

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

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\$1

Talks continue



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Bill Carr of Grinsfelder Associates Architects presented information about animal shelter standards Monday at the commissioner meeting. Grinsfelder has worked on several Indiana animal shelter projects and explained the reasons for high shelter construction costs.

Task force, commissioners discuss plans, recommendation for proposed facility

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

The animal control task force shared its reasoning for proposing a new facility at a price tag north of \$1 million.

Commissioners hardly budged.

Other than approving \$5,000 in economic development funds from the Bitter Ridge Wind Farm project to go toward a rendering for a new animal control facility, commissioners didn't commit to any other funding for a new facility.

The trio — two of whom are new to the group as of this month

— rescinded a motion Jan. 12 to provide up to \$275,000 toward a new animal control facility in Jay County. (Commissioners Mike Leonhard, Chuck Huffman and Chad Aker pushed the motion through in December, the final meeting for both Leonhard and Huffman.)

On Monday, members of the animal control task force came forward in an attempt to regain commissioners' support.

Task force chair Julie Forcum started by addressing comments made about the \$1.14

million to \$1.35 million price tag and the alternate proposal that a pole barn structure be used instead.

"We feel like you've asked us to do it right. That's what we're here to do," Forcum said.

She explained that the group is not opposed to working with contractors that have built concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) and barns, although many she's talked with do not have experience in building animal control facilities.

Bill Carr of Grinsfelder Associates Archi-

ects, who has worked on several Indiana animal shelter projects, shared information about animal shelter standards.

The Association of Shelter Veterinarians published guidelines for standard animal shelter care in 2010, he explained, detailing what is and isn't typically considered OK in the industry. Adhering to those guidelines, the Humane Society of the United States developed a range for animal shelter construction costs. New construction costs range between \$210 and \$254 per square foot, and

renovation costs range between \$192 and \$258, according to Carr's report.

Commissioners had questions about those figures, which they said seemed high, with Carr responding that much of the cost is because of recommended heating, ventilation and cooling systems.

Commissioner Brian McGalliard also asked if the guidelines were enforced, with Carr explaining they are not government regulations but rather industry standards.

See **Continue** page 5

Dunkirk looks at animal control

City is concerned about costs

By RILEY EUBANKS

The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — Is the city capable of taking care of stray dogs and cats?

At the moment, Mayor Jack Robbins says it is, but an impending "unfunded mandate" set to go in effect in July would require shelters like Dunkirk's to spay and neuter all animals prior to adoption.

The requirement comes via a bill passed by the state legislature and signed by then-Gov. Mike Pence in 2016. Beginning July 1, all animal shelters in the state must spay and neuter all animals prior to adoption.

"There's no way we can afford to do that," Robbins said during the city council meeting Monday, adding that it could be "the end" of shelter.

That realization adds to the already heightened need of a new solution to Jay County's animal control problem. Nevertheless, council agreed it would table consideration of helping to fund a new proposed million-dollar animal control shelter until Jay County Commissioners decide how much the county is willing to pay toward the project.

"I hate to say it, but it's (commissioners') problem," Robbins said.

Hours prior, commissioners voted to fund a more definitive study of how much it would cost to build a new animal shelter (see related story).

City officials in Dunkirk, just like the City of Portland weeks prior, were hesitant to appropriate any money toward the cause without a definitive grasp on where the rest of the money would be coming from.

In a figure calculated from the percent of population, the county's animal control task force requested \$55,125 from Dunkirk toward the cost of the proposed \$1.14 million building and \$12,150 annually for operational costs.

See **Dunkirk** page 5

Impeachment to Senate

By LISA MASCARO and MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Democrats delivered the impeachment case against Donald Trump to the Senate for the start of his historic trial, but Republican senators were easing off their criticism of the former president and shunning calls to convict him over the deadly siege at the U.S. Capitol.

The nine House prosecutors carried the sole impeachment charge of "incitement of insurrection" across the Capitol on Monday night in a solemn and ceremonial march to the Senate along the same halls the rioters ransacked just weeks ago. In a scene reminiscent of just a year ago — Trump is the first president twice impeached — the lead House prosecutor, Rep. Jamie Raskin of Maryland, stood before the Senate to read

Republican senators ease criticism of former president

the House resolution charging "high crimes and misdemeanors."

But Republican denunciations of Trump have cooled since the Jan. 6 riot. Instead Republicans are presenting arguments against the legitimacy of the trial and questioning whether Trump's repeated demands to overturn Joe Biden's election really amounted to incitement.

What seemed for some Democrats like an open-and-shut case that played out for the world on live television, as

Trump encouraged a rally mob to "fight like hell" for his presidency, is running into a Republican Party that feels differently.

Arguments in the Senate trial will begin the week of Feb. 8, and the case against Trump, the first former president to face impeachment trial, will test a political party still sorting itself out for the post-Trump era.

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., who serves in the largely ceremonial role of Senate president pro tempore, is set to preside.



Bloomberg/Anindito Mukherjee

Farmers protest

Farmers travel along the Inner Ring Road in New Delhi. Thousands of Indian farmers escalated protests today to revoke controversial agricultural laws, clashing with police and storming key landmarks in New Delhi to pressure Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Deaths

Sara Lake, 72, Portland
Dick Glassford, 86, Portland
Steve Frye, 76, Bryant
Ray Houck, 87, Sebring, Florida
Lonnie Thompson, 58, Portland
David Petschke, 78, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

The temperature in Jay County hovered in the low 30s Monday. There was about a tenth of an inch of freezing rain.
Tonight's forecast calls for a low of 24. Skies will be overcast Wednesday with a high of 30 and a few flurries and snow showers possible. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Dunkirk Industrial Development Corporation will hold an open house at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the former Pennsylvania Railroad Depot building, 132 W. Lincoln, Ave., Dunkirk. DIDC has spent more than a year on a renovation project for the interior of the building. It is being targeted as a location to attract a new business to the community.

