

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Stephen guilty

Portland woman convicted of murder

By **CHRIS SCHANZ**
The Commercial Review

A Portland woman has been convicted of murder.

Esther J. Stephen, 30, was found guilty by a Jay Circuit Court jury Thursday afternoon on a charge of murder for the Jan. 12, 2020, shooting death of 31-year-old Shea Briar of Portland.

The verdict came after the jury — eight women and four men — deliberated for nearly two and a half hours.

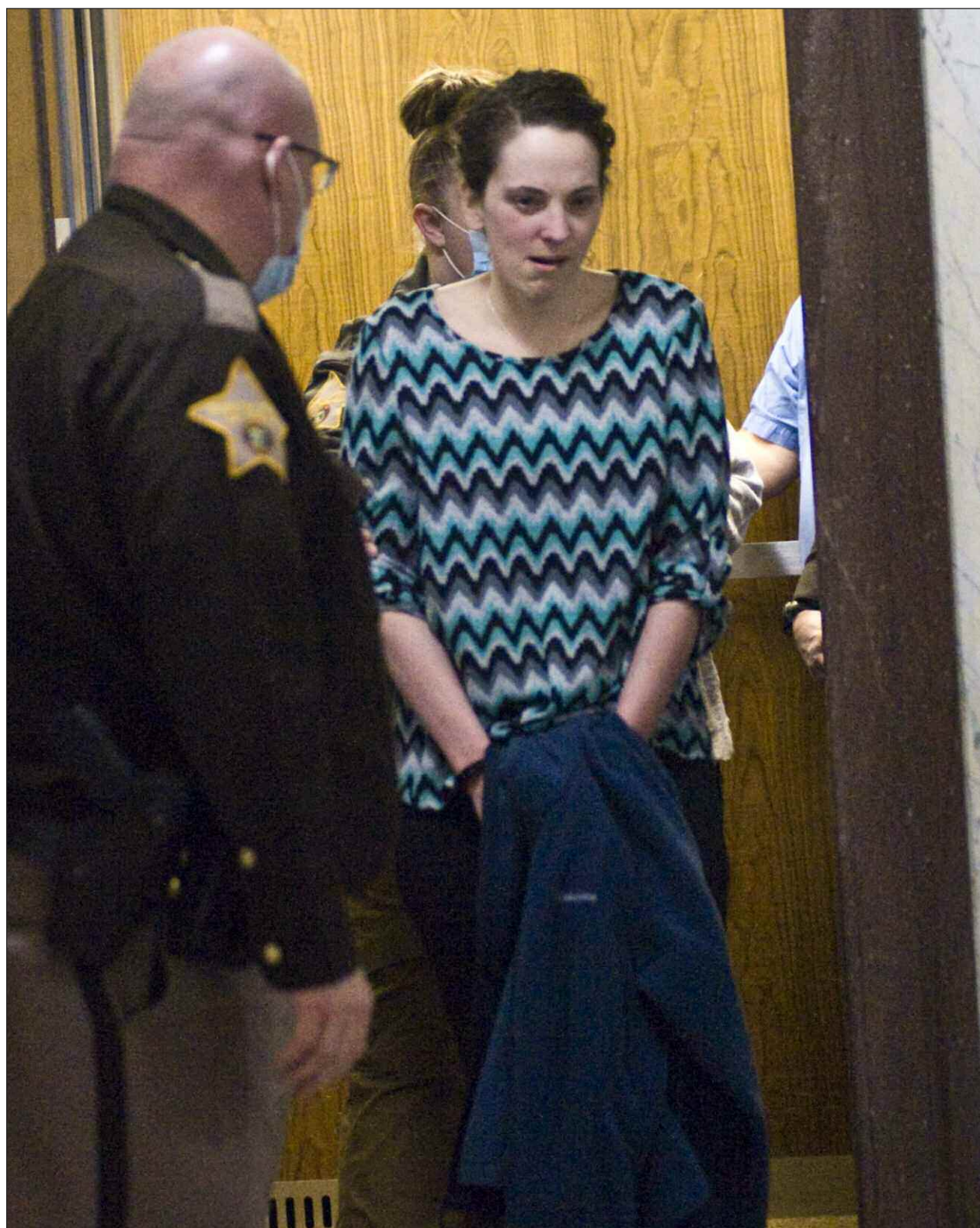
“I’m happy that the jury came back with the verdict that they did,” Jay County prosecutor Wes Schemenaur said. “It brings some sense of justice for Shea and his family, which is really important.”

