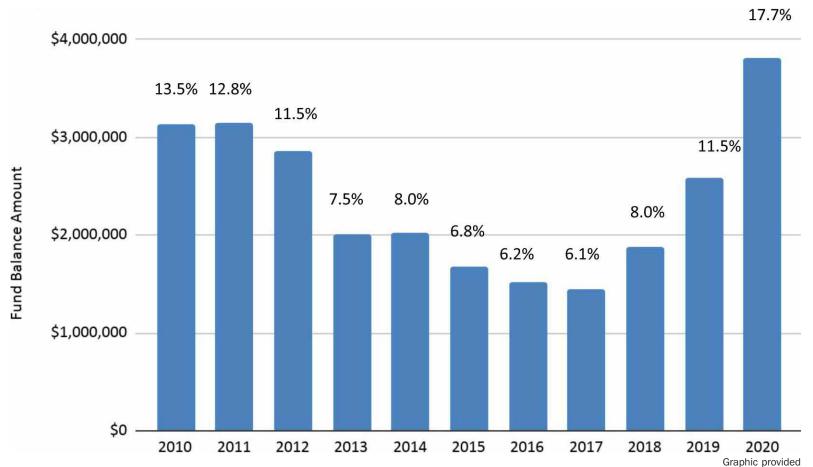
The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

Complimentary, and critical



Jay School Corporation superintendent Jeremy Gulley presented Jay School Board with an financial update during Monday's board of finance meeting, noting that the corporation's education fund year-end balance of \$3.81 million is the highest since 1999. The balance had droped to just under \$1.5 million in 2017.

Local efforts to improve finances praised, state legislature's commitment called into question

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review There were a lot of compliments Monday for local efforts to improve school finances.

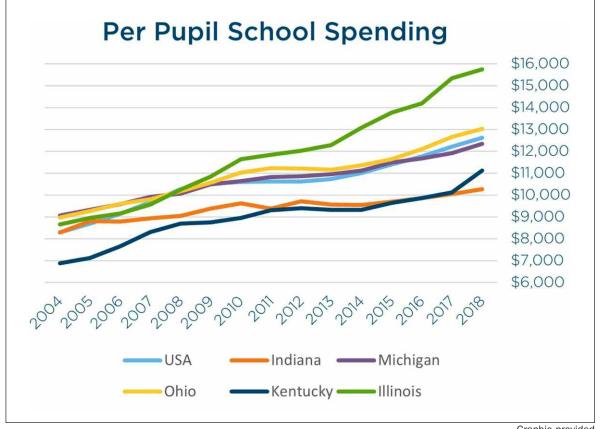
The same could not be said for the state legislature.

Superintendent Jeremy Gulley presented Jay School Board, acting as the corporation's finance committee, with a report Monday that showed its highest year-end education fund balance in more than two decades.

Gulley reviewed the fiscal goals the board had set out in 2017, noting that it had achieved all of them. One of those was to get the year-end cash balance in the education fund to 10% of annual spending by December 2020. He reported that the cash balance in the education fund (formerly the general fund) was \$3.81 million — 17.6% of annual spending — at the end of 2020, the highest since 1999.

The education fund had been an ongoing challenge for the corporation. Its balance had been over \$5 million in the mid-1990s before dropping to about \$1.6 million in 2002. It climbed again and hovered around \$3 million for about a decade before falling to just under \$1.5 million at the end

See **Finances** page 5



Graphic provided

This graphic taken from Indiana's Next Level Teacher Compensation Commission final report shows how the state's per-student funding has changed since 2004 as compared to adjacent states. Jay Schools superintendent Jeremy Gulley and school board president Phil Ford were critical of state spending levels during Monday's meeting.

City puts \$ toward fire, police

CARES funds being spent on emergency equipment

By RILEY EUBANKS

Portland has voted to appropriate nearly \$200,000 coronavirus relief

City council met Monday and approved a resolution sending \$138,749.75 to Portland's police department to upgrade its radio system and \$41,285.69 to the fire department for new equipment.

New equipment for the fire department includes upgraded thermal imaging equipment, mobile tablets for the fire trucks and three stocked treatment bags for Jay Emergency Medical Service.

Map applications and an up-to-date contact list for local businesses and residents will be the main functions of the tablets, fire chief Mike Weitzel said. Currently, contact information is kept on paper at the fire station, he added.

total, Portland received \$197,400 from the federal coronavirus aid, relief and economic security (CARES) Act to use for public safety or payroll expenses, the only items it can be used for according to city clerk treasurer Lori Phillips.

Phillips explained to council that, since payroll has already been accounted for in the budget, the money should go toward public safety.

Council agreed and voted to transfer the remaining \$17,384 of the CARES Act money to the general fund with the understanding it is to even-

safety. Newly appropriated funds completely cover Portland police chief Josh Stephenson's plan to upgrade the department's radios from analog to a digital network.

tually be used for public

Portland Board of Works already approved a contract with Fort Wayne's ERS Wireless in December for the purchase of new Motorola radios, which can be used in the station, in vehicles or on foot by offi-

See City page 5

Village council reviews road projects

By BAILEY CLINE The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — Broadway Street work is nearing completion.

Elm Street construction will begin within the next year. Butler Street reconstruction is

next, and funding may soon be on the horizon. Fort Recovery Village Council discussed the various road proj-

ects during its meeting Monday

via Zoom. A newly proposed project, Butler Street (Ohio 119) reconstruc-

ing the length of the road within That work is being completed about incoming traffic going too cle now. After a proposal by village limits. Some additions include a new water line, sidewalks, curbs and a new stop light at Wayne Street. The construction isn't expected until 2025, but village administrator Randy Diller plans to propose a resolution later this month in order to apply for an Ohio Department of Transportation grant. Hopes are that the department will fund a little more than \$1 million toward the project.

In addition, Broadway and Elm Street work will pick back tion would involve reconstruct- up in the spring, Diller said. local residents voiced concerns prices for the new Durango vehi-

outlook.

with a goal of having ODOT reroute Ohio 49 along those roads and away from the downtown area.

The village and Choice One Engineering also have submitted a packet to ODOT for changing the speed limit to 35 mph from the intersection of Ohio 119 and John Street to village limits. (Current speed signs on the highway leading into Fort Recovery read 55 mph.) Council invested in a required speed study in October after some

fast on the curve.

Also Monday, Fort Recovery Police Chief Jared Laux reported a year-end update to council. He noted the number of police reports made over the last three years have diminished, but call records have increased.

Which makes sense considering we've got more guys out on the road and more time to answer questions, do calls and service for everybody," he explained.

Laux said he's looking at

Laux, council also agreed to contribute \$500 toward the Ohio Task Force Commanders Association, a group aimed to diminish illegal drugs and criminal activity in the state.

Also Monday, council selected Al Post as president of the group along with appointing board positions for the year. Diller reminded council members Cliff Wendel, Erik Fiely, Greg Schmitz and Luke Knapke their terms in office will expire December 2021 unless they are re-elected.

See Village page 2

Deaths

Dustin Bichsel, 33, Port-

Tyler Robbins, 16, Redkey Harriet Evans, 94, Warren Harold Young, 93, Bryant Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 37 degrees Monday. The low was 31, and there was a trace of snow overnight.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low of 28. Expect mostly cloudy skies with a high of 34 Wednesday.

See page 2 for an extended

In review

United Way of Jay County and Second Harvest Food Bank will team up to host a free food tailgate from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday at Jay County Fairgrounds. Income verification is not required.

Coming up

Wednesday — Coverage of tonight's Portland Park Board meeting.

Friday — Results from Thursday's JCHS swim meet against Celina.



Village

Continued from page 1 community members to serve on village boards, including Ivan Kaffenberger to the cemetery board for six years; Johan Niekamp to the park board for

Council appointed several review board for two years; and Roger Broerman and Les sion for three years.

Travis Laux to the design Post, Scott Pearson and Wendel design review board represen- ern Mercer County Joint to the finance committee; Fiely, tative; Wendel to serve as the Ambulance District Represen-Schmitz and Knapke to the tree commission representa-Wenning to the tree commis- research committee; Pearson tive; Roberta Staugler as the to the police committee; Wen- records commission represen-Mayor Dave Kaup also del as both the zoning board tative; Post as the Southwest appointed village council com- and planning commission rep- Mercer Fire District represenfive years; Tina Bechtol and mittees and representatives: resentative; Knapke as the tative; and Kaup as the South- the job are due by Jan. 20.

tative.