Coming up

Wednesday — Coverage of tonight's JCHS swim meet against Blackford.

Saturday — A look back at a sectional semifinal win for the Patriots. Retrospect.



Boredom for a child can lead to good things

By DIANA DOLECKI

Special to The Commercial Review

Almost every week since the virus turned our lives upside down I have seen articles about how to keep your child busy. There are descriptions of projects to do, activities to participate in and various other suggestions.

I find this to be puzzling. Yes, our grandkids have formal activities such as baseball, or swimming. Recently they have all been signed up for a class in jujitsu at their local YMCA. Jujitsu is a martial art. From what I understand it is an introductory class similar to the karate class that Emma took when she was little. The details are different but it is basically a way to defend one's

As I See It



self. This is also known as a good way to give mom or dad a break for an hour or so.

Most of the time our grandchildren are told to go outside and play after school. Their free time is their own. What they play is entirely up to them. Their parents realize that a little boredom and unscheduled time is good for them.

I have to wonder about the children who have every

minute of every day scheduled. Can they entertain themselves? Do they know how to while away an afternoon watching clouds? Will they know the pleasure of getting lost in a book that is their choice and not something they are required to read?

Granted, there is much more that is expected of our grandchildren than was ever expected of us. We weren't expected to know how to read when we entered first grade. Adding and subtracting were first and second grade level and multiplying wasn't taught until third grade. We didn't have advanced classes. The teachers grouped us according to our abilities but it was never a formal thing. We didn't have to worry

about school shootings. If someone was being bullied an adult would step in and stop it. That doesn't seem to be an option any more.

Another thing that I find puzzling is the number of days devoted to dressing like a book character, or a color, or some other special thing. There are days when grandparents are supposed to have lunch with the child. There are days dedicated to the military. It seems like every week has a special event requiring a special outfit or something.

I am so glad that none of that was common when I was in school. I wonder what the kids without grandparents, or those who have only a single parent feel like when everybody else

has someone to sit with them.

The virus has disrupted the way lessons are taught. Remote learning is a good temporary solution. The problem is that school teaches children so much more than what is in the text books. School teaches how to get along with people, among other things.

My point is that children are so much more resilient than we give them credit for. They are capable of entertaining themselves. We all need down time. The lists of activities we need to do with our children are nice but not necessary. One of these days things will get back to normal, in the meantime they can entertain themselves.

He doesn't want to get married

DEAR ABBY: I've been dating a guy for five years. We were high school classmates and became close friends shortly after that. Abby, he's the man of my dreams. I've been in love with him since we were 16 years old. We married other people, but we are divorced now and we are together.

We are both 46. I want to get married and he knows it. We have discussed it — but every time I bring it up (and I always bring it up, he never does), he has an excuse. He says it's only a piece of paper, we've both already been married, I have some debt, etc.

I have a 19-year-old daughter, and he has two kids, 13 and 11. We all get along, even our exes. I am tired of being just "the girlfriend." This is not how I want to live the rest of my life. I have always wanted to be his wife.

He's a good man. He treats me great, is respectful, considerate and I love him so much. Must I suck it up and live and die as his girlfriend or leave because he doesn't want to get married? If I leave, I have no plans on dating or trying to marry anyone else. I'm fine alone. Please help. — WANTS THE PIECE OF PAPER

DEAR WANTS: As you have framed it, your boyfriend — whom you love very much — doesn't want to formalize the relationship, and if you break

Dear Abby



things off, you don't plan to become involved with anyone else. If you are asking me for magic words that will convince your marriage-phobic boyfriend to make a permanent commitment, you are asking something that isn't possible. If he feels as strongly about you as you do him, he may come around one day, but there are no guarantees. And yes, you will have to "suck it up" if you're not prepared to leave, and while you're doing that, make the best of it.

DEAR ABBY: I've been dating a beautiful woman for a year now. We have fallen deeply in love. We have the kind of relationship that one can only dream of, and we couldn't be happier.

I've bought her some jewelry, including rings, to show her my love. She wears them, but she also wears jewelry, including rings, from past relationships. I told her this bothers me. She said those items

don't have any sentimental value, she just likes them. I have no doubt she means that.

Should I overlook this and not let it bother me, or should I be more persistent? — EXPRESSION OF LOVE

DEAR EXPRESSION: Your feelings are your feelings. Seeing your lady friend enjoy jewelry she received from other men bothers you. You have told her as much. While at one time the items were symbols of the affection her ex (exes?) had for her, to her they are now just jewelry. If you want to continue the relationship with her, place less importance on the baubles. They have nothing to do with you or the relationship you both enjoy now.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Four Winds may expand

SOUTH BEND (AP) — The tribal casino in South Bend could become a full-fledged competitor to Indiana's other casinos later this year under a deal reached between the state officials and the tribe.

The Four Winds South Bend Casino owned by the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi has been limited under federal law to only electronic games since it opened in January 2018. The agreement finalized this past week would allow the addition of live table games such as blackjack and roulette, slot machines and sports betting.

In exchange, the Dowagiac, Michigan-

based tribe would pay 8% of its slot machine winnings to the state and continue its 2% payments to the city of South Bend. That total, however, will remain far below the 25% tax rate paid last year on total winnings by Indiana's 13 state-licensed casinos.

The 20-year agreement signed by Gov. Eric Holcomb and Pokagon Chairman Matthew Wesaw still needs approval from the Indiana Legislature before it takes effect.

The tribe, which has three casinos in southwestern Michigan, asked Indiana officials in August 2019 to start negotiations on expanding its gambling options.