“At the same time ... I’ve been doing this long enough to know that nobody really won today. As the family just told me, nothing is going to bring their son, grandson, nephew, back. The real loser in all this is their child. Their child lost a mother and a father.”

Stephen, with whom Briar shared a child, buried her head in her elbow and cried upon hearing the verdict.

In Indiana, murder carries a sentence of 45 to 65 years, with an advisory sentence of 55 years. A sentencing hearing is slated for 2 p.m. May 4.

Stephen is the one of three women charged in connection with Briar’s death. Shelby Hiestand, Portland, and Hannah Knapke, Fort Recovery, both 19, are have also been charged with mur-



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Esther “EJ” Stephen emerges from the elevator on the first floor of Jay County Courthouse shortly after a Jay Circuit Court jury found her guilty of the Jan. 12, 2020, murder of Shea Briar, 31, Portland. Sentencing for Stephen, 30, Portland, is scheduled for May 4. In Indiana, murder carries a sentence of 45 to 65 years, with an advisory sentence of 55 years.

der. Hiestand’s trial is scheduled for August, while Knapke is set to stand trial in September.

Stephen took the witness stand Thursday morning in her own defense. On questioning

from her attorney, Jill Gonzalez, she testified to the details of the night of Briar’s death. Her testimony did not sway the jurors.

According to court documents, the three

women picked Briar up at his Portland home with plans to “hang out” and proceeded to drive in Knapke’s vehicle to the county road 125 West bridge over Loblolly Creek, just south of

county road 850 North. There, Stephen distracted Briar to allow Hiestand to retrieve a gun from the vehicle. Hiestand then shot Briar once in the back.

See **Guilty** page 2

Council rejects policy change

Officers may take cars home only when on call

By **ROSE SKELLY**
The Commercial Review

REDKEY — Police officers will only be allowed to take police vehicles home when they are on call.

Redkey Town Council decided not to change its take-home car policy at its meeting Thursday, after splitting a vote on the matter at last month’s meeting.

Council members also hired two new police officers and decided to contribute extra funds for a grant application.

Earlier this year, former Redkey police officer Chad Ridenour responded to a law enforcement call in his personal vehicle and was involved in a collision. Council voted to pay Ridenour’s car insurance deductible because he was conducting town business at the time of the crash.

The accident sparked a discussion about the town’s policy, which only allowed officers to take police vehicles home when they were on call. The police department is not staffed 24/7, instead relying on its on-call officers.

Redkey Town Marshal Todd Miller presented a proposal at February’s meeting that would have allowed officers to bring their department-issued vehicles home, even when they aren’t on call. Council’s vote on the proposal was split, with Randy May and Gary Gardner voting in favor and Dottie Quakenbush and Erik Hammers voting against. (John Pierce was absent.)

The proposal was revisited at Thursday’s meeting. Miller told council that aside from preventing future liability for personal vehicles, the take-home car policy would make it easier for officers to respond to requests for backup.

See **Rejects** page 2

U.S. and China spar

By **MATTHEW LEE**
and **MARK THIESSEN**
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Top U.S. and Chinese officials were set to meet again on Friday after offering sharply different views of each other and the world in their first face-to-face talks since President Joe Biden took office.

After the opening on Thursday, the two sides traded barbs, with the U.S. accusing the Chinese delegation of “grandstanding” for domestic consumption in China and Beijing firing back Friday by saying there was a “strong smell of gunpowder and drama” in the room that was entirely the fault of the Americans.

In unusually pointed remarks for a staid diplomatic meeting, Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Chinese Communist Party foreign affairs chief Yang Jiechi took aim at each other’s country’s policies. The contentious tone of their public com-

Officials were at odds over countries’ policies

ments suggested the private discussions would be even more rocky.

The meetings in Anchorage, which continue with a closing session on Friday, were a new test in increasingly troubled relations between the two countries, which are at odds over a range of issues from trade to human rights in Tibet, Hong Kong and China’s western Xinjiang region, as well as over Taiwan, China’s assertiveness in the South China Sea and the coronavirus pandemic.

