The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

Interrogation evidence

Prosecution turns to video; Stephen is testifying today

BV CHRIS SCHANZ

The Commercial Review The state has presented its Briar of Port-

The jury has only one more resumed at 8:30

testimonial to hear — the defendant's. Jay County prosecutor Wes the

Schemenaur rested his case stand. Wednesday in Jay Circuit Court on day three of the scheduled five-day murder sion revolved around a Jan. 14, trial of Esther J. Stephen, 30, Portland.

women charged in the Jan. 12, now retired, and captain Ben

2020, murder of 31-year-old Shea land. The trial a.m. today with Stephen taking witness The bulk of

Wednesday's ses-2020, interview conducted by Jay County Sheriff's Office Stephen is one of three detectives Mitch Sutton, who is

Schwartz.

women and six men — were presented with a more than 120-page transcript of the nearly two-hour interrogation of Stephen, who court documents allege plotted to kill Briar along with 19-year-olds Shelby Hiestand, Portland, and Hannah Knapke, Fort Recovery, over a custody dispute. (Stephen and Briar shared a child.)

Hiestand and Knapke have phone dialed his number unin-

also been charged in the case. tentionally. She later admitted Jurors — 12 total with two Hiestand's trial is set for alternates composed of eight August, while Knapke's is scheduled for September.

> which Stephen's statements are difficult to decipher at times, she first denies having had recent contact with Briar or any knowledge of who might want to kill him.

As interrogators reveal they had Briar's phone records and how to "get rid of" Briar that his device made contact with Stephen's, she argued her

she actually spoke with Briar for a brief period of time.

"I'm scared. I didn't do it," In the Jan. 14, 2020, video, in she can be heard telling police. Then, Stephen went on to

> During interrogation, Stephen confirmed Kristi Sibray's testimony from Tuesday that Stephen and Hiestand had talked with Sibray about because "things would be easier without him."

backtrack on that statement.

See Interrogation page 2



Foggy reflection

The sunrise reflects off the pond at the Aden Schwartz farm on county road 650 north, west of Bryant, on a foggy St. Patrick's Day morning Wednesday.

Federal funding could cover project

By RAY COONEY The Commercial Review

The first phase of the Portland airport runway extension will be constructed at no cost to the

Now the hope is that the second phase will be fully federally funded as well.

Portland Board of Aviation on Wednesday heard from its engineering firm representative that the federal American Rescue Plan Act includes millions in funding for airport

The board also approved an updated quote for a new driveway at the airport and learned that Tavzel Aviation will have a full-time flight instruc-

Jason Clearwaters of Butler, Fairman & Seufert, the airport's engineering IIrm. reported to the board the American Rescue Plan Act, passed by Congress last includes \$608 million that is earmarked to cover the state and local costs for airport grants this year.

See **Funding** page 7

Jay is rated 'blue' again

Rate of cases in county has stayed low for last five weeks

By RAY COONEY The Commercial Review

The positivity rate went down while overall cases went up.

Still, the county was in the blue again.

Jay County was rated "blue" (low risk) for the fifth consecutive week Wednesday as Indiana State Department Health released its update on coronavirus metrics.

The county's cases per 100,000 residents went up for the second week in a row, coming in at 68. The number was 48 last week and had been as low as 24 in the March 3 update.

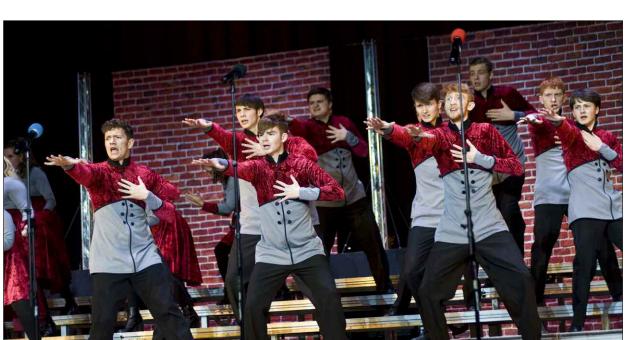
The local positivity rate dropped to 2.42% from 2.7% last week.

Adams, Wells and Blackford counties all moved back to "yellow" (moderate risk) after being blue last week. Randolph and Delaware counties were blue again.

The state map became slightly more blue this week as 65 counties were rated blue, up from 61 last week. The remaining 27 counties were yellow. None were rated "orange" (high risk) or

"red" (severe). Jay County has had 26 cases of COVID-19 confirmed this month.

See Blue page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Reaching out

Members of Jay County High School's Patriot Edition show choir perform during a special concert Monday night. Pictured, from left, are Blake Caldwell, Ryan Vancise, Caleb Darnell, Ben Heath, Logan Zimmerman, Andy Brinkerhoff, Hunter Young, Josh Hilty and Phil Hartman. The group closed its season Saturday by winning the Garrett Railroader Rush Invitational after placing third at the DeKalb Choir Festival (Feb. 13), the Homestead Classic Showcase (Feb. 20) and the Huntington North Midwest Showcase (Feb. 27).

Deaths

John Hammitt, 92, rural Bryant Nilah Hudson, 79, Salamo-

Brian Brown, 52, Willshire, Ohio

Robin Stults, 57, Bluffton Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 64 degrees on St. Patrick's Day. The low was 32.

About a third of an inch of rain had fallen by 8 a.m. today, with more in the forecast until 8 p.m. tonight and winds gusting to 45 miles per hour. Expect sunny skies Friday with a high of 44. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Portland Police Department has proposed purchasing the current Jay School Corporation administrative offices for use as a new police station. What are your thoughts on the proposal?

Send letters to the editor to r.cooney@thecr.com. There is a 700-word maximum.

Coming up

Friday — Coverage of Thursday's Redkey Town Council meeting.

Tuesday — Coverage of Monday's Jay County Commissioners meeting.



Obituaries

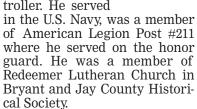
John Hammitt

Nov. 5, 1928-March 17, 2021 John Hugh Hammitt, age 92, of rural Bryant passed away Wednesday, March 17, 2021, at IU Health Jay in Portland.

Born on Nov. 5, 1928, he was the son of Hugh and Edna (Hunt) Hammitt. He was married on June 23,

to M. 1950. Onnalee Smith and she passed away on July 9, 2001.

He was retired from Magnavox in Fort Wayne as a production con-



John enjoyed hunting, fishing, traveling, woodworking and genealogy.

Surviving are one son, Robert Hammitt (wife: Mary) of

Burlington, Wisconsin; one daughter, Rebecca Landers (husband: Mike) of Portland; four grandchildren; and two greatgrandchildren.

Private family services will be held in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with burial in the Gravel Hill Cemetery.

Memorials can be made to the Jay County Historical Society or Redeemer Lutheran Church. Condolences may expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Nilah Hudson

Nov. 12, 1941-March 16, 2021 Nilah Hudson, age 79, a resident of Salamonia, passed away

on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at Albany Health and Rehabilitation in Albany.

Nilah was born on Nov. 12, 1941, in Jay County, the daughter of John Eunice (Denny) Landers.

She married Waldo James Hudson Sr. on Jan. 7, 1960.

Tuesday

3/23

Hudson

Survivors include:

Her husband — Waldo Hudson Sr., Salamonia, Indiana

Three sons — Waldo Hudson Jr. (wife: Rebecca), rural Portland, Indiana, Tim Hudson (wife: Ruth Ann), Portland, Indiana, and Doug Hudson, Salamonia, Indiana

One daughter: Cathy Hudson Kokomo, Indiana

Son-in-law — Dave Clevenger, Pennville, Indiana

One sister — Margaret Gra, Hartford City, Indiana

Nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Lisa Clevenger, and several sisters and brothers.