Community Calendar

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

Today
BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

THE LANDING — A 12-step program for those in sixth through 12th grade will meet at 5:55 p.m. each Tuesday at 2nd Chance at Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 703-0777 or (260) 726-5273.

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for

substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 8 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Richard's Restaurant.

JAY COUNTY CANCER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in conference room C at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital. Open discussion for cancer patients, survivors,

family members or anyone interested in helping with the group. For more information, contact Linda Metzger at (260) 726-1844.

JAY COUNTY DEMOCRATS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. at party headquarters, 221 S. Meridian St., Portland.

Wednesday
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 9 a.m. to noon each Wednesday at Jay Community Center and 10:30 a.m. to noon each Wednesday at West Jay Community Center in Dunkirk. The public is welcome.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

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

STRESS AND ANXIETY CLASS — Meets each Wednesday at 2nd Chance at Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (206) 726-9625 or (260) 703-0534.

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

2	5	9	3	4	6	8	1	7
7	3	8	9	1	2	6	5	4
1	6	4	8	7	5	2	3	9
3	4	7	1	6	8	9	2	5
9	1	6	5	2	7	3	4	8
5	8	2	4	3	9	7	6	1
8	9	3	6	5	1	4	7	2
6	2	1	7	9	4	5	8	3
4	7	5	2	8	3	1	9	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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It has been all about party

To the editor:
Thirty years ago, I stated that if there was a bill on the floor that would benefit the people of our nation or the GOP, the people be damned — party first, party last, party always.

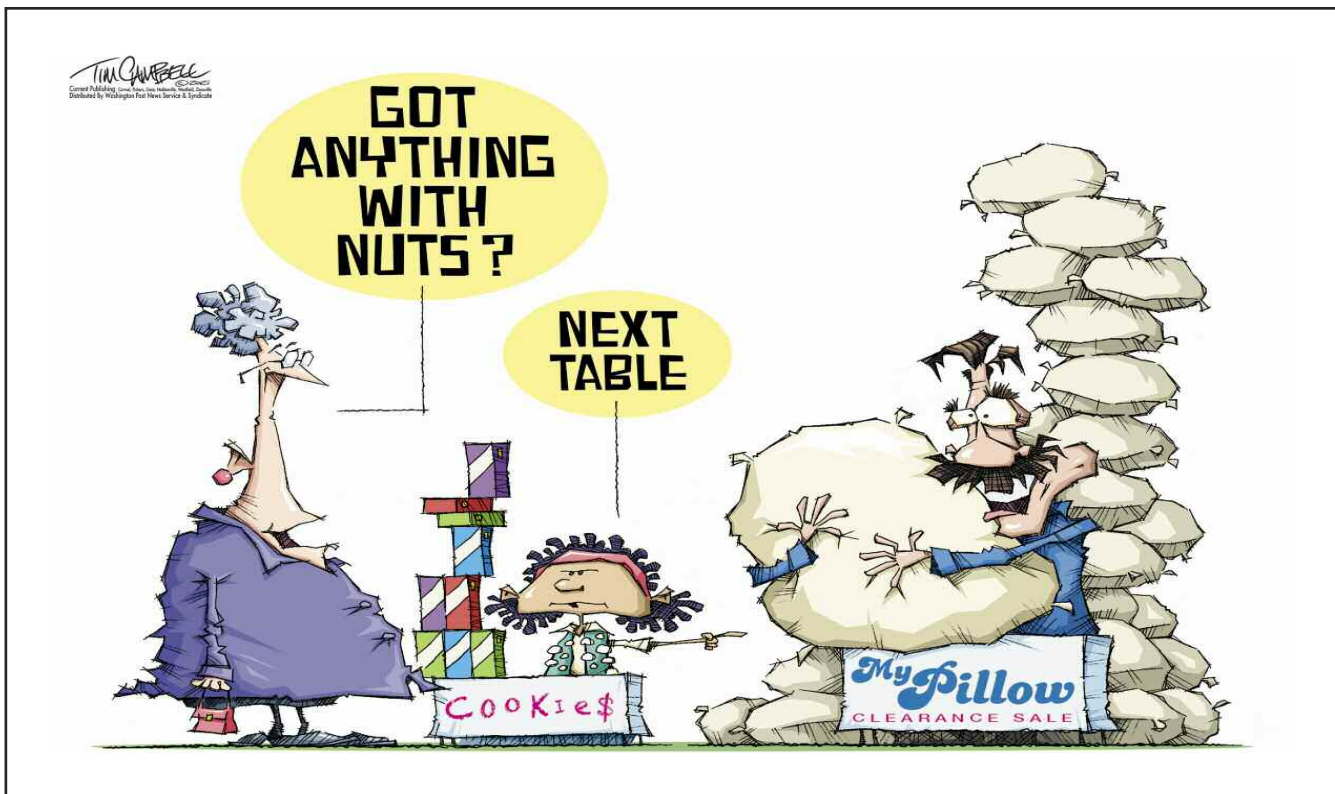
In the years since then, nothing has changed. The all-enveloping greed for total power has defined the Republican Party. Party first, party last, party always.

One now must wonder what would have occurred if our GOP senators had honored their oaths of office, as did

Letters to the Editor

Mitt Romney, and voted for impeachment the first time. The possibility exists that our country might now be chugging along under the watchful eyes of everyone's favorite Hoosier, Mike Pence.

Greed is a terrible thing.
Larry Chittum
Portland



Aaron just kept swinging

By DAVID VON DREHLE
The Washington Post

Long before the television impresario Ted Turner marketed the Atlanta Braves as "America's Team," Atlanta had no big league team at all.