Blinken said the Biden administration is united with its allies

in pushing back against China’s increasing authoritarianism and assertiveness at home and abroad. Yang then unloaded a list of Chinese complaints about the U.S. and accused Washington of hypocrisy for criticizing Beijing on human rights and other issues.

“Each of these actions threaten the rules-based order that maintains global stability,” Blinken said of China’s actions in Xinjiang, Hong Kong and Taiwan, and of cyber attacks on the United States and economic coercion against U.S. allies.

See **Spar** page 5



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

A Little-r Treble

Jay County High School’s Just Treble show choir performs during a special concert Monday evening. The group placed third Saturday in its season-ending competition at the Garrett Railroader Rush Invitational.

Deaths

Robin Stults, 57, Bluffton
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had about 2 inches of rain Thursday. The high temperature was 54 degrees, and the low was 34.

Tonight’s low will be in the mid 20s before a warming trend begins. Saturday’s high will be 55 under sunny skies, and Sunday’s high will be 61.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday across from Pennville Fire Station and 9 a.m. to noon in the parking lot at 220 Lincoln St., Portland.

Coming up

Saturday — A new jewelry store has opened on Meridian Street in Portland.

Tuesday — Coverage of Monday’s Dunkirk City Council meeting.



Guilty ...

Continued from page 1
Knapke was standing next to Hiestand at the time of the shooting.
Briar was found on the bridge about 2 a.m. Jan. 12 and died later the same day at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.
In his closing statement Thursday, Schemenaur urged jurors to consider Stephen's actions before, during and after the incident when determining whether or not she was "aiding, inducing or causing" Hiestand to commit murder.
Kristi Sibray, a rural Portland resident who babysat the child Stephen and Briar shared on the night of Briar's death, testified Tuesday that Stephen and Hies-

tand had previously met with her a half dozen times and discussed ways they could "get rid of" Briar.
Schemenaur added that Hiestand knew where to stop on the bridge that night because Stephen admitted during interrogation that they had earlier scouted the location. And while Hiestand retrieved the gun from the back of Knapke's vehicle, Stephen was to get him away from it so he would not notice.
"She's the bait to get him in the van and away from the van so Shelby can go to work," he said.
Stephen told police during questioning — video of the hour-and-a-half interrogation was played during Wednesday's pro-

ceedings — that following the shooting she tossed Briar's phone into the creek so he couldn't call for help. But she testified Thursday that it was because she was unable to unlock it to call 911.
"She made dang sure she left him to die," Schemenaur said.
Stephen testified Briar, who was not present during her pregnancy nor the birth of her daughter, had filed paperwork to obtain visitation and change the child's surname to his. The proceedings upset Stephen, who later told police, "Things would be easier without him."
Gonzalez argued such a statement didn't mean Stephen wanted Briar dead. Rather, she said it indicated that she did not want Briar

in the child's life because she agreed with Schwartz's statement during questioning that having him around for the child's birthdays, graduation and a potential wedding would upset her.
"If they had just let the court process play out ... those things get settled in a room like this," Schemenaur argued in his closing statement. "They don't get settled ... with a bullet to the back."
"That's not how we settle custody disputes. We go to court."
Stephen will be held in Jay County Jail until her sentencing hearing.
Hiestand and Knapke are also in Jay County Jail pending their trials.

Obituaries

Robin Stults, Bluffton, a former Portland resident, March 6, 1964-March 9, 2021. Services will be at 2 p.m. April at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.
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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.
There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Saturday 3/20	Sunday 3/21	Monday 3/22	Tuesday 3/23	Wednesday 3/24
55/32	61/37	63/44	63/50	64/45
Warming begins as the high will climb into the 50s under sunny skies.	Sun and warmth are on tap for the first day of spring as the high will be 61 degrees.	The forecast calls for sunny skies with the high staying the 60s. The low will be 44.	Expect skies to be partly sunny with a high in the low 60s. There is a chance of showers late.	There is a 50% chance of rain for Wednesday. Otherwise mostly cloudy and warm.