Diller mentioned he will be advertising for a maintenance street department position in the next week. Applications for

CR almanac

Wednesday 1/6	Thursday 1/7	Friday 1/8	Saturday 1/9	Sunday 1/10
36/28	35/27	32/23	32/22	34/23
Chance of fog/freezing fog early in the morning. The rest of the day will be mostly cloudy.	Mostly cloudy with a northeast wind of 5 to 10 mph. Slightly cooler than Wednesday.	Cooler under mostly cloudy skies with tempera- tures expect- ed at or below freezing.	Tempera- tures will stay about the same under mostly cloudy skies. No snow is pro- jected.	Slightly warmer under mostly cloudy skies with no snow project- ed. Above freezing parts of the day.

Lotteries

Powerball

Saturday 3-4-11-41-67 Powerball: 5 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$410 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$432 million

Hoosier

Monday Midday Daily Three: 6-4-2 Daily Four: 1-1-8-0 Quick Draw: 7-10-11-12-14-19-21-23-28-29-30-34-43-44-45-46-48-54-66-71 Evening

Daily Three: 1-8-7 Daily Four: 3-9-6-1 Quick Draw: 2-4-5-6-910-11-13-14-25-26-28-30-57-63-67-70-73-76-79

Cash 5: 1-11-12-16-22 Estimated jackpot: \$7,000

Ohio

Monday Midday Pick 3: 3-7-4 Pick 4: 9-0-3-7 Pick 5: 1-7-3-9-8 **Evening** Pick 3: 8-2-4 Pick 4: 9-5-8-1 Pick 5: 4-1-4-0-4 Rolling Cash 5: 1-5-22-23-24 Estimated jackpot:

\$110,000 Classic Lotto: 15-23-26-27-34-36

Kicker: 3-4-6-5-2-1 Jackpot: \$2.8 million

Markets

Cooper Farms **Fort Recovery** Corn.....4.92 Wheat6.53

POET Biorefi	ning
Portland	
Corn	5.00

Late Jan./Feb. corn 4.97

The And	ersons
Richland	Township
Corn	4.8

COFII	4.07
Feb. corn	4.87
Beans	13.43
Feb. beans	13.43
Wheat	6.52
Feb. wheat	6.52
	5.02

Central States Montpelier

Corn	4.84
Feb. corn	
Beans	13.32
March beans	13.32
Wheat	6.42
July wheat	6.06
ouly writer	

Sunrise St. Anthony

Corn	4.74
Feb. corn	4.84
Beans	13.24
Jan. beans	13.36
Wheat	6.26
Feb. wheat	6.26

Today in history

On Jan. 5, 1925, Democrat Nellie Tayloe Ross of Wyoming took office as America's first female governor, succeeding her late husband, William, following a special election.

In 1589, Catherine de Medici of France died at age 69.

In 1781, a British naval expedition led by Benedict Arnold burned Richmond, Virginia.

In 1896, an Austrian newspaper, Wiener Presse, reported the discovery by Wilhelm physicist Roentgen of a type of radiation that came to be known as X-rays.

In 1914, auto industrialist Henry Ford announced he was going to pay workers \$5 for an 8-hour day, as opposed to \$2.34 for a 9hour day.

scientist George Wash-

Board, council cham-

Town Council, town hall,

Citizen's calendar

ington Carver, who was

born into slavery, died

in Tuskegee, Alabama,

at about age 80. In 1949, in his State of the Union address, President Harry S. Truman labeled his administration the Fair Deal.

In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower proposed assistance to countries to help them Communist resist aggression in what became known as the Eisenhower Doctrine.

In 1971, James Cox, 26, Ridgeville, received German a kidney transplant from his twin brother John at Indiana University Hospital in Indianapolis. Both James' kidneys had removed been in November 1970.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon announced that he had ordered development of In 1943, educator and the space shuttle.

—AP and The CR

Health,

Dustin Bichsel

Obituaries

On Dec. 31, 2020, our beautiful son, Dustin, died from an overdose of heroin. He was 33 years old.

We want to share his story in the hope that lives may be saved and his death will not be in vain. Addiction is a mental ill-

As a child, Dustin was a treasure and was loved deeply, with so much promise and yet he still died from an overdose. Addiction does not discriminate.

ness. No one plans to

be an addict.

Using heroin once is all that it takes to get hooked; from then on you are playing Russian roulette. This is what happened to Dustin.

Heroin affects the way our brain processes pleasure, taking over not just your brain but your life, destroying families and friendships. Dustin was a unique soul. He had an intellectual mind and a bright future.

As a young child, Dustin was filled with curiosity and a great sense of humor. He was highly intelligent, kind and funny. His passion was skateboarding, making skate videos, roller coasters, drawing, bicycling and computers, and he was great in coming up with delicious dishes in the kitchen. Throughout his life, he had an amazing talent for drawing and technology, coupled with a friendly personality.

He seemed to be winning the battle until New Year's Eve, when he lost his battle to heroin. We did everything we could to get him to stop, but heroin won the battle.

The day Dustin died, we died along with him. We will miss him every day for the rest of our lives. The pain of his death is heartbreaking and intolerable, which is why stories like Dustin's should not be ignored. The only way we will conquer the heroin epidemic is to share our stories and raise aware-

Dustin, we can only pray that you have found the peace you desperately searched for here on earth. We hope you are watching and see how many people loved you and have been truly affected by your

Dustin is survived by his loving parents, Michael and Sheila Bichsel (Hudson): brother Spencer Bichsel; grandparents Jerry and Janice Hudson; aunt and uncle Keith and Stacy Bichsel, aunt and step-uncle Jeri and Michael Garringer, and uncles Scott and David Hudson; and several cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather Gerald Bichsel (Grandpa Zoo).

Funeral services will be Satur-

day, Jan. 9, 2020, at 10 a.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Herb Hummel presiding. Burial will follow in the Liber Cemetery. Visitation will be Friday from 4 to 7 p.m. and prior to the services Saturday.

Family is asking for donations to help with funeral expenses or donations to the Progress House in Indianapolis.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com. bairdfreeman.com.

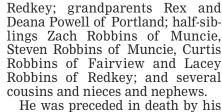
Tyler Robbins

June 5, 2004-Dec. 31, 2020 Tyler Lee Robbins, age 16, of Redkey passed away Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020, at Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis.

Tyler was born on June 5, 2004, in Muncie, the son of Steven Wayne and LeAnn (Lanning) Robbins. He was a junior at Jay County High School and had worked at Maximum Overdrive in

Redkey. Tyler loved his friends and enjoyed hunting, fishing, rodeos, camping, sports and riding his four wheel-

Surviving are his parents Steven and Robbins LeAnn Robbins of



grandparents Gene and Jeanette Robbins.

Funeral services will be Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021, at 2 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Clarence Baker presiding. Burial will follow in the Hillcrest Cemetery in Redkey. Visitation will be Thursday from noon to 2 p.m.

Memorials can be made to any veterans organization.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Harriet Evans

April 24, 1926-Dec. 31, 2020

Harriet L. Evans, age 94, a former resident Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020, in Heritage Pointe in Warren, Indiana.

She was born in Bluffton, Indiana, on April 24, 1926, the daughter of Garth and Gretchen (Callihan) Herbst. She was married on Feb. 14, 1947, to Emerson Eugene Evans and he passed away on Jan. 18, 2015.

Harriet had worked for Montgomery Ward and Methodist Daycare in Warsaw. She was a member of Asbury United Methodist Church and Eastern Star. She was a Portland High School graduate.

Surviving are two sons, Robley

Evans (wife: Therese) of Bluffton and Rodney Evans of Indianapolis; four grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Private funeral services will be held in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home in Portland with burial in the Green Park Cemetery.

Memorials can be made to the Jay County Heart Fund.

Condolences may be expressed at

Harold Young

Oct. 11, 1927-Dec. 31, 2020 Harold E. Young, 93, of Bryant, Indiana, passed away Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020, at Parkview Regional Medical Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

He was born on Oct. 11, 1927, in Mercer, Ohio, to the late John Young and Helen (Reichard) Young. Harold was united in marriage to Esther P. Dailey on

Oct. 30, 1944, and she preceded him in death on July 31, 2014. He was a member

of the Moose Lodge #417 in Portland, Indiana.