Visitation for friends and family will be held on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Services to celebrate Nilah's life will follow at 1 p.m. on Saturday at the funeral home. Pastor Bruce Phillips will officiate the service and burial will follow in Salamonia Cemetery.

the Portland First Church of the and nieces Erica Mink and Nazarene.

Condolences may be sent to williamsonspencer.com.

Brian Brown

Feb. 7. 1969-March 16, 2021 Brian Alan "Brownie" Brown, 52, of Willshire, Ohio, passed away Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at Parkview

Randallia in Fort Wavne.

He was born in Portland on Feb. 7, 1969, the son of Earnest Brown Jr. and Pam (Sheffer) Ray. Brian had worked for over 20 years for

Fleetwood in Decatur and was a 1987 Jay County High School graduate. He enjoyed playing and listening to music with his friends, watching horror movies and tinkering on cars and electronics.

Brown

Surviving are his mother, Pam Ray of Portland; sister Wendy Mink of Fort Wayne; Memorials may be directed to uncle Greg Sheffer of Portland;

Kelsey (Mink) Howell.

Funeral services will be Saturday, March 20, 2021, at 10 a.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Mike Hodgson presiding. Burial will follow in the IOOF Cemetery in Pennville. Visitation will be Friday from 3 to

Memorials can be made to American Diabetes Association.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Robin Stults, Bluffton, a former Portland resident, March 6, 1964-March 9, 2021. Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Port-

The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary servic-

CR almanac

Sunday

Hammitt

Friday 3/19
44/26
Expect chilly temperatures with the high topping out in the mid 40s. The low will be 26

degrees.

54/31

Saturday

3/20

begins as the high will climb into the 50s under sunny skies.

spring as the high will be 63

63/36 Sun and warmth are on tap for the first day of

The forecast calls for sunny skies with the high staying the 60s. The low will be 43.

Monday

63/42

showers late.

Expect skies to be

partly sunny with a high in There is a

63/48

Lotteries

Powerball

34-38-42-61-62 Power Ball: 19 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$184 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$105 million

Hoosier

Midday Daily Three: 6-9-5 Daily Four: 9-7-9-2 Quick Draw: 03-06-07-12-16-18-21-27-31-37-40-49-50-53-54-57-62-68-73-77

Evening Daily Three: 4-5-2 Daily Four: 6-6-5-8 Quick Draw: 02-09-15-19-22-23-29-30-31-40-42-4550-53-62-64-65-66-76-78 Cash 5: 3-8-15-18-26

Hoosier Lotto: 10-15-17-24-26-29

Estimated jackpot: \$7.2 million

Ohio

Midday Pick 3:4-2-1 Pick 4: 4-8-6-3 Pick 5: 3-7-8-8-3 Evening Pick 3: 1-3-7 Pick 4: 6-7-2-6 Pick 5: 2-6-1-2-5 Rolling Cash: 20-21-22-

Classic Lotto: 7-17-19-

44-47-48 Kicker: 1-8-3-9-7-4

Estimated jackpot: \$5.9 million

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery

POET Biorefining	
CornWheat	

Portland Corn.....5.72

April corn5.76 The Andersons

Richland Township April corn5.63 Beans14.22 April beans14.15 Wheat 6.36

April wheat 6.36

Central States Montpelier

Corn	5.56
April corn	5.58
Beans	14.22
April beans	14.22
Wheat	6.23
July wheat	5.96
•	

Sunrise St. Anthony

5.56
5.63
14.07
14.12
5.86
6.41

Today in history

On March 18, 1963, cosmonaut in Gideon v. Wainwright, ruled unanimously that state courts were defendants who could not

walk took place as Soviet

Alexei the U.S. Supreme Court, Leonov went outside his Voskhod 2 capsule, secured by a tether.

In 1971, the Fort required to provide legal Recovery High School counsel to criminal boys basketball team defeated Clinton Massie afford to hire an attorney. 57-55 in the regional In **1965**, the first space-semifinal in Dayton.

—AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today

6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St.

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

Monday

Commissioners, commis- 131 S. Main St.

sioners' room, court-house, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

3:30 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland.

Dunkirk 6 p.m. – Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St.

7 p.m. — Dunkirk City 9 a.m. — Jay County Council, city building,

Interrogation

Continued from page 1

Stephen also admitted during interrogation to previously lacing tea she gave to Briar with "15 to 20" ibuprofen pills in an attempt to get him to overdose.

Then details of the night of Jan. 11, 2020, began to emerge.

Additional probing led Stephen to confirm that she, Hiestand and Knapke used Knapke's van to go to a bridge over Loblolly Creek on county road 125 West just south of county road 850 North in rural Bryant, a place they had gone to a week earlier in search of "a nice flat spot."

After crossing to the north side of the bridge, they exited the vehicle. Stephen and Briar walked across the bridge to the south side. Upon questioning, Stephen admitted the plan was for her to distract Briar while Hiestand retrieved the rifle from the back of the van.

Stephen went on to say that after Hiestand shot Briar, she ran back to the van and all three women got back into it. Hiestand, who was driving, turned south and crossed the bridge past Briar. Stephen said the vehicle stopped, she exited and attempted to call 911 but panicked. get Stephen to change her story.

Then she admitted that, with Briar lying on the bridge, she took his phone out of his right front pocket and threw it off the east side of the bridge into the creek so he could not call 911 himself.

Detectives later allowed Stephen to call her mother, during which she said she thought the plot to shoot Briar was a joke but then it just happened.

"He was shot. I was there," Stephen is heard telling her mom.

Stephen could be seen crying while watching the portion of the video in which she was also crying, but was otherwise once again calm during most of Wednesday's proceedings.

During cross-examination of Schwartz (the prosecution's final witness) and Sutton (the defense's first witness), Stephen's attorney Jill Gonzalez questioned the detectives' tactics.

As Schwartz and Sutton interrogated Stephen, at times they talked loudly over one another, interrupted her and yelled at her. Gonzalez questioned the reasoning behind the yelling and interrupting, and whether it was used as a tactic to

Schwartz said it was just how he conducts interviews, and Sutton said he was just trying to get Stephen to tell the truth.

Gonzalez was set to only have two witnesses, with Stephen scheduled to testify this morning. Therefore, Judge Brian Hutchison adjourned court for the day at 2:17 p.m. following Sutton's testimony.

"Judge has been really flexible with us," Gonzalez said. "I appreciate his flexibility."

The trial opened Monday with jury selection taking most of the day. The process wrapped up about 3 p.m., with Hutchison then calling a recess for the day.

Opening statements were Tuesday morning, and then Schemenaur began presenting his case. He called nine witnesses to the stand, including six in law enforcement officers and the forensic pathologist who performed Briar's autop-

Stephen, Hiestand and Knapke are all being held in Jay County Jail without bond, pending their

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

Blue ...

Continued from page 1 That's an average of 1.63 per day, down from 2.04 in February. The county's high was 22.8 cases per day in Novem-

Indiana State Department of Health on Tuesday announced that vaccination appointments are now available to Hoosiers 45 and older. They were previously available to those 50 and older.

Drunk driving

\$3,000 bond.

Drug possession

day for alleged drug possession.

for alleged drunk driving.

department, IU Health Jay and Walmart. The vaccination at the health 11:15 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays as well as 8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Saturdays, and the clinic at the hospital has appointments from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays, received their first dose Wednesdays and Fridays. of vaccine.

