before raising taxes.

“I think there are expenses that cities and towns and county governments have that they could trim their budgets,” Holdman added. “I think there needs to be a review of all expenditures at a local level to make sure that they’re spending their dollars wisely.”

Also under the bill, fixed-income seniors would get an additional \$150 discount off their property tax bills stacked atop the \$300 maximum available to the general population. Disabled veterans could also qualify for stackable credits of \$150 and \$250.

In exchange, lawmakers nixed assessed-value-based deductions for those populations.

Renters ‘left out’

Over three years, the bill would cut property taxes by about \$25 million for apartments, almost \$69 million for other residential properties, \$116 million on farmland and \$145 million on personal property. But bills for agricultural business and other real properties would rise by \$63 million and \$720 million, respectively.

That adds up to about \$802 million in savings across other property types.

The overhauled legislation

additionally phases in a major increase in the acquisition cost threshold for the business personal property tax exemption — from \$80,000 to \$2 million — and narrows application of the 30% depreciation floor. It previously would’ve phased the tax itself out by 2030 on anything purchased this year or later.

Still, Sen. Fady Qaddoura, D-Indianapolis, questioned why the bill does not directly address — or provide relief for — the 560,000 tenants across the state.

Holdman held that his measure deals with property taxes, which “tenants do not pay.”

Qaddoura disagreed. “Tenants do pay property tax,” he said. “When you live in an apartment building or in a house, the landlord will pass all of these costs, including property taxes.”

Hunley further took issue with the inclusion of Senate Bill 518, a measure to require traditional schools to share property taxes with charters. Another provision dissolved the Union School Corporation.

“I think that we do need to talk about process and procedure, and the fact that this is the way that we’re going to do business from now on — that we can just simply amend into a piece of legislation the closure of an entire school district,” she said. “And that we can do that without regard for public hearing or process, and that we can just redraw new maps and new boundary lines for an entire school corporation, for families, for a whole community from up here on high in Marion County, and determine what’s best without true regard for collaboration with the community.”

Before the vote, Sen. Rodney Pol, D-Chesterton, reiterated that the legislation “is too big,” and that lawmakers “have forced too much into one bill.”

“As you shuffle the burden of taxes, there may be some that gets pushed to businesses. ... but ultimately, we’re doing so at the expense of already struggling schools, struggling communities, renters and others that need us most,” he said. “There are multiple poison pills throughout this thing. And ultimately, school districts and local communities will have to make the toughest decisions that they’ve ever had to, at a time where things are just uncertain.”

Capsule Reports

Continued from page 2

He had a medical episode, according to a Jay County Sheriff’s Office report. His vehicle left the east side of the road and drove north through a field for about 500 feet before driving back onto the highway and striking a pole on the west side of the road.

Monahan was not able to share his name or answer questions when police arrived, appearing to have a medical issue, the report says. He was transported to IU Health Jay in

Portland. Monahan later told police he didn’t remember the accident or ride to the hospital.

His vehicle was towed.

Backing accident

A Portland man backed his vehicle into northbound traffic on county road 350 West, causing an accident about 1:15 p.m. Sunday.

Brayden L. Davis, 25, was backing his 2009 Lincoln Town Car out of the driveway at 3633 N. 350 West, Portland. He didn’t noting the oncoming 2015 Ford Explorer

behind him, and he backed his car into the Ford driven by 37-year-old Lanae L. Caster of Portland.

Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Rail hit

A Dunkirk teen driving along Indiana 67 went off the road and crashed into a guard rail about 6:31 a.m Sunday.

George D. Clemmons, 17, was driving a 2020 Chevrolet Equinox north on the highway just south of county road 700 South

when the car left the road. The vehicle Clemmons was driving struck a guard rail on the east side of the road, causing the car to swing counterclockwise and partially roll backwards into a creek. The rear end of the vehicle went into the creek.

Clemmons appeared to be asleep or fatigued, according to a Jay County Sheriff’s Office report.

The vehicle is registered to Starr Real Estate of Muncie. It was towed, with damage estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly

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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Inferences and deductions

West dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

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

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

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

SOUTH
♠ K 3
♥ A 7 3
♦ A J 10 9 8
♣ 6 5 2

The bidding:
West North East South
1♣ Pass 1♥ 2♦
2♥ 3♦

Opening lead — king of clubs.

There are lots of inferences a declarer can draw from the bidding and/or play of the cards, and those inferences often permit him to play a hand as though the opponents' cards were exposed.

