

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

School board reviews finances

Gulley says corporation will need to be careful

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

In a changing landscape, school officials will need to keep an eye on finances.

That was the message from Jay School Corporation superintendent Jeremy Gulley and business manager Shannon Current during Monday's Jay School Board meeting.

The board also discussed a potential capital improvement project at Jay County Junior-Senior High School and approved the hiring of 2006 Jay County High School graduate Tyler Rigby as the Patriots' next boys basketball coach (see related story).

Current noted that she is currently projecting negative cash flows of \$82,675 and \$136,937 this year in the education and operation funds, respectively. If those numbers hold, it would mark the first time either fund has been in the red for a year since the education fund had a negative cash flow of \$77,594 in 2017.

Gulley addressed the situation in relation to funding changes that are coming following last week's passage of Indiana Senate Bill 1, which makes a variety of tax changes. He said estimates from the state's Legislative Services Agency show Jay Schools will miss out on \$1.9 million in additional revenue that it would have received under the current funding system. He added that the bill calls for schools to no longer receive local income tax dollars beginning in 2028 and that the possibility of new local tax increment financing (TIF) districts could impact funding.

He added that schools could see further reductions in funding if state revenue continues to fall short of its projections.

See **Finances** page 2



Photo provided

Prom candidates

Fort Recovery High School will hold its prom Friday. Pictured, front row from left, are queen candidates Karlie Niekamp, Mara Wenning, Kassidy Dues, Aleigha Overman, Layla Bihn and Eva Kahlig. Back row are king candidates Evan Evers, Kyle Huntsman, Riley Grieshop, Cooper Thompson and Eli Lennartz. Promenade is scheduled for 6 p.m. Friday, April 25, at Fort Site Fieldhouse. (Doors will open at 5:15 p.m. and visitors are asked to use the south entrance.)

City contributes to sidewalk

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

The city will pay for a portion of the cost of adding a sidewalk to a bridge on Portland's south side.

Portland City Council on Monday approved contributing \$26,962.50 for work related to the sidewalk as part of the Seventh Street bridge project.

It also heard a Portland resident express concern about sewer capacity in relation to a proposed project.

Jay County Commissioners president Chad Aker visited Portland City Council to request funds for costs related to

Work will be part of county bridge project planned for this summer

adding a sidewalk along the north side of the Seventh Street bridge over the Salamonie River. When a project to replace the bridge was originally proposed, city council members suggested adding a sidewalk, noting significant foot traffic on that stretch of the street

between Meridian Street and Blaine Pike.

The sidewalk was included in the project, which came in at a total cost of \$1.025 million. Aker requested that the city cover \$26,962.50 for project costs related to adding the sidewalk.

Council members agreed

Monday that the sidewalk will benefit residents, with Kent McClung, Michele Brewster, Matt Goldsworthy, Dave Golden, Mike Aker and Ashley Hilfiker voting in favor of providing the funding. (Ron May was absent.)

The work is slated to begin this summer and is expected to take about four months to complete.

Council also heard from Charles Street resident Cliff Moser, who expressed concern about sewer capacity on the west side of the city. He said sewage bubbles up from the manhole cover in front of his house during times of heavy rain, leaving human waste in his yard and on

his driveway. His family is also unable to use toilets, sinks and showers when water is high.

Moser reported that he has observed similar issues along Industrial Park Drive.

He expressed concern about a proposed project to develop 68 acres on the west side of Portland for commercial use and housing, saying such a project would likely exacerbate sewage problems if systems are not improved.

"They take care of it there on the 68 acres," he said of the development plan, "but when it leaves there, whose problem is it then?"

See **City** page 5

Rengers tapped for role

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — The village's next administrator starts learning the ropes next month.

Fort Recovery Village Council approved an amendment to the wage ordinance Monday to create an assistant village administrator position. Fort Recovery village administrator Randy Diller then announced he plans to hire Aaron Rengers beginning May 12.

Rengers previously worked in human relations for the city of Piqua for about three years and as a heavy equipment operator with his father-in-law's business, Jutte Excavating of Fort Recovery, for about three years. A rural Fort Recovery resident who lives just outside of village limits, he also served as a heavy equipment operator in the United States Army.

The village began accepting applications for the new position in early February. Nine applicants put in their names for the job, and the village created a hiring committee to review them. Council scheduled interviews

Rural Fort Recovery resident will be trained to become new village administrator

with candidates in March and discussed the topic during executive sessions following the last two meetings before moving forward with formal approval for the wage ordinance amendment Monday.

Diller noted that because the position isn't a statutory or appointed job, the final decision rests with him. He said would fill the position based on council's feedback and then formally announced plans to hire Rengers, who will begin as an assistant and train with Diller for the next 10 months on village administrator responsibilities. Those include overseeing departments and other day-to-

day village business. Diller hopes to retire Feb. 28.

Diller pointed to Ohio law and noted council will need to approve legislation in the future allowing Rengers to serve as village administrator. (Per Ohio Revised Code Section 735.271, "The village administrator need not be an elector or reside in the village at the time of his appointment; however, he shall become a resident of the village within six months after his appointment by the mayor and confirmation by the legislative authority of the village, unless his residence outside the village is approved by ordinance.")

See **Role** page 5



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Easter grin

Easter festivities shifted from Hudson Family Park to The Rock Church on Saturday morning. Pictured, Five-year-old Peter Bohannon of Warsaw selects a jump rope as his prize Saturday.

Deaths

Marjorie Schoenherr, 92, Fort Recovery
Peg Faller, 67, Fort Recovery
Michael Hamilton, 59, Muncie
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 68 degrees Monday. The low was 52.
The forecast calls for a low in the mid 50s tonight. Expect mostly sunny skies Friday with the high climbing to 80. There is a 30% chance of rain in the evening.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

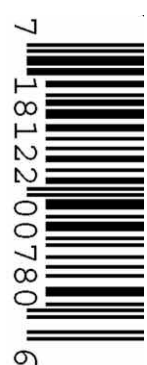
In review

Fort Recovery will host its annual Brick Street Market event on the brick portion of Wayne Street from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 26. The event will include a variety of vendors and activities.

Coming up

Thursday — Results from the JCHS golf team's match against Bluffton.

Saturday — Results from the JCHS baseball game against Class 2A No. 9 Shenandoah.



Felony arrests

Intimidation

A Winchester man was arrested Monday for intimidation.
Aaron M. Burge, 28, 517

Westwood Court, is preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony. He was being held on a \$3,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

CR almanac

Thursday 4/24	Friday 4/25	Saturday 4/26	Sunday 4/27	Monday 4/28
83/61	73/52	62/44	70/52	78/65
Thursday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a chance of rain.	Friday has an 80% chance of showers with a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy on Saturday, when there's a slight chance of rain in the morning and afternoon.	Sunday looks to be mostly sunny with highs in the upper 60s.	Mostly sunny on Monday when there's a slight chance of rain.

Lotteries

Powerball

Monday
4-33-45-46-51
Power Ball: 25
Power Play: 3
Estimated jackpot: \$151 million

Daily Four: 5-7-6-3
Quick Draw: 1-5-7-11-16-19-24-25-36-48-50-51-53-57-60-66-70-73-74-75
Cash 5: 26-29-31-35-41
Estimated jackpot: \$307,500

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$50 million

Ohio

Monday
Midday
Pick 3: 9-8-7
Pick 4: 1-6-0-3
Pick 5: 6-9-4-7-4
Evening
Pick 3: 0-5-0
Pick 4: 7-4-1-7
Pick 5: 7-2-8-1-3
Rolling Cash: 3-26-30-31-39
Estimated jackpot: \$120,000

Hoosier

Monday
Midday
Daily Three: 2-3-7
Daily Four: 6-9-4-0
Quick Draw: 1-3-14-18-19-22-33-34-38-39-43-46-49-50-55-60-67-70-72-76
Evening
Daily Three: 4-1-8

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery

Corn.....4.95
May corn.....4.97
June corn5.03

May beans10.37
Wheat 4.95

ADM Montpelier

Corn.....4.91
May corn.....4.93
Beans10.37
May beans10.39
Wheat4.99

POET Biorefining Portland

Corn.....5.00
May corn.....5.07
June corn5.11

Heartland St. Anthony

Corn.....4.87
May corn.....4.91
Beans10.24
May beans10.24
Wheat4.92

The Andersons Richland Township

Corn4.96
May corn4.96
Beans10.37

Today in history

In 1564, William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, England. A playwright and actor, Shakespeare is known for his various plays, including "Hamlet" and "Romeo and Juliet."