Jay County continues Appointments can be to have vaccination clin- made by visiting ourics available at the health shot.in.gov or calling the state's 2-1-1 telephone assistance service. As of Tuesday, nearly

department runs from 3,800 first doses of coronavirus vaccine had been administered in Jay County with 2,346 individuals fully vaccinated.

Statewide, more than 1.3 million Hoosiers have

phetamine or narcotic drugs. He was also

preliminarily charged a Class B misde-

meanor for possession of marijuana and a

Class C misdemeanor for possession of

paraphernalia. Kelsay was booked into

A Berne man was arrested Tuesday for

Robert E. Mann, 48, 818 N. Jefferson St.,

has an original Class A felony charge for

dealing in methamphetamine. Mann was

booked into Jay County Jail on \$1,500

Jay County Jail on \$4,500 bond.

Probation violation

violating probation.

bond.

SERVICES

Today

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

Friday Jenney, John: noon, 1911 S.

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

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

Meridian St., Portland. Hudson, Nilah: I p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Com-

> Service listings provided by **PROGRESSIVE**

Portland, Indiana 47371 (260) 726-9201

progressiveofficeproducts.com

BRING EVERYTHING

Felony arrests

A Portland man was arrested Tuesday

Phillip L. Fox, 25, 692 Katelynn Drive,

was preliminarily charged a Level 6 felony

for operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

He was booked into Jay County Jail on

A Ridgeville man was arrested Wednes-

Kenneth D. Kelsay, 27, 512 Gamester

Court, was preliminarily charged a Level 6

felony for possession of cocaine, metham-



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Ramey, Shirley: I p.m.,

Meacham Funeral Service, 648 W. State St., Albany.

Yager, Eric: 3

Saturday Brown, Brian: 10 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N.

merce St., Portland.

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Apply online at www.swissvillage.org or send Resume to:

Taylor Lehman, VP of Human Resources Swiss Village 1350 W. Main St. Berne, IN 46711 careers@swissvillage.org

Color guard clinic is set

Local youth will have an opportunity to get an introduction to color guard.

County High Jay School's color guard will host its 2021

Kids Clinic **Taking** Note on April 17. The event

is open to students in kindergarten grades through 12. It will run from noon to 4 p.m. at East Jay Elementary School.

Registration forms are available at local schools or by visiting jemarchingpatriots.com. The registration deadline is April 1.

Hosting workshop

Jay County Purdue Extension will host a lawn care workshop at 6 p.m. April 8. It will be at County Public Jay Library.

Purdue Extension educator Justin Curley will lead the free session. To RSVP, call the extension office at (260) 726-4707.



Photo provided

Nelson honored

Kathy Nelson of West Jay Optimist Club was recently honored with the Indiana North Optimist Humanitarian Award. The ward recognizes "outstanding contribution in promoting & participation in humanitarian activities within the community and Indiana." Presenting the award to Nelson (left) is Sandy Rogers, president of the West Jay club and governor elect of Indiana North District Optimists.

Grief, depression threaten the future

fiancee and I have been together for four years.

I have lost A LOT of people in my life, so I am used to death. She, on the other hand, didn't experience it until two years ago, when she lost her grandfather. The next year, her mother passed, and last year we lost a child — her oldest — my stepson.

Abby, she is so lost. She's no longer the same person she once was, and I totally understand that. I'm sad and depressed, too, but she's bad.

I love this woman like I have never loved any other. I can't picture life without her, but lately I have begun to wonder how it would affect me, her and the kids if I left. I'm not equipped to deal with someone else's depression on top of my own. I have been trying, but I'm finding myself getting more and more angry.

What should I do? TORN IN THE EAST

DEAR TORN: You mentioned that you, too, suffer from depression. Are you receiving treatment for it? If you are seeing a psychologist (and being medicated), discuss this 90069.

Dear Abby



with the person who is working with you. You may need a change in

your medication.

that with so much loss all at once in her life, your fiancee is grieving depressed. Frankly, while I might suggest she join a support group for help in coping with the loss of her child, she may also need help from a licensed mental health professional.

It isn't surprising

Although you are tempted, I don't think now is the time to abandon your fiancee and her children. Once she is stabilized, you may not want to leave at all.

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate Wednesday'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.

4	b	/	Ø	9	ı	ว	2	3
8	9	3	5	7	2	4	1	6
2	5	1	3	4	6	8	9	7
1	7	5	9	3	8	6	4	2
9	4	8	6	2	7	1	3	5
6	3	2	4	1	5	9	7	8
7	2	6	1	5	4	3	8	9
3	8	4	2	6	9	7	5	1
5	1	9	7	8	3	2	6	4

467901502

Community Calendar

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

Thursday

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

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

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

PORT GROUP — Will meet at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the IU Health Blackford main conierence room.

JAY COUNTY HUMANE SOCIE-TY — Will meet at 5:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Jay County Public Library. The public is welcome.

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

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery pro-

Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

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

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Thursday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

WABASH CANNONBALLS 4-H ORGAN TRANSPLANT SUP- CLUB — Will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 18, at Trinity Catholic

> FORGET-ME-NOT-A support munity Center in Dunkirk. atives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. upstairs at gram meets at 6:30 p.m. each True Value Hardware, Meridian in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

Thursday at A Second Chance At Street, Portland. For more information, call (260) 729-2532.

> MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is museumofthesoldier.com.

Monday

PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTI-MISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

BRYANT AREA COMMUNITY CENTER — Walking from 9 to 10 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

EUCHRE — For those 55 and older from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at West Jay Com-

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER

Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St.

Dr. Thomas Banta

1413 W. Votaw St., Portland 260-726-7822

Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition

100 N. Meridian St., Portland, IN 47371 Email: cdpccontact@gmail.com

Barnes Sewer & Septic, LLC

3075 N. 100 W., Winchester 765-584-7295 www.barnesseptic.com

Fuqua Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep & Ram

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Fortkamp Foam

3226 Wabash Road Ft. Recovery, OH 419-852-1390 Fortkampfoam.com

Home Idea Center

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Portland 260-726-8114 www.ovgc.com

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Portland, IN 47371 260-726-8007

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This local business listing runs 4 times a month with packages of either \$25, or \$50. Give us a call at 260-726-8141 to be included

Rethink education bill, expansion

To the editor:

I have two items to discuss today. One involves the Indiana legislature's attempt to spend tax money on private schools and the other involves the stone

In the matter of the schools, our taxes are paid to support public schools, among other items. If we were to apply some of that money to private schools, then there would be lower support for public schools and lower uproar that would cause.

Letters to the Editor

quality education, followed by, we taxpayers could pay for college courses, too.

I can't even imagine the

If parents and the rest of us can't afford it for your own. had to pay those bills, none of us could afford to live in Indiana, new area it wants to expand to that's for sure.

I believe that if parents desire a better education for their children, that should be paid from their own pockets, not the pockets of the community. That's why private schools have been only for the privileged few. You property values for anything would be asking regular families to help pay for private schools for others, even thought you

Now, the stone quarry. The would create all kinds of hardships for the City of Portland.

I drive through a lot of that expansion area all the time. It will be a traffic nightmare for anyone who lives near it.

It will also completely ruin near it, and cut the chances for Portland to grow. It's like cutting off that whole area of town.

Plus, I can't even imagine the damage to the cemetery, as it is also close by.

U.S. Aggregates needs to look for property at least 5 miles from cities and other busy areas. This location is totally not compatible with what its needs are, and I

suggest it look at other areas. I realize being near to where they already are sounds good, but it's a no go.