Consider this case where West leads the king of clubs and continues with the ace and a low club. East ruffing dummy's nine and returning the eight of hearts. Declarer goes up with the ace and

must now find the right way to play the trumps to make the contract. He can play the A-K, hoping to catch the queen; he can play the ace, then continue with the jack and finesse; or he can lead a trump to the king and finesse against East on the way back.

Before South casts his ballot for one of these approaches, he should first try to assemble every clue that can help him make the right decision.

He knows for a certainty that West started with five clubs, and he can deduce from East's heart bid and West's raise that East started with four hearts and West with three. South can also deduce that the missing spades are divided 4-4, because if either defender had five spades, he would have bid them.

By putting all these inferences and deductions together, South can conclude that West started with five clubs, three hearts, four spades and, hence, only one diamond.

He therefore plays a diamond to the king and finesse the jack on the way back. After drawing East's last trump, South crosses to dummy with a spade and discards a heart on the queen of clubs to make exactly three diamonds.

Tomorrow: West rises to the occasion.
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Brown ...

Continued from page 8

Brown mentioned that despite the slow start, she's kept her confidence up due to coach Doug Arbuckle keeping faith in her and not removing her from the lineup in the first five games, even as the flex player.

"It's definitely boosted me up a lot to know that coach has more confidence in you," Brown said.

All nine of the batters in the Jay County (5-0) lineup played a role. Eight of the nine drove in one or more runs, smacked a hit and scored one run or more.

Jaelynn Lykins led the Patriots in hits, going 3-for-3 with a single in the second inning, a solo home run to deep right center field in the third and a double to leadoff the fourth.

Mallory Winner drove in and scored the most runs with three apiece. A single to right field plated a pair in the second inning, while a single up the middle pushed Natalie May, Lykins' pinch runner, home in the fourth. Winner crossed the plate herself in the first, second and third innings.

"That's key for us to get to where we want to be, to have production all the way through the lineup," Arbuckle said. "Not just (Brown), but a lot of them, they continue to gain confidence each game."

The Patriots had the easiest time scoring in the second inning, when they put up seven runs. They had seven hits in the inning, including four consecutive singles. Jay County



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

JCHS catcher Jaelynn Lykins receives a low pitch that struck out a St. Henry hitter during Monday's 15-1 victory. Lykins put together a strong day at the plate, going 3-for-3 with two RBIs on a solo home run and a single, while also hitting a leadoff double.

ty also had crooked numbers in the first and third innings, scoring three and four runs, respectively.

Carley Trinidad went the distance in the circle to notch her second win of the year. She surrendered one unearned run on

three hits and two walks.

"She was able to hit her spots for the most part, move the ball around and miss barrels," Arbuckle said. "She had six strikeouts and that's key in a five-inning game, she had six of the 15 outs."

The sole run for St. Henry (3-6) came in the second inning as McCoy led off with a walk, advanced to second on a passed ball, third on an error and home on Gast's single to center field.

The Patriots have start-

ed the season 5-0 and have beaten teams in five innings by the mercy rule four times. They have now outscored opponents 64-6 and haven't given up more than three runs in a game.

"It's just a tribute to

them and what they've accomplished so far," Arbuckle said. "In early March, they worked at it and bought into what we wanted to do and going through with the practices and once the games started, it showed on the field. It's a good group of girls and they all want to play together and accomplish great things. We're off to a good start."

Box score

St. Henry
vs. Jay County Patriots

St. Henry (3-6)

	ab	r	h	bi
Thieman cf	2	0	1	0
NSchwtrmn dp	2	0	0	0
RBuschur 2b	1	0	1	0
KWendel c	2	0	0	0
McCoy 3b	1	1	0	0
Lefeld 1b	2	0	0	0
Gast ss	2	0	1	1
ABushur rf	2	0	0	0
Miller lf	1	0	0	0
Felver lf	1	0	0	0
Totals	16	1	3	1

Jay County (5-0)

	ab	r	h	bi
Ruble ss	3	1	1	0
Missicano cf	4	2	2	1
Lykins c	3	1	3	2
May cr	0	2	0	0
Shimp 1b	4	2	2	1
Winner dp	3	3	2	3
HSchwtrmn rf	1	2	1	1
Garrett ph	1	0	0	0
Trinidad p	2	0	0	1
Plesinger cr	0	1	0	0
Romine ph	1	0	0	0
Bice 2b	2	1	2	1
Brown 3b	3	0	1	1
Totals	27	15	14	11

St. Henry 010 00X X—1
Jay County 374 1XX X—15

LOB — St. Henry 3, Jay County 7.
2B — St. Henry 1 (RBuschur), Jay County 1 (Lykins).
HR — Jay County (Lykins).

