The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

Trial underway



The first of three murder trials in connection with the death of Shea Briar, 31, Portland, got underway with opening statements Tuesday morning. Jay County prosecutor Wes Schemenaur alleges that Esther J. Stephen, 30, Portland, was part of a plot to kill Briar, with whom she shared a child. Defense attorney Jill Gonzalez says Stephen was unaware of any plan to shoot Briar on the county road 125 West bridge (pictured) over Loblolly Creek.

Prosecution alleges woman led murder plot; defense says Stephen was unaware of any plan

Prosecutors say a Portland woman was the mastermind behind a murder.

The defense argues she was oblivious to any potential plot. The prosecution and defense

each presented their opening statements and the former began making its case Monday as Esther J. Stephen, 30, Portland, appeared in Jay Circuit Court on Tuesday to stand trial for the Jan. 12, 2020, murder of Shea Briar.

The proceedings were sched-

uled to resume at 8:30 a.m. with the case, Stephen and Gonzalez said that was not the Wednesday with the first testimony being a recording of a rural Portland resident, admit"Education and the design and the de Jan. 14, 2020, interview of ted to police they plotted to kill happening until it happened," Stephen by Jay County Sher-Briar, 31, over a custody disiff's Office detectives Mitch pute. A third suspect, Hannah Probable cause affidavits Sutton and Ben Schwartz.

In his opening statement Tuesday morning, Jay County prosecutor Wes Schemenaur said Stephen, who goes by the nickname "EJ," told police, "Things would just be easier without him." (Stephen and Briar shared a child.)

According to probable cause affidavits filed in connection tionally committed murder.

also been charged with Briar's murder. Hiestand's trial is scheduled for August, while Knapke's is set for September.

Jill Gonzalez, Stephen's attorney, responded in her Stephen knowingly and inten-

"EJ didn't know what was

Probable cause affidavits Knapke, 19, Fort Recovery, has filed in connection with the case say Stephen distracted Briar while Hiestand retrieved a gun and shot him once in the back, resulting in his death.

Schemenaur called nine witnesses to testify in the first of opening statement by saying three scheduled murder trials prosecutors have to prove connected to Briar's shooting death.

See Trial page 2

'Virtual students' will be fully **funded**

Indiana Senate OKs bill on school finances

By CASEY SMITH

Associated Press and Report for America

INDIANAPOLIS Senate bill aimed at ensuring Indiana's public schools receive full funding for all students during the coronavirus pandemic is headed to the governor after lawmakers fast-tracked its pas-

sage Tuesday.
The bill redefines what constitutes a "virtual student" and ensures schools receive full funding for all students, regardless of whether they are receiving instruction virtually or in the classroom due to the coronavirus pandemic.

A twice-yearly count of students attending schools is used to determine how much money the state allots to each facility. According to the Senate bill, students will not be counted as "virtual" in the most recent fall and spring counts, even if most or all of their learning takes place online.

Without that change, an estimated \$160 million would be on the line for schools using hybrid formats or offering instruction online only as a means to minimize the potential spread of COVID-19. Current state law caps perpupil funding for students who take at least half their classes virtually at 85% of full in-person student fund-

Most Indiana schools offered both in-person and online options this school year, though some have gone fully virtual at times during periods of peak coronavirus spread.

The bill covers only the spring 2021 semester. State officials in September approved a similar method to maintain full funding for school districts during the fall semester.

Eight die in Georgia

By KATE BRUMBACK ssociated Press

ATLANTA — A series of shootings over nearly an hour at three Atlanta-area massage parlors left eight people dead and raised fears that the attack was yet another hate crime against Asian Americans.

Police arrested a 21-yearold Georgia man and said the motive wasn't immediately known, though many of the victims were women of Asian descent. The attacks began Tues-

day evening, when five people were shot at Youngs Asian Massage Parlor in Acworth, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) north Atlanta, Cherokee County Sheriff's Office spokesman Capt. Jay Baker said. Two people died at the scene, and three were taken to a hospital where two died, Baker said.

Atlanta-area shootings seem to target Asian **Americans**

police responding to a call about a robbery found three women dead from apparent gunshot wounds at Gold Spa near Atlanta's Buckhead area, where tattoo parlors and strip clubs are just blocks away from mansions and skyscrapers in one of the last ungentrified holdouts in that part of the city. While there, the officers learned of a call About an hour later, reporting shots fired at Baker said.

another spa across the street, Aromatherapy Spa, and found another woman apparently shot dead.

"It appears that they may be Asian," Atlanta Police Chief Rodney Bryant said.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said President Joe Biden has been briefed on the "horrific shootings" and administration officials have been in contact with the mayor's office and the FBI.

Surveillance recorded a man pulling up to the Acworth business about 10 minutes before the attack there, authorities said. The same car was spotted outside the Atlanta businesses.

manhunt launched, and Robert Aaron Long, of Woodstock, was taken into custody in Crisp County, about 150 miles south of Atlanta,



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Empowering performance

Just Treble, including sophomore Laci McGinnis (front), performs Monday during a special concert at Jay County High School. The JCHS show choir group, which performed a show with an empowerment theme, concluded its season Saturday with a third-place finish in the Garrett Railroader Rush Invitational.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 46 degrees Tuesday. The low was 34.

Tonight's low will be in the low 40s with rain expected after 10 p.m. and winds gusting to 20 miles per hour. More rain is in the forecast for Thursday with winds gusting to 40 miles per hour and a high of 47.

See page 2 for an extended out-

In review

Need to fill out a birth announcement, engagement or wedding form to have your special event announced in the newspaper? They're now available electronically. Just go to thecr.com, hover over "Forms" and select the form you'd like to fill out.

Coming up

Thursday — Coverage of today's Portland Board of Aviation meeting.

Saturday — Results from the first round of the NCAA men's basketball tournament.



Continued from page 1

Witnesses included the Geneva reserve police officer who bridge over Loblolly Creek on county road 125 West, just south of county road 850 North, where Briar was found about 2 a.m. Jan. 12. Two Indiana State Police investigators, an ISP forensic scientist and the forensic pathologist who performed Briar's autopsy, were also called to the witness stand.

resident who babysat the child Stephen and Briar shared on the night of Briar's death, testified Stephen and Hiestand had previously met with her a half dozen times to discuss ways they could

Stephen had allegedly put crushed pills in a tea she gave to was the first to respond to a Briar. Sibray later said she didn't take those discussions or the alleged incident with pills seriously.

Sibray also testified she babysat for Stephen on the night of the murder not knowing exactly why a babysitter was needed. Sibray said she tried to ask what Stephen was doing during the time she cared for the Kristi Sibray, a rural Portland child but was unable to get a straight answer. She added Stephen later said, "You'll hear about it in a couple days."

According to forensic pathologist Dr. Scott Wagner's autopsy. Briar died of a single gunshot

Monday

62/45

"get rid of" Briar," and that wound to the back. Wagner con-bullet fragment to the .22-caliber case allege that Stephen, Hiescluded a bullet — the caliber could not be identified entered Briar's back, punctured his aorta and passed through three chambers of his heart. Two metal fragments were discovered in the lining of Briar's heart.

Indiana State Police Sgt. John Petro, a field support region supervisor and crime scene investigator, testified Tuesday he obtained a .22-caliber rifle while searching Hiestand's home at 1391 W. 200 North. Stacey Hartman, a forensic scientist in the ISP's Fort Wayne Regional Laboratory's forensic firearms identification unit, testified she could not match the

rifle obtained from underneath what was determined to be Hiestand's bed.

Stephen was calm entering the courtroom as the trial began. She wiped away the occasional tear and appeared to cry during recess in the afternoon but otherwise sat attentive without showing any other emotion.

The trial, which is scheduled for five days, opened Monday, with jury selection taking most of the day. The process wrapped up about 3 p.m., with Judge Brian Hutchison then calling a recess for the day and scheduling opening statements for Tuesday morning.

Court documents filed in the

tand and Knapke picked Briar up at his Portland home with plans to "hang out" and drove Knapke's vehicle to the road 125 West bridge over Loblolly Creek. There, they say, Stephen distracted Briar to allow Hiestand to retrieve a gun from the vehicle and shoot Briar once in the back. Briar was found on the bridge about 2 a.m. Jan. 12 and died later the same day at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

All three women are being held in Jay County Jail without bond, pending their trials.

In Indiana, murder carries a sentence of 45 to 65 years, with an advisory sentence of 55 years.

CR almanac

| Thursday 3/18 | Friday 3/19 | Saturday 3/20 | 3/21 | | | |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|-------|--|--|--|
| 40 | | | | | | |
| 47/28 | 44/26 | 54/32 | 60/38 | | | |

begin in the morning and continue all Wind

as 40 mph.