In 1791, James Buchanan, who served as the 15th president of the United States, was born near Mercersburg, Pennsylvania.

In 1813, Stephen A. Douglas was born in Brandon, Vermont. The United States congressman, senator and presidential candidate was nicknamed "Little Giant" for his short stature but notable influence in Congress.

In 1914, Wrigley Field — at that time it was called Weeghman Park — hosted its first major league baseball game. The site is now the home of the Chicago Cubs.

In 1984, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services announced

the virus that causes AIDS, later named HIV, had been discovered.

In 1985, Coca-Cola Company began selling New Coke, a soft drink meant to replace its former glory. Strong public opinions led to the company bringing back Coca-Cola Classic less than three months later.

In 2005, the first video was uploaded to Youtube's website. It consisted of Youtube cofounder Jawed Karim's visit to the San Diego Zoo. A year later, about 100 million videos had been published on the site.

In 2022, longtime chairman and president of the Graphic Printing Company and retired editor and publisher of The Commercial Review Jack Ronald died at the age of 73. Ronald was one of the first inductees into the Circle of Corydon and was a member of the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today
6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.

Friday
8 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.

Monday

9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

3:45 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District Board, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland.

7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.

Obituaries

Marjorie Schoenherr

Nov. 29, 1932-April 20, 2025
Marjorie T. (Lange) Schoenherr, age 92, of Fort Recovery, passed away peacefully on Sunday, April 20, 2025, at the Gardens at St. Henry.

She was born on Nov. 29, 1932, in St. Henry, Ohio, to the late Henry and Philomena (Sutter) Lange. In addition to her parents, Marjorie was preceded in death by her husband, Vincent A. Schoenherr, whom she married on Oct. 22, 1955, and who passed on June 28, 2022; her son-in-law, Dan Dahlinghaus; her siblings, Donald (Betty) Lange, Alfred "Fritz" Lange, Rosemary (Leroy) Bensman, and Henry "Dutch" (Lucy) Lange; her sisters-in-law, Katie Lange and Regina Lange; and her brother-in-law, Ed Davis.



Schoenherr

Marjorie is survived by her children, Susan (Terry) Kunkler of Fort Recovery, Mary Dahlinghaus of Portland, Mark Schoenherr of Fort Recovery, Gary (Vickee) Schoenherr of Portland, Becky (Glen) Merry of St. Henry, Ohio, Bev (Jeff) Abels of St. Henry, Ohio, Angie (Marty) Tomlinson of Elberta, Alabama, Tina (Monte) Huntsman of Portland, Nettie (Kevin) Thieman of Huntsville, Ohio, Eric (Jan) Schoenherr of Coldwater, Ohio, Kyle (Kathy) Schoenherr of Vandalia, Ohio, Kim (Jason) Zeigler of Coldwater, Ohio, and Heidi (Mark) Williams of Sydney, Australia; her 35 grandchildren and 54 great grandchildren; her siblings, Vernon Lange of St. Henry, Ohio, Virgil Lange of St. Henry, Ohio, JoAnn Davis of Celina, Ruth (Paul) Backs of Fort Recovery, Esther Lange of St. Henry, Ohio, Virginia "Ginny" (Earl) Gowert of St. Henry, Ohio, Luella (Glen) Klosterman of Galena, Ohio, Elizabeth "Betty" (Herb) Hamburg of Coldwater, Ohio, Shirley (Dennis) Hartke of Sidney, David (Pam) Lange of Coldwater, Ohio, and Thomas (Brenda) Lange of St. Henry, Ohio; her sister-in-law, Betty Lange of St. Henry, Ohio; and numerous nieces and nephews.

As a dedicated farmwife and

homemaker, Marjorie devoted her life to nurturing her family and helping on the family farm. Her nurturing spirit extended beyond her immediate family, as she took great joy in crafting beautiful embroidered, crocheted, and quilted blankets for her loved ones. She was known for spoiling her children and grandchildren, filling their lives with laughter, comfort and support. Marjorie enjoyed playing cards with her family. Marjorie was a devoted member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, where she participated actively in the Ladies Sodality, contributing her time and talents to serve her community and church family with love. Her faith was a guiding light in her life, inspiring all those around her.

A Funeral Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, April 28, 2025, at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

There will be no visitation with family or friends prior to the Mass. Memorial contributions may be given to the Mercer County Right to Life, 507 N. 2nd St Coldwater, Ohio 45828, or EverHeart Hospice, 1350 N. Broadway Street, Greenville, Ohio 45331.

Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting brockman-boeckmanfh.com.

Peg Faller

Jan. 15, 1958-April 20, 2025

Margaret "Peg" Catherine Faller, age 67, of Fort Recovery, passed away on Sunday, April 20, 2025, at Divine Rehab and Nursing at Shane Hill in Rockford.

She was born on Jan. 15, 1958, in Celina, to the late William and Mary (Bernard) Faller.

In addition to her parents, Peg was preceded in death by her siblings, Thomas Faller and Mary Lou Faller.

Peg is survived by her siblings, Carolyn Siefing of Celina, Mike (Linda) Faller of Belleville, Illinois, Beth Faller of Como, Texas, Henry "Spanky" (Mary) Faller of Aurora, Illinois, Rick Faller of St. Mary's,



Faller

Ohio, and Joe (Barb) Faller of Fairborn, Ohio; and numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

A proud graduate of Fort Recovery High School's Class of 1976, she embraced life with an open heart and a passion for caring for those around her. For many years, Peg dedicated herself to caring for her mother and other elderly couples in her community. Her nurturing nature was a testament to her character, and her love for others knew no bounds. Peg also had a soft spot for animals, showering her adored dogs — Squeaky, PJ, Jake, Toby and Jackie — with the kind of love only she could give.

Throughout her life, Peg cherished the great outdoors. She found joy in fishing and often cruised the countryside, breathing in the fresh air and enjoying the beauty of nature. Peg was also an avid gamer at heart — whether it was a game of bingo, pulling the slots at the casino, or participating in local festival games.

A funeral liturgy will be held at noon Saturday, May 3, 2025, at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, 308 S. Wayne St., Fort Recovery. Burial will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Guests may visit with Peg's family on Saturday from 10 a.m. until the start of the service at noon.

Memorial contributions may be given to EverHeart Hospice, 1350 N. Broadway Street, Greenville, Ohio 45331.

Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting brockman-boeckmanfh.com.

Michael R. Hamilton, Muncie, the father of a Dunkirk resident, Oct. 29, 1965-April 20, 2025. Services will be at 2 p.m. April 25 at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

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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.

Finances

Continued from page 1
(State lawmakers are in the process of addressing a \$2 billion shortfall for Indiana's two-year budget.) He said the school corporation can't count on the federal government to step in and assist in such a situation.

As a result, Gulley said he plans to cut three full-time teaching positions and one-part time teaching position through attrition. He said there are additional options available to the school corporation to cut costs that the board can review later this year after tax impacts become clear and enrollment numbers are set for the 2025-26 school year.

In relation to the proposed improvement project at the junior-senior high school, he pointed out that there are different "buckets" of government funding that can't be transferred from one to another. Bonding, for instance, which would be used for the project, cannot be used to pay employees. Likewise, education fund dollars can't be used for building projects.