There was no Major League ballclub anywhere in the Deep South as of 1964, the year three disappeared civil rights workers were found buried in an earthen dam in Mississippi. The city dangled a new stadium, lavish TV rights, parking receipts and the generous patronage of Coca-Cola to attract a franchise.

The Braves of Milwaukee took the bait, which meant that Henry Aaron of Mobile, Alabama, was headed back to the South.

I'm going to call him Henry in this column because that was the name he preferred, as opposed to "Hank," a nickname attached to him by a PR man who thought White fans might find it friendlier. A giant on and off the field, Aaron died on Friday, a few weeks shy of his 87th birthday.

How did he feel about the move?

As you might expect: "I have lived in the South, and I don't want to live there again," Aaron said in anticipation of the Braves' 1966 debut in Atlanta.

But Henry Aaron won over Atlanta and retired as the greatest player in franchise history — the franchise marketed as a team for the whole nation.

His hero, Jackie Robinson, broke through baseball's wall of segregation, but even he didn't do it in Dixie.

Aaron finished the job in large part because he was both supremely talented and incredibly steady.

There is a very exclusive club whose members hit a baseball well enough to compile a career batting average above .300, who hit hard enough to accumulate 300 or more home runs and who played long enough to hit safely at least 3,000 times. Club roster: Henry Aaron, Willie Mays, Stan Musial and George Brett.

The club gets smaller when you double the number of homers to 600: Aaron and Mays. Add 155 home runs (more on this number later) and you have Aaron, all alone.

He was ridiculously consistent.

Elected to the All-Star team in 21 consecutive sea-

David Von Drehle



sons, a record. Top 20 in the balloting for most valuable player 19 seasons in a row. The all-time leader in runs batted in and total bases. Eight seasons of 40 or more home runs. Seven additional seasons with more than 30. He was the league leader in slugging percentage four times over three different decades.

That steadiness carried him through one of the longest and loneliest of all civil rights marches, as year after year Aaron faced the National League's best pitchers in pursuit of the most hallowed record of the most celebrated player in the history of the national pastime.

A person is rarely more alone than in the batter's box; a home run is an epitome of individual achievement.

Aaron needed 715 of them to unseat Babe Ruth as the all-time home run king.

(About that number: Major League Baseball recently took the long-overdue step of acknowledging that the organized Negro Leagues are properly part of "major league" history. Statistics racked up before Robinson's trailblazing 1947 season will be added to career totals of players such as Mays, Larry Doby, Monte Irvin, Roy Campanella and others who played on both sides of the egregious color line. Aaron's five documented home runs for the all-Black Indianapolis Clowns came in 1952, too late to be added to his totals.)

A lifetime record creeps up gradually. Through the strife of the late 1960s and early 1970s — when the avowed white supremacist George Wallace was winning electoral votes for president and White citizens from Boston to Denver were protesting violently against school desegregation measures — Aaron closed relentlessly on Ruth's record.

"My kids had to live like they were in prison because of kidnap threats," he later recalled. "I had to go out the back door of the ballparks. I had to have a police escort with me all the time. I was getting threatening letters every single day."

A prosperous businessman and recipient of the prestigious title of Georgia Trustee, Henry Aaron had done as much as anyone to redeem the South from the clutches of its history and to open a way forward.

One lonely trip to the plate after another.

I turned 13 in the winter of 1974, when Henry Aaron spent the offseason parked at 713.

He needed one more to tie and another to break the record.

Everyone knew that baseball's steadiest superstar would finish the job promptly once the new season started.

And he did, with a homer on Opening Day, April 4, and another on April 8. Still, then-commissioner Bowie Kuhn made no effort to be present.

When "The Hammer," as he was known, died, he died in Atlanta. The place he didn't want to go had become the place he didn't want to leave.

A prosperous businessman and recipient of the prestigious title of Georgia Trustee, Henry Aaron had done as much as anyone to redeem the South from the clutches of its history and to open a way forward.

Not with one swing of the bat, but with tens of thousands; his motto, he said, was "just keep swinging."

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Von Drehle writes a twice-weekly column for The Post.

Local tax hit may be light

By LARRY DEBOER

The December state revenue forecast for Indiana projected that individual income tax revenue would be about \$6 billion this year. But Indiana uses local income taxes too, and we know that the income tax revenues that local governments receive in 2021 will be just over \$3 billion.

That's not just a projection. The Indiana State Budget Agency tells counties in advance how much "LIT" revenue they will receive in the coming year. The figures are announced first by early August, and the final numbers are ready by December. The numbers are based on the local income tax collections from the previous state fiscal year. So, the amount of LIT revenue to be distributed to counties in calendar year 2021 is the amount of LIT revenue collected from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020.

That had to be modified this year, because the due date for income tax payments was extended to July 15. That also meant that the first LIT distribution figure wasn't available until mid-September. The governor made this change with executive order 20-31.

The tax collection period in 2020 included the sharp COVID recession that started in March. Yet LIT distributions for 2021 dropped in only five counties from their 2020 distributions. In Pulaski and Wayne, revenue fell because local income tax rates were cut. (That's rare, but it happens.) In Elkhart, Jay and Tipton, rates stayed the same but tax collections fell anyway. Probably taxable income declined. Statewide, LIT revenue increased by 6.5%.

Why didn't the recession have a bigger effect on 2020 LIT collections and 2021 LIT distributions? Anyone who pays the income tax will understand. April 2020 payments were based on W-2 forms from 2019. Taxes paid in 2020 were based on income earned in 2019, and that was a year of economic expansion.

So, if the recession reduced incomes in 2020, tax payments in 2021 will drop. The State Budget Agency will tabulate collections through June 30, 2021, to set distributions for 2022. That's when the recession will hit local income tax revenue.