Verna R. Loper Portland

Newspapers excel as your eyes, ears

By JIM PUMARLO

My days of sitting behind an editor's desk have passed, but I'll never lose my newspaper blood. I regularly enjoy my first cup of coffee while scanning newspaper websites. It's a great way to keep current on what's happening in communities.

Public affairs have always been a passion, so I pay particular attention when the broad arena of issues is addressed. The role of newspapers as watchdogs of the dynamics in both the public and private sectors bears underscoring during Sunshine Week, March 14 through 20, and its theme, "Your Right to Know."

Some recent headlines: From the Chanhassen Villager: "Build, invest or tear down are all options for some District 112 elementary schools.

From the Rochester Post-Bulletin: "Court records show troubling past of Wabasha County administrator applicant."

From the International Falls Journal: "Campus officials talk gap years, hopes for fall enrollment."

From the Duluth News Tribune: "Do Duluth's legislative priorities reflect the community's?"

From the St. Cloud Times: "What are local economists expecting in

These headlines, though from Minnesota newspapers, are representative of the breadth of public affairs reports delivered regularly by newspapers.

Some stories are firsthand meeting reports. Some reflect enterprise initiatives. Some are the result of digging beneath the initial set of facts. Some take the additional step of offering editorial perspective.

And they all are delivering news that is valuable but not always readily available to readers.

The examples reflect a personal philosophy. Community newspapers, at their best, are stewards of their communities. The news columns are a blend of stories that people like to read and stories they should read. The advertising columns promote and grow local commerce. And the editorial pages are a marketplace of ideas.

The news media landscape has never been more fractured. Newspapers have never been more challenged due to the economic impact of COVID-

Yet, the need for trained journalists to gather, deliver and interpret the news — the need for citi-



remain a firm believer that local newspapers have an advantage in today's crowded media terrain by being the premier clearinghouse of information in your communities. They deliver the news on a range of platforms from print to digital.

The value of trained journalists in collecting and interpreting information is especially important within the context of local public affairs.

Citizens are increasingly challenged to keep abreast of actions of a city council, school board, county board, or any of the numerous other local governing bodies. Then they have to decipher what the decisions, singularly and collectively, mean in their personal and business lives.

You have an advocate in your community newspa-

Make no mistake. Editors and reporters are nese activities. challenged as well in gaining access to everyday sources during the pandemic. At the same time, they have the tools that others may lack.

Journalists have relationships with government officials and staffs.

Journalists have been trained in the routine. They know how to flesh out information that is not readily volunteered or available. They know who to contact. They know where to look. They know the questions to ask.

Bottom line, journalists are undeterred in their role as your community's collective set of eye and ears. They thrive on delivering the news; it's their full-time job. Readers can rest assured that editors and reporters will continue to present a full menu of news during the ordinary and extraordinary times.

Sunshine Week is a great reminder that energized newspapers are at the foundation of energized communities.

•••••

Pumarlo writes, speaks zens' "right to know" — is and provides training on more important than ever community newsroom sucas we navigate the effects cess strategies. Email him of the coronavirus. I at jim@pumarlo.com.



Meeting has a lot at stake

By JOHN R. BOLTON Special To The Washington Post

Today, the Biden administration will conducted its first high-level meeting with China. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and national security adviser Jake Sullivan conferred with senior Communist Party Politburo member Yang Jiechi and Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Anchorage, Alaska. Sullivan has said he and Blinken would explain how the new team "intends to proceed at a strategic level," conveying its interests and values, and its concerns with Chi-

President Joe Biden issued an "Interim National Security Strategic Guidance" earlier this month, "as we begin work on a National Security Strategy." That leaves the administration's preparedness for the meeting unclear, but even "guidance" in the absence of a full strategy is a

Biden has spoken once with Chinese President Xi Jinping, although China's readout of the conversation portrays Xi as doing most of the talking about what he expects from Washington. Last week, Biden held the first summit (virtually) of the "Quad" (Japan, India, Australia and the United States), a unique, stillevolving forum to foster a "free and open Indo-Pacific." Just before Anchorage, Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin will meet their South Korean and Japanese counter-

This is elemental choreography, reassuring allies and signaling that "regular order" in diplomatic

process is back in Washington. But process is not substance, and certainly not a strategy for dealing with unacceptable Chinese behavior. A by-no-means-comprehensive list of Beijing's transgressions that require U.S. attention would include: meddling, blatant and subtle, with U.S. public opinion; building military bases in the disputed South China Sea; menacing Taiwan, Vietnam and India; increasing strategic nuclear forces and egregious global cyberwarfare; empowering North Korea's nuclear weapons program; concealing the origins of COVID-19; stealing successor to Obama that Xi had Trump.

John R. **Bolton**



intellectual property and forcing technology transfers; and genocide against Uyghurs and the repression of Hong Kong.

But listing points of friction is also not strategy Considerable risk lies head if Biden's most important China objective, however understated, is to "explore whether there are other avenues for cooperation," as Blinken recently testified. This is equivalent to saying, "Let me tell you what our weak points are.'

Despite the administration's denials, zeal for a climate deal may be first on the list.

Even if "other avenues for cooperation" is only a diplomatic nicety, Blinken and Sullivan must stress to the Chinese that Biden's policy will differ fundamentally from his predecessors'. U.S. public opinion, as in many industrial democracies, has turned decidedly negative toward Beijing because of its conduct regarding covid. China's manifold noxious actions, noted above, have also increased public disapproval.

That ought to tee up the most important point Blinken and Sullivan should make: This is not the Obama era. The good times (for China) are not going to roll again without massive changes in Beijing's behavior — and not just by making promises, as was so often the case in years past. The United States today cannot afford to revive former president Barack Obama's blinkered

acquiescence in China's conduct. Given Biden's few campaign pronouncements on foreign policy, his eight years as Obama's vice president and a new administration overflowing with Obama alumni, Beijing could be excused for hoping that (his criticism of the Uyghur genocide notwithstanding) Biden will be the expected Hillary Clinton to be in 2017. Biden would do well to disabuse Beijing of that idea. Distinguishing himself from

Obama may be hard for Biden. Ironically, distinguishing himself from Trump's transactional propensity for short time horizons and splashy deals may also prove difficult. If reaching climate change agreements with Beijing is as urgent as the vibes emanating from Biden's special envoy John Kerry suggest, it could be impossible. Trump's unpredictable gyrations are gone, but his fascination with big deals regardless of the cost to the nation may unfortu nately remain.

Blinken and Sullivan must be clear, if they can be, that Biden, unlike Obama, recognizes China as at least an adversary, if not an enemy and that the United States will tailor its policies accordingly. And that, unlike Trump, Biden will think and act strategically.

In Anchorage, the U.S. officials need not be bellicose in making these points, but they must be as confident and assertive as their Chinese counterparts will undoubtedly be in advancing Beijing's interests. If Blinken and Sullivan fail to press hard for, say, less-belligerent Chinese behavior in the South China Sea to avoid jeopardizing what appear to be higher-priority objectives on climate change, Yang and Wang will sense it instantly. And Xi will not hesitate to try to exploit any opportunity presented.

This first high-level Washington-Beijing encounter will not resolve any major issues, and no one expects it to. If Blinken and Sullivan emphasize that Biden is developing a coherent strategy to resolutely oppose China's objectionable behavior, that alone would be a vital difference from the past 12 years. If not, however, the China question will become an increasingly important focus of America's domestic political debate, and one where Biden is unlikely to fare well.