Board members Ron Laux, Donna Geesaman, Marcie Vormohr, Chip Phillips, Jon Eads, Aaron Clark and Chad Towell also heard updates regarding the proposed building project.

Brian Bohlender of engineering and architecture firm Barton Coe Vilamma provided various options for the tennis courts, including renovating in place, reconstructing in place or shifting the courts to a new location (slightly south, further south along the main drive, at the north corner of the "driving range" parking lot or on the south side of the school).

Reconstructing the courts would increase the cost but would also provide a longer expected lifespan than renovating them.

He also reported that an assessment of the current stadium grandstand by a structural engineer indicated that it could have as much as 50 years of life left if it is properly sealed and maintained. While there are cosmetic issues such as chipping paint, he said the "bones" of the structure are sound.

See Finances page 5

SERVICES

Thursday
Fifer, Ruth: 11 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

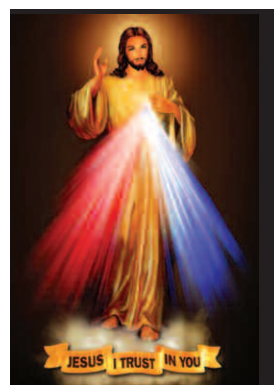
Glessner, Judith: 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Friday
Hamilton, Michael: 2 p.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

Monday
Schoenherr, Marjorie: 10:30 a.m., St. Joseph Catholic Church, 1689 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery.

May 3
Faller, Peg: Noon, Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, 308 S. Wayne St., Fort Recovery.

Service listings provided by
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Jesus words to St. Faustina
"Let the greatest sinners place their trust in My mercy."
Diary 1146



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Photo provided

Character Counts

East Elementary School recently recognized first grade students for demonstrating citizenship. Pictured above in the front row are Warren Ralph, Gus Link and Kyla Frazee. In the back row are Leo Cox, Reagan Edmundson and Russell Vogel.

Mom devastated by wedding plans

Dear Abby



DEAR ABBY: My oldest daughter, "Alexa," is breaking my heart. She's engaged to a nice enough man she's been with for five years, but she has cast aside every single wedding tradition that's important to us.

Alexa won't wear an engagement ring because diamonds are "ugly" and not politically correct. She has refused to have either an engagement party or a bridal shower. Because they are forgoing a registry, my friends have no idea what to get them for wedding gifts. (Turns out, none of my friends are invited to the wedding — only their friends and family.) She also refuses to have a bridal party, so her sisters are hurt because they wanted to be bridesmaids.

I was so looking forward to shopping with her for her bridal gown, but she doesn't want to wear one. (She bought a plain white dress instead.) Worst of all, her father can't walk her down the aisle because, in her words, she's not property to be given away. There will be no reception — just champagne and wedding cake in the basement of the church. There's no wedding dinner, not even appetizers, and no wedding toasts. There won't be a first dance because there's no band.

I understand that she watched her younger sister turn into a bridezilla, but her sister did have a gorgeous wedding that we paid for. We're willing to pay for hers too, but she and her fiancé are refusing to do ANYTHING we want. They are both doctors and can pay for whatever they want. Her father is ready to stay home rather than be ignored, and I'm not sure I want to be there either. How do we navigate this without alienating our daughter? — RUINED WEDDING IN NEW YORK

DEAR RUINED WEDDING: You and your husband navi-

gate this by reminding yourselves that Alexa's wedding is hers, not yours. You have already had two weddings — your own and your younger daughter's. Comfort yourselves with the knowledge that you and your husband can spend the money you would have blown on this shindig on a luxury vacation for yourselves.

DEAR ABBY: What do you think about some relatives who asked to come and stay with us while they relocated to our state, and brought a handgun and ammunition into our home without our knowledge? We have a 7-year-old daughter! They don't think they did anything wrong and claim they were not obligated to inform us because it was locked and the ammunition was stored apart from it. — THREATENED IN OREGON

DEAR THREATENED: From what you have written, your relatives practice gun safety. Their weapon is locked, and the ammunition is stored separately. I will assume that your child did not find or handle their weapon. That said, NO ONE has the "right" to bring a gun into someone else's home without their permission. If your relatives can't immediately find other lodging, they should check what the Oregon gun laws are and consider storing their weapon away from your house in the trunk of their vehicle.

Sorority news

Eta Chi Chapter of Sigma Phi Gamma International Sorority held a Mother's Day party April 15 at Mt Tabor Hall in Dunkirk. Kris Cook gave the candle lighting service to open the party. Julie Terrell gave a prayer, and Shari Van Nuland read a poem about what a mother is to her

family. A lovely luncheon was served.

After the meal Shari Van Nuland passed out clay pottery to be painted for entertainment. Everyone enjoyed the fun.

Those attending were Kaylee Inman, Kathleen Inman, Angie Burruss, Renee Blumenhorst,

Scarlet Steed, Lilly Sollars, Lexi Steed, Kris Cook, Julie Terrell, Connie Retter, Julie Adkins, Shari Van Nuland, Marcia Eglan, Marlene Clevenger, Morgan Taylor, Jacinela Smith, Lisa Taylor, Kinley Tarter, Brakella Sturgall and Amanda Taylor.

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.

EUCHRE CLUB — Will meet at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at Chalet Village Health and Rehabilitation in the North Lounge.

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.

PORTLAND EAGLES — Will meet at 6 p.m., on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Eagles' lodge, 320 N. Meridian 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.

A BETTER LIFE - BRIGANNA'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.

Thursday

LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES — Free and confidential consultations with a lawyer are available from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics including divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant-landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating should sign up in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

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.

DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 5:30 p.m. at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Centre, 200 N. Park St., Portland.

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.

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.

MISSISSINEWA CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION — Will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 26, at Jay County Historical Society Museum. The chapter is celebrating its 106th anniversary with special guest Brenda Cotton, Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution central district director. For questions, contact regent Kathy Selman at (260) 251-1694 or Sue Sommers at (260) 726-2678.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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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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

GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

Let your friends know they matter

Editor's note: This column was originally printed on April 21, 2021. A year later, it was reprinted following Jack's death. It seems a good reminder to revisit year after year. This week, think about someone who means something to you and follow Jack's advice.

Back in the Saddle



By **JACK RONALD**
The Commercial Review

Don't wait.
Don't wait until someone is gone before expressing how much they mean to you.
That's the lesson driven home over the past month.
Melodi Haley was my classmate. She was my friend. And in the words of many of my contemporaries, she was the glue that held us all together.
Every high school graduating class is different. Some go their separate ways minutes after that tassel is moved from one side of the mortarboard to the other.

Others stay connected. I'm lucky enough to say mine stayed connected.
And Melodi was the primary reason for that.
She's the one who cajoled committees together for reunion after reunion. She's the one who corralled us for monthly luncheons before COVID-19 set in. She's the one who carried a magic wand that could turn the biggest slacker into the busiest volunteer. That last one I know for sure. I was the slacker, and Melodi put me to work on projects I never would have dreamed of taking on.

There was something about the word "no" that didn't work when she asked you to help.
We lost Melodi this month. And by the word "we," I mean the Portland High School Class of 1966, the farming community she served for years at Harvestland Coop in Geneva, the folks at Jay County Retirement Center, her co-workers at Adams Physical Therapy and her fellow members of the congregation at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church.
And more.
I've lost track of how long Melodi had been dealing with cancer. She'd fight it. She'd beat it. Then it would turn 180 degrees and she'd be fighting it again.
But a funny thing happened. When most of us might have felt sorry for ourselves, Melodi decided her mission was to offer advice and support and hope to others facing the same affliction. Ask around and you'll find folks she reached out to, setting aside

her own battle to provide encouragement to others in theirs.
The best thing I've done in 2021 and the best thing I've done in a long while was to let her know — while she was still alive — how much I admired her.
In other words, I didn't wait.
A couple of months ago, when it was clear that her situation was dire, I sent her an email.
Words may not be sufficient. But sometimes they are all we have:
Melodi,
I'm not at all happy about the news I hear coming from 910 S. Vine St.
(Anonymous) has been in touch.
First, it was to let me know about his situation. Then it was to fill me in on yours.
Neither one qualified as good news.
Connie and I have been optimistic about both of you.
So this is discouraging.