Harold

employed by Meshberger Brothers for 48½ years,

managing three stone quarries. He is survived by a daughter, Sharon (Bill) Michael of Bluffton, Indiana; son Jerry Young of Bluffton, Indiana; two half-sisters, Jeanne (Larry) Dubach and Karen (Dick) Cottrell, both of Berne, Indiana; five grandchildren, Kimberly (Steve) Rawe, Jeri (Brent) Schindler, William "Chub" (Patty) Michael, Brenda (Monte) Melick and Charles

Young

dren; and one step-great-grandchild. Jerry was preceded in death by a daughter-in-law, Louise Young.

(Rachel) Michael; 11 great-grandchil-

A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, at Zwick & Jahn Funeral Home in Decatur with Pastor Dan York officiating. Burial will follow at Willshire Cemetery.

Friends and family will be received from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, at Zwick & Jahn Funeral Home in Decatur, Indi-

Preferred memorials are to Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home.

Arrangements are by Zwick & Jahn Funeral Home in Decatur, Indi-

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.

Felony arrests

Child molestation

A Pennville man has a new charge for alleged child molesting.

Brandon G. Walker, 23, 395 N. Union St., was booked into Jay County Jail on Dec. 17 and preliminarily charged a Level 4 felony. His charge was increased to a Level 1 felony Friday. He's being held at the jail on \$35,000 bond.

Battery

A Portland man was arrested for alleged domestic battery Saturday.

Estuardo Guzman, 32, 115 W. 3rd St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 5 felony and booked into Jay County Jail on \$10,000 bond.

Drug possession

Two Indiana residents were arrested Friday after they were allegedly found with illegal drugs.

Jesse D. Modesitt, 42, 925 N. Franklin St., Portland, was preliminarily charged with possession of a controlled substance, a Level 6 felony. Modesitt was released from Jay County Jail on \$5,000 bond.

Rebecca L. Keener, 46, 337 W. Ann St., on \$4,500 bond.

Winchester, was preliminarily charged a Level 6 felony for possession of cocaine, methamphetamine or narcotic drugs. She was also charged a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and two Class C misdemeanors for possession of paraphernalia and operating a vehicle while intoxicated. Keener is being held on \$4,500 bond at Jay County Jail.

Resisting arrest

An Anderson man was arrested Friday for resisting an officer.

Brian W. Lessing, 28, 3401 Burton Place, was preliminarily charged three Level 6 felonies for resisting, unlawful possession of a syringe and possession of paraphernalia. He's being held on \$4,500 bond at Jay

Theft

County Jail.

A Dunkirk woman was arrested for alleged theft Sunday.

Vanessa K. Miller, 43, 505 S. Main St., felony and released from Jay County Jail

was preliminarily charged with a Level 6

SERVICES

Wednesday

Newton, Ann: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland

Young, Harold: 2 p.m., Zwick & Jahn Funeral Home, 520 N. 2nd St., Decatur.

Thursday

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

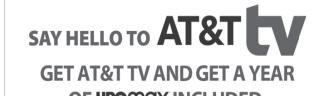
Saturday

Bichsel, Dustin: 10 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Service listings provided by **PROGRESSIVE OFFICE PRODUCTS** 120 N. Meridian St. Portland, Indiana 47371 (260) 726-9201

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105 N. Washington St. 7 p.m. — Salamonia Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Cen-

Franklin St.

Today

ter.

Wednesday 7 a.m. — Jay County Zoom.

7 p.m. — Portland Park health department, 504 W. Arch St., Portbers, fire station, 1616 N. land.

7 p.m. — Pennville **Thursday** 9 a.m. — Jay County

Board

Commissioners executive session, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 10 a.m. — Portland Board of Works via

Birthday catalyzes a timely reflection

By DIANA DOLECKI

Special to The Commercial Review

Our granddaughter, Emma, turned 15 on January 4. I find it hard to believe that she can possibly be that old. 15! I remember being that age. It really wasn't that long ago. Even more astonishing, my daughter, Beth, is old enough to have a daughter of that age. When people say that time flies, I agree completely.

It seems like yesterday that I got the news that Beth was headed for the hospital for Emma's birth. I booked a flight to Texas to meet her. Beth's in-laws picked me up at the airport and dropped me off at the hospital.

was to see her. Emma was wrapped up like a burrito and was as beautiful as her mother. The time I spent with them was far too short.

A couple of years later when

As I See It



my husband and I visited them we discovered that Emma had an entire herd of My Little Ponies. We played with them every day we were there. She let me know that we were supposed to say the exact same words each and every time we played. This wasn't as easy as it sounds.

I showed her how to make a fort Beth was as glad to see me as I by draping blankets over some chairs. She showed me how fast she could run laps from the kitchen to the hallway then through the living room and back to the kitchen again.

We had barely gotten home

when Beth called to tell us that Emma had found the animal cookies we had left for her in the pantry.

Beth and Emma visited us here in Indiana a few times. It was wonderful having them all to ourselves. The last time they were here it was for my mom's funeral. By that time her two little brothers had been born. We loved having the family here even if it was such a sad occasion. It was the last and only time they made the long drive. Work schedules, viruses, and sheer distance conspire to keep us apart.

It seems like yesterday that Emma was playing with the toy Ponies. Now we hear about her latest passions and accomplishments. She has written poems, acted in a school play, ridden real horses, fallen off a horse, painted pictures, shot a deer and learned to swim, among other things.

last 15 years. The baby has grown into a young woman. I have always thought that 15 is when girls are at their best. They are still strong and beautiful. Childhood is near enough that they can still play. They have yet to have their hearts broken by someone they trusted. At 15 the whole world is at their fingertips. Everything is possible.

She may take a low paying job or one that pays more than any job I have ever had. She can, and probably will, make mistakes along the way. We all do.

The world is vastly different than it was when I was her age. Back then our biggest worry was making sure our skirts were not too short or that one of our classes would have a surprise quiz. If someone brought a gun to school it was because it was new and they wanted to show it off or they

So much has changed in the were going hunting after school. Nobody even considered that the weapon could be used to shoot people.

We would have been shocked if anybody had suggested that we pass through a metal detector just to go to school. Masks were for Halloween only and not to help prevent the spread of disease. All those riots and protests that were common way back when I was 15 haven't accomplished as much as we had hoped. Inequality and discrimination seem to be as rampant as ever.

The world our grandchildren will inherit is as flawed as we are. Luckily, it is also a beautiful place to be. For every person who is needlessly cruel there are others who are needlessly kind. Emma and her generation will put their own stamp on the world. It is a better place because she is in it.

Son thinks house is open season

DEAR ABBY: My father passed away a few months ago. My brother lives out of state, so emptying the house has been up to me. Shortly after the funeral, my adult son (the only grandchild) arrived and loaded his car with all the toilet paper, paper towels, light bulbs, cleaning products, etc. He did it without asking, so I promptly had the locks changed. When I asked him about it, he said, "Grandpa doesn't need the stuff anymore."

After months of packing (by myself), we are now down to the furniture, and my son wants everything. He feels he's entitled to it. Rather than select one or two pieces, he is "gimme, gimme, gimme" and sees nothing wrong with this attitude. I didn't raise him that way, but he is that way now. What should I do? — GREEDY **OUT WEST**

DEAR GREEDY: Although at this point it's a little late, what you should do is finally say NO. Unless your father stated specifically — in writing — that your son should get everything, what he did is considered steal-

DEAR ABBY: What the heck happens to men between the ages of 45 and 60? It seems the women they're after are all 15 to 20 years younger. I don't mean just for sex but for dating, love and marriage, too.

•••••

overlooked because these middleaged guys don't realize we are at pendent hobbies.

Dear Abby



our sexual peak and often hot as hell. And we're active in many interesting, fulfilling activities. By the time these men come to their senses, they are usually washed-up and impotent. Why is nature and society so cruel and unfair? How can I, as a sexy, active middle-aged woman, beat the odds? I do not intend to remain celibate and alone for the rest of my life. STILL FUN IN THE SOUTH

DEAR STILL FUN: You can't change other people, but you can change the way you react to them. A way to "beat the odds" would be to stop focusing solely on middle-aged guys and consider dating men a bit younger who appreciate what you have to offer. Even if it doesn't lead to marriage, you could have a lot of fun in the meantime.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a very social person and part of a close-knit friend group, but my boyfriend is on the introverted side. Although he is sweet and thoughtful, he We middle-aged women are often doesn't have many friends of his own, and he tends to enjoy inde-

Since learning that my friendships are very important to me, he has made a huge effort with my friends and their boyfriends. In the past, he invited them to movies, reached out and attempted to engage them in multiple ways.