Lotteries

<p>Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$200 million</p> <p>Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$105 million</p> <p>Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 4-1-8 Daily Four: 5-9-9-8 Evening Daily Three: 3-4-4 Daily Four: 0-4-3-9 Quick Draw: 3-5-17-19-22-25-27-29-31-37-39-46-51-</p>	<p>54-58-59-68-72-75-78 Cash 5: 5-15-19-22-29 Estimated jackpot: \$80,000</p> <p>Ohio Midday Pick 3: 0-1-3 Pick 4: 9-6-7-0 Pick 5: 8-7-2-4-3 Evening Pick 3: 3-0-7 Pick 4: 2-7-8-8 Pick 5: 6-4-4-5-5 Rolling Cash: 3-11-20-24-34 Estimated jackpot: \$130,000</p>
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Markets

<p>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....5.61 Wheat6.04</p> <p>POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....5.67 April corn5.71</p> <p>The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....5.58 April corn5.58 Beans14.16 April beans14.09 Wheat6.29 April wheat6.29</p>	<p>Central States Montpelier Corn.....5.50 April corn5.52 Beans14.16 April beans14.16 Wheat6.15 July wheat5.91</p> <p>Sunrise St. Anthony Corn.....5.56 April corn5.63 Beans14.07 April beans14.12 Wheat5.86 April wheat6.41</p>
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Today in history

On March 19, 1848, Pope Francis officially began his ministry as the 266th pope, receiving the ring symbolizing the papacy and a wool stole exemplifying his role as shepherd of his 1.2-billion strong flock during a Mass at the Vatican.

In 1931, Nevada Gov. Fred B. Balzar signed a measure legalizing casino gambling.

In 1942, during World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered men between the ages of 45 and 64, inclusive, to register for non-military duty.

In 1966, the Texas Western Miners defeated the heavily favored Kentucky Wildcats, 72-65, to win the NCAA Championship played in College Park, Maryland; Texas Western became the first

basketball team to start five Black players in a national title game as it faced an all-white Kentucky squad.

In 1979, the U.S. House of Representatives began televising its floor proceedings.

In 1987, televangelist Jim Bakker resigned as chairman of his PTL ministry organization amid a sex and money scandal.

In 2003, President George W. Bush ordered the start of war against Iraq.

In 2007, Jay School Board discussed preparations for making changes to its kindergarten program. The Indiana General Assembly was considering legislation to mandate full-day kindergarten.

—AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

<p>Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:30 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk</p>	<p>Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.</p> <p>Tuesday 5 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.</p>
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Felony arrests

Drug possession
Two Portland men were arrested early Thursday for alleged drug possession.
Nathan M. Ross, 38, 702 S. Western Ave., was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for possession of cocaine, methamphetamine or narcotic drugs and a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana.

He was also arrested Tuesday (and later that day released from Jay County Jail on \$4,500 bond), also on a Level 6 felony for possession of cocaine, methamphetamine or narcotic drugs and a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana along with a Class A misdemeanor for possessing a firearm and a Class C misde-

meanor for possession of paraphernalia. Ross was released from jail Thursday on \$4,000 bond.
Also, Michael W. Davis, 61, 417 W. Votaw St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 4 felony for possession of cocaine, methamphetamine or narcotic drugs. He's being held in Jay County Jail on \$15,000 bond.

Rejects ...

Continued from page 1
Hammers, speaking against the policy change, noted that Ridenour was on-call at the time of the crash, so would have been able to drive a department vehicle according to the existing policy.
"I have no problem with the current policy, it just needs to be abided by and the police need to take the police vehicle home when they're on call," Hammers said. "But if they're not on duty, I don't see any purpose in taking a police vehicle home ..."

Also at Thursday's meeting, council agreed to contribute more money to apply for a matching grant from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs.
At February's meeting, council voted to apply for a 90%/10% matching grant to study the town's sewer system in order to create a utility improvement plan. At the time, council members committed to paying \$5,000.
Mitch Hansel of Fleis and VandenBrink told council Thursday that for another \$4,000, the town could also study the stormwater and water utility systems. The grant would allow for a more comprehensive review of deficits in the town's utilities.
Council approved allocating the extra \$4,000 for the grant application, which is due this summer.

of \$28,458. Eighty percent of the cost will be reimbursed to the town.
•Approved the multi-hazard mitigation plan put together by Jay County Emergency Management Agency, which contains the county and its municipalities' plans for various hazards and liabilities such as flooding. The plan is valid for five years and will be registered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
•Heard that the town's Easter egg hunt will be April 3. The location is still to be determined.
•Briefly discussed the idea of hiring a full-time town employee, which was proposed by Gardner. The discussion was tabled until budget talks for 2022.
•Declined to pursue a proposal by May to allow residents to pay lower water rates during the summer, reducing costs accrued by watering lawns and filling swimming pools. Quakenbush noted that the water department is already low on funds.
•Tabled discussion of purchasing a new town vehicle. The town received two quotes for a truck, which will be discussed at April's meeting.
•Gave approval for road closures and the use of the town's utilities and insurance coverage for Redkey Gas Boom Days, which will take place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Aug. 14.
•Paid claims of \$97,464.68.