But here's something worth remembering:
A lot of folks stumble through life without much of a clue.
And then there are others, others whose lives make a difference, others who matter.
You matter. You have mattered.
It may have been with your smile. It may have been with your laughter. It may have been with your leadership.
But there is no doubt, you matter. You have mattered.
Not everyone can say that. Actually, few can say that.
But you matter. And you continue to matter to your friends, your family and your classmates.
So keep that in mind.
When the night seems long and dawn seems far away, remember this: You have mattered.
Love,
Jack and Connie
Insufficient? Probably.
But my advice is still this: Don't wait.

Invest to end homelessness

By **JIM VARGAS**
OtherWords

Homelessness and substance use disorder often occur simultaneously — but many people struggling with both are unable to get the help they need. That puts homeless service providers on the front lines of the battle for reversing overdoses while also trying to end homelessness, one life at a time.

As the CEO of a large homelessness service provider, I've seen firsthand how helping someone overcome substance use can lead directly to helping them overcome homelessness.

Ending homelessness is a long process. It isn't all about lifting someone off the streets and finding them a job and a place to call home. There's a spectrum of steps and successes along the way to help someone build confidence and independence so they can make long-term positive lifestyle changes.

Overcoming substance use is one of those steps. We have a number of strategies to approach substance use that have offered positive results. The first is the overarching principle of harm reduction, which we use because it saves lives.

Many of our outreach teams carry NARCAN or other life-saving treatments. We also have NARCAN vending machines that allow people experiencing homelessness to easily — and freely — get the life-saving medicine they need to help themselves or others.

Unfortunately, many shelters are also inadequately prepared to address the needs of people experiencing both substance use challenges and homelessness. That's why we need more detoxification facilities that are targeted toward this population with overlapping needs.

From there, the actual healing and support can begin.

Along with support groups and harm reduction techniques, people facing both substance use and homelessness need wrap-around services to exit their situation for good. These services include programs aimed at helping people find employment or educational opportunities.

The construction of affordable housing also

Guest Editorial

plays a major role, given the astronomical cost of living in much of the country. While this is a more complicated and longer-term commitment, it's really the only way to end homelessness for good.

People of all walks of life can play a big role in preventing and ending homelessness.

It's time for us to destigmatize substance use disorder so that those experiencing it can get the help they need. Harm reduction and adequate medical care are a strong buffer against the endless cycles of criminalization into which many people in need fall.

It's important to know that every citizen can purchase and carry NARCAN, and receive training in its proper use. By doing so, you can give someone a second chance at life.

Make no mistake, homelessness is a crisis. Late last year, the number of people in this country experiencing homelessness hit an all time high. And a 2020 study found that 27% of all adults experiencing homelessness had long-term substance use, pointing to the strong connection between the two issues.

But people experiencing homelessness aren't numbers on a graph — they're human beings with stories. Investing in funding for critical services makes a direct impact in their lives, and in the community at large.

Most importantly, we must center any approach to ending homelessness in compassion. For too long, we've approached people struggling with averted eyes. It's time that we realize that these are our brothers and sisters, fathers, mothers, children and grandparents.

We can solve the homelessness crisis, but only if we do so together. I hope you'll join us in this mission.

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Vargas is president and CEO of Father Joe's Villages, the largest homeless services provider in Southern California.



America doesn't have your back

By **LLEWELLYN KING**
InsideSources.com
Tribune News Service

America has your back. That has been the message of U.S. foreign policy to the world's vulnerable since the end of World War II.

That sense that America is behind you was a message for Europe against the threat of the Soviet Union and has been the implicit message for all threatened by authoritarian expansionism.

From the sophisticated in Western Europe to the struggling masses worldwide, America has always been there to help. Its mission has been to serve and, in its serving, to promote the American brand — freedom, democracy, capitalism, human rights — and to keep America a revered and special place.

America was there to arbitrate an end to civil war, to rush in with aid after a natural disaster, to provide food during a famine and medical assistance during an infectious disease outbreak. America was there with an open heart and open hand.

If you want to look at this in a transactional way, which is the currency of today, we gave but we got back. The ledger is balanced. For example, we sent forth America's food surplus to where it was needed, from Pakistan to Ethiopia, and we opened markets to our farmers.

The world's needs established a symbiotic relationship in which we gained reverence and prestige, and our values were exported and sometimes adopted.

President Donald Trump has characterized us as victims of a venal world that has pillaged our goodwill, stolen our manufacturing and exploited our market. The fact is that when Trump took office in January, the United States had the best-per-

Llewellyn King



forming economy in the world, and its citizens enjoyed the products of the world at reasonable prices. Inflation was a problem, but it was beginning to come down — and it wasn't as persistent as it had been in Britain, for example.

Trump has painted a picture of a world where our manufacturing was somehow shanghaied and carried in the depth of night to Asia.

In fact, American businesses, big and small, sought out Asian manufacturing to avail themselves of cheap but talented labor, low regulation, and a union-free environment.

Businesses will always go where the ecosystem favors them. The business ecosystem offshore was as irresistible to us as it was to a tranche of European manufacturing.

The move to Asia hollowed out the old manufacturing centers of the Midwest and New England, but unemployment has remained low. Some industries, including farming, food processing and manufacturing, suffer labor shortages.

We need manufacturing that supports national security. That includes chips, heavy electrical equipment and other essential infrastructure goods. It doesn't include a lot of consumer goods, from clothing to toys.

Former California Sen. S.I. Hayakawa, a Republican and a semanticist, said you couldn't come up with the correct answer if your

input was wrong, "no matter how hard you think." Trump's thinking about the world seems to be input-challenged.

The world isn't changing only in how Trump has ordained but in other fundamental ones. Manufacturing in just five years will be very different. Artificial intelligence will be on the factory floor, in the planning and sales offices, and it will boost productivity. However, it won't add jobs and probably will subtract them.

Trump would like to build a Fortress America with all that will involve, including higher prices and uncompetitive factories. While not undermining our position as the benefactor to the world, a better approach might be to build up North America and welcome Canada and Mexico into an even closer relationship. Canada shares much of our culture, is rich in raw materials, and has been an exemplary neighbor. Mexico is a treasure trove of talent and labor.

Rather than threatening Canada and belittling Mexico, a possible future lies in a collaborative relationship with our neighbors.

Meanwhile, Canada is looking for markets to the East and the West. Mexico, which is building a coast-to-coast railway to compete with the Panama Canal, is staking much on its new trade deal with the European Union.

Trump has sundered old relationships and old views of what is America's place in the world order. No longer does the world have America at its back.

This is a time of choice: The Ugly American or the Great Neighbor.

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King is the executive producer and host of "White House Chronicle" on PBS.

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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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Finances ...

Continued from page 2
(Options for the capital project have included tearing down the grandstand and relocating home fans to the opposite side of the field.) There was also some discussion about future use of the interior of the building, which has locker rooms and storage space.
Bohlender also provided options for reconstructing the current eight-lane track or adding a ninth lane. He said plans for the kitchen now include running electrical overhead instead of in the floor, which will reduce costs.
Gulley asked project commit-

tee members to be ready to meet again before making recommendations in May. (A preliminary plan presented Monday that includes electrical and mechanical improvements, updates to the band, choir and wrestling areas as well as the former TV studio, kitchen improvements and work on outdoor athletic facilities came in at \$18.2 million.)
Julie Bolling of law firm Krieg Devault laid out a potential timeline for issuing bonds for such a project, with hearings to be held in May and June, followed by a formal resolution for a bond. A petition/remonstrance process would follow.