The decline in distributions in Elkhart County provides a hint about what could happen. Elkhart is the home of recreational vehicle manufacturing. Economists nationwide watch employment in Elkhart for clues about the future of the national economy. In September 2018, the New York Times reported

Larry DeBoer



that "As Elkhart, Indiana, Goes, So Goes the Nation, and Elkhart Is Nervous." The unemployment rate in Elkhart rose from 2.1% in April 2018 to 3.8 percent in July 2019 — with a few ups and downs — before dropping again until this past March. That decline in jobs may have reduced incomes in 2019, reducing tax collections in 2020, reducing LIT distributions in 2021.

That happened during the Great Recession, too. Incomes fell in 2009, so tax collections fell in 2010, so distributions fell in 2011. Statewide, LIT distributions dropped 14 percent in 2011.

Distributions in 2022 will depend on incomes in 2020. We don't have those numbers yet. But we do know personal income for Indiana for the first three quarters of 2020. That's wages, interest, rent and profits for Indiana residents, estimated by the U.S. Department of Commerce. Compared to the first three quarters of 2019, in 2020 personal income increased by 6.6%. That would be tied for the biggest rise in the past 20 years. That's much different from the last recession. In 2009, income fell by 2.7%.

The difference was the CARES Act, the \$1,200 checks and (especially) the added unemployment benefits that Congress passed back in March. Government benefits to Indiana residents rose 35% in the first three quarters of 2020, while private income dropped 0.6%. Unemployment benefits are taxable, so that income will support local income tax collections.

Add to that the advantage Indiana has in this peculiar recession. It's a recession of service industries. Usually recessions hit manufacturing. Indiana has a lot of manufacturing employment, and fewer service jobs, so our economy didn't fall as hard as the economies of other states. Elkhart's unemployment rate is already back down to 4.4%.

Local income tax revenues won't be affected until 2022, and taxable income was supported by federal benefit payments. The recession may be a light hit for LIT.

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DeBoer is a Purdue University agricultural economist.

The Commercial Review

HUGH N. RONALD (1911-1983), Publisher Emeritus



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Continued from page 1
Jay County Humane Society needs some kind of change, said board president Mindy Weaver. Its current facility is too small and it has been asked to find a new location so that the adjacent Portland wastewater treatment plant can expand in the next few years.

Weaver noted the importance of having a room to quarantine new animals so illnesses like the highly contagious canine parvovirus can be prevented from wiping the entire shelter population. Also, per Indiana mandate, starting July 1 all animal shelters must spay and neuter pets before adoption. Weaver also noted the humane society will remain a no-kill shelter and would not budge on that vow.

McGalliard asked task force members how much money the humane society has raised toward the project thus far and challenged whether the organization will be able to raise the estimated \$110,000 needed for annual operations. Weaver responded that the organization has some investments, though they are not specific to the project, and that she's optimistic about fundraising but estimated the amount raised for annual operating expenses at its current facility is \$75,000.

Currently, Midwest Pet

Refuge and the humane society are covering animal control for the county. Former animal control officers Bill and Kathy Fields retired at the end of 2020.

McGalliard suggested putting animal control services up for bid.

Aker noted the amounts the task force proposed that each municipality contribute toward annual operating expenses, adding that he does not feel anyone should be shut out.

"If those towns can't pay, it's not their fault," he said. "We as a county want the whole county covered ... you've got a town like Bryant or Pennville that can't afford to pay it. I don't think it's right to say we're not going to provide service (to them)."

Forcum agreed, adding that the county's economic development income tax (EDIT) advisory committee discussed providing subsidies from wind farm economic development funds to each municipality.

Jay County Council member Matt Minnich, who was in attendance, said he would rather see the group take a loan from the county rather than ask for a gift. He also added that he didn't feel comfortable putting government funds into a private entity.

All three commissioners raised concerns about the project.

"You can get nice houses at \$175, \$185 a square foot. What you're proposing is a lot nicer facility than we put humans in," Aker said.

"No one's going to fund a building like that, I'm sorry," said Jounay, who then suggested contributing funds for a rendering of the new facility in order to get a more accurate cost estimate.

Commissioners then approved \$5,000 for that purpose.

Also Monday, commissioners accepted new job descriptions and raises for highway superintendent Donnie Corn (from \$53,476.80 to \$61,006.40) and road foreman Dave Shepherd (from \$40,664 to \$44,824). Former county engineer Dan Watson resigned his position at the end of 2020, and Jay County Council approved at its last meeting to divvy up his responsibilities between Corn and Shepherd.

While at the meeting, Shepherd announced his resignation from the position, saying he has accepted a job out of state.

Commissioners also heard from Jay Emergency Medical Service directors Wes Miller, John McFarland and Gary Barnett. Miller presented an annual review from AccuMed Group, which helps provide

information for optimizing revenue each year. Commissioners then enacted a new fee schedule in accordance with the recommendation of JEMS directors. (New suggested fees are based on state, federal and local insurance carrier fee schedules per the review, Miller explained.)

Commissioners also OK'd a county credit card application for JEMS and new emergency management agency director Amy Blakely with a card limit of \$2,000, approved \$4,955 for a new ventilator and \$14,215.52 for a new LUCAS chest compression system for JEMS, and OK'd the purchase a \$5,500 cot for JEMS.

In other news, commissioners Aker, Jounay and McGalliard:

- Made more reappointments and new appointments, including: Aker as the board of finance president; Terry Hanks to the alcohol beverage commission; Mike Leonhard and Jane Spencer to the cemetery association; Shawn McCoy and Cindy Shepherd to the convention and tourism bureau board; Pam Robbins to Dunkirk Public Library Board; and Mike Leonhard, Barry Hudson, Carl Walker and Phil Ford to the redevelopment commission.
- Heard from county surveyor

Brad Daniels that a truck was stolen from the highway department barn, along with keys to both of the other vehicles.