Sunny skies by day and clear skies at night. Otherfreezing in the evening.

near freezing.

end will continwarmer davs skies. Nights

sunny day with and warm afternoon temperatures.

tures will con become warmer under mostly sunny skies. Cloudy at night.

Lotteries

Estimated

Powerball

jackpot: \$184 million

Mega Millions 10-41-46-52-69

Mega Ball: 8 Megaplier: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$105 million

Hoosier

Midday Daily Three: 3-9-2 Daily Four: 3-6-7-2 Evening Daily Three: 5-9-6 Daily Four: 6-6-0-5 Quick Draw: 5-7-15-16-

18-23-32-33-40-42-44-47-52-59-60-65-66-70-76-78 Cash 5: 17-20-26-30-38 Estimated jackpot: \$544,500

Ohio

\$110,000

Midday Pick 3: 5-4-9 Pick 4: 2-7-2-4 Pick 5: 9-3-8-9-7 **Evening** Pick 3: 8-2-9 Pick 4: 9-9-2-3 Pick 5: 6-7-4-2-8 Rolling Cash: 2-12-23-24-31 iackpot: Estimated

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery

| | 6.0 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| POET Portla | Biorefining and |
| Corn | 5.6 |

.....5.69 April corn5.73

The Andersons **Richland Township**

| Corn | 5.60 |
|-------------|-------|
| April corn | 5.60 |
| Beans | 14.24 |
| April beans | |
| Wheat | |
| April wheat | |
| - | |

Central States Montpelier

| Corn | 5.53 |
|-------------|-------|
| April corn | 5.55 |
| Beans | 14.25 |
| April beans | 14.25 |
| Wheat | 6.29 |
| July wheat | 6.01 |
| | |

St. Anthony

| Corn | 5.53 |
|-------------|------|
| April corn | 5.60 |
| Beans | |
| April beans | |
| Wheat | |
| April wheat | |

Today in history

New York held its first St. Patrick's Day parade. tion that would have con-

In 1776, the Revolutionary War Siege of Boston ended as British forces evacuated the city.

In 1936, Pittsburgh's Great St. Patrick's Day Flood began as the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers and their tributaries, swollen by rain and melted snow, started exceeding flood stage; the high water was blamed for more than 60 deaths.

In 1941, the National Gallery of Art opened in Washington, D.C.

In 1966, a U.S. Navy midget submarine located a missing hydrogen bomb that had fallen from a U.S. Air Force B-52 bomber into the Mediterranean Spain. (It took several more weeks to recover the bomb.)

States cast its first veto

Sunrise

| Corn | ე.ეკ |
|-------------|-------|
| April corn | 5.60 |
| Beans | 14.10 |
| April beans | 14.15 |
| Wheat | |
| April wheat | |
| - | |

On March 17, 1762, in the U.N. Security

sia.

Council, killing a resoludemned Britain for failing to use force to overthrow the white-ruled government of Rhode-

1971, Portland In Mayor Robert Ford filed to run for re-election. Also filing were Larry Baldauf for Portland City Council and Jack White for Dunkirk City Council.

In 1988, Avianca Flight 410, a Boeing 727, crashed after takeoff into a mountain in Colombia, killing all 143 people on board.

In 2003, edging to the brink of war, President George W. Bush gave Saddam Hussein 48 hours to leave his country. Iraq rejected Bush's ultimatum, saying that a U.S. attack to force Saddam from power would In 1970, the United be "a grave mistake."

—AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today

4 p.m. — Portland S. Mooney St. Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.

Thursday

Council, park cabin, 200

7 p.m. — Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian 6 p.m. — Redkey Town St., Portland.

Photo provided

Pet of the week

Ollie, a 2-year-old chihuahua/terrier mix that is spayed and up to date on vaccinations, can be adopted for \$100 from Jay County Humane Society, 1313 Shadeland Ave., Portland. The shelter can be reached at (260) 726-6339.

Portland City Court

Judge Donald Gillespie Fined and sentenced

Phillip J. Ball, Redkey, driving with a suspended license, \$160.50; Robert L. Brannon, Muncie, driving with false plates (\$160.50) and driving with a suspended license (\$25).

Failed to appear

Donnie A. Seeley, Connerville, driving with a suspended license.

Trials scheduled

Denny A. Clark, Eaton, driving with a suspended license, May 5; Jason M. Kable, Portland, driving with false plates, March 24; Paul M. LeMaster, Portland, driving an off-road vehicle on the highway, May 5; Spencer M. Parkhurst, Noblesville, driving without insurance, May 5.

Deferrals

Rayven Potts, Garland Heights, Ohio, speeding 41 mph in a 30 mph zone, \$195.50.

Chandler O. Atkins, Upland, speeding 79 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$171; vehicle, \$160.50.

GIVE US A CALL TODAY!!!

Drew B. Elliott, Marion, speeding 76 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$171; Blake W. Clabough, Rockford, Ohio, driving without a valid license, \$160.50; Justin L. House, Farmland, speeding 69 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$149.50; Duncan T. Homan, Indianapolis, expired plates, \$169.50; Heather D. Jones, Portland, speeding 50 mph in a 40 mph zone, \$145.50; Donna S. Chenoweth, Portland, disregarding auto signal, \$160.50; Kamran R. Miller, Portland, driving without registration (\$160.50) and driving without a valid license (\$25); Daniel Willoughby, Dunkirk, driving without a valid license (\$160.50); Connie K. Shannon, Muncie, driving with expired plates, \$160.50; Estaban A. Gomez-Rochan, Dunkirk, driving with false plates (\$160.50) and driving without a valid license (\$25); Stephanie L. Smith, Hartford City, speeding 74 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$154.50; Christopher M. Wright, Ridgeville, illegal display of a blue light, \$160.50; Tyler A. Martinez-Crews, Celina, Ohio, driving without a valid license, \$160.50; Anthony W. Dibattiste, Dunkirk, driving with expired plates, \$160.50; Landon J. Patterson, Muncie, failing to register his

Felony arrests

Resisting officers

A Portland man was arrested Monday for resisting law enforcement.

Robert A. Songer, 32, 997 S. Boundary Pike, was preliminarily charged a Level 6 felony for resisting law enforcement and a Class A misdemeanor for driving with a suspended license. He bonded from Jay County Jail for \$25,500.

Drug possession

Two Portland residents were arrested early Tuesday for drug possession. Nathan M. Ross, 38, 702 S.

Western Ave., was preliminarily charged a Level 6 felony for possession of cocaine, methamphetamine or narcotic drugs. He was also preliminarily charged a Class A misdemeanor for possessing a firearm, a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. Ross was released from Jay County Jail on \$4,500 bond. Ashley A. Robinette, 33,

120 W. Bittersweet Lane, was preliminarily charged a Level 6 felony for possession of cocaine, methamphetamine or narcotic drugs, a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. She was booked into Jay County Jail on \$4,500 bond.

SERVICES

Zorn, Paul: 2

Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St. Portland.

Thursday

Ramey, Shirley: I p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Stephens, Bernie: 2 p.m., Meacham Funeral Service, 648 W. State St., Albany.

Friday Jenney, John: noon, 1911 S. Main St., Goshen.

Yager, Eric: 3 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

> Service listings provided by **PROGRESSIVE OFFICE PRODUCTS** 120 N. Meridian St.

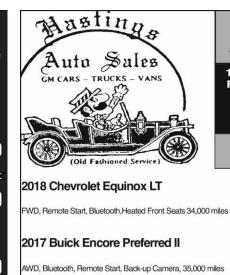
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mote start. Bluetooth, backup camera 37,500 miles

Poetry column relaunched

winning poet, author and editor Kwame Dawes this week published his first weekly column as American Life in Poetry editor, in partnership with the Poetry Foundation and University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and relaunches a new and engaging website to connect people to poetry through interests, geography and representation.

Dawes carries the column forward after founding editor and curator, Ted Kooser, retired after 15 years as project creator and editor. The first poem featured is "They Dance Through Granelli's" by Pat Emile — an homage to the recently retired editorial assistant of the project for 15 years. Dawes seeks to maintain and expand the original vision for the column by continuing to reach readers through local news media outlets, as well as subscribers to the newsletter that publishes weekly on Mon-

"This column is rooted in the everyday, the broad sense of Americanness that eschews elitism and that embraces a democratic sense of lives that make sense to a vast cross section of the population, Dawes said. "I welcome readers who can engage in a wide section of American life, can find poetry that speaks to various aspects of American existence, and that somehow embraces the full range of this America."