If approved, bonds would likely be issued in late October.
In other business:
•During the Patriot Pride moment, honored the Jay County FFA soil judging team that is headed to the national competition in Oklahoma.
•Approved the following: the retirement of Redkey Elementary School first grade teacher Jane Evans; field trips for the Jay County robotics team, PVE club students, German IV students and Junior ROTC members; a contract with Dosia Middlebrook for deaf and hard of hearing students; a contract with Ascender for speech and

language pathology services; holding an auction of surplus equipment May 16 in the former bus garage at East Jay Elementary School; expenses related to the Sept. 22 tornado that damaged the junior high/library wing of the junior-senior high school; updates to the elementary student handbook; and adoption of the kindergarten through eighth grade reading textbooks from McGraw-Hill.
•Accepted the resignations of wrestling coach Eric Myers, high school social studies teacher Todd Gibson (effective at the end of the school year) and East Jay Elementary School Lifeskills

instructional assistant Ty Thacker (effective April 9).
•Approved transferring \$635,976.17 from the school's State Medicaid Fund to the Education Fund and making future transfers of similar funds as advised by the State Board of Accounts.
•Accepted \$3,100 in donations, including \$2,000 from Indiana Farmers Insurance/Branum Brown Insurance. It will become an annual donation in exchange for stadium signs, public address announcements, on-site exhibit space and a social media campaign.
•Received proposed updates to the junior-senior high handbook.

City ...

Continued from page 1
He asked city and county officials to seriously consider whether the sewage system is capable of handling the added sewage from the proposed development.
In other business, the council:
•Approved an update to the city's solicitation ordinance on second reading. It calls for solicitors to register with the city for a fee of \$25 for a permit that expires after two weeks. They will be limited to soliciting between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Previously, no timeframe was listed.) They must also have a background check.
•Relayed a request from Moser for reimbursement of a bill related to sewer work to Portland Board of Works. (Council recommended the reimbursement.) He had called a plumber because of what he assumed as an issue with his own sewer lines, but it was discovered that the back-up issue was with a nearby lift station.
•Approved a pair of three-year tax abatements for FCC (Indiana), one for real property and the other for personal property. They total an investment of \$1.6 million and are expected to create two new jobs.
•Was introduced to Ceann Bales, who was recently hired as the new executive director of Jay County Development Corporation.
•Agreed to vacate an alley between the Bollenbacher and Associates office (915 N. Meridian St.) and the former Cross-Roads Financial Federal Credit Union office to the south. Bollenbacher representatives visited a previous meeting to request vacating the alley, saying plans are to expand the Bollenbacher office to the south.
•Though the resident who made the request was not in attendance, McClung addressed making a section of Votaw Street (Indiana 26/67) east of Industrial Park Drive a no-truck area. He pointed out that because the Votaw Street is a state highway in that area, such a decision would be up to

Indiana Department of Transportation.
•Heard Golden ask clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips about the projected impact on revenue for the city following the passage last week of Indiana Senate Bill 1, which addresses a variety of tax issues. She said the city is expected to miss out on \$1.2 million in additional revenue over the next three years that it would have received under the current funding system.
•Briefly discussed the lateral transfer issue that has been brought up at multiple meetings as related to police officer Jagg Nunez. Westlake said he is still researching the issue.
•Heard Westlake issue a reminder that street paving work is beginning in the city this week. Residents are asked not to park on the streets between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. during the project. Streets effect are as follows:
First Street — Between Wayne and Munson streets
Franklin Street — From Lafayette Street north to its dead end at Portland Fire Department
Garfield Street — Between First and Water streets
Hayes Street — From Water Street south to the alley
Jaqua Avenue — From Union Street north to its dead end
Maple Street — Between Silvers Lane and Charles Street
Munson Street — Between First and Water streets
North Street — Between Middle and Glen streets
Seventh Street — From Meridian Street to the western city limits
Shank Street — Between Fifth and Seventh streets
Ship Street — Between Walnut and Votaw streets
Silvers Lane — Between Maple Street and Olsen Lane
Tyson Road — From Charles Street to the western city limits
Wayside Place — Between Charles and North streets
Western Avenue — Between Seventh and Water streets
Williams Street — Between Water and Walnut streets



Indiana Capital Chronicle/Whitney Downard

Vera McConnell, a 16-year-old central Indiana Girl Scout, testifies before a budget conference committee on Monday. The meeting was the final opportunity for Hoosiers to comment on the budget. Republican Sen. Ryan Mishler, who has headed the budget process in the chamber, said there are difficult decisions to be made following a projection that shows \$2 billion less than expected.

Final appeals

Hoosiers testify before budget committee

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

A Monday budget conference committee revealed little new information about ongoing negotiations between Republican caucuses, though a bicameral, bipartisan group heard roughly half an hour of public testimony.
Sen. Ryan Mishler, the chief budget architect for Senate Republicans, squashed any requests for increased funding prior to public input, saying the grim Wednesday budget forecast that projected \$2 billion less in spending "speaks for itself."
"We have some tough decisions to make," said the Mishawaka Republican. "Please don't ask for more because the question at this point will be, 'Who do you want us to take it from?'"
Aside from that early remark, Republicans largely took a back seat for the rest of the hour-long meeting — neither offering comment nor asking many questions.
Sen. Fady Qaddoura, D-Indianapolis, condemned the GOP members for not commenting on private negotiations during Monday's meeting. As both chambers have a Republican supermajority, Democrats are often excluded from such discussions.
"I was extremely disappointed today that would have been — or should have been — a public process to discuss the budget publicly and

the solutions ... did not occur. We are a public institution serving 6.9 million Hoosiers across the state and the budget process should have been much more transparent," said Qaddoura.
In a comment to reporters, Rep. Jeff Thompson — who leads budget negotiations for House Republicans — said that Monday's meeting was the last opportunity for public comment.
A smattering of public advocates took the opportunity to make a last-minute appeal before lawmakers, including 16-year-old central Indiana Girl Scout Vera McConnell.
McConnell made repealing the state sales tax on menstrual products — also known as the Pink Tax — the goal of her Gold Award, one of Girls Scouts' highest honors.
"Women and girls have paid the pink tax, through both good and bad economic times, and it's no longer a fiscal issue. Rather, it's a fairness issue," McConnell said Monday. "We should not profit from the necessary bodily functions of people. The time is now."
Feminine hygiene products are taxed as luxuries and not as a medical necessity. These dollars contribute \$5.6 million in sales taxes to state coffers, or 0.01% of the budget.
House Republicans struck the tax in their version of the budget but Senate Republicans reversed course — much to the chagrin of their Democratic counterparts, who tried to

amend it back into the budget last week but failed on a largely party-line vote.
Other testimony used that news to try to push forward a long-sought tax increase on cigarettes.
According to the American Lung Association, only a dozen states tax cigarettes at a lower rate than Indiana, which has the lowest tax of its surrounding states at \$0.995 per pack. That is nearly half the national rate of \$1.93.
Tiffany Nichols, the Indiana director of advocacy for the American Lung Association, pushed for a \$2 increase, which could bring in an estimated \$800 million in tax revenue.
"We know from decades of research that increasing tobacco taxes is one of the most effective ways to reduce use," said Nichols. "We must close this loophole. Creating barriers across all tobacco products ensures a consistent public health message: all tobacco products are harmful."
The House has passed such an increase a handful of times but never gotten the Senate onboard. Previously, legislative leaders said all options are on the table with the exception of marijuana legalization and an expansion of gaming taxes.
Raising so-called sin taxes — which can include alcohol in addition to cigarettes and gaming — was at the heart of Democrat suggestions for addressing the \$2 billion budget shortfall.

Role ...