• Renewed the county investment policy. "I would say we won't even make a quarter of what we did (last year)," Jay County treasurer Paula Miller said, explaining that rates are extremely low this year.

• Heard from courthouse superintendent Bruce Sutton about gathering quotes for six new boilers. The current boilers are nearly 20 years old, and out of eight, only four are working properly most of the time, he explained. He suggested downsizing to six units instead of eight.

• OK'd Sheriff Dwane Ford beginning the process to sell (through auction) three department vehicles.

• Accepted a bid from Enos Schwartz from Bryant for a one-year lease of the pasture west of the retirement center at \$180 per acre.

• Presented a plaque to former animal control officers Bill and Kathy Fields. The couple provided services to the county and City of Portland for nearly 30 years.

• Approved a resolution to hold an in-person certificate sale in April in the courthouse auditorium.

Dunkirk ...

Continued from page 1
Robbins said the city would be "foolish" not to appropriate funds for the operational costs since it is less than what the city pays annually for animal control by about \$6,000.

But the mayor along with council members said it would be difficult to appropriate \$55,000 from Dunkirk's general fund toward the building.

"That \$55,000, that's a lot of money to us," Robbins said, adding that money could be spent on expanding the local industrial park or another project in the city.

The Dunkirk shelter usually can hold about 25 cats and eight dogs.

Robbins also noted that he hopes the shelter, if built, would be outside of Portland city limits.

"If it's on (U.S. 27), that response time is not going to help us," Robbins said, adding that the shelter should be on Indiana 67 closer to Redkey. "I don't think it needs to be inside the city limits of Portland."

Formed by commissions in late 2018, the task force returned last year with a proposal for a new animal control facility to be operated by Jay County Humane Society. Commissioners approved up to \$275,000 toward such a project in December but then rescinded that funding earlier this month.

In other business, council members Tom Johnson, Bryan Jessup, Kevin Hamilton, Jesse Bivens and Lisa Street:

• Paid Dunkirk Police Department officers \$3,775 for unused vacation time in 2020.

• Amended the salary ordinance to appropriate funds for police department dispatcher "uniforms." Previously, the ordinance listed the money for "clothing items."

Dunkirk Board of Works met earlier in the day and agreed to pay \$1,378.56 for a mental evaluation of a potential new officer for the police department. The hire has yet to be finalized, Robbins said.

Pledge ...

Continued from page 2
Meanwhile, graduate students' stipends have largely remained the same, amounting to a pay cut.

Graduate students often

work as teaching or research assistants while earning their degrees, and their compensation typically includes tuition remission and a stipend.

Capsule Reports

Continued from page 2
Also, an Ohio man slid off Indiana 67 while driving about 8:10 p.m. Sunday. Blake W. Clabough, 18, Rockford, was driving east on the highway just west of county road 350 East when his vehicle drove across an icy patch. Clabough's vehicle, a 2002 Ford F150 registered to a Natasha N. Collins of Van Wert, Ohio, hit a guard rail and rolled into a field. Clabough refused medical treatment, and the Ford F150 was towed. (He does not have a valid driver's license, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report.) Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Frederick R. Fennig, 32, Monroe, was driving north on the highway just south of county road 200 North when a deer ran in front of his 2016 Nissan Altima. The collision caused damage estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Fell asleep

A Portland resident fell asleep at the wheel on county road 100 South Friday, causing between \$10,000 and \$25,000 in damage.

Brady A. Yoder, 27, was driving just east of the intersection with Blaine Pike about 7 p.m. when he nodded off and drove off the north side of the road. His 2018 Chevy Equinox hit a small tree, which turned the car onto its side, and then hit another tree. The vehicle was towed.

Deer hit

A Monroe resident driving on U.S. 27 hit a deer about 6:35 p.m. Thursday.



Strategies to overcome seasonal affective disorder

Winter can be an awe-inspiring time of year. Snow-covered landscapes and opportunities to enjoy sports like skiing and snowboarding make winter a favorite time of year for nature enthusiasts and athletes.

As fun as winter can be, many people struggle with the transition from warm weather and long, sunny days to cold weather and reduced hours of sunlight. Sometimes mistaken or misidentified as the "winter blues," this phenomenon is known as seasonal affective disorder, or SAD.

What is seasonal affective disorder?

According to the National Institutes of Mental Health, SAD is a type of depression. The NIH notes that a person must meet full criteria for major depression coinciding with specific seasons for at least two years to be diagnosed with SAD. The Ameri-

can Psychiatric Association says symptoms of SAD can be distressing and overwhelming and even interfere with daily functioning.

The APA notes that SAD has been linked to a biochemical imbalance in the brain that's prompted by shorter daylight hours and less sunlight in winter. As the seasons change, a shift in a person's biological internal clock or circadian rhythm can lead to them being out of step with their normal routines. That can contribute to various symptoms, including:

- Feeling sad or depressed
- Loss of interest or pleasure in activities once enjoyed
- Changes in appetite, usually eating more and craving carbohydrates
- Loss of energy or increased fatigue despite increased sleep hours
- Increase in purposeless physical activity or slowed movements or speech that may be noticed by others



- Feeling worthless or guilty
- Difficulty thinking, concentrating or making decisions
- Thoughts of death or suicide

Overcoming SAD

The weather can't be changed, but people can speak with their physicians about the following strategies to overcome SAD.

• Light therapy: According to the APA, light therapy involves sitting in front of a light therapy box that emits a very bright light. In the winter, patients typically sit in

front of the box for 20 minutes each morning, and they may see some improvements within one to two weeks of beginning treatment. Light therapy is usually continued throughout the winter.

• Medication: The APA notes that selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, or SSRIs, are a type of antidepressant that are sometimes prescribed to treat SAD.