Bolton served as national security adviser under President Donald

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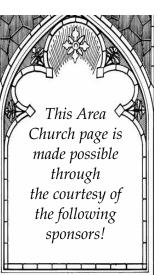
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"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter." – Thomas Jefferson

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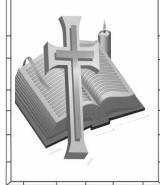
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Area churches are listed with location, pastor and phone number, services and website or email address. All services are Sunday, unless otherwise indicated.

Asbury United Methodist

204 E. Arch St., Portland Joe Boggs (260) 726-8464 Services: 9:30 a.m. asburyministries.org

Banner Christian Assembly of God 1217 W. Votaw St., Port-

Michael Burk (260) 726-4282 Services: 10:30 a.m.

Bellefountain United Methodist

Services: 9 a.m.

440 S. 600 East Gordon Jackson

Bethel United Methodist

Indiana 167, 4 miles north of Dunkirk Scott McClain Services: 10:45 a.m.

Bluff Point Friends 80 E. 650 South Services: 10 a.m.

Sunday school: 9:30 a.m. **Boundary St. Paul**

Corner of Treaty Line

Road and county road 300 Ava Gannon (260) 726-2373

Services: 9:30 a.m. **Bryant Wesleyan**

209 S. Hendricks St. Paul VanCise (260) 997-6231 Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m. bryantwesleyanchurch.com

Calvary United Methodist

301 N. Main St., Dunkirk Susan Durovey-Antrim (765) 499-0368 Services: 10 a.m. susan.duroveyantrim@in umc.org

Christ Chapel

105 S. Elm St., Fort Recov-

Quentin Elsea (419) 733-1469 christchapelfr.com

Church of Christ (Southside)

1209 S. Shank St., Portland Bob Graham (260) 726-7777 Services: 10:20 a.m., 6:30

Church of Jesus Christ Dunkirk of Latter-Day Saints

1865 S. Indiana 167, Andrew Stevens (765) 768-6969 Services: 10 a.m.

Church of the Living God (Miracle Missions)

8472 S. 800 East, Union Services: 10:30 a.m.

Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Church of God of Prophecy

797 N. Creagor Ave., Por-Nanette Weesner (260) 766-9334 Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m. nanybell@yahoo.com

Church of the Brethren Chicago

and Floral avenues, Portland Kevin McClung (260) 729-7295 Services: 10 a.m.

Church of the Living God South Broad

Street, Dunkirk Rev. Theodore Wagoner Services: 7 p.m., 7 p.m. Friday

Collett Nazarene 450 South, 1 mile west of U.S. 27 Billy Stanton

(260) 251-2403 Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Cornerstone Baptist 211 E. Main St., Portland Wayne Ward

(260) 726-7714 Services: 10 a.m.

Dunkirk Nazarene 226 E. Center St., Dunkirk

Tom Fett (765) 768-6199 Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Evangelical Methodist 930 W. Main St., Portland

Steve Arnold (260) 251-0970 Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

Fairview United Methodist/Jay County

2875 E. 200 South Gordon Jackson Lay leader: Beth Stephen (260) 726-9184 Services: 10:15 a.m.

Faith Community

9560 W. Dunkirk Joe Schmit (260) 251-5254 Services: 10 a.m.

Family Worship Center 200 E. Elder St., Portland Ronald Willis (260) 726-4844

Services: 11 a.m., 7:30 p.m. Wednesday thefamilyworshipcenter.org

Fellowship Baptist

289 S. 200 West Hugh Kelly (260) 726-8873 Services: 10 a.m. pastorkelly@fbc-portland.com

First American Baptist 427 S. Main St., Dunkirk

Dan Coffman (765) 768-7157 Services: 10:40 a.m., 5 p.m.

First Church of Christ 1049 Union City Road, Fort Recovery

David J. Nicholson (419) 375-2860 Services: 10:30 a.m. fccftrecovery.org

First Community Baptist

341 S. Meridian St., Red-Everett Bilbrey Jr. Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

First Free Will Baptist 12369 W. 600 South, Dunkirk

Marion Donathan Sunday school: 10 a.m. Services: 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m., 6 p.m. Wednesday

First Presbyterian

402 N. Ship St., Portland Rev. M. Rex Espiritu (260) 726-8462 Services: 9:30 a.m. Sunday school: 10:15 a.m. firstpcportland.org

Fort Recovery Church of the Nazarene 401 E. Boundary St., Fort

Recovery Revs. Brad and Kate Ratliff (419) 375-4680 Services: 10:30 a.m. frnaz@frontier.com

Fort Recovery United Methodist

309 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery Rev. Ållan Brown (419) 678-2071 Services: 9 a.m.

Full Gospel Lighthouse Tabernacle 468 E. Washington St.,

Robert Thomas (765) 348-4620 Services: 9:30 am 6:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Thursday

Geneva First United Methodist

100 W. Line St., Geneva Barry McCune (260) 368-7655

Services: 9:30 a.m.

Geneva Nazarene 225 Decatur St., Geneva Brenda Haddix (260) 346-2172 Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m. Sunday school: 9 a.m. Prayer meeting: 7 p.m. Wednesday

Gilead Church

County road 650 North, one-quarter mile east of Bal-

Services: 10:30 a.m.

Hickory Grove Church of the Brethren Indiana 1 and Indiana 26

Earl Doll (260) 731-4477 Services: 10:30 a.m.

High Street United Methodist 435 High St., Geneva

Rev. Joseph Hampton (260) 368-7233 Services: 9 a.m.

Holy Trinity Catholic 7321 E. Indiana 67, Bryant

Fr. Peter Logsdon Services: 8:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m. Saturday churchofthemostholytrin-

Hopewell of Life Ministries

County road 200 South, 2 miles east of Indiana 1 Rev. Ruth Funk (260) 251-8581 Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Immaculate **Conception Catholic** 506 E. Walnut St., Portland

Fr. Peter Logsdon (260) 726-7055 Services: 6:30 p.m. Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Sunday **Kingsley Full Gospel**

4030 S. 700 East, Dunkirk Stuart Phillips Services: 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday

nunity Mary Help 200 South, of Christians

403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery Rev. Ned Brown (419) 375-4153 Services: 4:30 p.m. Satur- The ROCK day, 9:30 a.m.

Mount Tabor United Methodist

216 W. Pleasant St., Dunkirk John Retter (765) 768-7273 Services: 9 a.m.

Mount Zion **United Methodist**

County roads 600 East and 200 North Rev. Darrell Borders (260) 726-4786 Services: 9 a.m.

New Beginnings Holiness Church of Blaine

4017 W. 200 South Randy Smith (260) 251-2406 Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m. nbholiness.com

New Covenant Fellowship 1238 W. 450 South

Chuck Myers (260) 251-0063 Services: 10:30 a.m. **New Life Ministries** 415 S. Helen St., Portland

(260) 755-6354 Services: 4 p.m. drkayfairchild.com

Dr. Kay Fairchild

New Mt. Pleasant **United Methodist** 5905 S. Como Road Tim Wallace (765) 499-7838 Services: 10:30 a.m.

Noble Congregational Christian

1964 N. 800 East Aaron Huey Services: 10:30 a.m.

Oak Grove **United Methodist** 829 S. Indiana 1

Tricia Williams

(765) 730-3770

Services: 10:30 a.m. **Pennville Friends**

Maple Street and Indiana 1, Pennville Dee Hartman

Services: 10:30 a.m. **Pennville United**

Methodist 190 W. Main St., Pennville Gary Newton (765) 669-1070 Services: 10:30 a.m.