Pierce supported the policy change, saying that the town could try it out temporarily. May also expressed support, agreeing that it could help with back-up for on-call officers.
Ultimately, council voted against the police change. Quakenbush, Hammers and Gardner were in opposition to the proposal while May and Pierce voted in favor.
In other police business, two new officers were hired to replace Mitchell James and Ridenour, who both recently resigned. Council approved hiring Samuel Mauller, who lives in Ridgeville and currently works for Ridgeville Police Department, and Brad Ridenour, a rural Portland resident who formerly worked for Portland Police Department.

In other business, council members:
•Heard from Hansel that the Indiana Department of Transportation sidewalk project, which will connect Redkey Morgan Park to Redkey Elementary School, will be bid out on Dec. 8. Construction, estimated to cost about \$120,000, will begin next spring, with INDOT paying for 80% of the project.
Council also approved an engineering inspection plan with Fleis and VandenBrink for the project at a cost

pedals failed at the traffic light. She drove through the intersection and hit a 2009 Ford Taurus driven by Sarah R. Sturm, 36, Winchester. Sturm was driving north on Meridian Street when the two vehicles collided. Both vehicles were towed.
Highway crash
A Dunkirk teen drove into the back of a Portland man's vehicle on Indiana 67 about 4:40 p.m. Thursday.
Raven L. Weaver, 17, was driving her 2004 Pontiac Grand Am south on the highway near its intersection with Como Road. A 2011 Ford Fiesta, driven by Trenton Z. Finnerty, 25, was stopped in the road. Weaver later told Jay County Sheriff's Office she was unable to stop — she said her brakes failed — and it col-

Capsule Reports

Officers elected
Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals appointed new officers Thursday.
The board elected Scott Hilfiker as chairman, Angela Paxson as vice chairman and Steve Ford as secretary. It also re-appointed Pati McLaughlin as recording secretary and Bill Hinkle as legal counsel.

lided with Finnerty's vehicle.
Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000. Weaver's vehicle was towed.

Lost control
A Redkey woman driving on county road 600 South lost control of her vehicle in wet conditions and drove into a ditch about 1:48 p.m. Thursday.
Tara L. Devoss, 42, Redkey, was driving east on the road near county road 800 West when she drove into water on the road. She lost control of her 2006 Pontiac G6 and drove off the north side of the road into the ditch. Her vehicle flipped on its top.
Devoss' vehicle was towed, with damage estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

Intersection collision
Damage was estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000 after a Florida woman failed to stop at the intersection of Votaw and Meridian streets about 6:12 p.m. Monday.
Karen G. Jarrett, 51, Jacksonville, Florida, told Portland police she was driving west on Votaw Street near its intersection with Meridian Street when her 2006 Ford F150's brake

pedals failed at the traffic light. She drove through the intersection and hit a 2009 Ford Taurus driven by Sarah R. Sturm, 36, Winchester. Sturm was driving north on Meridian Street when the two vehicles collided. Both vehicles were towed.

lided with Finnerty's vehicle.
Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000. Weaver's vehicle was towed.

SERVICES

Today

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

Saturday

Brown, Brian: 10 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.
Hudson, Nilah: 1 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

April 2

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

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Photo provided

Donated

The Theurer family and friends recently donated \$5,085 raised from their "Remembering Mandy" fundraiser in honor of Mandy Theurer to Jay County Cancer Society. Pictured, from left, are Cassie Alexander, cancer society board members Chuck Denney and Bev Inman, Josh Stewart, Charlene Theurer and Roger Theurer.

Concert set for Arts Place April 8

Arts Place will be live streaming again.

"Awakening," scheduled for 7:30 p.m. April 8, will be Arts Place's second live-streamed concert of 2021 following almost a year without live performances because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The concert will feature Arts Place instructors Pete Vogler (flute), Amelia Freeman (vocals) and Eric Rogers (piano). They will highlight works of six American composers from the late 1800s and early 1900s.