I have watched from a distance, hoping they could forge a connection, but they ignore or avoid him, and he recently shared his worry that they don't like him. I don't blame him for thinking that, and I'm starting to feel sad for him and frustrated with my friends. At what point do I talk to them about this? Should I just let the relationships happen organically (if they happen)? Should I interfere at all? TORN IN TEXAS

DEAR TORN: You didn't mention how old you are, or how long you and your boyfriend have been involved. I do not think it would be interfering to ask your friends why they seem unwilling to accept him. Their answers might be enlightening.

At some ages, circles have formed and it's difficult to break in and gain acceptance. If there is something about your boyfriend that makes them uncomfortable, it would be better if you knew what it was. However, ultimately, he should socialize with you and these friends at his comfort level. You may also need to seek out new friends and cultivate relationships together as a cou-

Research shows teens are vaping

By LINDA SEARING Special to The Washington

Among high school teens in the United States, about 22% said they had used e-cigarettes, known as vaping, in the preceding 30 days, according to research that tracked a nationally representative sample of 8,660 10th- and 12th-graders.

Only 7% of the teens said that vaping was a daily habit, but 41% said they have vaped at some point. research, which was published in the journal JAMA Pediatrics, says that the rapid increase in teen vaping from 2017 to slowed somewhat in 2020, which it attributes to a rise in the legal age to buy e-cigarettes and to bans on ecigarette cartridge flavors that teens favor.

Still, the prevalence vaping among teens and young adults sparks concern because of the health 21,618 adults.

risks associated with it, which exposes the lungs to addictive nicotine and a variety of chemicals. Two new studies, published in the journals Tobacco Induced Diseases and PLOS One. report a link between vaping and mental fog, with those who vape having more trouble concentrating, remembering and making decisions than their peers who neither vape smoke. In addition, people

who vape, compared with those who do not, are 43% more likely to develop a respiratory disease, including increased risks of chronic bronchitis (33%),(31%), asthma (69%)emphysema and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (57%), according to research published in JAMA Network Open that included

ommunity Calendar

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

Today

THE LANDING — A 12step 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 – BRI-ANNA'S HOPE — A faithbased 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.

NARCOTICS ANONY-MOUS — Will meet at 7

Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

JAY COUNTY CIVIC THEATRE — Holds its regular meeting at 6 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in room 205 at John Jay Center for Learning.

Wednesday

WEDNESDAY MORN-ING BREAKFAST CLUB - Will meet at 8 a.m. in p.m. each Tuesday at 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 - BRI-ANNA'S HOPE — A faithbased 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) 70344th Annual

44th Annual

COLDWATER YOUNG FARMERS CONSIGNMENT AUCTION Saturday February 13, 2021

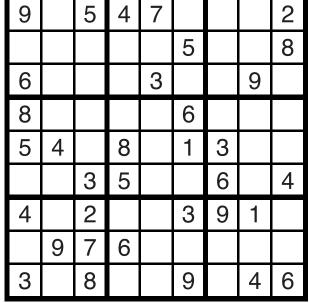
The Coldwater Young Farmer Association will be conducting their annual farm machinery consignment auction at the Coldwater football stadium parking lot in Coldwater, Ohio.

> For more information on consigning your farm machinery please call:

> > Rick Uhlenhake 419-678-8119 Dusty Uhlenhake 419-733-3096

Machinery consigned by January 18, 2021 can be advertised

Sudoku



Saturday's Solution

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.

	6	5	9	4	2	3	1	7	8	
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Valentine's Day, Merry Christmas and Many Others. Over 150 different images have been preselected for you to choose from.



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Reader believes election was stolen

To the editor:

I find it sad that Jack Ronald would criticize our congressman Jim Banks for the crime of defending the Constitution and the rule of law.

While JR thinks the Texas lawsuit is "loony," the Constitution is not the least bit ambiguous about the power to write of recommendations. If the illestate election laws belonging to consider the Constitution a list Supreme Court did not want to

Letters to the Editor

gal and unconstitutional mail the state legislature. Not one in ballots are thrown out, Donword grants the authority to ald Trump wins. The fact that governors or liberal judges who the chicken center of the

get embroiled in election politics does not in any way change

When JR says the "election was conducted securely and fairly," he ignores hundreds of depositions citing illegal and questionable vote counting, not to mention Dominion machines that could be manipulated. Hundreds of thousands of ballots were counted with Republican poll watchers not allowed to see what was actually happening.

While Democrats scream that \$100,000 on Facebook in 2016 Republicans are undermining confidence in our elections, it is the Democrats who have totally destroyed the integrity of those elections. And if Democrats actually believed the elections were honest and actually wanted to unify the country they would demand impartial and bipartisan investigations of all charges of election fraud instead of trying to white wash the whole thing.

The Russians spent about

and it was a three-year running scandal in the mainstream media. Hundreds of thousands of illegal ballots were cast and it was a fair election in 2020.

I will join the 62% of Republicans, 17% of Democrats and 28% percent of independents who believe the election was stolen. And I will never believe Joe Biden is the legitimate president.

Stephen Erwin Portland

brianduffications.com

How will Pence handle situation?

CNHI News Indiana

Twenty years ago, some folks called Al Gore a sore

What do vou suppose they'd say about Donald Trump?

Two months after the presidential election, the nation is still fighting over who won. Millions of the president's supporters are convinced the election was stolen, and the president has encouraged them to march on Washington.

Just think what the president and his supporters might be saying if the election had actually been close. What if instead of losing the popular vote by millions, the president had actually won it by hundreds of thousands?

What would he and his supporters have done then?

We know what happened 20 years ago when Gore lost to George W. Bush.

Gore had actually conceded on election night only to change his mind after the major networks decided the contest in Florida was too close to

What followed was a seemingly endless 36 days of controversy as lawyers argued over counting and recounting the ballots.

Voters learned more than they wanted to know about hanging chads and dimpled chads and pregnant chads. They also learned about a so-called "butterfly" ballot that some thought might have led folks trying to vote for Gore to wind up casting a ballot for independent candidate Pat Buchanan instead. In the initial tally, Bush led Florida by about 1,700 votes, but a recount trimmed that margin to 317.

deck had been stacked against them. Not only was Bush's brother, Jeb, the state's governor, the woman charged with overseeing the counting was the co-chair of Bush's Florida campaign, Secretary of State Katherine Harris.

The fight twice wound up before the U.S. Supreme Court. The first time, the justices sent it back to Florida, but the second time, they decided Florida had run out of time to sort out its issues, and they halted the recount, effectively hand-

ing the election to Bush. The court issued its decision on Dec. 12, the same day states were required to certify a slate of electors. The vote was 5-4, with the court's five conservatives siding with Bush and its four liberals vice siding with Gore.

Kelly Hawes



Like Douglas, Gore chose to be conciliatory in defeat. He sought to bring a divided country

Gore conceded the next day.

In his address to the nation, Gore recalled what Stephen Douglas had said after losing to Abraham Lincoln nearly a century and a half before.

"Partisan feeling must yield to patriotism," Douglas told Lincoln. "I'm with you, Mr. President, and God bless vou."

Like Douglas, Gore chose to be conciliatory in defeat. He sought to bring a divided country togeth-

do not yield our opposing beliefs," he told his supporters, "there is a higher duty than the one we owe to political party. This is country before party. We our new president."

met in joint session to cer-Through it all, the tify the results. Gore, as Democrats were sure the vice president, was the presiding officer. Several members of the House rose to object, citing various concerns about the election, but Gore ruled them all out of order.

> that Bush had won the Electoral College by a margin of 271 to 266.

"May God bless our new president and our new vice president," Gore said, "and may God bless the United States of America.'

after Gore spoke those words, Vice President Mike Pence will stand in the same spot. Disappointed supporters will be marching outside, and members of his own party have promised to stand and object to certification of the election result.

How do you think the president

together.