Along with a completely refreshed visual statement, the website features increased browsing and discovery capabilities, new photography, and an increased social media presence. Front and center allows users By KWAME DAWES

Pat Emile, who served as assistant editor to American Life in Poetry for over a decade, was described by past editor, Ted Kooser, as 'Jill-Of-All-Trades for this column." I was fortunate enough to enjoy her sensitive ear for the rightly tuned poem, and her generosity as a liaison with poets, publishers and our collaborating periodicals, as a necessary component of the train- Poetry.

ing for my tenure. It all makes sense, as Emile is, herself, a poet of fine taste, lovely insight and, as evidenced in this poem, "They Dance Through Granelli's," poet with a remarkable eye for sensual detail. Thank you, Pat, for all you have done for American Life in Poetry, and for your gift of delightful verse. Her poem is a fit way to start this exciting re-launch of American Life in

They Dance Through Granelli's

He finds her near the stack of green plastic baskets waiting to be filled and circles her waist with his left arm, entwines her fingers in his, pulls her toward him, Muzak from the ceiling shedding a flashy Salsa, and as they begin to move, she lets her head fall back, fine hair swinging a beat behind as they follow their own music—a waltz—past the peaches bursting with ripeness in their wicker baskets, the prawns curled into each other behind cold glass, a woman in a turquoise sari, her dark eyes averted. They twirl twice before the imported cheeses, fresh mozzarella in its milky liquid, goat cheese sent down from some green mountain, then glide past ranks of breads, seeds spread across brown crusts. bottles of red wine nested together on their sides. He reaches behind her, slides a bouquet of cut flowers from a galvanized bucket, tosses a twenty to the teenaged boy leaning on the wooden counter, and they whirl out the door, the blue sky a sudden surprise.

American Life in Poem Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Depart-Nebraska-Lincoln.

copyright ©2016 PatHemphill Emile, "They Dance Through Granelli's. Poem reprinted by permission of Pat Hemphill Emile. ment of English at Introduction copy-the University of right ©2021 by The right ©2021 by The Poetry Foundation.

columns by theme and newsletter or on social region.

media," Dawes said. "We "The site allows for want readers to stay on readers to dig deeper into the site for awhile and the ability to browse past what they may see in the get comfortable with Authors.

ways to engage with poems whether that's through a love of sports or geography.'

Dawes hopes new readers will connect with American Life in Poetry by finding columns that are approachable and speak to their interests, particularly for new poetry readers. With over 60 different themes that can be combined while searching, users can find a poem that speaks to gardening and unrequited love from the archive which includes more than 800 poems.

Dawes is the author of 22 books of poetry and numerous other books of fiction, criticism, and essays. His collection. "Nebraska," was published in 2020. He is George W. Holmes University Professor of English, Glenna Luschei Editor of Prairie Schooner at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and also teaches the Pacific MFA Program. He is Director of the African Poetry Book Fund and Artistic Director of the Calabash International Literary Festival. Dawes is a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

His awards include an Emmy, National Press Club Joan Friedenberg Award for Online Journalism, the Forward Poetry Prize, the Musgrave Silver Medal for contribution to the Arts in Jamaica, the Governor's Award for service to the arts in South Carolina, a Guggenheim Fellowship and the Windham Campbell Prize for Poetry. In 2009, he was inducted into the South Carolina Academy of

Happy host declines help

DEAR ABBY: I have seen letters in your column from people upset that their guests don't help them after dinner. I am the opposite. I held onto a poem you printed years ago and had it perma-plaqued and posted on a kitchen cabi-

For more than 20 years, my husband and I hosted a dinner every Sunday after church. I set the table for 10, but we often had more. When guests offered to help, I handed them a copy of that poem. Could you print it again for your readers? — FAITHFUL FOL-LOWER IN MASSACHU-

SETTS **DEAR** FOLLOWER: Gladly. That poem has been requested many times over the years. It resonates with hosts who are territorial about their space when entertaining. It is included in my booklet "Keepers," which is a collection of poems, essays and letters readers have told me they clipped and saved to reread until they were yellowed with age and fell apart. You were clever to perma-plaque yours. It can be ordered by sending your name and address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to Dear Abby Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447.

It's a quick and easy read as well as an inexpensive gift for newlyweds, pet lovers, new parents and anyone grieving or recovering from an illness.

STAY OUT OF MY KITCHEN by Susan Sawyer

Please stay away from my kitchen

From my dishwashing. cooking and such;

You were kind to have offered to pitch in

But thanks, no, thank you so much!

Dear Abby



Please don't think me ungracious

When I ask that you leave me alone;

For my kitchen's not any too spacious And my routine is

strictly my own. Tell you what: You stay out of my kitchen

With its sodden, hot, lackluster lures

When you're here, stay out of my kitchen And I promise to stay out of yours!

DEAR ABBY: I had weight-loss surgery six months ago. I haven't had the dramatic transformation that some people experience. I've only lost about 50 pounds.

My problem is, friends who know I had the operation keep asking me how much weight I lost. I think it's a rude question and none of their business. I understand people are curious, especially since they haven't seen me in person because of COVID restrictions. How do I answer without saying, "None of your business"?—LOSING IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR LOSING: Your friends may just be curious and want to congratulate you on a big loss, and 50 pounds is one. That said, you do not have to answer every question. All you need to say is, "I'll let you guess once you see me again." If they ask for a hint, stick to your guns and change the subject. Then consider this: They may be gauging the success of your surgery for them-

Community Calendar

Community Calendar as for a meal. For more infor- 726-9625 or (260) 703-0534. space is available. To sub- mation, call Pastor Randy anиет. *emaii* Davis at (765) 369-2085. news@thecr.com.

Today

AL-ANON 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)

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

Notices will appear in 122 W. Main St. Come early more information, call (206)

OF THE FRIENDS OPERA HOUSE — The Friends of Fort Recovery FAMILY Opera House committee will have an open meeting at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 17, in the Fort Recov-Elementary/Middle School Auditeria. The public is welcome. Check the Facebook page (Fort Recov-Opera Morvilius House) for potential rescheduling or cancellations.

STRESS AND ANXIETY CLASS — Meets each Wednesday at 2nd Chance at Life Ministries, 228 S. United Methodist Church, Meridian St., Portland. For

ı nursaay

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

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will meet at noon Friday at Harmony Cafe in Portland. Members are encouraged to wear a mask and practice social distancing.

CITIZENS SENIOR CARD CLUB Will meet at 1 p.m. on the first, second, third and fifth Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center.

EN AVÂNT CLUB Meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

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

JAY COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY — Will meet at 5:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Jay County Public Library.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 211 AUXILIARY Will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 11 at the American Legion building, 211 W. Walnut St., Portland

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

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 Thursday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

WABASH CANNON-BALLS 4-H CLUB — Will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 18, at Trinity Catholic Church.

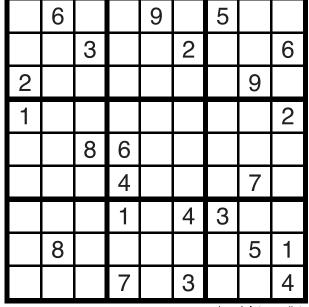


Jay County Development Corporation **Now Seeking: Jay County Community Developer**

Responsibilities include collaborating with communities and organizations to develop plans, researching and applying for grants essential for community development projects, providing support for implementation and oversight of grants, providing support for fundraising initiatives, and developing ties among Jay County communities and organizations. This position requires a bachelor's degree in urban/regional planning, community development, or relevant social science and a minimum three years' experience in planning or community/economic development.

Interested candidates may see a full job description or learn more at www.jaycountydevelopment.org or by calling 260-726-9311. Resumes may be mailed to 118 S Meridian St, Ste B, Portland, IN 47371 or emailed to jhayes@jaycodev.org.

Sudoku



Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

| 7 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 9 |
|---|-----------------------|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 5 |
| 8 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 3 |
| 4 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 6 |
| 6 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 2 |
| 1 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 4 |
| 5 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 7 |
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Birmingham, Alabama attorney Robert Norris helps injured claimants, nationwide, collect cash benefits from Asbestos Trusts. "No representation is made that the quality of legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers."

Location is bad for a stone quarry

To the editor:

I come before you as a concerned citizen and taxpayer of this community.

U.S. Aggregates, the present the Editor owner of the old Meshberger Brothers stone quarry, is asking Portland Plan Commission to rezone the 109-acre former Confer farm on the south side of Tyson Road and across from Jay County High School from agricultural/residential to industrial. This move would allow them to mine the property. I am concerned about blasting, putting contaminants in the air and decreasing property values in the neighborhood.