IP H R ER BB SO

St. Henry

RWendel 1.2 10 10 6 2 0

EBushur 2.1 4 5 3 2 0

Jay County

Trinidad 5 3 1 0 2 6

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Thursday

Jay County — Boys golf at Wapahani — 4:30 p.m.; Baseball vs. Yorktown — 5 p.m.; Girls tennis at Bluffton — 5 p.m.; Track tri meet at home — 5 p.m.; JV baseball at Muncie Central — 5 p.m.; Junior high softball vs. Elwood — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high track quad meet at Blackford — 5 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Baseball at New Bremen — 5 p.m.; Softball vs. New Bremen — 5 p.m.; JV baseball vs. New Bremen — 5 p.m.; Middle

school track vs. South Adams — 5 p.m.

TV sports

Today

1:15 p.m. — MLB: Houston Astros at St. Louis Cardinals (ESPN)

2:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Newcastle United at Crystal Palace (USA)

6 p.m. — Women's college lacrosse: Rutgers at Maryland (BTN)

6 p.m. — USL Super League soccer: Lexington at Spokane Zephyr (FOX)

6:40 p.m. — MLB: Seattle Mariners at

Cincinnati Reds (FS1)

7:30 p.m. — NBA Playoffs Play-In: Miami Heat at Chicago Bulls (ESPN)

10 p.m. — NHL: Vegas Golden Knights at Vancouver Canucks (TNT)

10 p.m. — NBA Playoffs Play-In: Dallas Mavericks at Sacramento Kings (ESPN)

Thursday

12:40 p.m. — MLB: Seattle Mariners at Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana)

4:30 p.m. — Women's college gymnastics: NCAA Championship (ESPN2)

6:40 p.m. — MLB: Kansas City Royals at Detroit Tigers (FS1)

7 p.m. — NHL: Washington Capitals at Pittsburgh Pirates (ESPN)

7:10 p.m. — MLB: St. Louis Cardinals at New York Mets (FDSN Indiana)

8 p.m. — Women's college lacrosse: Northwestern at Michigan (ESPN2)

9 p.m. — Women's college gymnastics: NCAA Championship (ESPN2)

9:30 p.m. — NHL: Calgary Flames at Los Angeles Kings (BTN)

10:30 p.m. — College volleyball: USC at

UCLA (BTN)

Local notes

Registration open

Registration for the 35th annual Flat 50 Plus bicycle ride in Adams County is now open. To register, visit RunSignUp.com.

There are rides ranging from 20 to 100 miles long.

The event will be held at 7 a.m. Saturday, June 21. It will start at Bellmont high school and will have stops in Willshire, Geneva and Monroe with refreshments.

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90 SALE CALENDAR

iron lawn sprinkler. Cast iron dutch oven. Cycle mower. (2) Kirby sweepers. Window air conditioner. Dog cage. Squirrel cage fan. . Several items not mentioned. OWNER: Mike L Hunt 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

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FRHS baseball team wins its third straight game, see roundup below