The concert will be available on Arts Place's Facebook and YouTube pages.

Arts Place plans to host another virtual concert this spring and then will return to in-person performances with Dave Bennett for a free concert June 25 at Hudson Family Park.

For more information, visit artsland.org/virtual-performances.

Taking Note

March 25 — Super Smash Bros. tournament on Nintendo Switch for ages 13 through 18 from 3:30 to 6 p.m. (Sign up by calling or visiting the library.) Also, LEGOs will be available from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

March 26 — Board and card games will be available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Digital content for vacations at home are also available through the library's Hoopla and Libby apps.

Funding available

Indiana State Department of Agriculture announced recently that it is seeking project proposals from the specialty crop industry for funding through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.

Applicants can include non-profit and for-profit organizations, governments and public or private colleges and universities. Grants are available in the areas of market enhancement; access, education and training; and research.

"It is more important now than ever to leverage these financial opportunities, and I want to encourage all eligible businesses or organizations to apply," said ISDA director Bruce Kettler. "These dollars will go a long way in ensuring Indiana's robust specialty crop sector remains thriving for years to come."

For more information, visit the ISDA website at in.gov/isda. The deadline to apply is March 25.

Cruelties linger in relationship

DEAR ABBY: For more than four decades, my stepmother, "Vera," and I never got along. We tolerated each other for the sake of my father, who has now passed away. I'm a 60-year-old male reader and unsure how to respond to some recent statements she has been making.

For the record, I and many others always found Vera to be extremely self-absorbed and lacking in empathy. She often treated my father unkindly, bordering on abusive before and during his slow decline with dementia, even though she never had to provide any hands-on care. Yes, I know it's hard to always be patient in these cases, but Dad was never "difficult" or violent — just forgetful.

I call and visit Vera (who is now 87) occasionally, out of a sense of duty. A few times she has mentioned the unkind things she said or did to my father, not expressing remorse but possibly feeling some guilt.

Thus far, I have ignored these remarks, though I want to let her know I felt sad and angry about how she acted and could never live with myself if I'd treated my seriously ill spouse that way. Should I keep letting

Dear Abby



it go or express how I really feel? — GRIEVING SON IN THE WEST

DEAR SON: The next time Vera mentions the unkind things she said or did to your dad, feel free to speak up and let her know that not only did you notice but also how you feel about it. Frankly, it is admirable that you check in on the woman at all considering how you felt about each other all those years. I don't think most people would do as much as you have done under similar circumstances.

.....

DEAR ABBY: I have two wonderful grandparents I love very much. They are the most important people in my life, and I always think about them when planning anything in my life

because I want to make them happy. The problem is I want to go to college out of state and pursue a career that isn't possible in the city or state they live in. They want me to live with them in a city I can't be happy in because of this.

How do I tell them I can't see myself staying there for the rest of my life? I know they won't be happy hearing it, but I don't want to disappoint them or make them think I don't love them anymore by leaving. Please help. I don't know what to do or what path in life to take. — AT A CROSSROADS IN TEXAS

DEAR AT A CROSSROADS: You ARE at a crossroads. You're standing in the intersection of adolescence and adulthood. You deserve the chance to fulfill your dreams, so it's time for an adult conversation with your grandparents. Explain that you love them and don't want to disappoint them, and outline what your plans are regarding your education and your career. While they may be disappointed, if they love you as much as you love them, they won't stand in your way.

Community Calendar

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

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. upstairs at True Value Hardware, Meridian 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 OPTIMISTS — 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 Community Center in Dunkirk.

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. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 5:30 p.m., with the meeting at 6 p.m., in the fellowship hall at Evangelical Methodist Church, 930 W. Main St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5312.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6 p.m. each Monday 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.

Tuesday

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

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

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

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

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

4	6	7	8	9	1	5	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

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

BREAKING NEWS

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To the editor:

I will admit that whenever I see the Back in the Saddle logo on the opinion page of The Commercial Review I am instantly curious to see what is rattling around in the mind of Jack Ronald.

I get especially interested when his thoughts and words turn to the topic of books, not only from my chair at Jay County Public Library but also as someone who is simply curious. I like to hear others' thoughts about books and reading.

As Jack and his wife, Connie, face sagging shelves and lack of space for their personal book collection, I find Connie's solution a reasonable one — making the turn to reading e-books.