The rumble felt from the

Letters to

blasting within the high school will be a frontal assault. U.S. Aggregates will tell you that Indiana regulations have a strict limit of 1 inch per second vibration per blast and that they are well below this number. This measurement is taken outside the building and does not include the effects of the blast inside the structure. At present,

shake, windows and dishes rattle and U.S. Aggregates wants to move closer to the school and city. This makes no sense.

Portland has the potential of growth to the west with residential housing; housing that would be close to the high school, our hospital and state highways. A stone quarry move to Tyson Road prevents this housing growth from happening. Who would develop that piece of land? Who would want to live that close to the stone quarry?

It doesn't seem to me that U.S. Aggregates did its homework very well. When I gave an 1,000-plus students and staff at

the high school rumbles, homes expected my students to do their School, residents of the west homework. Did U.S. Aggregates contact Jay School Corporation, local businesses and the people who live on the west side of Portland or Portland itself when they bought the land two and a half years ago?

I haven't heard from anyone who believes the stone quarry should move across from our junior-senior high school or this close to the city. It's not a good neighborhood move.

U.S. Aggregates put the cart before the horse when they bought the land before contacting their future neighbors — the assignment in my classroom I Jay County Junior-Senior High

side of Portland, including the Beacon Heights and Sheffer Acres developments.

As a retired teacher of 38 years, I would not accept the work that U.S. Aggregates is submitting today. They want this to be a done deal and us

naysayers to go away. U.S. Aggregates needs to go back to the drawing board and do the assignment as it should have been done two and a half years ago.

Look elsewhere, not so close to Portland.

Respectfully submitted, Florine M. Golden Portland

Haircut is a step toward normalcy

By JACK RONALD

The Commercial Review As I write this, it is "haircut eve."

Tomorrow, if all goes well, my wife and I will finally be getting much needed grooming.

We haven't completely forgone haircuts during the pandemic, but they happened less often. And as the second surge took place in the autumn, we were more inclined to let it grow.

While Connie has continued to be not only presentable but lovely over the past several months, I have often been disreputable.

Scruffy is another word that comes to mind.

And that, in turn, led to one amateur trim a month or so ago.

My mane, if you can call it that, was completely out of control. That was especially true at the back.

It wasn't enough for a ponytail or even a manbun. But it was thick.

Apparently, that's how hair works.

Years ago, Joe Biden now President of the United States — underwent a hair plug treatment to combat the thinning stuff on top. Where did they get the good stuff to transplant? From the back of the head, of

So a couple of months back, Connie took a whack at it. (That is undoubtedly the most accurate phrase.)

She cut and whacked. And while she wasn't thrilled with the results, I knew it was an improvement.

I looked less like a mountain man, less like Bigfoot and less like one of the Berenstain Bears.

Still, with a real haircut on the horizon and a sense of anticipation, I find myself thinking back to haircuts past:

•There was the time my mother decided to economize and bought a home barber kit. Apparently, the price jump from 25 cents to 50 cents at Antrim's was more than she could bear. All went well until that afternoon when I was about 12 when one of the trim guides fell off and she gave me a haircut that was variously described as a "reverse Mohawk" and "an accident with a

buzzsaw.' •There was the time my freshman year of college that I agreed to get a hair-cut as a "gift" for my

news@thecr.com.

Back in the Saddle



A bowl was not used. But it looked like a bowl had been used. If you've ever seen a label on Dutch Boy Paint, you'll have an idea of what I looked like afterward.

down in the barber's chair, someone hung a coat in front of the nearest mirror. That provided free license to cut it far shorter than I ever would have asked for. (My father liked it.)

came back from a summer hitchhiking Europe with hung down nearly to my shoulders. At my request, thing she'd never done

different.

Amanda hasn't much

And maybe, it will be one of those important steps as we attempt to get back to living the way we used to live before we ever heard

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Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141. 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

written about this

•There was the time I across locks bleached by the sun that my girlfriend/fiancée/now wife of nearly 50 years gave me a haircut, somebefore. A bowl was not used. But it looked like a bowl had been used. If you've ever seen a label on Dutch Boy Paint, you'll have an idea of what I looked like afterward.

But tomorrow will be

to work with. Thinning hair, long hair, graying hair. But she'll make it work.

maybe, just father's birthday. (I have a word about COVID-19.



Democracy requires free press

By GENE POLICINSKI Freedom Forum

There's a reason we need a free press, despite its faults and foibles: Democracy won't work without it.

The grand experiment in self-governance that is the United States is rooted in trust and confidence we all will work toward the greater good. But the nation's founders had experience with a king and his expected benevolence — and what could happen when things didn't work out.

So, they provided for three branches of government to balance each other, along with periodic elections before.) After I'd sat and the rights for us to assemble and seek change when we think things have gone astray.

All fine, but also relatively longterm solutions. How do we know what our government is doing, how well it is operating or whether our elected officials are up to the job?

Enter the only profession mentioned in the Constitution: A free press, to serve as a "watchdog on government." A free press the government cannot control, to offer an independent, regular update on behalf of the rest of us.

Let's stop to acknowledge that many of us are dissatisfied with the free press we have. Survey after survey shows low public trust in our news outlets and in the journalists who staff them.

But in those same Freedom Forum surveys about the First Amendment that began in 1997, the desire for that watchdog role remains high, often supported by a majority of people questioned.

How can these two results co-exist? The answers rest in what kind of press we mean. Much of the highly visible kerfuffle on social sites today concerns national reporting, and more narrowly, the political pundits on cable TV and the tiny percentage of journalists who are the White House press corps.

For most of us, today's journalism is something different — and much more relevant to us. We see a news media bringing us the day-to-day information we need to live our lives: What local officials are saying, fraud and abuse of public trust.

weather forecasts and crime, health and safety reports for our communities. The work of journalists helps us get things done. Reporters ask the questions we would ask if we could be there.

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

Jurors in Des Moines, Iowa, this week appeared to support the role of journalists as watchdog when they acquitted reporter Andrea Sahouri, who was arrested while covering a Black Lives Matter protest despite her repeated protestations that she was a journalist.

Local journalists, who are the vast majority of the 24,000-plus on the job today, live in the communities on which they report. In just the past month, they have reported on COVID-19 vaccination programs — both the successes and failures by officials we depend upon to keep us safe and fight the pandemic.

Other recent stories told by big and small news operations alike will benefit hundreds of thousands, if not millions of us.

A report on nursing homes in New York state disclosed they may have tested unproven COVID-19 treatments on residents, despite safety warnings, without telling family members. A news partnership in South Carolina found the state has dropped virtually all oversight of local officials' activities, leading to "questionable or illegal perks of holding public office." In Mississippi, residents now know a biodiesel plant is accused of illegally dumping hazardous material into public water-

Throughout our nation's history, it has been a free press that has probed, prodded and produced safer food and medicines and helped reveal waste,

Reporters uncover these stories only by poring over records, reviewing court documents and interviewing sources — activities most of us don't have the time, skill or opportu-The guarantee that a press is free

does not guarantee it will always be good or correct, or that we will like what it presents. But there are more ways than ever to get news and information and to find reports we can trust or verify.

Ironically, the newest source for news and information has helped create some of the greatest threats to a free press in the nation's history:

The web has decimated financial support for traditional media, and newer media is not yet robust enough to take its place. This results in "news deserts," where no regular sources of journalism exist.

Misinformation can now spread across the globe in milliseconds, sowing doubt, confusion and mistrust of the reports and motives of a free

The free press in any form has been weakened by cuts in staff, with surveys showing the ranks to be less than half of what they were 20 years

Not all the news about a free press is bleak. New financial models are being tested. Collaborations between news organizations and nonpartisan expert collectives have shown results. New attention is focused on regrowing the ranks of local journalism. But more is needed, from increased public support to new revenue sources to regaining the public trust.

On March 16, we celebrate the birthday of James Madison, the principal author of the First Amendment and the rest of the Bill of Rights. He called a free press "one of the great bulwarks of liberty."

This generation, perhaps unlike any other, is being called on to defend that bulwark and, in the process, protect our liberty.

••••• Policinski is a senior fellow for the First Amendment at the Freedom Forum. Emailgpolicinski@freedomforum.org.

The Commercial Review



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In review

Appointed

INDIANAPOLIS legislator from Evansville who is the second-ranking officer in the state Republican Party was sworn in Tuesday as Indiana's new secretary of state, taking over an office that oversees election issues statewide.

Gov. Eric Holcomb announced his selection of Republican state Rep. Holli Sullivan for the position. Sullivan replaced outgoing Secretary of State Connie Lawson, who said last month she was resigning with nearly two years left to her elected term.