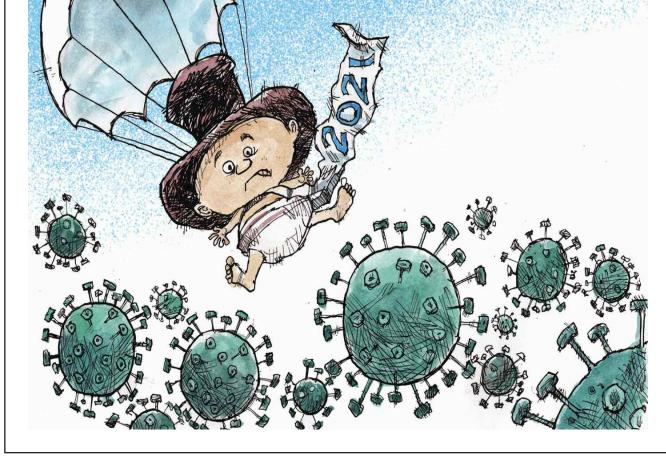
"While we yet hold and America, and we put will stand together behind

Weeks later, Congress

Finally, he announced

Twenty years to the day

respond?



Proposal subverts democratic values

Bv EDWARD B. FOLEY Special to The Washington Post

Sen. Ted Cruz's 11th-hour effort to derail certification of Joe Biden's election victory is the wrong solution to a non-problem at the wrong time. Fortunately, it also won't succeed, but it nonetheless provides one more alarming sign of the perilous state of our democracy.

Cruz, R-Texas, and 10 colleagues and afterward "individual states announced Saturday that they will would evaluate the Commission's vote to challenge electoral college votes in "disputed states" when Congress meets Jan. 6, though it was unclear how many states that will be. In practical effect, the move adds nothing but numbers to the process that Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Missouri, had already vowed to set into motion: two hours of debate, in both the House and Senate, on each state the Republicans challenge.

This will greatly slow what should be a straightforward process, but the bottom line is clear: Unless Vice President Mike Pence, in his presiding role as president of the Senate, were to unexpectedly deviate from the procedures established by Congress in — a truly lawless move that would be swiftly resisted by senators and representatives of both parties the outcome remains inevitable.

Nonetheless, the fact that a dozen senators and senators-elect, along with apparently more than 100 House members, want to disrupt congressional ratification of the electoral college result is one more horrendous sign of the severity of the disease afflicting the United States' democratic system. It will make it even harder for Biden to heal this pathology of partisan polarization, as he has promised to do.

Specifically, Cruz's group proposes a commission, modeled on the one used for the disputed Hayes-Tilden election of 1876, to investigate baseless allegations of election fraud raised by President Donald Trump and his allies since Nov. 3. The senators would have the commission conduct a "10-day audit" with "full investigatory and fact-finding authority,"

B. Foley

Edward



findings and could convene a special legislative session to certify a change in their vote, if needed." Five problems with this idea:

First, the analogy to the Hayes-Tilden dispute is altogether inappropriate. In 1876 there was a genuine basis for contestation. Republican supporters of Rutherford B. Hayes were correct to claim that Democrats in the South had terrorized and disenfranchised Black voters; Hayes clearly would have won if the equal right to vote, as guaranteed by the 15th Amendment, had been enforced. Democrats, in turn, defended Samuel J. Tilden's claim to victory in the disputed states by correctly observing that Republican canvassing boards had carried out vote-counting fraud

to yield higher totals for Hayes. Nothing remotely approaching those circumstances occurred in any state this year; just because Trump keeps tweeting false allegations does not mean there is something to investigate. And as for the group's contention that the U.S. Supreme Court didn't consider Trump's fraud claims, well, that's irrelevant: State courts were the proper venue for those claims, and they all dismissed them as baseless, as Sen. Patrick Toomey, R-Pennsylvania, observed in his own condemnation of the Cruz-led move Saturday.

Second, Congress needed a commission for the Hayes-Tilden election because Congress itself was deadlocked: The Senate backed Hayes; the House, Tilden. There is no such deadlock now: Majorities in both the Senate and House are sure to uphold Biden's victory. Cruz's call for a com- ing to election law and administration.

mission is just a ruse to prolong Trump's attempt to sow doubt on the result when there should be none.

Third, Cruz is incorrect to suggest that the Hayes-Tilden commission had "full investigatory and fact-find-ing authority." The Congress that created that commission was careful to avoid doing that, because it was hotly contested whether Congress itself had the constitutional power "to go behind the returns" of a state's electoral college votes, and Congress did not want to give the commission any powers that Congress itself did not have. The commission itself resolved the dispute in favor of Hayes by scrupulously avoiding factfinding.

Fourth, Congress cannot create a new commission in the context of the proceedings planned for Jan. 6. The existing 1887 statute rejected the commission model, and instead wanted Congress itself to handle any issues that might arise concerning a state's electoral votes — based on a set of rules that make "conclusive" whatever "final determination" a state's own courts reach. Congress would need to repeal and replace the existing statute, which obviously won't happen before Wednesday.

Fifth, Cruz's idea that a state legislature could change its electoral votes based on a commission's work is especially unconstitutional — and also ironic given his reliance on the Hayes-Tilden precedent. That commission ruled for Hayes in part because Article II of the Constitution requires electors in all states to vote on the same day, and thus a state cannot change the appointment of its electors after they have voted. The electors voted on Dec. 14, and it's too late for a change according to Cruz's own example.

Cruz's statement purports to pay lip service to the values of democracy. But in fact it brazenly seeks to subvert those values.

Foley, a Washington Post contributing columnist, writes on matters relat-

The Commercial Review

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



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We welcome letters to the editor. Letters should be 700 words or fewer, signed and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit letters for content and clarity. Email letters to news@thecr.com.

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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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State opens 2021 session

By TOM DAVIES

Associated Press INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana lawmakers opened their 2021 legislative session on Monday, largely wearing masks and in greatly modified settings for coronavirus precautions, even as legislative leaders said they were braced for disruptions from possible COVID-19 infections.

The House was gaveled into session for the first time it what will be its temporary location for the next several months, giving up its wood-paneled Statehouse chamber that's adorned with a 100-light brass chandelier and a marble counter-topped speaker's dais.

That chamber has been deemed too crowded for the 100 House members and necessary staffers, so the House will meet in a large conference room in a neighboring state office building that appears more like a business convention site filled with folding tables and standard office chairs.

The Senate will continue meeting in its Statehouse chamber, but the balcony is closed to the public as 20 of the 50 senators will be sitting there to allow greater distancing. Plexisurrounds lecterns from which sena-

tors speak.

The Republican-dominated Legislature will face debates over whether to roll back GOP Gov. Eric Holcomb's authority to issue public health orders to stem the COVID-19 spread that has killed more than 8,000 in Indiana and flooded the state's hospitals with thousands of patients since a sustained surge started in September. Lawmakers must figure out a new state budget by the end of June with plenty of questions about how the coronavirussparked recession will impact future state tax collections.

Republican Senate Presi dent Pro Tem Rodric Bray of Martinsville said while precautions were being taken against the spread of the coronavirus among lawmakers coming from across the state, General Assembly leaders will simply have to "play it by ear" if infections hit during the legislative session that's scheduled to last until late April.

"It is possible that we could get to a point, though, where we have staff or senators out in a number that begins to really become problematic that we may have to take a break," Bray said. "We're willing to do that if neces-

Legislative leaders are encouraging House and Senate members to wear masks, but they are only required for employees and visitors. About a half dozen Republican House members didn't wear masks during any or most of Monday's House session that lasted about 40 minutes.

Republican House Speaker Todd Huston of Fishers wore a mask throughout his time presiding and urged patience as the Legislature adjusts how it conducts committee meetings and floor session.

"It would be disingenuous to say we aren't making it up a little bit as we go along," Huston said.







Washington Post/Melina Mara

Runoff rallies

Voting concludes today in the Georgia runoff elections for the U.S. Senate. Pictured above left, supporters listen Monday to President-elect Joe Biden while he campaigns for Democratic Senate candidates Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock outside Center Parc Stadium in Atlanta. Above right, Sen. Kelly Loeffler, R-Ga., campaigns in Loganville on Saturday.

Finances

Continued from page 1

Other goals achieved, as noted by Gulley, were three consecutive years of positive cash flow, increasing the rainy day fund to more than \$500,000 and consolidating schools. The biggest step in that consolidation occurred this year as seventh and eighth graders shifted to the high school building. (The final step in the current plan will come in 2021-22 when Westlawn Elementary School students will move to the former West Jay Middle School building that is currently being renovated.)