Pleasant Hill

9945 N. 800 East, Union Bruce Bryan (765) 964-3664 Services: 9 a.m., 6 p.m. mypleasanthillchurch.org

Portland First Church of Nazarene

920 S. Shank St., Portland Stephen Hundley (260) 726-8040 Services: 10:45 a.m.

Portland Friends

226 E. Main St., Portland Herb Hummel (260) 729-7393 Services: 10 a.m. Sunday school: 9:15 a.m. friendscare4others.net

Praise Chapel Church of God

4527 E. 1000 North (Jay-Randolph county line) Rev. David Parry (765) 584-7045 Services: 10:30 a.m.

Redeemer Lutheran Malin and Elm streets, Bryant

Martin Bornhoeft (260) 997-6787 Services: 9 a.m.

Redkey Faith Ministries

9811 W. Indiana 67, southwest of Redkey Rev. Craig and Robin Cotherman (765) 369-2920 Services: 10 a.m. RedkeyFaith.org

Redkey First Christian Union and Malin streets, Redkey

Jeff Hammers (765) 468-6172 Services: 10:30 a.m. Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Redkey United Methodist 122 W. Main St., Redkey Lori McIntosh (765) 369-2085

Services: 10:30 a.m.

Redkey Church of the Nazarene 801 W. High St. Robert Farris (765) 369-2676

Services: 10:30 a.m., 6

p.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

River of Life

722 W. Main St., Portland Susan Hathaway (260) 729-1095 Services: 10:30 a.m.

Salamonia

1605 N. Meridian St., Portland

Matt Ransom (260) 726-7474 Services: 9 and 11 a.m. matt@therockjc.org

3900 S. 600 East Bruce Phillips (260) 335-2017 Services: 9 a.m.

Church of Christ

Second Chance at Life Ministries 228 S. Meridian St., Port-

land Dave Keen (260) 251-8792 Mike Eads (260) 703-0733 Services: 10:30 a.m.

St. James Lutheran County road 600 East, south of county road 400

South Robin Owen Services: 10:30 a.m. pastorrobino@gmail.com

St. Joseph Catholic 1689 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery Rev. Ned Brown

Services: 7:30 a.m. Sunday St. Mary's Catholic 346 S. Broad St., Dunkirk Rev. Kevin Hurley

Services: 5 p.m. Šaturday,

St. Paul Catholic 517 Meiring Road, Fort

5:30 p.m. Thursday

Recovery Rev. Ned Brown Services: 8:30 a.m. Sun-

St. Peter Catholic 1477 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery

Services: 10 a.m. Sunday **Sugar Grove Nazarene** County roads 400 North

Rev. Ned Brown

and 550 West Rev. Dan Sickels (260) 731-4733 Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m. (the 2nd and 4th Sunday at Pennville Park)

Sugar Grove United Methodist County roads 600 South

and 1150 West, Dunkirk Scott McClain Services: 9 a.m. Temple Baptist

Dunkirk and Albany (765) 768-7708 ervices: 11 am and 6 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday

Indiana 167, between

Trinity Lutheran 301 N. Wayne St., Fort Recovery Robin Owen (419) 375-4498 Services: 9 a.m. (contem-

porary service, fourth Sunday) pastorrobino@gmail.com

Trinity United Methodist 323 S. Meridian St., Portland Darrell Weaver (260) 726-8391 Services: 10:30 a.m.

Sunday school: 9 a.m.

portlandtrinity.com **Union Chapel**

6200 N. 375 West, Bryant Rev. Michael Morgan (352) 425-5914

Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m. **Union Chapel Church**

of the Nazarene County road 900 North (Jay-Wells county line) Fred Stevens Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Walnut Corner County roads 200 North

and 500 West Steve Rogers (260) 251-1113 Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m. Westchester

4487 E. 400 North Randy Fennig (260) 726-6311 Services: 10:35 a.m.

Church of Christ

West Walnut

United Methodist

204 W. Walnut St., Portland Gil Alicea (260) 726-4691 Services: 10 a.m. westwalnutchurchofchrist.org

Zion Evangelical **Lutheran Church**

Darrell Borders 218 E. High St., Portland $(260)\ 726-8832$ zionlutheranportland@g mail.com Services: 10:30 a.m.



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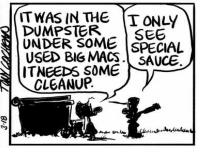










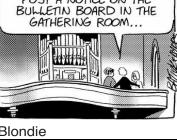






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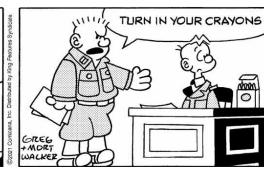






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In review

Defended

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana's attorney general's office vigorously defended Gov. Eric Holcomb's emergency powers in response to a restaurant's lawsuit challenging his order that masks must be worn inside restaurants to stem the spread of the coronavirus.

That defense of Holcomb's action comes even though Republican Attorney General Todd Rokita, who took office in January, previously called for curbing the governor's authority.

Damaged

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. Storms that left splintered homes and broken trees across Alabama and Mississippi moved into Georgia and Florida today, rousing residents with early morning warnings as forecasters said the threat of dangerous weather would move up the south Atlantic seaboard.

About 20,000 homes and business were without power and the weather service said at least two people were hurt when an apparent tornado struck southwest Alabama, destroying a house, but the region appeared to escape the kind of horrific toll many feared after ominous predictions of monster twisters and huge hail.

Urges

SEOUL, South Korea - America's top diplomat today pressed China to use its "tremendous influence" to convince North Korea to abandon its nuclear program, hours after the North said it will ignore U.S. offers to resume negotiations.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke at the end of security talks in Seoul, which included Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and South Korea's foreign and defense ministers. Their first socalled "two plus two" meeting in five years came as President Joe pushes Biden restore America's alliances in Asia in the face of challenges from and North China Korea.

-Associated Press

Funding

Continued from page 1

Typically, airport projects are 90% funded by the Federal Aviation Administration, with 5% coming from Indiana Department of Transportation and the remaining 5% from the municipality.

Clearwaters said he's hopeful the American Rescue Plan Act funds will include the state and local portions of the second phase of the airport's runway extension to 5,500 feet from the current 4,000 feet. That would mean the city's cost, again, would be zero.

"Wow," said aviation board president John Lyons. "That's amaz-

The city's share of phase two of the project is estimated at \$70,000. If the federal funding comes

through it would result in total savings of about \$190,000 to the city. Portland's portion of phase one of the project — about \$120,000 — was

year's Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Clearwaters added that the

American Rescue Plan Act includes an additional \$100 million for general aviation and commercial services airports that are not primary. He said that could result in additional funding for operations at Portland Municipal Air-

Updating on the runway extension timeline, Clearwaters said he is continuing to work with contractor HIS Constructors of Indianapolis on preparation work for phase one. That work, which includes enclosing 555 feet of Alexander Ditch and leveling the land west of the current runway, is scheduled to begin around May 1, weather permitting, and be completed this year.

Design work is continuing on the second phase of the project covered by federal funds via last paving and lighting, which is tion will also offer "ground school"

scheduled for 2022 — with the expected to be turned in around July 1.

Board members Faron Parr, Clyde Bray and Lyons, absent Mitch Sutton, also approved an updated quote from Dalton Van-Skyock for the installation of a new driveway on the east side of the airport property. VanSkyock had originally submitted a quote of \$8,260 for the project, but some changes were necessary because a Marathon gas pipeline is in the area. The board approved the quote at an updated cost of \$9,346.08. The work is expected to be completed this spring.

Lyons also informed the board that Tavzel Aviation has hired Ryan Plourde as a flight instructor, meaning a full-time flight instructor will be available at Portland Municipal Airport. Tavzel Avia-

— classroom training for aviators grant application to the FAA covering topics such as aerodynamics, flight safety and navigation.