Sullivan was first elected to the Indiana House in 2014 and won a new term in last November's election.

Putin OK'd

WASHINGTON Russian President Vladimir Putin authorized influence operations to help Donald Trump in last November's presidential election, according to a declassified intelligence assessment that found broad efforts by the Kremlin and Iran to shape the outcome of the race but ultimately no evidence that any foreign actor changed votes or otherwise disrupted the voting process.

The report released Tuesday from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence represents the most detailed assessment of the array of foreign threats to the 2020 election. These included efforts by Iran to undermine confidence in the vote and harm Trump's reelection prospects as well as Moscow operations that relied on Trump's allies to smear Joe Biden, the eventual winner.

Court rules

TOKYO — A Japanse court for the first time ruled Wednesday that same-sex marshould riage be allowed under the country's constitution, a moral victory that does not have any immediate legal consequence but could bolster efforts for legalization.

The Sapporo District Court said sexuality, like race and gender, is not a matter of individual preference, therefore prohibiting same-sex couples from receiving benefits given to heterosexual couples cannot be justified.

-Associated Press

Hall of **Famer**

Ron Boeckman, former funeral director Brockman-Boeckman Funeral Home, speaks after accepting the award as 2020 Hall of Fame inductee at the Fort Recovery Chamber of Commerce awards Sunday. banquet Boeckman retired in January after about 44 years as a licensed funeral director and embalmer in Fort Recovery.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Blinken critical of N. Korea

and KIM TONG-HYUNG **Associated Press**

SEOUL, South Korea — America's top diplomat on Wednesday criticized North Korea's human rights record and reiterated a vow to strip the country of its nuclear program, a day after Pyongyang warned Washington to "refrain from causing a stink" amid deadlocked nuclear negotiations.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in South Korea with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin earlier Wednesday as part of their regional tour aimed at boosting America's Asian alliances to better deal with growing challenges from China and North Korea.

"The authoritarian regime in North Korea continues to commit systematic and widespread abuses against its own people," Blinken said at the start of his meeting

with South Korean Foreign Minis- hold a joint "two plus two" meet- for (the) coming four years, it had their fundamental rights and freedoms and against those who repress them.'

Blinken called North Korea's nuclear and missile programs "a

threat to the region and to the world." He said the United States will work with South Korea, Japan and other allies to achieve the denuclearization of North Korea. How to get North Korea to

return to talks was sure to be a major focus of meetings between Blinken and Austin and South Korean officials.

When Austin separately met his South Korean counterpart Suh Wook on Wednesday, he said their countries' alliance "has never been more important" given "the unprecedented challenges posed by" North Korea and China.

The two top U.S. officials are to ment. "If it wants to sleep in peace

ter Chung Eui-yong. "We must ing with Chung and Suh on Thursstand with people demanding day in the first such contact day in the first such contact between the two countries in five years

U.S.-led diplomacy on North Korea's nuclear program has been in limbo since a February 2019 summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un collapsed over disputes on U.S.-led sanctions. Kim has since threatened to enlarge his nuclear arsenal in protest of what he called U.S. hostility.

On Tuesday, Kim's sister and a senior official in her own right, Kim Yo Jong, slammed the United States over its ongoing regular military drills with South Korea, which North Korea sees as an invasion rehearsal.

'We take this opportunity to warn the new U.S. administration," Kim Yo Jong said in a statebetter refrain from causing a stink at its first step.'

Some experts say Kim Yo Jong's statement was a pressure tactic and that Pyongyang may try to further raise animosities with weapons tests to boost its leverage in future negotiations with Washington.

North Korea didn't immediately react to Blinken's comments Wednesday.

While in Tokyo on Tuesday, Blinken said that Washington reached out to North Korea through several channels starting in mid-February, but it hasn't received any response. He said the Biden administration was looking forward to completing its policy review on North Korea in coming weeks and was looking both at possible "additional pressure measures" and "diplomatic paths."

Deeds

Sandra S. Schwieterman Mariana Gutierrez, warranty deed — Part of Lots 9 and 10, Block 10, original plat of Portland

Yvonne M. Thomas and D. Thomas Jack (deceased) to Yvonne M. Thomas, death deed — Part of Section 18, Pike Township, 10.34 acres; Part of Section 13, Jefferson Township, about 5.18 acres

Clemmons Properties LLC to Helen M. Basing, warranty deed — Lot 5. Block 43, Sutton Subdivision, Dunkirk

Marvin R. McBride Sr. and Vera S. McBride to Brandon W. Scott, warranty deed — Part of Section claim deed — Part of Sec-

Sandra S. Ireland and 5, Pike Township, 1.09 acres

> Elbert L. Keihn Jr. to himself and Amelia Keihn, warranty deed — Section 30, Jackson Township, 4 acres

Michael G. and Dawn M. Keller to Snyder Homes Inc., warranty deed — Part of Outlots 3 and 4, Bakers Addition, Portland

Lindsey K. Mann to Joel R. Posner, warranty deed — Part of Section 32, Jackson Township, 4 acres

Tomas Marentes Chavarria to Kristin L. Coleman and Jason M. Foster, warranty deed — Lot 53, Denny

Subdivision, Portland Byron Flesher to Byron and Wilma Flesher, quit tion 27, Pike Township, 1.4 acres

Byron and Wilma J. Jerid Flesher to Conatser and Stephanie R. Morgan, quit claim deed — Part of Section 27, Pike Township, 1.44 acres

Davis S. Brown to Skycrest Solar Energy LLC and Invenergy LLC, deed affidavit — Part of Section 11, Penn Township, 64 acres

Larry J. and Martha Robbins to Champ Properties LLC, warranty deed — Lot 14, Coon Second, Redkey

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to Kelsie Walter, warranty deed — Woodlawn Park Addition, Portland

Jocelyn N. Loyd Mann to herself and Joshua M. Township, 1 acre

Loyd, quit claim deed — Part of Section 27, Penn Township, Pennville

Jocelyn N. Loyd and Joshua M. Loyd to Jordan Bechtol, warranty deed – Part of Section 27, Penn Township, Pennville

Logan and David Rosenbeck to Jacob M. Hilty, warranty deed — Part of Section 5, Wabash Township, Bryant, 0.29 acres; Lots 3, 4, 6 and 7, Block 2, Section 5, Wabash Township, Bryant

Patrick Krieg to himself and Christine Krieg, quit claim deed — Part of Sec-

tion 21, Wayne Township Ramon N. and Lavetha M. Loucks to Erik C. Loucks, warranty deed — Part of Section 30, Wayne

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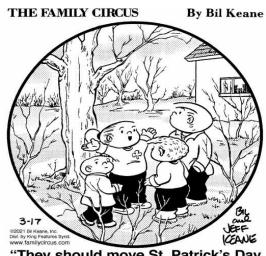


"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate

to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson





"They should move St. Patrick's Day to April. The world would be greener then.'

Peanuts















Agnes











Funky Winkerbean





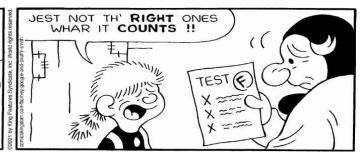












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ATTENTION! LOST A

30 LOST, STRAYED OR

FOUND

PET Or found one? The jay county humane society can serve as an information center. 260-726-

40 NOTICES

PLEASE NOTE: Be sure to check your ad the first day it appears. We cannot be responsible for more than one days incorrect copy. We try hard not to make mis-

what would you discard? It might seem odd, but the proper discard is

the queen of clubs! If you make this

play, South goes down two; if you

don't, South makes the contract. All he needs to do is to lead a club from

dummy and duck when you produce

the queen. Eventually he scores five

clubs, a diamond, two hearts and a

A very good case can be made for

discarding the queen of clubs. If South has the A-K-J, the queen is

worthless. And if South lacks one of these honors, West must have the ace,

king or jack as a potential entry to his diamonds. It follows that retention of

the queen cannot serve a useful pur-

pose, and, in fact, it is an albatross around your neck.

did not discard the queen of clubs,

electing to part with a spade instead.

But the Fates were extremely kind to

him. Declarer, looking neither to the right nor the left, led a club to the

king at trick four, paying no attention

South then continued with the

ace, hoping the jack would fall, but it didn't. He could then do no better

than play a third club and go down

two, thus proving that two wrongs

sometimes make a right.

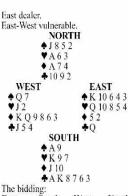
whatever to East's play of the queen

When the hand was played, East

Contract & By Steve Becker

Hot potato

spade.



The bidding:
South West Pass North 3 NT Pass Opening lead — king of diamonds. Perhaps you won't agree with

South's off-shape one notrump bid or North's raise to three, but that's the way the bidding went. Besides, on this deal the play's the thing, so let's get on with it.