• Spending time outdoors: People with SAD who don't typically spend much time outdoors when the temperatures dip may notice their symptoms improve if they make a concerted effort to spend time outdoors.

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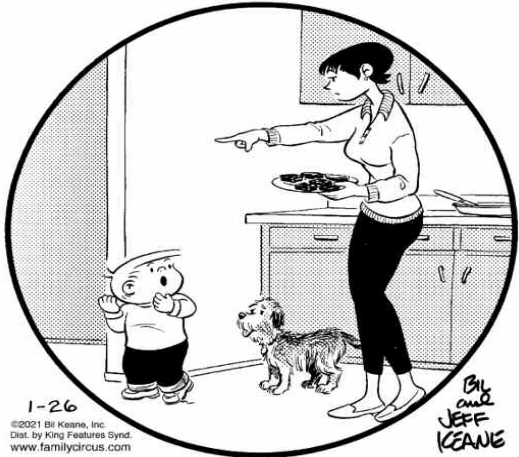
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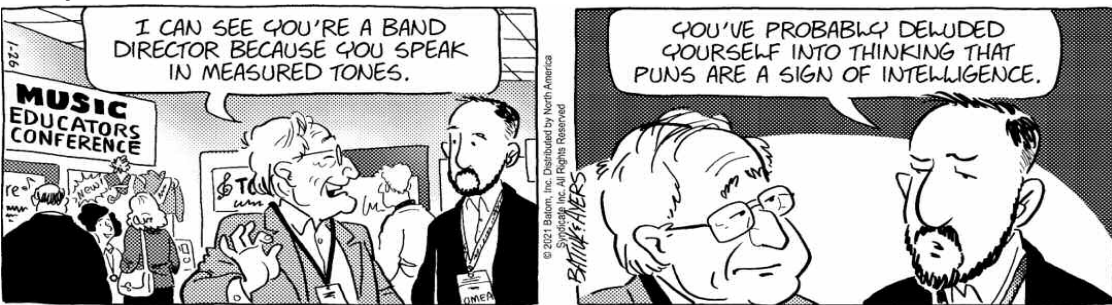
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No way, Norwell

Schwieterman pours in 37 points as Patriots upset fourth-ranked Knights

By CHRIS SCHANZ
The Commercial Review

The Patriots raced to an 18-point lead at half-time.

Then they withstood strikes from the Knights during the second half.

And a sophomore, amidst one of the best three-game stretches in program history, threw daggers from the stripe to get the upset.

Renna Schwieterman, fresh off her school-record 43-point game Saturday, was flawless from the free-throw line and finished with 37 points as the Jay County High School girls basketball team upset Class 3A No. 4 Norwell on Monday, 69-65.

"I'm just really proud of the girls," said JCHS coach Kirk Comer, whose Patriots have now won five in a row and eight of its last nine while improving to 16-3. (They were 15th in this week's Class 3A poll voting.) "I thought they came out and played really aggressive in the first half. There's some things that didn't go our way, but we stuck with it and just kept playing hard."

"Second half I thought we got a little complacent. We didn't attack them like we did the first half. Even though I think they had to keep attacking, we kind of played not to lose instead of to win. I'm just really proud of them."

The loss for Norwell (18-4) snapped a seven-game winning streak.

"Jay County is a very good basketball team," Norwell coach Eric Thornton said. "Their length ... they're so skilled and so long and

they present problems on both ends of the floor."

Trailing 13-10 to begin the second quarter, Jay County scored 21 consecutive points. Madison Dirksen hit back-to-back buckets in less than a minute to start the run, forcing Thornton to call a timeout. Dirksen assisted on an Izzy Rodgers basket before Schwieterman put back her own miss to make it 18-13 with less than five minutes to play before half-time.

Then came the turning point of the period. Schwieterman got fouled and was sent to the free-throw line. Before she attempted her free throws, Thornton was called for a technical foul. Schwieterman made all four shots — she ended a perfect 17-of-17 from the free-throw line — and on the next JCHS possession Rodgers split a pair of her own to suddenly put the Patriots up by 10.

Schwieterman added four more points, while Dirksen and Rodgers each chipped in two. Norwell's Maia Shelton scored with 1:35 before half for the Knights' first bucket of the period.

"I think the technical was big," Comer said. "I think we kind of got on a roll, we were on a roll before that, and (the technical) just extended



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Jay County High School sophomore Renna Schwieterman puts up a shot as Norwell's Skyla Tomasek defends during the second quarter Monday at JCHS. Schwieterman scored 37 points, including a 17-for-17 effort from the free-throw line, as the Class 3A No. 15 Patriots upset fourth-ranked Norwell, 69-65.

it. Gave us a little more cushion, more confidence.

"I know (Thornton) was probably trying to change the momentum and our girls stepped up to the challenge. A lot of times when there's a technical you see the momentum change but you didn't see that tonight. Give all the credit to our kids. They picked up the pace. Like

I said, they played with a lot more confidence."

It didn't help the Knights that they were 2-of-13 from the field in the second, either.

"It looked like we didn't have legs," Thornton said. "Our shots were short. There were some that weren't drawing iron. When you're missing shots and the can get in transition it's really tough to get back and

stop the ball in transition.

"They just outplayed us. They out-toughed us in the second quarter, bottom line."

Norwell, which trailed 37-19 at the break, flipped the script in the second half. It pulled within 10 midway through the third quarter, only to have the deficit bounce back up to 16.

See Upset page 7

Tribe can't finish rally

FORT LORAMIE, Ohio — The Indians fought to even the score with eight minutes to play.

They were unable to overtake the Redskins.

Fort Recovery High School's boys basketball team wasn't able to complete a rally in a 46-41 loss to the Fort Loramie Redskins on Saturday.