Continued from page 1
Also Monday, council approved an ordinance accepting terms and establishing zoning designations in relation to annexing approximately 7.417 acres in Gibson Township.
In January, council approved an ordinance consenting to and setting forth services for a proposal to the annexation. Mercer County Commissioners later approved the annexation, which includes the following properties: Miracle Lanes, Mercer Health Medical Group, a portion of Wendel Poultry's property and a lot owned by Fred Westgerdes.
Per legal requirements, the annexation will take effect 30 days from Monday.
In other business, council members Al Post, Cliff Wendel, Scott Pearson, Greg Schmitz and Luke Knapke, absent Erik Fiely:
•Heard a solar test on the village's wastewater lagoons indicated a large decrease in the organic waste materials in the ponds. Diller shared plans to begin preparing bid documents, with the village to

choose between accepting bids for dredging the lagoons or emptying and cleaning the lagoons. Answering a question from council, Diller said the work will take between four and six weeks. So far, he noted, the lagoons haven't had a strong odor. He attributed the lack of smell to additional aeration put into the ponds in the last year.
•Agreed to pay \$24,665 to environmental consultant Eagon and Associates and contractor Quinter Well Drilling for work involved in testing locations for the site of a third well in the village.
•OK'd paying a \$3,235.25 bill from Eagon and Associates for work involved in finding a site for the third well.
•Heard painting should begin this week on the village's second water tower, which is on track to be finished and in service by July 1. "Everything's on target for that," said Diller.
•Dedicated a prayer at the beginning of the meeting to Fiely, who recently suffered a stroke, and his family.

Walgreens to pay \$300 million

By LISA SCHENCKER
Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

Walgreens Boots Alliance has agreed to pay \$300 million to settle allegations that it filled millions of invalid prescriptions for opioids and other controlled substances and illegally billed federal programs such as Medicare for those medications, the U.S. Department of Justice announced Monday.
The federal government had alleged that Deerfield, Illinois-based Walgreens filled prescriptions with "egregious red flags," according to an amended complaint filed last week in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. The

Funds will settle allegations regarding invalid opioid prescriptions

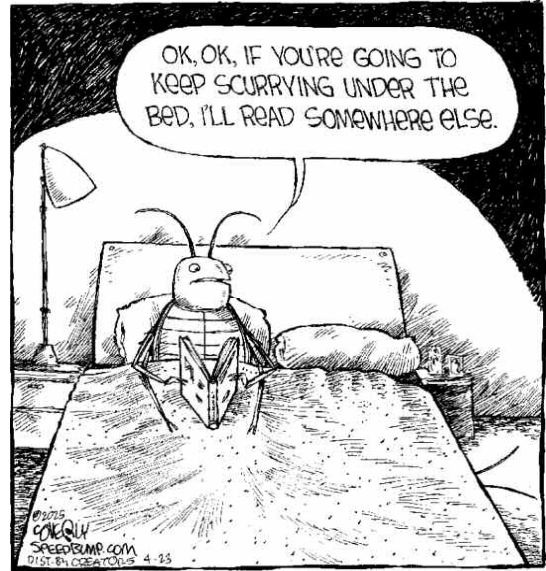
government alleged that Walgreens filled prescriptions with high dosages of opioids, filled prescriptions for the drugs too early, and filled prescriptions for a dangerous combination of three drugs, from late 2013 to early 2023, according to the complaint.
The government had alleged that Walgreens pressured its pharmacists to fill the prescriptions quickly, without giving

them time to check if the prescriptions were valid.
The government also alleged that Walgreens submitted the invalid prescriptions to federal health insurance programs, including Medicare for reimbursement, in violation of the federal False Claims Act.
"Walgreens knowingly filled numerous invalid controlled-substances prescriptions that were either not issued in the usual

course of professional practice, not for a legitimate medical purpose, or both," the government had alleged, according to the settlement agreement. "Walgreens knew that such prescriptions raised significant concerns and were highly likely to be invalid. But Walgreens nevertheless filled numerous such prescriptions without resolving the significant concerns those prescriptions raised."

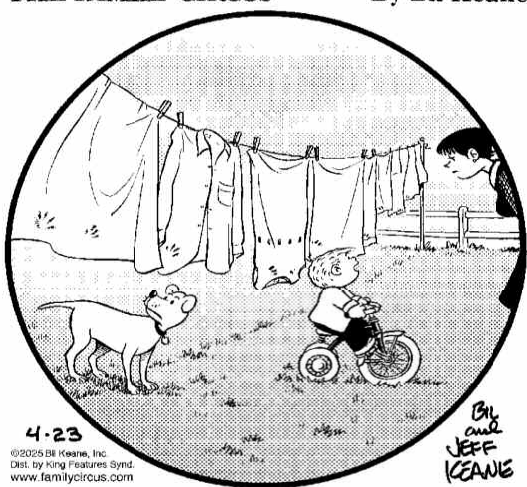
SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



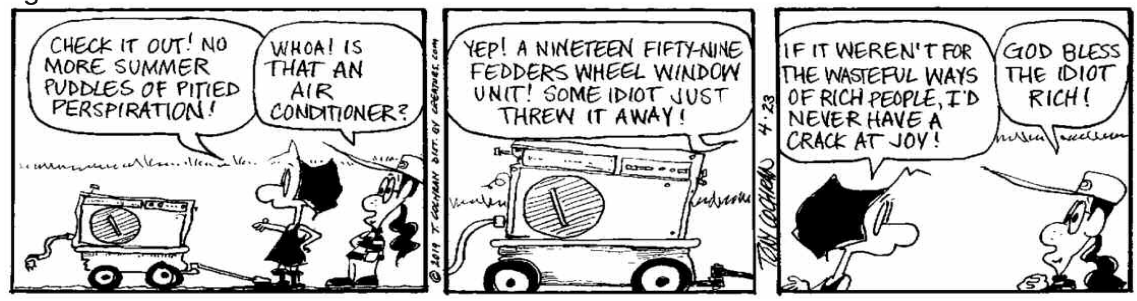
Peanuts



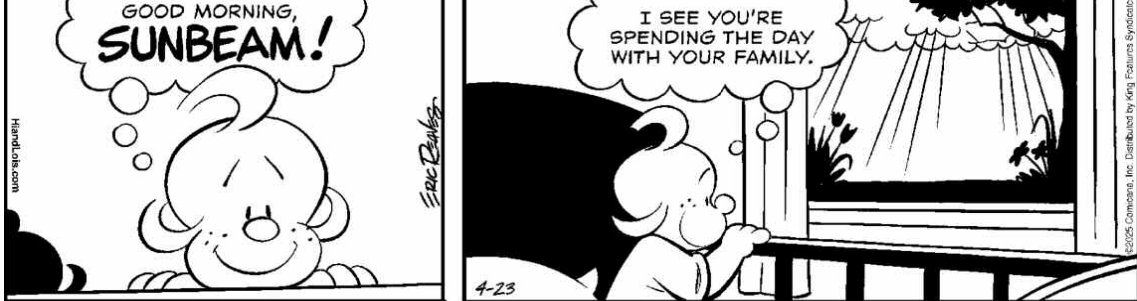
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



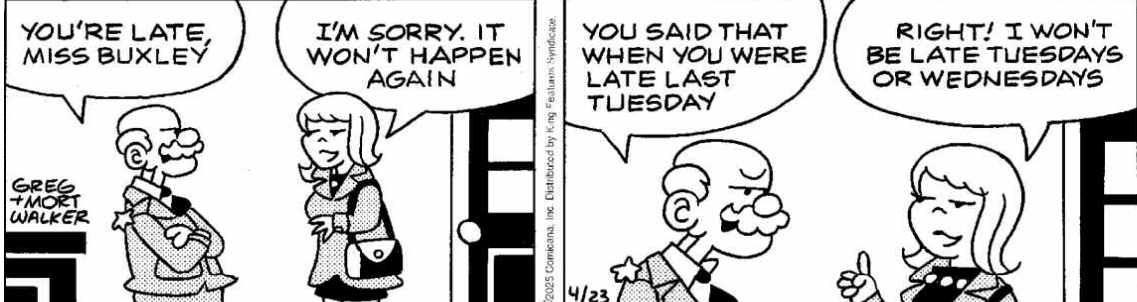
Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

Unnecessary guesswork

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: A K Q 6 2, A J 8 3, Q 10, 7 5. WEST: 10 8 7 5, 5, A J 8 5, 10 8 6 3. EAST: J 9 3, K 2, 7 6 4 2, K J 9 2. SOUTH: 4, Q 10 9 7 6 4, K 9 3, A Q 4.

you saw only dummy, you might be torn between returning a club (in the hope that partner had the queen) or a diamond (hoping partner had the ace).