West led the king of diamonds,

which won, and continued with the queen, which also won. Another diamond forced dummy's ace, and East had to find a discard.

Now if you were East and saw only dummy's hand and your own,

> Tomorrow: Computing the percentage play. ©2021 King Features Syndicate Inc.

3-17 **CRYPTOQUIP**

QUOP T PKLTDON LURL XEA

FODMOLJA RNNTPX FLMKPX

RJJKA MKNF LK DKPDMOLO,

UO QRF DREXUL FLOOJTPX. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BEING VERY UNHAPPY ABOUT ITS MIDAIR ATTACK DIVES, THE HAWK

DECIDED TO MAKE SWOOPING CHANGES. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals G

40 NOTICES

takes, but they do happen, and we may not know unless you call to tell us. Call before 12:00 pm for corrections. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland, Indiana 260-726-8141.

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THE DUNKIRK PARK **BOARD** is accepting applications for the following positions until April 16th pool manager, assistant manager, certified life guards, concessions, admissions, park labor. Applications can be picked up at The City Building is open from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm Monday-Friday EoE

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

The following county operating claims have been filed with the auditors office and will be presented to the Board of Commissioners Jay County, IN, at the regular session on March 22, 2021. Charlene Leist \$270.00 Herald

Craig E Buckles \$742.50 Dilcia Ruth Ruiz \$125.00 Four-U Office Supplies Inc \$47.81

Jay County Community \$20.00 Corrections Jessica Morgan \$90.00 Laboratory Corporation

\$76.50 Of Amer Matthew Bender And Company \$335.31 Meridian Services Corp\$5,200.00

Progressive Office Products \$25.75 Ronald May \$60.00 Telea K Wormer \$270.00 Verizon Wireless \$30.00 Wells Fargo Financial \$143.66 Leasing

Witness my hand and seal of the Board of Commissioners, Jay County, IN, Monday, March 22, 2021. Anna Culy

Jay County Auditor CR/NS 3-17-2021 HSPAXLP

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY, SS: IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT

38C01-2103-EU-000009 IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE $\begin{array}{c} \text{OF:} \\ \text{CAROL J. METTERT} \end{array}$

(Deceased)) NOTICE OF UNSUPER-

VISED ADMINISTRATION Notice is hereby given that Brad Mettert was appointed as Personal Representative of the estate of Carol J. Mettert, deceased, on the 10th day of March, 2021, who died on the 20th day of December,

All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred. Dated this 11th day of March,

Jon Eads

CLERK OF THE JAY CIR-

CUIT COURT COLDREN, FRANTZ & ${\bf SPRUNGER}$ Attorneys at Law P.O. Box 1013 Portland, IN 47371 $\operatorname{CR} \operatorname{3-17,24-2021} \operatorname{HSPAXLP}$

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

NOTICE OF REAL PROPERTY COMMISSIONERS' CERTIFI-Jay County Indiana Beginning 10:00 AM, April 28, 2021 Local Time STATE OF INDIANA JAY COUNTY

Pursuant to the laws of the Indiana General Assembly and by resolution of the Jay County Commissioners, notice is hereby given that the following described tracts or items of real property are listed for sale for delinquent taxes and / or special assess-

ments. The minimum sale prices listed below are less than the minimum sale prices when offered in the immediately preceding county tax sale held under Section 5 of IC 6-1.1-24 and include all fees $\,$ and expenses of the county directly attributable to the Commissioners' Certificate Sale. The Jay County Commissioners will accept bids for the certificates of sale, for the price referred to in IC 6-1.1-24-6.1(a)(3), by public auc tion on April 28, 2021 at 10:00 AM Courthouse Time at the Commissioners' Room. At the discretion of local officials, the sale may

switch to an online format. If those measures are taking place, the public auction will be conducted as an electronic sale under IC 6-1.1-24-6.3(c) at

www.zeusauction.com commencing on the same date / time listed above. All location updates will be posted at www.sriservices.com prior to the sale.

Pursuant to IC 6-1.1-24-5.1, a business entity that seeks to register to bid in an Indiana Commissioners' Certificate Sale must provide to the county treasurer, a Certificate of Authority from, or proof of registration with the Secretary of

State. Pursuant to IC 6-1.1-24-3(e), property descriptions may be omitted for properties appearing on the certified list in consecutive years. A complete property list may be obtained at www.sriservices.com or in an alternative form upon request.

A person redeeming each tract or item of real property after the sale of the certificate must pay: (A) the amount of the minimum bid under Section 5 of IC 6-1.1-24 for which the tract or item of real property was last offered for sale:

(B) ten percent (10%) of the amount for which the certificate is sold; (C) the attorney's fees and costs of giving notice under IC 6-1.1-25-4.5; (D) the costs of a title search or of examining and updating the abstract of title for the tract or item of real property; (E) all taxes and special assessments on the tract or item of real property paid by the purchaser after the sale of the certificate plus in terest at the rate of ten percent $\left(10\%\right)$ per annum on the amount of taxes and special assessments paid by the purchaser on the redeemed property; and (F), all costs of sale, advertising costs, and other expenses of the county directly attributable to the sale of

the certificate.

If the certificate is sold for an amount more than the minimum for which the tract or item of real property was last offered for sale and the property is not re-

deemed, the owner of record of the tract or item of real property who is divested of ownership at the time the tax deed is issued may have a right to the tax sale surplus.

Indiana law prohibits a person who owes delinquent taxes, special assessments, penalties, interest, or costs directly attributable to a prior tax sale, from purchasing tracts or items of real prop-erty at a tax sale. Prior to bidding at a tax sale, each bidder must affirm under the penalties for perjury that he or she does not owe delinquent taxes, special assessments, penalties, interest, costs directly attributable to a prior tax sale, amounts from a final adjudication in favor of a political subdivision in this county, any civil penalties imposed for the violation of a building code or ordinance of this county, or any civil penalties imposed by a health department in this county. Further, each bidder must acknowledge that any successful bid made in violation of the above statement

is subject to forfeiture. In the event of forfeiture, the bid amount shall be applied to the delinquent taxes, special assessments, penalties, interest, costs, judgments, or civil penalties of the ineligible bidder, and a certificate will be issued to the

county executive. The Commissioners specifically reserve the right to withhold from the sale any parcel which has been listed in error, or which otherwise becomes ineligible for sale either prior to the start or during the duration of the auction. The Auditor's Office does not warrant the accuracy of the key numbers or street addresses published herein and any misstatement in the key number or street address does not invalidate an otherwise valid sale.

Dated: 03/17/2021 Tax Unit Name:Pennville Town Owner of Record: Thad & Sons LLC Sale ID#: 382000009 Property ID#: 38-01-34-104-

010.000-011 Brief Legal Description: LOT 4 BLK 8 EAST ADD Property Address: 295 S Washing-ton St PENNVILLE 47369 Minimum Bid: \$135.13 Tax Unit Name:Dunkirk City

Owner of Record: Fisher Howard Sale ID#: 382000015 Property ID#: 38-09-08-103-005.000-014 Brief Legal Description: LOT 19 BLK 37 O P

Property Address: Vacant Lot W Washington St DUNKIRK 47336 Minimum Bid: \$73.13 Owner of Record: Jones Audrey & Clifford Richrd W/full Rights of Surv Sale ID#: 382000016

Property ID#: 38-09-08-103-007.000-014 Brief Legal Description: 40 X 130 O L 5 O P Property Address: Vacant Lot W Commerce St DUNKIRK 47336

Minimum Bid: \$101.27 Owner of Record: Nibarger Jenifer Sale ID#: 382000018 Property ID#: 38-09-08-103-111.000-014 Brief Legal Description: 60'

LOTS 1 & 2 BLK 14 OP Property Address: 410 S Franklin St DUNKIRK 47336 Minimum Bid: \$473.80 Owner of Record: Duty Donna Sale ID#: 382000020 Property ID#: 38-09-08-104-

083.000-014 Brief Legal Description: LOT 5 RAILROAD ADD Property Address: Vacant Lot E Railroad St DUNKIRK 47336 Minimum Bid: \$4.83 Owner of Record: Duty Donna J & Ellen Kathleen Jt W/rghts Of

Surv

Sale ID#: 382000021 Property ID#: 38-09-08-104-084.000-014 Brief Legal Description: LOT 6 & W 1/2 LOT 7 RAILROAD ADD Property Address: 225 Railroad St DUNKIRK 47336 Minimum Bid: \$45.90 Owner of Record: Rq Tax Lien Investment Inc Richard Quizon