It marked the fourth loss in the last five games **Local roundup** for the Indians (7-8).

Fort Recovery trailed 13-7 at the end of the first quarter and the margin grew by two, 29-21, at half-time. The Indians outscored Fort Loramie 13-5 in the third quarter as the game was knotted at 34-34 with one period to play, but the hosts protected their home court to hold off the Indians.

Owen Jutte led Fort Recovery with nine points, while Derek Jutte, Cale Rammel and Gavin Thobe had eight points each.

Fort Recovery's junior varsity team also lost, 47-25. Landon Post led the Indians with eight points, and Caleb Evers chipped in seven points.

Jay sixth

KOKOMO — Jay County's gymnastics team opened its season by placing sixth at the Northwestern Invitational.

The Patriots scored 80.3 points to take sixth out of eight teams. Other team scores were not available.

Senior Kenzie Ring turned in the team's best score of 8.55 on vault, edging Macy Miller who had 8.525. Ring also scored 6.475 on uneven bars, 8.425 on balance beam and 7.6 on floor exercise for an all-around total of 31.05.

Miller had 6.325 on bars, 7.55 on beam and 7.525 on floor for a 29.925 all-around score.

Makinsey Murphy scored 7.75 on vault, 5.525 on beam and 6.05 on floor; while Lilly Rogers totaled 5.6 on floor and 4.2 on beam. Cassidy Upp earned 3.7 on floor exercise, her only event of the day.

Myers wins state

FORT WAYNE — AJ Myers claimed the 170-pound championship during the Indiana High School Wrestling Coaches Association Middle School State Finals on Sunday at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum.

Jay County scored 54 points to take 28th out of 30 scoring teams.

Myers won the title with an 8-5 decision over Jerrid Graves of Parke Heritage to become the program's first state champion.

See Local page 7

Patriot girls make it four in a row

By CHRIS SCHANZ
The Commercial Review

The Patriots have made winning conference an almost yearly routine.

This year's seniors added another feather in their cap Saturday, and solidified themselves as the best class in the short history of the conference.

Jay County High School's girls swim team won all but two events in claiming its fourth consecutive Allen County Athletic Conference championship.

"Four conference wins for an entire group of kids all the way through is a pretty outstanding benchmark for those guys," said

JCHS coach Matt Slavik. "In general, just had some great swims today all the way across the board. The kids that needed to do well did well and the kids that needed to improve improved. It makes it more difficult to decide who's swimming (in the sectional meet) in a couple weeks, but I'd rather have to think about it a lot more instead of just knowing automatically."

"It was a great day. Fun to win the conference, especially with this group of kids and the amazing attitude and effort they put in."

Jay County's girls scored 432 points for first place, and Bluffton

was a distant second with 368 points. Adams Central (211) placed third and South Adams (177) was fourth.

Bluffton's boys set four new conference records on their way to 388.5 points and the team championship. Adams Central, which had a pair of meet records, scored 326.5 points for second. Jay County (319) was third and South Adams (193) took fourth.

Jay County's Ashlyn Dow was one of two seniors and three Patriots to claim a pair of individual wins and assist in relay victories. Dow chased a four-year-old record in the 100-yard breaststroke — an event the

Patriots have dominated in the conference, and have been well represented during the state meet as well.

Dow had a time of 1 minute, 8.75 seconds, just 0.71 off Alex Bader's record from 2016.

"She had a really solid 100 freestyle and unfortunately she came up a little bit short of reaching her goal of setting the ACAC record (in the 100 breaststroke)," Slavik said, alluding to Dow's time of 56.4 seconds to claim the 100 freestyle championship earlier in the morning. "I thought she was there in the way she took off and she came up just shy."

See Make page 7

Flurry in fourth carries Pacers

By MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Pacers guard Malcolm Brogdon spent Sunday night searching for answers.

By Monday night, he had found them.

A little more than 24 hours after playing his poorest game of the season, Brogdon scored a career-high 36 points, flirted with a triple-double and accounted for the final seven points as the Pacers pulled away from Toronto 129-114.

"I was on the phone with coach (Nate Bjorkgren) late last night, trying to figure out how to make adjustments. I was really angry after last night's game," Brogdon said. "I was incredibly locked in today. We both love the game, we both think about the game all the time and we both hate losing. It

drove me crazy until we were able to get back on the court tonight."

The difference showed.

Brogdon didn't just score, he found open teammates, played defense and helped spur the decisive fourth-quarter flurry. He finished with nine assists and seven rebounds. Jeremy Lamb matched his season high with 22 points and Myles Turner scored 11 of his 21 points over the final 8 1/2 minutes when the Pacers finally put it away.

And they did all that despite missing All-Star forward Domantas Sabonis for the final three quarters. He left with a bruised knee in the first half. Sabonis didn't return.

But with Brogdon leading the charge, Sabonis' absence didn't matter.

"I thought he came out with a focus," Bjorkgren said. "He was in attack mode the entire evening."

Toronto was led by Fred VanVleet's 25 points and six rebounds. Norman Powell scored 24 points as the Raptors rallied from a 70-60 halftime deficit to finally reclaim a 102-100 lead on Kyle Lowry's go-ahead dunk with 9:46 left in the game.

It didn't last long. Goga Bitadze tied the score, Turner broke the tie by making 1 of 2 free throws and then fueled the decisive 12-4 run with his late scoring flurry. Indiana went 14 of 17 from the free-throw line in the fourth quarter and wound up with its highest free-throw attempt total (45) in nearly a decade.

"It was hard to play anything (defensively)," Toronto coach Nick Nurse said. "All we did was a parade to the free-throw line. You can't play defense when every time they touch the ball it's a foul."



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