Gulley cautioned that the school corporation may have to dip into some of its reserves in the coming year as it feels the tax impact of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

"In so many ways, we were fortunate ... three years ago when we started down the path of getting our district's finances in order, he said. "We're fortunate we were able to make the changes in time.

We've essentially built a life raft that we can get in as a school district to get us through the

impacts of COVID.' Board president Phil Ford complimented Gulley on his efforts to get the corporation's finances in order after he was hired as superintendent in October 2016.

State funding was juxtaposed with local efforts, with Gulley noting that state per student funding ty falls to the state legislature. He has not kept up with inflation referenced the Republican superover the last decade. Showing data majority in the Indiana General from Indiana's Next Level Assembly — the party has had a Teacher Compensation Commis- supermajority (enough members sion final report, he noted that to conduct business even if no

You can take a look at all that decision making locally and then compare it to the commitment over the last 10 years of state funding, and it paints a picture. Hopefully, it will improve.' -Jeremy Gulley, Jay Schools superintendent

the nation in per-student spending in 2004 to 36th in 2018 and that the state lags behind Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky and Illinois.

"I put those there for you to see what you have done as a board and as a community and the teachers and the employees and all of us who had to put our sweat equity into making those tough changes and then implementing them," said Gulley. "You can take a look at all that decision making locally and then compare it to the commitment over the last 10 years of state funding, and it paints a picture. Hopefully, improve."

Reacting to Indiana's comparistates, Ford said the responsibili-

Indiana has dropped from 22nd in members of another party are present) in both houses since 2012 and its hold on the governor's office since 2005.

"I know that the teachers don't like to become involved in state politics," said Ford, who is a past president of Jay Classroom Teachers Association. "But if you don't get involved in state politics, instead of dropping down to (36th), we'll be down to 49th or 50th. Because right now all we get out of Indianapolis is talk.'

No other board members commented on corporation finances or state funding.

During the board's organizational meeting earlier in the evening, Vickie Reitz (first term), son nationwide and to adjacent Jason Phillips (first full term after filling out the remaining term of Kristi Betts) and Ford (second term) were sworn in to office. The board then unanimously elected Ford president, Ron Laux vice president and Donna Geesaman secretary.

Board members Mike Shannon, Chris Snow, Phillips, Reitz, Ford, Laux and Geesaman also made the following appointments: Coldren, Frantz and Sprunger as corporation attorneys and Amy Matthews of Church, Church, Hittle & Antrim as additional legal counsel; Shannon Current as interim treasurer and Amy Reinhart as deputy treasurer; Current and Reinhart as authorized users of the safe deposit box; and Irene Taylor and Current as representatives for small claims

The board appointed Geesaman (chair), Ford and Laux to its negotiations committee and Reitz as its legislative delegate. Gulley appointed Snow and Reitz to the corporation's insurance commit-

Board members also approved conflict of interest statements for assistant superintendent for instruction Trent Paxson, Ford, Laux, Snow, Geesaman and Gulley. And they recognized outgoing member Krista Muhlenkamp for her four years of service.

Shannon noted that Jay County last week was the first in Indiana to come down to the "yellow (moderate risk for spread of COVID-19) status after being at high or severe risk for more than a month. He thanked school administrators and Jay County Health Department for their efforts at keeping the spread of the disease in check.

In other business, the board of finance approved First Merchants Bank and First Bank of Berne as depositories.

England enters third lockdown

Associated Press

LONDON — England is entering a third national lockdown that will last at least six weeks, as authorities struggle to stem a surge in COVID-19 infections that threatens to hospitals overwhelm around the U.K.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has announced a tough new stay-at-home order for England that takes effect at midnight Tuesday and won't be reviewed until at least mid-February. Few in England expect any relief until after the traditional February school late break.

Scotland's leader, Nicola Sturgeon, also imposed a have already been forced lockdown there that began Tuesday. Northern Ireland and Wales had already imposed tough measures, though rules vary.

said the restrictions were out COVID-19.

pressed National Health Service as a new, more contagious variant of coronavirus sweeps across Britain. On Monday, hospitals in England were treat-26,626 COVID-19 ing patients, 40% more than during the first peak in mid-April.

"The weeks ahead will be the hardest yet, but I really do believe that we are entering the last phase of the struggle," Johnson told the nation Monday night. "Because with every jab that goes into our arms, we are tilting the odds against COVID and in favor of the British people."

Many U.K. hospitals to cancel elective surgeries and the strain of responding to the pandemic may soon delay cancer surgery and limit intensive care Johnson and Sturgeon services for patients with-



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Contact Haley or Katie
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TODAY!

Continued from page 1

In other business, council members Don Gillespie, Matt Goldsworthy, Janet Powers, Michele Brewster, Dave Golden, Kent McClung and Mike Aker:

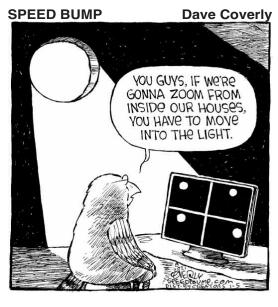
•Heard from Portland Mayor John Boggs that the city will need to find five new parking spots for police vehicles after Tim Miller told him he will not renew a contract with the city to allow the department to park behind his business, T.J.'s Bicycle and Moped Sales

and Services, which is adjacent to city hall. To solve this parking conundrum, Boggs said the city is exploring expanding the parking lot owned by Dru Halls Properties LLC behind city hall from 15 spots to 20.

 Approved a \$378 pay request from Jones & Henry Engineers for costs relating to design of a new screw press for the city's wastewater treatment

•Paid \$859,431.18 in claims.

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane 1-5 "I like crayons better. They

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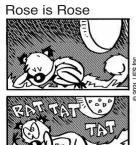
Peanuts





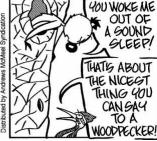




















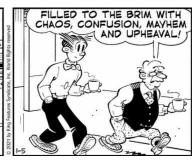


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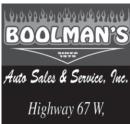




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Sports/Classifieds

Stifles

Continued from page 8 Sisson's squad struggled against the home team's zone, shooting 3-of-19 from the field and 1-of-10 from long distance in the first 16 min-

"I thought we did a pretty good job of that," said Comer. "But if you go back and you look ... they had a lot of uncontested shots. If they would have hit some of those shots in the first half, it could have been a different game going into halftime. ... We've got to do a better job of contesting.

Renna Schwieterman tallied eight of Jay County's first 10 second-half points as it pushed its advantage to 39-11 before Heritage put together its first, and only, run of the game.

span of four minutes as Heritage scored 11 straight points.

"Ella creates a lot for us," said Sisson of the junior who had 14 obviously makes the defense have the starters some rest.

to give her a good amount of attention. And she's a good passer and will find her teammates ... so it kind of feeds the fire ... She does a lot for us.'

Dirksen, who finished with 14 points and four rebounds, ended the Heritage streak with a couple of free throws, and the visitors never got closer than 17 points in the final quarter.

Comer used the sizable advantage his team had most of the way to mix his lineup up a bit, bringing freshman Breanna Dirksen off the bench in the second quarter as part of an effort to extend his bench. She saw a few minutes in each half, hitting a pair of free throws in the final minute.

'We're slowly trying to bring her Bickel tallied three 3-pointers in a in," said Comer, who has typically used a seven-player rotation this season. "We would like to have one more person off the bench. ... I think she's about ready. We just points. "When she hits shots, it need one more person who can give

"For a freshman, she's a lot like Sophie (Saxman), she's just so steady. They don't play like freshmen.'

Renna Schwieterman led Jay County in points (19), rebounds (nine), assists (six) and blocks (two). Aubrie Schwieterman hit all of her three field-goal attempts to add six points.

Junior varsity

Jay County owned the first half and cruised to a 38-21 victory over

The home team limited Heritage to four points in each of the first three quarters while racking up 27 of its own in the first half. It was up 33-12 through the first 21 minutes.

Abbie Fields paced JCHS with 10 points, eight of which came in the first half. Jayden Claytor added six points, and Molly Muhlenkamp had five including a half-court 3-pointer.

Natalie Otte, Grace Guenthner and Madilyn Scheumann each had four points for Heritage.