With some regularity, I end up in discussion of what format of book I prefer — do I like the good old reliable print copy or the con-

Letters to the Editor

venient digital copy on my Kindle?

I'll save the voicing of my opinion on the matter for later and instead tack onto Jack's piece.

Connie uses the Evergreen system of Indiana's public libraries to download her e-books. I would like to add that Jay County residents can access e-books, just like Connie does, by having a library card at Jay County Public Library.

But there's more. Not only does a card at JCPL get you access to e-books, it also gets you

access to many other digital items such as audio books, magazines, movies and music.

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Whether your shelves are full at home like the Ronalds', or looking to get back into a good book or movie, having a card at the Jay County Public Library is one of the best values in town.

Eric Hinderliter
Director
Jay County Public Library

Society says thanks

To the editor:
Jay County Historical Society has been able to update the tech-

nology and audio-visual equipment at its museum thanks to a grant of \$14,441 provided by the Indiana Historical Society and made possible by Lilly Endowment Inc.

The local museum has replaced six outdated desktop computers, two laptop computers, the computer backup system and an obsolete copy machine in the genealogy library. A large-screen television and new audio system were purchased for the meeting room. The computer updates simplify the process of accessioning items, indexing, and making data bases of material. The television and audio system will enable attendees at meetings to see and hear presentations easily.

Heritage Support Grants are for projects that help Indiana's local history organizations meet high-priority needs in areas of collections stewardship, diversity,

equity, access and inclusion, sustainability and planning. During its first five years, the program offered 11 grant opportunities and awarded more than \$2.6 million through 173 awards to 100 different organizations located in 57 of Indiana's 92 counties. These grants helped history organizations in Indiana improve stewardship of the cultural materials in their care and develop institutional capacity to play greater, more effective roles in their communities.

Jay County Historical Society is grateful to the Indiana Historical Society and the Lilly Endowment Inc. for the grant and to members and friends of the local organization for providing matching the donation required by the grant.

Rob Weaver and Phil Rager
Co-presidents
Jay County Historical Society

Butter key to great Alfredo

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

For the last four years, I've searched for a simple at-home Alfredo sauce that doesn't taste like raw sewage.

At long last, I've finally found a winner.

None of those pre-made canned sauces — yes, I'm looking at you, Prego — could ever get me past the point of pure disgust. And, to be frank, I'm still terrible at making a good roux.

But an Indiana TikTok-er has made this cheese-loving journalist happier than she'll ever know with her "Better Than Olive Garden Fettuccine Alfredo" recipe video.

Lauren Bower is a Carmel resident with more than 461,700 followers on TikTok. Her original viral video from a year ago has more than 8.6 million views. A repost of the video in December has nearly 7 million views.

So basically, it's kind of a big deal.

And I only recently discovered her. Since February, though, she's become one of my favorite cooks on the app. It's a bonus that she's also a Hoosier.

The key to this dish is using a specific type of butter — Kerrygold Salted Butter, to be precise. (It's an Irish brand that is stocked regularly at Walmart here in Portland.) Most of the ingredients here are flexible, but I don't suggest substituting out Kerrygold brand unless you're planning on using a locally made butter. If so, you'll want a butter made from sweet, rich milk.

After having used Lauren's recipe at least five times in the past two months, I think it's time I share it with our readers.

Although I've listed it as four servings, this is just enough to feed my boyfriend and me — two Alfredo-loving fiends — for one meal. So take that into account while preparing.

From me to you, I present an easy and delicious Alfredo sauce.