If you guessed wrong, it would hand South the slam. He would win your club return with the queen, draw the missing trump, cash the A-K-Q of spades, discarding two diamonds, and ruff a spade to establish dummy's fifth spade. He would then ruff the four of clubs in dummy and discard his remaining diamond on dummy's good spade.

You might berate yourself for returning a club instead of a diamond, but actually the fault would lie not so much in your play at trick three as in your play at trick one.

The proper play to the first trick is the jack of clubs, not the king. If the jack forces the ace (because West has the queen), you would naturally cash the king of clubs at trick three to set the contract. But if the jack loses to the queen (because South started with the A-Q), you would have no choice but to return a diamond at trick three.

Tomorrow: Think before you act. ©2025 King Features Syndicate Inc.

4-23

CRYPTOQUIP

DORG POSP ZYAF YSG VRGZAU RQ
POR DSI J DSZ ZSIJGF YI DEUQZ,
JP DSZ SG RGAGVJSPJEG
QRGAGVJSPJEG.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A CAMERA WERE INSTALLED TO SHOW A RIVER FLOWING, I GUESS I WOULD CALL THAT A LIVE STREAM.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals G

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Khan title, 4 Papa's mate, 8 Tools with teeth, 12 Lemon, 13 Dating from, 14 Experts, 15 pro nobis, 16 Detectives, 18 Poison, 20 French "yes", 21 Grassland croaker, 24 Sparkle, 28 Secures a sword, 32 Goalie's goal, 33 Boxer, 34 Mariners, 36 Poseidon's realm, 37 Langston Hughes poem, 39 One with a flock, 41 Albacore and yellowfin, 43 Thing, 44 White wine cocktail, 46 Unoccupied, 50 On the lee side, 55 "-hool", 56 Employ land, 57 Lima's land, 58 Squabble, 59 Nashville venue, 60 Small fastener, 61 Right angle, 4 Team symbols, 5 Bat wood, 6 Homer Simpson's barkeep, 7 Roundish do, 8 Fruits of victory, 9 Joan of, 10 Stir-fry pan, 11 Snake's sound, 17 Schlep, 19 premium, 22 Cries of discovery, 23 Indian metropolis, 3 Genesis name, 25 Lighten, 26 Say it's so, 27 Hoover Dam lake, 28 Skewer, 29 Rwandan people, 30 Harold's "Ghostbusters" role, 31 Undo a dele, 35 Step on the gas, 38 Gun-toting Annie, 40 "Let me think..."

Grid for crossword puzzle with letters ABIT, ACID, BAD, LENA, MANE, OVO, BANKC, ARDS, NOT, ELSE, EDENS, LIBRE, CROC, ICUS, SCOTCHES, CAF, FOULS, ITE, ENFORCED, GNAW, ERIK, BEALS, MATES, SILL, ARC, BUNDTCAKE, KIA, ELIE, ABET, EAR, EMTS, PAGE.

Yesterday's answer 4-23

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Rigby ...

Continued from page 8
During Rigby's tenure as an assistant, IU East has made eight NAIA tournament appearances, including advancing to the Final Four in 2016 and '18. It won five straight regular-season conference titles from 2015 through '19 and was the conference tournament champion four times in a span of six seasons.
Rigby has also been an assistant coach for the cross country and track teams, and he oversees the Graf Recreation Center.
He said the timing was right to come home to Jay County.
"The way college athletics is going isn't necessarily in a direction I've enjoyed," he said.

"Just timing, family," added the father of three children, ages 8, 5 and 1. "We wanted to move, something different. We've been there for a long time. Not that it isn't great ... but maybe it's time for a change."
He said he plans to run a motion offense, similar to the systems he grew up playing in at JCHS and then continued with at IU East. He said there will be freedom to operate with an understanding of the capabilities of the personnel.
His focus, though, will be on the defensive end, which has been his bread and butter with the Red Wolves.
"As far as Xs and Os, basket-

ball stuff, it's not rocket science," he said. "I'm really focused on defense. ... It's going to be very defensive oriented. We talk a lot about that, spend a lot of time on it."
Rigby, a Bryant native, will return to the court where he played his high school career, including a senior season in which he was the leading scorer on the Patriot team that advanced to the 2006 Class 3A state championship game. His iconic play that year, though, came on a pass rather than a shot as he assisted on Corey Comer's semi-state game-winner to beat Plymouth at Lafayette Jefferson.

A week later, he was named the Arthur L. Trester Award for Mental Attitude winner following Jay County's 51-43 loss to New Castle at what was then Conesco Fieldhouse.
He played one season at IU Southeast before shifting to IU East, where he was an NAIA honorable mention All-American as a junior, earned the NAIA National Champions of Character Award as a senior and finished as IU East's all-time leading scorer with 1,708 points. He still holds the school's record for free throws in a game with 14.
He's been in Richmond ever since.
Now, he's excited to return to

the court and community that hold so many special basketball memories.
"It clearly means a lot," said Rigby, who also advanced to the boys tennis state finals with doubles partner (and basketball teammate) Randy Evans during his senior season. "It's going to be fun to represent the community again in a different capacity."
"Same principles. Same character. ... Just a different group of people at a different time in life."
"But I think that part's going to be fun, to get back into the community and to be able to try to bring the community together like when I played here."

Roundup ...

Continued from page 8
Mason Diller led the offense with three hits, including a 2-run home run on the team's second at bat of the game, three RBIs and three runs scored. Alex Gaerke followed closely behind with three RBIs on two hits.
Jacob Foote earned the win on the mound, tossing five innings and only surrendering one run on three hits. Caden Homan took over in the sixth and gave up one earned run on two hits and a walk to finish off the game.

even 36 to earn match medalist honors. The senior filled his score card with five pars and two bogeys, but made up for it with back-to-back birdies on the par-4 fourth and par-5 fifth holes.
Jay County (3-0) also got a solid showing from Isaac Homan, who made par four times en route to a 45.
A birdie on the par-3 seventh hole highlighted Cody DeHoff's round of 42 strokes.
Griffin Byrum made up the final score for the Patriots with a 48, while Dawson Goldsworthy's 51 didn't affect the outcome.

Wapakoneta 14-7 on Monday.
Wapakoneta put up crooked numbers in five innings, with a bulk of the offense coming late with four runs in the sixth and three in the seventh. After scoring four times in the first, FRHS manage to scratch across more than one run per inning.
Jenna Homan, Ella Schoen and Kayla Heitkamp all led the Indians (8-4) with two hits apiece and Homan led with two runs.
Homan suffered the loss in the circle, giving up 11 runs, only five of which were earned, on 10 hits and three walks. The Tribe committed seven errors, leading to six unearned runs crossing the plate.

New ...