Box score

Jay County Patriots vs. Heritage Patriots Girls varsity summary

Haritaga (D.C. 2.1 ACAC

Heritage (9-6, 3-1 ACAC)								
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS					
CBickel	0-2	2-2	2					
Otte	0-0	0-0	0					
Schane	2-7	2-2	6					
EBickel	5-15	0-0	14					
KZelt	1-6	0-0	3					
Schultz	0-0	0-0	0					
Pilon	0-0	0-0	0					
AZelt	1-1	0-0	2					
Mullins	0-1	0-2	0					
MScheumr	nn 0-0	2-2	2					
Totals	9-32	6-8	29					
	204	750						

Jay County (11-2, 3-0 ACAC) FG-FGA FT-FTA PTS ASchwtrmn 3-3 SSaxman GSaxman 0-0 0-0 0-0 7-9 0-0 Fields Bilbrey 2-5 Rodgers RSchwtrmn 6-15 Claytor 0-1 MDirksen MMhlnkmp 0-0 0-0

.429

Score by quarters: Heritage 2 5 12 10—29 Jay Co. 12 15 12 11—50

3-point shooting: Heritage 5-18 (EBickel 4-9, KZelt 1-6, Schane 0-3), Jay County 3-16 (MDirksen 2-7, Rodgers 1-3, RSchwieterman 0-4, GSaxman 0-2).

Rebounds: Heritage 22 (CBickel 6, team 4, Schane 3, Schultz 3, KZelt 2, EBickel, AZelt, Mullins, Scheumann), Jay County 27 (RSchwieterman 9, GSaxman 6, MDirksen 4, Bilbrey 2, Rodgers 2, SSaxman 2, Field, team).

Assists: Heritage 8 (Schane 3, CBickel 2, Schultz 2, KZelt). Jay County 10 (RSchwieterman 6, Rodgers 2, ASchwieterman, MDirk-

Blocks: Heritage O. Jay County 3 (RSchwieterman 2, SSaxman).

Personal fouls: Heritage 8 (CBickel 2, Schultz 2, Schane, EBickel, KZelt, Mullins), Jay County 11 (ASchwieter 3, MDisksen 2).

Turnovers: Heritage 12, Jay County

Place

Continued from page 8 Tribe trounces

UNION CITY, Ohio — Fort Recovery's girls basketball team raced by the host Mississinawa Vallev Blackhawks on Monday, 74-

The Indians (7-3) had a comfortable 24-5 lead at the end of the first quarter and kept the foot on the gas pedal in the second to take a 45-10 advantage into half-

Still not letting up, the Indians pushed the margin to 63-20 with one quarter to play.

Whitley Rammel led all players with 17 points, while Paige Fortkamp and Alli Vaughn contributed 15 points each. Kierra Wendel contributed nine points, and in all 10 players scored at least one point for the Indians.

Fort Recovery's junior varsity team also won, 42-34. Mara Pearson led the squad with 14 points.

Indians lose late

VAN WERT, Ohio — The host Lincolnview Lancers ended on a 16-1 run to hand the Fort Recovery boys basketball team a 57-54 loss Sat-

The Indians (5-4) had a had the other six points.

two-point lead at the end of the first quarter and just one at halftime before outscoring the Lancers (6-1) by a 20-11 margin in the third quarter. But the well went dry for the Tribe, while the Lancers pulled out the win.

Owen Jutte led the Indians with a career-high 18 points, including four 3pointers. Cale Rammel finished with 16 points and Brian Bihn added nine points.

Fort Recovery's junior varsity team lost, 49-43. Caleb Evers scored 17 points in the loss for FRHS.

Jay 8th wins

Jay County Junior High School's eighth grade girls basketball team finally got its season underway on Monday and picked up a 28-12 victory over the visiting Delta Eagles.

The seventh graders lost, 32-16.

Muhlenkamp Daisv scored 14 points and Cassie Petro finished with 10 points to pace the eighth grade Patriots (1-0). Jenna Dues and Meredith Dirksen each had two points.

Alexis Sibray led the seventh grade team with 10 points, and Mya Kunkler

Anderson - 6 p.m.; Eighth grade girls

basketball vs. Fort Recovery – 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball vs.
New Knoxville – 6 p.m.; Eighth grade

girls basketball at Jay County - 6 p.m.

FridayJay County — Girls wrestling region-

al at Maconaquah – 4 p.m.; Swimming hosts Jay County Invitational (diving) –

6 p.m.: Girls basketball at Bluffton - 6

Hang

Continued from page 8 It marked the end of the Patriots' three-game losing streak, and snapped a fourgame skid against the Bearcats (0-6). The last win for Jay County against Muncie Central was Dec.

30, 2016. "They played disciplined basketball," Muncie Cencoach Chandler Thompson said. "They are well-coached. They did the things they were supposed to do.

"We came out and instead of being composed we went back to we were elementary school kids and started shooting every time we got the ball. That's the difference.

You get one or two passes and a shot. No offensive rebound. No one in position to know what's really going on. (Jay County) passed the ball five or six times or more and was able to get what they wanted."

Muncie Central hit shots early and led by as much as eight points, 16-8, early in the second quarter. Jay County then started to be more aggressive offensively, choosing to shoot with the ball down near the basket instead of passing it out to the perimeter.

Dusty Pearson scored the second quarter, including back-to-back buckets that began a 12-3 JCHS run. His last shot, a baseline jumper as the halftime buzzer sounded, capped a period during which the Patriots outscored the Bearcats 20-13 and gave the home team momentum as it went into intermission leading 28-26.

"We've been working (on) building confidence,

Bomholt said. "We've worked really hard on trying to get their confidence up.

Sophomore Josh Dowlen had a personal 8-0 run to start the third quarter for the Patriots, who welcomed a larger crowd for the first time this season. Dowlen swished a 3-pointer from the left wing on a Gavin Muhlenkamp assist and then, after Pearson blocked a shot at the other end, Dowlen lofted a floater for two more points.

Then with 4:40 remaining in the period, Dowlen bounced a shot from the top of the arc off the glass for three more points as the Patriots went on top, 36-26.

Muncie Central fired back in the fourth quarter, outscoring Jay County 11-5 to cut the 41-33 deficit that started the period at just two points, 42-44.

Muhlenkamp, however, who had missed all six of his shots from the floor, made four consecutive free throws to put the game out of reach.

'We let the lead filter down to two, then we got tough enough mentally," Bomholt said of his biggest takeaway. "We rebounded like crazy and we hit our free throws. If you can figsix of his eight points in ure out a way so they can win down the stretch that is big, and they did that tonight.

Jay County held a 38-24 edge on rebounds, with Bennett Weitzel leading the way with nine rebounds. The Patriots were issued 10 dead-ball rebounds, including seven on the offensive end. In all, the home team dominated the offensive glass with 17 boards.

Ethan Dirksen led the

Patriots with 16 points. Weitzel and Dowlen each had nine points. It was a career high for Dowlen, who was making his second start in as many games.

"When I value our team, I look at our contributions (by positions)," Bomholt said. "It's the first time where position-by-position we've had double-figure contributions.

"Tonight, we did that. And again I'm really proud of them.'

Jay County also withstood a flurry of 3-point attempts from Muncie Central, which attempted 27 shots from the perimeter. Only seven of them went through the hoop, though, with Malik Hasani nailing six of them. He had a gameand career-high 25 points.

"Without his scoring today I don't know where we would have been," Thompson said. Hasani entered the night averaging 10.8 points per game this season. "I know he got a lot of shots. Some guys were scared to shoot the ball which led him to get more shots.'

Junior varsity

Jay County wasn't able to dig out of another early hole in a 53-25 loss to Muncie Central.

The Patriots (0-5) fell behind 15-6 at the end of the first quarter and the margin stayed the same at halftime, 24-19. Bearcats pulled away in the second half, racing by the home team 29-10 in the final 14 minutes.

Brady Davis scored eight points to lead Jay County, and Gavin Myers followed with seven points. BJ Isom

Box score

vs. Jay County Patriots

Boys varsity summary

Muncie Central (0-6)

FG-FGA FT-FTA PTS Harris 8-21 Hasani 0-0 2-2 1-2 0-0 Wds-Hskns 1-4 3-7 Lowe 1-3 0-5 Davis Rawlings 0-0 0-0 Griffin 0-0

	County		
F	G-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Weitzel	3-9	3-5	9
Dowlen	3-3	1-2	9
Dirksen	6-14	3-3	16
GMuhlnkmp	0-6	4-4	4
PEarson	4-7	0-0	8
Heniser	2-3	0-0	6
Faulkner	1-3	0-0	2
AMuhlnkmp	0-1	0-0	0
Totals	19-46	11-14	54
	.413	.786	

Score by quarters: MCHS 13 13 7 14-47 8 20 13 13 -- 54 Jay Co.