Jay baseball will now host Yorktown on Thursday, see Sports on tap

Brown breaks through

Jay freshman joins offense by notching her first hit, RBI in 15-1 win

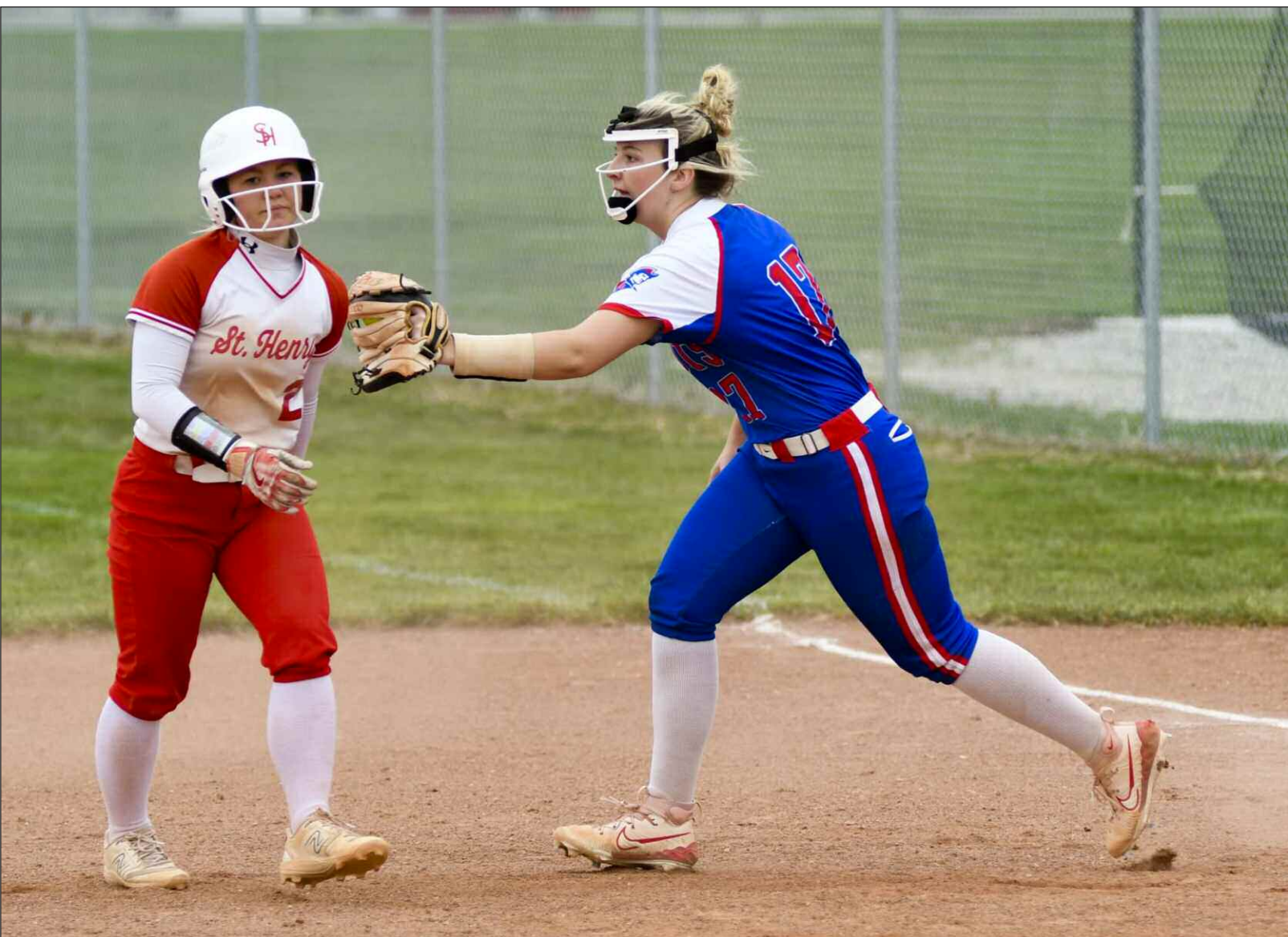
By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

The Patriots have had no shortage of offense through the early part of the year.

There has also been a wide diversity of output, ranging from four-year letter winners, to freshmen. All but one of the everyday starters had produced three or more hits and two or more RBIs.

In the fifth game the final freshman starter joined the offensive parade with her teammates.

Chloe Brown logged her first hit and RBI to help the Jay County High School softball team to a 15-1 victory over St. Henry on Monday.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Prior to Monday's win, Brown, a freshman third baseman, was 0-for-10 at the plate. She had only reached base three times to that point with one walk and two errors. Her first at bat of the day resulted in a groundout to third baseman Breonna McCoy. In the second plate appearance, she finally poked on through the middle for her first base hit of the year.

"It felt really great," Brown said. "I made sure to (focus on) seeing the ball more clearly today than other days. ... I definitely got the barrel on the ball today."

Brown's third at bat she drove in her first run of the season. With runners on first and third and one out, she hit a ground ball to Olivia Gast at shortstop, who chose to throw the ball home to try and get the lead runner. Hallie Schwieterman made it into home standing up to check off the RBI for Brown.

Jay County High School first baseman Jozey Shimp tags out a resigned Rya Bushur of St. Henry, after getting caught with too big of a lead off by catcher Jaelynn Lykins during Monday's 15-1 victory for the Patriots. Lykins also caught another player trying to swipe second base in the prior inning.