Continued from page 8
"They're very consistent with what they're doing," Gar-ringer said. "They are really strong and I don't have to worry too much about my one and two."
In a battle between two undefeated players, Bailey handed Emily Cockerill her first loss of the season 6-1, 6-1.
Dirksen faced Addyson Bogue and took her down 6-0, 6-1 in under an hour to pick up the first point for Jay County (2-2). After competing as a doubles player for the past two seasons, Dirk-

sen has transitioned smoothly into the No. 2 singles spot while constructing a 3-1 record.
"It's definitely different not having Sophie (Sprunger) there to encourage me," Dirksen said. "But I think it helps me to get more touches on the ball too. ... I think my serves really helped make it go faster and succeed (today)."
Kaitlyn Fisher and Chloe Muhlenkamp suffered the only loss of the day for Jay County 6-2, 7-6 (7-2). The duo got behind 5-3 to Jorja Anderson and Julia Hargarten in the

second set, but fought their way back to take a 6-5 lead. Hargarten baited a trio of shots into the net before a final point shanked off of Fischer's racket to tie the match up at 6-6. The Golden Falcon (3-2) pair seized control in the tiebreaker to claim the point.
The win against Winchester is a good sign for the Patriots, who have won the previous four sectional championships. While Jay County has yet to play Randolph Southern and Union City, the Golden Falcons have already beat both teams on the season.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Thursday
Jay County — Boys golf at Northeastern — 5 p.m.; Baseball at Woodlan — 6 p.m.; JV baseball vs. Woodlan — 6 p.m.; Junior high baseball at Adams Central — 5 p.m.; Junior high golf at Delta — 5 p.m.; Junior high tennis vs. Adams Central — 5 p.m.; Junior high track vs Delta — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high softball vs. Knight-

stown — 5:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Baseball at Coldwater — 5 p.m.; Softball vs. Coldwater — 5 p.m.; JV baseball vs. Coldwater — 5 p.m.
TV sports
Today
1:10 p.m. — MLB: Philadelphia Phillies at New York Mets (NBC); Cincinnati Reds at Miami

Marlins (FDSN Indiana)
3 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Arsenal FC at Crystal Palace (USA)
3:30 p.m. — La Liga soccer: Getafe at Real Madrid (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — NHL: Montreal Canadiens at Washington Capitals (ESPN)
9:30 p.m. — NHL: Dallas Stars at Colorado Avalanche (ESPN)

10 p.m. — NHL: Edmonton Oilers at Los Angeles Kings (TBS)
10 p.m. — CONCACAF Champions Cup: tigers UANL at Cruz Azul (FS1)
Thursday
6:30 p.m. — NHL: Florida Panthers at Tampa Bay Lightning (TBS)
7 p.m. — NHL: Toronto Maple Leafs at

Ottawa Senators (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — NFL Draft 2025 (ESPN)
9 p.m. — NHL: Vegas Golden Knights at Minnesota Wild (TBS)
9:30 p.m. — NHL: Winnipeg Jets at St. Louis Blues (ESPN2)
10:30 p.m. — CONCACAF Champions Cup soccer: Vancouver Whitecaps at Inter Miami (FS1)

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AUCTIONEERS NOTE: This is a quality auction with a nice variety of antiques and col-

90 SALE CALENDAR

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Title: Mayor
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Sports

New team, same result

Despite roster shakeup, Jay continues to beat sectional opponents

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

The Patriots have a lot of new pieces this year.

Despite having a pretty different look, they are still looking poised to have success in the sectional, as proven by their beating of the Golden Falcons.

Jay County High School's girls tennis team took down the first of its potential sectional opponents on Monday with a 4-1 win over the Winchester Community Golden Falcons.

"It went pretty good," said JCHS coach Andrea Garringer. "I thought Raylah (Newton) and Faith (Faulkner) played really well at doubles tonight. Was really proud of our three singles that won. So, a good win for us to get against Winchester because these are our sectional (opponents)."

After dropping their varsity debuts on Thursday, a trio of Patriots picked up their first career wins on varsity. Tessa Frazee notched her first career point with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Karina Jarrett in the No. 3 singles, while Faith Faulkner and Raylah Newton handled the No. 1 doubles against Brooklyn Friend and Addison Haney for a 6-1, 5-7, 7-5 win.

The duo cruised in the first set before going down 2-1 early in the second and never recovering. They also fell behind 2-1 in the third but won the next two games to reclaim the lead and eventually win the match.

Frazee started off strong against Jarrett, but she let the Golden Falcon slowly creep back into the first set before finishing it off. The JCHS sophomore dropped one of the first two games in the second but kept control after to secure the point.

"I feel excited," said Frazee. "I



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School sophomore Chloe Muhlenkamp attacks a ball at the net during the No. 2 doubles match against Winchester on Monday. While Muhlenkamp and Kaitlyn Fisher fell to Jorja Anderson and Julia Hargarten 6-1, 7-6 (7-2), the Patriots pulled out a 4-1 win over their potential sectional foes.

feel like I deserved that win. ... I kept focusing on where the wind was going and how hard I could hit on either side. I would just take a deep breath if I was getting over excited to hit the ball."

Even though Frazee was in control, she still had to work for the second set. The fourth game of the set exemplified that as the

two traded points back and forth. Frazee would continuously gain an advantage, but a pair of backhands that sailed long, a well placed forehand by Jarrett and a scoring error (Frazee ran in on a ball and hit an underhand shot that bounced twice, but the two lost track of the score before agreeing to call it deuce) kept

bringing the score back to deuce. After deadlocking for 13 points, Jarrett sent a forehand wide left and double faulted to give Frazee the game.

Jay County's No. 1 and 2 singles players, Brenna Bailey and Meredith Dirksen had a smoother time in their matches.

See New page 7

Rigby returns

2006 Jay grad comes back to coach Patriot boys basketball

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

In the 2005-06 season, Tyler Rigby was the leading scorer on the Patriots' state finals team.

Twenty years later, he will be leading them again.

Jay School Board hired Rigby on Monday to become the next Jay County High School boys basketball coach.

"I'm excited," Rigby said. "I'm ready to get going. I think we're missing out already ... From a coaching standpoint, that's where my mind goes to. ..."

"I'm ready to be back in the community. It's been a little while."

Rigby was selected out of a group of about two dozen candidates. Four were brought in for an interview with a committee that included school board members, administrators and a community member.

"We are thrilled to welcome coach Rigby back to Jay County," said JCHS athletics director Alex Griffin. "Tyler brings not only a strong basketball pedigree but also a genuine commitment to developing student-athletes both on and off the court. His vision and outlook for our community youth basketball program is exciting too."

Rigby has spent his entire professional career as an assistant coach for Indiana University - East in Richmond, where he played college basketball for three seasons. He started as a volunteer in 2011 while finishing his degree and then became a full-time assistant. His duties included scouting and recruiting, as well as focusing on the defensive end of the floor for the Red Wolves.

See Rigby page 7

Jay softball moves to 8-0 with win over Coldwater

COLDWATER, Ohio — The Patriots have steamrolled through the first 30% of their season, and the Cavaliers couldn't get out of the way.

The Jay County High School softball team extended its winning streak to eight games to open the 2025 season with a 7-3 defeat of the Coldwater Cavaliers on Monday.

Local roundup

Jay County (8-0) slowly chipped away with runs in the first three innings to develop a 5-0 advantage.

Brenna Ruble made her way around the bases on a stolen base and an error in the first inning. In the second, Mallory Winner scored on a ground ball by Chloe Brown and Ava Bice also crossed on the same play after an error. The third-inning runs scored on a ball put in play by Jozey Shimp and a Winner triple.

Ruble led the offense with three hits and two runs scored.

Carley Trinidad earned the win, pitching all seven innings and only giving up one earned run to Coldwater (2-5) on six hits.

Diller leads

VAN WERT, Ohio —

Fort Recovery's baseball team picked up its fifth consecutive win on Monday by beating Lincolnview 11-3.

The Indians (8-2) scored two or more runs in five innings in the victory, while Lincolnview (6-1) didn't manage to score more than one run in any single inning.

See Roundup page 7

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