Sale ID#: 382000025 Property ID#: 38-09-08-402-086.000-014 Brief Legal Description: LOT 8 EVANS & WILSON ADD Property Address: Vacant Lot Orange Ave DUNKIRK 47336 Minimum Bid: \$174.52 Owner of Record: Turner Bruce

Sale ID#: 382000030 Property ID#: 38-09-09-202-099.000-014 Brief Legal Description: LOT 140 MT AUBURN ADD Property Address: Vacant Lot Johnson St DUNKIRK 47336

Minimum Bid: \$242.71 Owner of Record: Turner Bruce L & Leslie Sale ID#: 382000031 Property ID#: 38-09-09-202-100.000-014

Brief Legal Description: LOT 141 & 25' W SIDE OF LOT 142 MT $AUBURN\ ADD$ Property Address: Vacant Lot Johnson St DUNKIRK 47336 Minimum Bid: \$192.78 Owner of Record: Anderson

Property ID#: 38-09-09-202-134.000-014

Property Address: Vacant Land Located Between E High St & Johnson St DUNKIRK 47336 Minimum Bid: \$181.35 Owner of Record: Morehead Steven Michael

High St DUNKIRK 47336 Minimum Bid: \$352.97 Owner of Record: Norris Logan James & Casey Rae Brock Sale ID#: 382000036

10 SNIFF & JOHNSON SD Property Address: 509 E North St

DUNKIRK 47336

Cindy Sale ID#: 382000032 Amanda Crystal Sale ID#: 382000048 Property ID#: 38-03-17-301-Brief Legal Description: PT W PT O L 39 018.000-021 Sale ID#: 382000033 Property ID#: 38-09-09-203-003.000-014 Brief Legal Description: LOT 1 -013.003-023 2 J M SMITH SUB DIV Property Address: Vacant Lots E Property ID#: 38-09-09-203-Brian Lee Sale ID#: 382000058 Property ID#: 38-10-15-403-093.000-014 Brief Legal Description: LOT 8-

Minimum Bid: \$134.01 Owner of Record: Dutch LLC Sale ID#: 382000037 Property ID#: 38-09-09-203-101.000-014 Brief Legal Description: LOT 7 SNIFF & JOHNSON SUB DIV

Property Address: Vacant Lot E North St DUNKIRK 47336 Minimum Bid: \$466.02 Owner of Record: Botts Deloris Janet & Hare John R Sale ID#: 382000038 Property ID#: 38-09-09-203-

130.000-014

Brief Legal Description: PT LOT 3 45 X 150 PT LOT 3 45 X 60 SUL-LIVAN ADDITION
Property Address: 422 E Washington St DUNKIRK 47336Minimum Bid: \$108.83 Owner of Record: Johargy Terek Sale ID#: 382000039 Property ID#: 38-09-09-302-

052 000-014 Brief Legal Description: LOTS 6 & 7 & PT LOT 5 (3' ON W END & 1 1/2' ON E END) D P COLES ADD Property Address: 116 S Fourth St DUNKIRK 47336 Minimum Bid: \$321.12

Owner of Record: Nickley Lawrence W & Freda J Sale ID#: 382000040 Property ID#: 38-09-09-302-060.000-014 Brief Legal Description: LOT 16 C P COLES ADD Property Address: 147 E Third St DUNKIRK 47336

Minimum Bid: \$26.52 Tax Unit Name: Brvant Owner of Record: Miller Jonathan W Sale ID#: 382000045 Property ID#: 38-03-17-204-027.000-021 Brief Legal Description: LOT 6

Property Address: Lot Behind Or E Of 102 E Elm St BRYANT 47326 Minimum Bid: \$2,061.98 Owner of Record: Hanlin Perry L & Jacqueline L Whitcomb Jt W/rts Surv Sale ID#: 382000047

BLK 3

Property ID#: 38-03-17-204-054.001-021 Brief Legal Description: LOT 7 BLK 7 OP Property Address: 104 W Main St BRYANT 47326 Minimum Bid: \$4,817.77 Owner of Record: Robinson

Brief Legal Description: 65' S END OF LOT 4 BLK 14 Property Address: 103 S Hendricks BRYANT 47326 Minimum Bid: \$2,025.44 Tax Unit Name:Jackson Twp Owner of Record: Taylor Rick D Sale ID#: 382000053 Property ID#: 38-02-16-300-

Brief Legal Description: PT NE 1/4 SW 1/4 S16 T24 R13 .79 A Property Address: Vacant Land W 650 N BRYANT 47326 Minimum Bid: \$50.92 Tax Unit Name: Jefferson Owner of Record: Garringer

028.000-024 Brief Legal Description: LOT 8 W

ADD NEW MT PLEASANT S15

T22 R13 Property Address: Vacant Lot Main St New Mt Pleasant PORT-LAND 47371 Minimum Bid: \$66.72 Tax Unit Name: Owner of Record: Farris Betty E

Sale ID#: 382000078 Property ID#: 38-11-15-100-008.000-029 Brief Legal Description: PT NE 1/4 NE 1/4 S15 T22 R14.50A PER SURVEY Property Address: Land -boundary Pike PORTLAND 47371

Tax Unit Name: Fax Unit Name: Redkey
Owner of Record: Fugiett Rodney F Sale ID#: 382000087 Property ID#: 38-09-23-101-054.000-031 Brief Legal Description: PT NE PT OF W 1/2 LOT 34 & SECOND

Minimum Bid: \$31.17

STORY OF BLDG ON ALL LOT 34 OΡ Property Address: 2nd Story of Building on Lot REDKEY 47373 Minimum Bid: \$3,189.30 Owner of Record: Appenzeller Harry H Jr

Sale ID#: 382000091 Property ID#: 38-09-23-101-114.000-031 Brief Legal Description: N PT LOT 46 OP Property Address: Vacant Land Union St REDKEY 47373 Minimum Bid: \$128.27 Owner of Record: Russell

Richard W Ii Sale ID#: 382000094 Property ID#: 38-09-24-201-022.000-031 Brief Legal Description: LOT 33 CADWALLADER & EDGER 2ND

ADD Property Address: 301 E Bell Ave REDKEY 47373 Minimum Bid: \$75.51 Owner of Record: Lanning Lisa Sale ID#: 382000096 Property ID#: 38-09-24-201-039.000-031 Brief Legal Description: LOTS 25-28 MARIETTA GLASS CO Property Address: 237 E Delaware St REDKEY 47373 Minimum Bid: \$827.88

Owner of Record: Crabtree Ru ble M & Connie R Sale ID#: 382000099 Property ID#: 38-09-24-203-045.000-031 Brief Legal Description: E 1/2 LOTS 111-113 MJ DAUGHERTY

ADD
Property Address: 418 E Logan REDKEY 47373
Minimum Bid: \$52.70
Owner of Record: Forrester John D Sale ID#: 382000102

Property ID#: 38-09-24-302-007.000-031 Brief Legal Description: LOT 11 CURRENT S SD ADD Property Address: Lot- E Grandview St REDKEY 47373 Minimum Bid: \$34.36 Owner of Record: Forrester John

D Sale ID#: 382000103 Property ID#: 38-09-24-302-008.000-031 Brief Legal Description: LOT 12 CURRENTS SOUTH SIDE ADD Property Address: 120 E Grand view Ave REDKEY 47373 Minimum Bid: \$40.63 Tax Unit Name:Portland City

Owner of Record: Baileys of Portland Inc Sale ID#: 382000112 Property ID#: 38-07-20-104-126.000-034 Brief Legal Description: E 1/2 OF

LOT 1 BLK 18 O P Property Address: 201 W Main St PORTLAND 47371 38-07-20-104-126.000-034, 38-07-20-104-126.001-034, and 38-07-20-104-

126.002-034 are to be sold and redeemed together. Minimum Bid: \$1,876.53 Owner of Record: Baileys of Port-

Sale ID#: 382000113 Property ID#: 38-07-20-104-126.001-034 Brief Legal Description: E 1/2 OF LOT 2 BLK 18

Property Address: 205 W Main St PORTLAND 47371 38-07-20-104-126 000-034, 38-07-20-104-126 001-034, and 38-07-20-104-126.002-034 are to be sold and re-

deemed together. Minimum Bid: \$701.70 Owner of Record: Baileys Furniture Store Sale ID#: 382000114 Property ID#: 38-07-20-104-

126.002-034 Brief Legal Description: W 1/2 OF LOT 1 BLK 18 O P Property Address: 203 W Main St PORTLAND 47371 38-07-20-104-126.000-034, 38-07-20-104-126.001-

034, and 38-07-20-104-126.002-034 are to be sold and re deemed together. Minimum Bid: \$717.26 Owner of Record: Beymer Robert

O

Sale ID#: 382000126 Property ID#: 38-07-21-203-076.000 - 034Brief Legal Description: 11FT SPT LOT 2 BLK 11 OP 11FT NPT LOT 3 BLK 11 OP

Property Address: 123 N Meridian St PORTLAND 47371 Minimum Bid: \$277.55 Owner of Record: Community Care Care Centers Inc

Property ID#: 38-07-20-203-026.001-034 Brief Legal Description: PT OL3 (85' X 281') WPA ADD S20 T23 T14 Property Address: 200 N Park St

PORTLAND 47371

Sale ID#: 382000999

Minimum Bid: \$6,632.02 Total Number of Properties: I hereby certify that the above real properties have been offered in one tax sale, have not received a bid for at least the amount required under I.C. 6-1.1-24-5 and have been identified in a resolution of the Board of Commissioners for Jay County, Indiana, to be offered for sale.