3-point shooting: Muncie Central 7-27 (Hasani 6-15, Woods-Haskins 1-3, Harris 0-3, Rawlings 0-3, Lowe 0-1, Davis 0-1, Griffin 0-1). Jay County 5-13 (Heniser 2-3, Dowlen 2-2, Dirksen 1-4, GMuhlenkamp 0-2. Pearson 0-1. Faulkn-Rebounds: Muncie Central 24

(Harris 7, Lowe 7, Hasani 5, team 3, Griffin 2). Jay County 38 (team 10. Weitzel 9, GMuhlenkamp 7 Dirksen 5, Pearson 5, Dowlen,

Assists: Muncie Central 7 (Woods-Haskins 3, Harris 2, Hasani 2). Jay County 7 (Dirksen 2, Dowlen 2, GMuhlenkamp, Perason. Heniser).

Blocks: Muncie Central 2 (Weitzel 3, Pearson 3).

Personal fouls: Muncie Central 16 (Woods-Haskins 4, Lowe 4, Griffin 3, Harris 2, Hasani, Davis, Rawlings). Jay County 11 (Dirksen 4, GMuhlenkamp 2, Pearson 2, Dowlen, Faulkner, AMuhlenkamp),

Turnovers: Muncie Central 12.

of Muncie Central hit four threes on his way to a game-high 18 points.

Sports on tap

Local schedule Today

Jay County - Swimming vs. Bellmont - 6 p.m.; Girls basketball at Concordia – 6 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball at Delta - 5:30 p.m. Fort Recovery — Swimming at South Adams – 5:30 p.m.; Junior high

boys basketball vs. New Knoxville - 5 Thursday

90 SALE CALENDAR

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Jay County - Swimming vs. Celina

p.m.; Junior varsity wrestling at Centerville – 5 p.m.

90 SALE CLENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION Located: Bubp Exhibition Hall at the Jay County Fairgrounds. Portland, IN Saturday, Janurary 9th, 2021 10:00am Old & Collectors Items-Household Goods; Oak roll top desk. wood chests,

Rowe Pottery, jug, crocks, churn, tin lanterns, 3 legged cast iron pot, wood benches. Lenox, West Germany Easter eggs, Longaberger basket, 1860 yard winder, 1823 German birth record, child's

trunk, Old Fellows, whiskey jug, and many other items not listed. Auctioneers Note: this sale offers a nice variety of primitives and collector items. Please make plans to attend our first auction of 2021. **It is recommended you follow COVID-19 guidelines by wearing a facial mask and social distancing** Name withheld for security reasons Loy Auction AU31600027

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Bridge

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West North East South
3 Pass Pass 3 Pass 3 Pass 4 Popening lead — king of clubs.

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South reached four hearts on the sequence shown, and West led the king of clubs. Declarer played the ace, ruffed by East, who then returned a diamond.

Declarer won with the ace, drew

trump and led a low spade toward the queen. He was hoping West had the king, in which case he could later

discard a diamond loser from dummy

The bidding:
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♦ K 6 4 ♣ A 7 5 3

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on his ace of spades. But after the queen lost to East's king, South had to go down one, losing a spade, a diamond, a club, and East's ruff on the opening lead.

diamond, a club, and East's ruff on the opening lead.

However, declarer could and should have made the contract. He neglected to apply the principle espoused above. The fatal misstep occurred at trick one, when South should have ducked West's king, knowing from the bidding that there was an excellent chance the club ace might be ruffed. If West then continued with the queen, dummy would again play low, and if West played still another club, declarer would duck once more and ruff in his hand.

These three plays would enable South to maintain the 10 tricks he had started with — five trumps, a spade, two diamonds, a club and a spade ruff in dummy. He would lose only two clubs and a spade, eventually discarding his diamond loser on the club ace.

Before making a play from

Before making a play from dummy at trick one, South should ask himself: "What can possibly go wrong?" In the present instance, given West's three-club bid, the dan-ger of playing the club ace should be apparent."

apparent.

The next step in the process fol-

By Steve Becker

A bitter pill to swallow

Tomorrow: Defensive card-reading.

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lows almost automatically — 10 tricks can be maintained by the simple expedient of letting West win the first two club tricks.

DETWILPT, L OAPTT

Sports

www.thecr.com Page 8 **The Commercial Review**

Zone stifles Heritage

JCHS rolls out to 26-5 lead in ACAC victory

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review Neither set of Patriots shot particularly well from long dis-

But the home-standing group got a couple of key triples in the opening quarter.

And by the time the visiting group started to hit the target late in the third quarter, it was too late.

The host Jay High County School girls basketball team's zone defense stifled Heritage's offense for the first 22 minutes Saturday on the way to a 50-29 Allen County Athletic Conference victory.



Aubrie Schwieterman layup off of a Madison Dirksen steal, and Dirksen added a 3-pointer at the 6:35 mark. Dirksen again hit a triple from the top of the key off of a Renna Schwieterman assist just before the first-quarter buzzer for a 12-2 advantage.

'You don't have a lot of posts her size who can move like her who have range like her," said Heritage coach Nicole Sisson, whose team fell to 9-6 overall and 3-1 in the conference. Her squad had topped ACAC rivals



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Junior Madison Dirksen fights to get a shot up as three Heritage defenders converge on her during the second half of the Jay County High School girls basketball team's 50-29 victory Saturday. Dirksen hit two first-quarter 3-pointers and finished with 14 points.

player, a good weapon."

While Jay County (11-2, 3-0 was too much for the visitors.

Southern Wells, South Adams ACAC) would only make one and Woodlan by a combined six other 3-pointer — Izzy Rodgers points until Ella Bickel finally points. "She's a very, very good hit one in the second quarter — connected on a 3-pointer with

Heritage was stuck on two the early 10-point advantage five minutes left in the first half. See **Stifles** page 7

record to 24-3.

Patriots place third at state

Patriots were a late add to the tournament.

They nearly pulled off an

Jay County High School's wrestling team had topranked Bellmont on the ropes in the semifinal round, but Local

lost and eventually roundup finished third Satur-

day in the Class 2A Indiana High School Wrestling Coaches Association Team Dual State at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum.

The sixth-ranked Patriots, who were 10th last year in the program's first appearance in the tournament, were added to the field late after another team had to back out.

Jay County opened the tournament with a 41-21 victory over Wawasee, then topped Mt. Vernon (Posey) 45-25 in the quarterfinal.

The Patriots then got as close as two points against defending IHSWCA state champion and top-ranked Bellmont in the semifinal, 25-23, but fell to the Braves

Jay County knocked off Western 43-28 in the thirdplace match, earning the team's best finish in the tournament.

Sophomore Ethan Reiley and freshman Tony Wood were both 4-0 on the day. Reiley, a 120-pounder, improved to 25-1, while Wood (126) pushed his

See **Place** page 7

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The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Jay County High School sophomore Josh Dowlen reaches to grab a ball before it goes out of bounds while Deyveion Ivy of Muncie Central is nearby during the fourth quarter Saturday. Dowlen had a career-high nine points in helping the Patriots to a 54-47 victory to snap a three-game losing streak.

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Jay boys hang on

54

BV CHRIS SCHANZ The Commercial Review

Since winning the season opener, the Patriots had struggled

offensively.

They'd play too timidly on offense, unwilling to take good shots and making poor decisions passing the ball.

It resulted in three straight losses.

Against a team that was struggling in its own right Saturday, the Patriots found their spark.

47 Jay County High School's boys basketball team used a 20-point second quarter and a hot start to the second half to build a

lead over the Muncie Central Bearcats

victory Saturday night. "Best quarter we've had all year,"

See **Hang** page 7

Patriots surge by Bearcats in second quarter, hang on to end losing streak

and hung on down the stretch for a 54-47

JCHS coach Jerry Bomholt, whose team improved to 2-3, said of the second quarter. "We took care of the ball. We made good shot selections. We played really hard on defense."