See **Brown** page 7

Judge named captain for 2026 WBC

By GARY PHILLIPS
New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

NEW YORK — Aaron Judge will captain a team other than the New York Yankees in 2026.

The reigning American League MVP has also been named captain of Team USA for the 2026 World Baseball Classic. Judge, who has yet to play in the international tournament, announced the decision alongside

Team USA manager Mark DeRosa MLB Network on Monday morning.

"I wanted to be there," Judge said, referring to the 2023 WBC, which came shortly after he signed a nine-year, \$360 million free agent contract with the Yankees. "I was kind of in the middle of free agency, but I was looking forward to this opportunity again."

With the Los Angeles

Angels' Mike Trout captaining, Team USA lost the 2023 WBC championship to Japan. Judge will be the second Yankees captain to play for Team USA, as Derek Jeter was on the WBC roster in 2006 and 2009.

Judge was named the Yankees' first captain since Jeter after signing his mega-millions deal with the team. Judge didn't want to play in the 2023 WBC because he felt

it was important to be present at spring training as he adjusted to his new leadership role.

Judge and Team USA will play in the WBC's Pool B with Brazil, Great Britain, Italy and Mexico. Pool B games are scheduled for March 6-11 at Houston's Daikin Park.

The WBC championship game will take place in Miami on March 17.

Fourth leads Fort to victory

FORT RECOVERY — The Indians didn't get off to a great start, falling behind 5-0 through the first two innings.

But a massive fourth inning shot them in front and carried the Tribe to victory.

A 6-run fourth inning powered Fort Recovery High School's baseball team to triumph over the Shawnee Indians 8-5 on Monday.

Brody Hart and Gavin Evers got the inning going with a pair of walks. Colson Post drove in the first run to get Fort Recovery (6-2) on the scoreboard. Another walk loaded the bases and a wild pitch plated Evers. Mason Diller then drove in two runs with a single to get within one of Shawnee (1-6).

A fourth walk of the inning set up Alex Gaerke for a two-RBI double to take a 6-5 lead. Caden Homan drove in a run in the fifth and Keegan Muhlenkamp scored on a wild pitch in the sixth.

Dylan Klenke earned the win by throwing the final six innings. He gave up one earned run on four hits and two walks, while striking seven batters out.

Loss in extras

FORT RECOVERY — The Fort Recovery softball team fell to the Newton Local Indians 8-6 in 11 innings on Monday.

FRHS (7-3) got ahead early with four runs in the second inning on an error and a Jenna Homan double. It scored two more in the sixth on a Paisley Hart groundout and a Layla Armstrong single.

But Newton Local (4-3) stormed back for its own four-run inning in the top of the seventh to tie the game. (It had a run in the first and sixth innings as well.) After three scoreless runs, NLHS claimed the lead off two singles and a triple.

The Tribe loaded the bases in the bottom half with a Hart single and a pair of walks, but couldn't tie the game up.

Homan suffered the loss, throwing all 11 innings. She

Local roundup

gave up eight runs on 16 hits while striking out eight batters.

Jay shut out

The Jay County baseball team couldn't get anything going in its 15-0 loss to the Coldwater Cavaliers on Monday.

The Patriots (1-4) only managed four hits and runners only reached scoring position twice. Gavin Byrum, Grant Wendel, Carter Fugiett and Aiden Phillips had the four JCHS hits.

The Cavaliers (6-1) didn't have such problems, scoring in four out of five innings. They put up two runs in the first, four in the fourth and an eight spot in the fifth inning that put the game out of reach.

Zedrian Vazquez suffered the loss, giving up six runs — four of which were earned — on seven hits over 3 ½ innings pitched.

Record set

Walter Campofiore set a new Jay County Junior High School boys track record in the long jump and both Patriot teams finished second in a tri-meet with Southern Wells and Adams Central on Monday.

Campofiore jumped a distance of 17 feet, 2 inches, to break the record. He also added victories in the 100-meter dash and 200 dash, but was the only boy to top an event.

The girls team had two individual first-place finishers and a relay team that took the top spot.

Macy DeHoff won the 110 hurdles, while Journey Reynolds claimed the 100 dash. Reynolds also anchored the 4x100 relay team that won its race. She was joined by Jordyn Champ, Miley Duncan and Kamzy Johnson.

The girls placed second in six events, while the boys had four runners-up.

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