Given under my hand and seal on 03/17/2021.

Anna Culy, Auditor, Jay County Indiana.

CR/NS 3-3,10,17-2021ß-HSPAXLP

Page 8 The Commercial Review www.thecr.com

Jay tops AC in season finale

The Patriots capped their year with a couple notches in the win column.

Jay County Junior High School's boys and girls swim teams concluded their respective seasons by beating the Adams Central Jets on Tuesday.

The girls won 186-93 for a 5-1 record, while the boys ended 2-4 with their 132-45 victory.

Lincoln Clamme was the lone dual winner for the Patriot boys, taking first in both the 200-yard freestyle and 100 breaststroke. He had times of 3 minutes, 1.14 seconds, and 1:39.56, respectively. Clamme also joined Clemmons, George Matthew Fisher and Peyton Yowell to win both the 200 medley relay (2:31.51) and 200 freestyle relay (2:15.3).

Josh Monroe (100 individual medley –1:28.55), David Keen (400 free– 6:12.07), Fisher (50 butterfly – 39.59 seconds) and Yowell (100 freestyle - 1:15.11) all had individual victories as well.

Brasen Glassford, Aryan Montes, Monroe and Keen were uncontested in the 300 freestyle relay.

Patriot boys win every event while girls take all but two

Aubrey Millspaugh and Lauren Fisher were both double winners for the Patriot girls. Millspaugh handled the 200 freestyle (2:37.01) and 400 freestyle (5:27.98) while Fisher won the 50 butterfly (30.98) and 100 breaststroke (1:25.62).

Getting individual wins were Maddy Snow (diving -1:26.65), Morgan DeHoff (100 IM - 1:14.22), Sophia Hoevel (100 freestyle – 1:10.36) and Avery Wentz (100 backstroke – 1:14.73)

Wentz, Fisher, DeHoff and Millspaugh combined to win the 200 medley relay in 2:20.03, while Fisher, Millspaugh, Hoevel and DeHoff won the freestyle relay in 2:03.3).



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Rippin' $\underset{\text{Ryne Post of the}}{Ryne}$

Fort Recovery High School baseball team rips a hit during batting practice on Monday evening in the Student Activity Center at FRHS. Post and the Indians are set to begin their 2021 season March 20 at Celina.

James takes stake in Red Sox ownership

By TIM REYNOLDS

AP Basketball Writer

LeBron James is becoming a part-owner of the Boston Red

A person with knowledge of the situation said Tuesday that James — the Los Angeles Lakers star — and his longtime business partner Maverick Carter are now partners in the Fenway Sports Group. The person, who did not

reveal the size of the investment parent company of the Red Sox as made by James or Carter, spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because none of the parties involved had announced the moves publicly.

The Boston Globe first reported the news, and The New York Times and ESPN also reported that James and Carter were becoming partners.

Fenway Sports Group is the ment.

well as the Liverpool Football Club of the English Premier League and the Roush Fenway Racing NASCAR team.

Fenway Sports Group Chairman Tom Werner did not immediately respond to an email from The Associated Press seeking comment. A spokeswoman for the Red Sox and FSG declined to com-

ship in one respect: James has long professed to being a New York Yankees fan, though he has also shown allegiances to the Cleveland Indians and Los Angeles Dodgers in recent years.

And now, he'll be linked to the Red Sox — the Yankees' biggest

James has had a relationship with FSG since 2011, when he ny SpringHill Entertainment.

It is a most unusual relation- signed a marketing deal in exchange for a small ownership stake in Liverpool.

> The move only enhances James' business empire. The four-time NBA champion with Miami, Cleveland and the Lakers is believed to have the NBA's top endorsement portfolio. He also has the media company Uninterrupted and a production compa-



Ad(s) must run in April. April 5 _____pay \$5/column inch (This is 62% off regular price!)

April 6 _____pay \$6/column inch

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(regular price - \$987.50) • pick-up in CR - \$200

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(Ads must run in April.)

II (260) 726-81 or email ads@thecr.com

Six officials out of tourney INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Parts of the first reported by The New York Times.

NCAA's finely honed plan for playing March Madness amid the pandemic came into question Tuesday just as teams began games later this week.

One referee tested positive for COVID-19, forcing him and five others who went out to dinner with him, out of the tourna-

Their excursion ran counter to a protocol that called on all players and staff to eat at their NCAA hotels, but because the refs' rooms weren't ready and there was no food available, they were given a pass.

It resulted in a big shake-up of the officiating corps for the games, 52 of which take place Thursday through next Monday at different arenas in Indianapolis, Bloomington and Purdue. Though the NCAA brought plenty of backup referees, the mass departure served up yet another illustration of how things can go wrong.

"It's not ever going to be perfect in a pandemic," NCAA vice president Dan Gavitt said. "It's an unfortunate and disappointing circumstance for all involved. But I don't think there's something that can be pinpointed as a kind of failure here. Just an unfortunate set of circumstances.

Earlier, questions arose after coach Rick Pitino ran a late-night practice with his Iona team as part of the NCAA's late and unannounced change in testing protocol,

Gavitt portrayed that as a "practical adjustment," and not a major change.

He said players were initially going to be gearing up for practices to tune up for the required to pass two COVID-19 tests no less than 12 hours apart on different calendar days to be eligible to practice after they arrived. Iona took its two tests in the same day, and Gavitt said the change had been OK'd by the NCAA medical advisory

group and the local health department. Pitino said he was given the green light for the Sunday night workout, and so, he went. Iona missed 60 days in the middle of the season because of the virus.

"I gave four guys the night off," Pitino said. "We practiced a lot of the other guys who didn't get a lot of minutes" in Iona's league championship game win Saturday.

On another front, Georgia Tech coach Josh Pastner announced a member of his school's traveling party tested positive. He did not disclose whether it was a player, but noted the person will not be back unless the Yellow Jackets advance to the

"It's a gut punch," Pastner said. "It stinks.

Gavitt said there were five positive tests out of 2,300 that had been analyzed so far in Indianapolis, but that those five did not necessarily involve team personnel, and could also have included staff with access



The Assistant Director of Food Service at Swiss Village, Inc., will be responsible for overseeing food production processes throughout the facility and ensuring quality in taste, appearance, temperature, and sanitation. This position will be responsible for providing input and recommendations on menus, recipes, work simplification, and food production. This position will assist the Director of Food Service in managing all food service employees.

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Letter to:

Taylor Lehman, Vice President of HR Swiss Village, Inc.1350 W. Main St. Berne, IN 46711 careers@swissvillage.org

On tap

Local schedule

Thursday Fort Recovery — Baseball scrimmage at Tri-Village – 5 p.m.; Softball scrimmage at Perry – 5 p.m.

Saturday Fort Recovery — Softball scrimmage vs. Lima Senior – 11 a.m.

Monday

Fort Recovery — Baseball scrimmage vs. Perry - 5 p.m.; Softball scrimmage vs. Celina - 5 p.m.

Thursday

Fort Recovery — Baseball scrimmage at Cory-Rawson – 5:30 p.m.

TV schedule

7 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Indiana

Pacers vs. Brooklyn Nets (FSIN); Milwau-kee Bucks at Philadelphia 76ers (ESPN) 9:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Los Angeles Clippers at Dallas Mavericks

5:10 p.m. — Men's College Basket-ball: NCAA Tournament – Texas Southern

vs. Mount St. Marys (truTV) 6:27 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: NCAA Tournament - Drake vs. Wichita State (TBS) 8:40 p.m. - Men's College Basket-

ball: NCAA Tournament – Appalachian State vs. Norfolk State (truTV) 9:57 p.m. — Men's College Basket-ball: NCAA Tournament – UCLA vs. Michi-