In other business, the board: ·Learned from Lyons, who read airport manager Hal Tavzel's report, that the facilities fuel farm

inspection has been scheduled.

•Discussed whether holding a fly-in event at the airport will be a possibility this year. The airport traditionally hosts the event on the Saturday of the Tri-State Antique Tractor and Engine Show in late August, but it was canceled in 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic. Board members agreed it is still unclear whether such an event will be possible this year and they will revisit the issue at a future meeting.

•Heard from Lyons that the airport sold 2,491.5 gallons of fuel for \$8,149.81 in February.

•Paid \$6,504.38 in claims.

D.C. vigil

A vigil and march to remember and honor the eight lives lost Tuesday in Atlanta, Georgia, takes place in the Chinatown area of the District of Columbia Wednesday. Robert Aaron Long, 21, was charged Wednesday with killing eight people at three Atlanta-area massage parlors.



The Wasington Post/Astrid Riecken

Deeds

John B. Goodrich Revocable David D. and Rene M. Haines, Trust Agreement to Laci B. Smitley, trustee deed — Part of Lot 1, Block 20, original plat of Port-

Janice Gordon Goodrich Gerson Revocable Trust Agreement to Laci B. Smitley, trustee deed part of Lot 1, Block 20, original plat of Portland

Hiles R. and Sara J. Farris to Keri Farris, quit claim deed — Lot 39, Goodrich Subdivision

Angela Steed Walker to Youth Service Bureau of Jay County Inc, warranty deed — Lot 3, Myers and Kikendall Addition (also part of College Avenue vacated by the City of Portland)

Donna Luzadder and James E. Luzadder (deceased) to Christopher L. Revolt, quit claim deed Part of Lot 1, Fudge Subdivision, Dunkirk

warranty deed — Part of Section 24. Greene Township, 0.20 acres

Christopher M. Grieshop to Patrick D. and Melissa M. Wells, warranty deed — Part of Section 24, Greene Township, 0.20 acres

Ivo J. Braun Revocable Living Trust to Frederick G., Thomas J. and Lisa M. Braun and Gerald A. and Connie L. Kohn, warranty deed — Section 32, Wabash Township, 77.64 acres

Ivo J. Braun Revocable Living Trust to Frederick G. Braun, warranty deed — Part of Section 32, Wabash Township, 2.36 acres

Eric E. and Karen K. Link to themselves, warranty deed Part of Tract 1, Section 29, Bearcreek Township; Tract 2, Section 2, Noble Township, 100

Eric E. Link to Karen K. Link Christopher M. Grieshop to (Life Estate), Jacob A. Link,

Misty J. Saxman and Sarah A. Holmes, warranty deed — Part of Section 29, Bearcreek Township

(Life Estate), Jacob A. Link, Misty J. Saxman and Sarah A. Holmes, warranty deed — Part of Section 29, Bearcreek Township

Eric E. Link to Karen K. Link (Life Estate), Eric B., Nicholas A. and Michael D. Link, warranty deed — Section 2, Noble Township, 100 acres

Patrick L. Wallace to Dewev and Mary Kinder, personal representative deed — Lot 173, Current Side Addition, Portland

Larry D. Ellenberger to himself, death deed — Tract 1, Part of Section 17, Bearcreek Township, Bryant, 1.43 acres; Parcel 2, Part of Section 8, Bearcreek Township, Bryant

Garringer to themselves, death tion 9, Pike Township, 40 acres

deed — Part of Section 7, Pike Township, 9.22 acres

Richard W. and Betty J. Paxon Karen K. Link to Eric E. Link to Invenergy Solar Project Development LLC, easement — Part of Section 12, Penn Township, 22.724

> Cary J. Goettemoeller to Goettemoeller Holding LLC, warranty deed — Part of Section 3, Greene Township, 22.454 acres Andrew J. Hilty Jr. and Lydia

> K. Hilty to David C. and Mary A. Graber, warranty deed — Part of Section 32, Penn Township, 20 acres; Part of Section 4, Knox Township

> David C. and Mary A. Graber to Andrew J. Hilty Jr. and Lydia K. Hilty, warranty deed — Tract A, Section 19, Jackson Township, 10

Jerry L. and Angela A. Byrum Michael L. and Catherine L. to themselves, dead deed — Sec-

Contract 🚓 Bridge 🏖 By Steve Becker

Computing the percentage play

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NT Pass 4♠

Opening lead — jack of hearts.

Dear Mr. Becker: We had a big argument about this hand where South was declarer in four spades and West led a heart. South won with dummy's ace, played a spade to the ace and then led a low spade, losing to West's king. South later lost the jack of spades to the queen and a diamond trick, but he wound up making four spades. The argument was over whether

South played the spades correctly or whether he was just lucky. Shouldn't he have finessed the ten of spades at

loss of more than two trump tricks, if possible, he starts out by ignoring all the spade combinations where the play of the ten or the ace is immaterial. These would include those hands where the trumps are divided 6-0, 5-1, or 3-3. The only really pertinent hands

trick two? I know he would have gone down if he had done this in the

actual deal, but wouldn't that be the winning play in the long run? Sin-cerely yours, Constant Reader.

cerely yours. Constant Reader.
Well, the answer is that South
was correct in the way he played the
spades, not only because he succeeded, but because his approach was
in accordance with the percentages.

Problems like this are susceptible
to fairly simple computation. Since

to fairly simple computation. Since declarer's sole aim is to avoid the

are those where the spades are divided 4-2, with West holding the doubleton. West's doubleton can condoubleton. West's doubleton can consist of K-9, K-8, K-7, K-6, Q-9, Q-8, Q-7, Q-6 (in which case the ace play is better than the ten), or it can consist of 9-8, 9-7, 9-6, 8-7, 8-6, 7-6 (in which case the ten play is better than the ace). The only other case, where West has the K-Q alone, does not matter because either play makes the contract.

As there are eight cases where playing the ace wins, and only six where playing the ten wins, it is bet-ter to play the ace and a low spade.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

3-18 **CRYPTOQUIP**

MNZFBG MZSZUQCQVF MTSZFM

C K V XXQMK TCIQNQFJ

COFJZNC RNVO T RSVNQBT

IVNM LQMG: "OQTOQ UVQLZ." Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN I NOTICED THAT GUY SECRETLY ADDING STRONG ALLOY RODS TO CONCRETE, HE WAS CAUGHT STEELING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals M

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Public Notice

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

38C01-2103-EU-000010 IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE

DIANE M. SHAWVER (Deceased) NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that Pe-

ter M. Shawver was appointed as Personal Representative of the estate of Diane M. Shawver, deceased, on the 12th day of March, 2021, who died on the 19 th day of February, 2021.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 publi-

cation of this notice, or within

nine (9) months after the dece-

dent's death, whichever is ear-

lier, or the claims will be for-

ever barred. Dated this 12th day of March 2021. Jon Eads

THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT COLDREN, FRANTZ & SPRUNGER Attorneys at Law P.O. Box 1013 Portland, IN 47371 ${
m CR}\ 3-18,\!25-2021\,{
m HSPAXLP}$

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN ${\tt DESCRIBED\ REAL\ ESTATE}$ AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

By virtue of a certified copy of Decree of Foreclosure to me directed from the Clerk of the Superior Court of Jay County, Indiana, in Cause No. 38C01-2012-MF-000013 wherein The Farmers & Merchants State bank, successor by merger to Bank of Geneva is Plaintiff, and Meagan K. Manwaring is the Defendant, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and costs, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder on the 15th day of April, 2021, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. of said day at the Jay County Sheriff's Department, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Jay County, Indiana:

THIRTY-FIVE (35) FEEY OFF OF THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE NORTH HALF OF LOTS NUMBERED ONE (1) AND TWO (2) IN BLOCK NUMBER FOURTEEN (14) AND ALSO FIVE (5) FEET OFF OF THE ENTIRE NORTH SIDE OF THE SOUTH HALF OF SAID LOTS ONE (1) AND TWO (2) IN SAID BLOCK FOURTEEN (14) ALL IN THE TOWN, NOW CITY OF DUNKIRK, INDIANA ALSO, COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT NUMBER ONE (1) IN BLOCK FOURTEEN (14) IN THE TOWN, NOW CITY OF DUNKIRK, INDIANA, RUNNING THENCE SOUTHWARD ALONG THE WEST LINE OF FRANKLIN STREET, SAID TOWN, NOW CITY THIRTY (30) FEET WEST-WARD AT RIGHT ANGLES ONE HUNDRED THIRTY (130) FEET: MORE OR LESS TO THE WEST LINE OF LOT TWO (2) IN SAID BLOCK: THENCE NORTHWARD ALONG SAID WEST LINE OF LOT TWO (2), THIRTY (30) FEET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF PLEASANT STREET, SAID CITY; THENCE EAST-WARD ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY (130) FEET, MORE OR LESS TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. BEING THE NORTH PART OF LOTS ONE (1) AND TWO (2) IN BLOCK FOURTEEN (14) IN THE TOWN, NOW CITY OF DUNKIRK, INDIANA

Parcel Nos. 38-09-08-103-104.000-014 and 38-09-08-103-107.000-014 More commonly known as: 402 S. Franklin St., Dunkirk, IN 47336 Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisement laws. All sales are subject to any first and prior liens, taxes and assessments legally levied and assessed thereon. Neither the Sheriff nor the Plaintiff in this case warrants either expressly or impliedly any $title, location\ or\ legal\ description\ of\ any\ real\ estate\ sold\ at\ the\ sale.$ Any prospective bidder should obtain their own title evidence before making any bid on any properties subject to this sale.

Dwane Ford Sheriff of Jay County, Indiana Attorney for Plaintiff: Thomas B. Trent Rothberg Logan & Warsco, LLP 505 E. Washington Blvd Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802

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m CR}$ 3-11,18,25-2021 HSPAXLP

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

Bader sets pool records

Alex Bader was often among one of the best in the conference as a Patri-

She earned the accolade for the first time in college.

Bader, a 2018 Jay County High School graduate, was named Mid-American Conference swimmer of the week back on Feb.

The Ball State junior helped the Cardinal women's swim team's 200yard medley relay set a Lewellen Aquatic Center record of 1 minute, 42.24 seconds, which is the sixth-fastest time in program history. That effort came on Feb. 13 against Xavier.

The same meet she also clocked a 1:01.92 in the 100 breaststroke to set another pool record, shattering the previous mark of 1:03.04. Bader's record was the second-fastest time in program history, the third-fastest swim in the MAC at the time and was 88th nationally.

On Saturday against Akron, Bader won the 100 breaststroke in 1:02.9, marking the fifth time this season she's won that particular race.

Vivenne Kunkler Jay County - 2019

two program records and earned three NAIA national cuts as the University women's swim team finished fourth in the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference championships Feb. 4 through 6.

Kunkler set a program record of 2 minutes, 25.8 seconds in the 200-yard breaststroke, finishing runner-up and earning NAIA 'B' cut. She had a 'B' cut as well in the 100 breaststroke, placing third, and helped the 400 medley relay team take second with a schoolrecord and NAIA cut time of 4:02.5.

She was also part of the third-place 200 medley relay.

NAIA national The championships were scheduled for March 3 through 6 in Columbus, Georgia, but were canceled.

Will Homan Fort Rec. - 2018

again for the University 167 for the invitational.

Collegiate Check-up

of Saint Francis football team on Saturday in a 24-21 road loss to Concordia.

The sophomore scored on a 1-yard run with 47 seconds left in the second quarter as the NAIA No. 9 Cougars stopped a streak of 21 straight points for No. 13 Concordia.

Homan, who had two touchdowns in leading the Cougars (1-1) in a season-opening win March 6, finished tied a careerhigh of 11 carries for 49 vards. He also lost a fum-

Cade Wendel Fort Rec. - 2018

Suffered the loss pitching for the Lake Erie baseball team in an 8-7 setback to Mercyhurst on Saturday.

He gave up two earned runs on one hit and a walk while only recording two outs in a relief effort.

Four days earlier, he got the start for the Storm but did not factor into the decision. He tossed three innings, allowing three earned runs on four hits with three strikeouts and one walk.

Collin Haines Jay County - 2018

Led the Indiana University-South Bend men's golf team as it placed ninth in the Pinehurst (North Carolina) Invitational.

The junior shot 79 on March 2 in the second day of the tournament for a team-best 166 score over the two days. The Titans totaled 683 for ninth out of 10 teams.

Campbellsville with its total of 603.

Nick Hayden Jay County - 2017

Trailed Haines by one shot in the Pinehurst Invitational while competing for the IU-South

Bend men's golf team. Like Haines, Hayden shot 87 during the first day of the tournament on March 1. He improved seven strokes on day two, Reached the end zone finishing with a total of



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Bright backhands

Olivia Bright of the Jay County High School softball team reaches to make a backhanded stop on a ground ball near third base as part of a drill during practice Wednesday afternoon at JCHS. The Patriots will open their 2021 season at 5 p.m. April 5 against Blackford.

Izzo, MSU in new spot as first 4

By CLIFF BRUNT

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Michigan State and coach Tom Izzo are in an unfamiliar position.

Last time there was an NCAA Tournament, the Spartans reached the Final Four in 2019 — the most recent of eight trips under Izzo.

This time, Michigan State needed a late surge just to get into the Big Dance, and they'll have to win an extra game, too. The Spartans (15-12) will face UCLA (17-9) on Thursday in a First Four matchup of No. 11 seeds in the East Region.

Izzo is just thankful to be playing,

all things considered. "You know and I know that three

weeks ago nobody gave us a chance, including probably most of you and probably even me," Izzo said. "We fought our way through, and that took some courage and guts, and I'm proud of them for that.'

It's fitting that the Spartans will have just a little bit tougher road ahead than most of the qualifiers. Even in the most difficult of years, Michigan State faced extra chal-

Izzo contracted COVID-19 early in the season, yet the Spartans opened with six straight wins. They started Big Ten play with three straight losses on their way to dropping nine of 13 overall, but they eventually bounced back late in the season with victories over Ohio State, Michigan and Illinois — which all finished in the top seven of the final AP poll.

Now, the Spartans will need to win Thursday's matchup in West Lafayette to reach the final 64 and play No. 6 seed BYU on Saturday. That winner will face No. 3 seed Texas or No. 14 seed Abilene Christian on Monday.

"I'm not worried about facing anybody in this tournament," Izzo said. "I don't feel comfortable with UCLA and BYU or Texas, but I don't feel afraid of UCLA, BYU or Texas or anybody else because we truly, truly have played the best teams in the country on a night-in and night-out basis, and especially in the last two to three weeks.'

Fort Recovery — Baseball scrimmage at Tri-Village - 5 p.m.: Softball scrim-

TV schedule

Thursday

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. Wichi-

ta 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. Michigan State (TBS).









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Remember, we need to keep wearing masks and following other protective measures to keep everyone safe.



left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without governmentI should not

hesitate

to prefer the latter.

Thomas Jefferson

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