"Better Than Olive Garden" Alfredo Sauce

Start to finish: 15 minutes

Servings: 4

On the Line

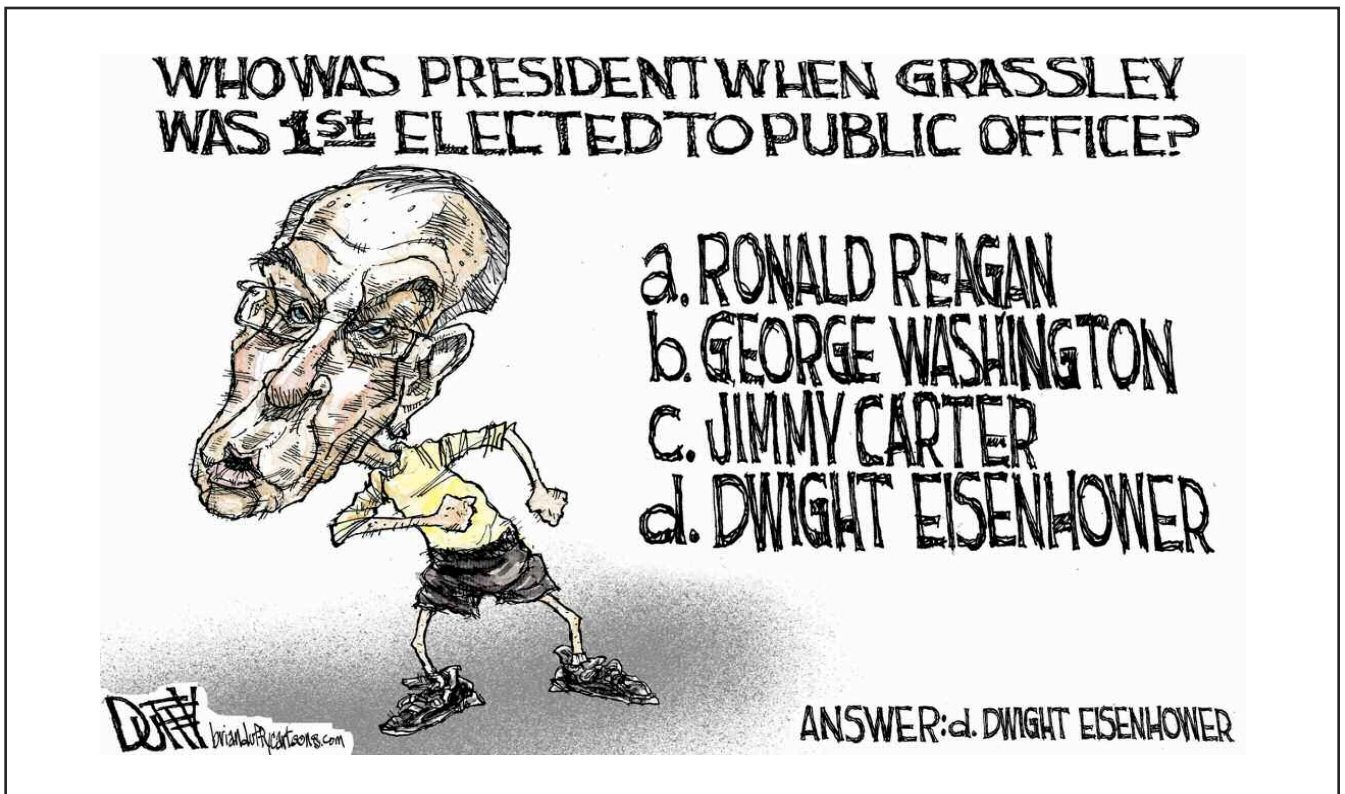


Lauren Bower is a Carmel resident with more than 461,700 followers on TikTok. And I only recently discovered her. Since February, though, she's become one of my favorite cooks on the app. It's a bonus that she's also a Hoosier.

1 stick Kerrygold Salted Butter
3 cloves minced garlic (or about 1 1/2 teaspoons pre-minced garlic)
1 1/2 cups heavy whipping cream
1 1/2 cups grated parmesan
1/2 teaspoon black pepper

Melt butter in pot on medium-low heat. Add garlic and let cook for two minutes. Pour in whipping cream and whisk for eight minutes or until thick. Add parmesan and pepper and whisk two more minutes or until cheese is melted.

Serve over pasta, chicken, broccoli or whatever else your heart desires. (Lauren even uses it for her lasagna.)
Enjoy!



Open government key for vaccines

By RENZO FALLA
Open Government Partnership

COVID-19 vaccines are an essential tool in the race to save lives and rebuild economies during the pandemic.

As more vaccines become available, ensuring their distribution is an urgent, global challenge. At the time of writing, several types of COVID-19 vaccines are in circulation, with more than 200 in development. Yet this unprecedented scale presents a series of challenges that are becoming increasingly clear:

•Corruption risks: Health procurement — particularly during emergencies — is prone to corruption risks, including conflicts of interest, nepotism, favoritism, and diversion of emergency funds. We are already seeing cases of "vaccine capture," when the powerful and well-connected have been able to cut the line.

•Effectiveness and efficiency: Although a well-planned distribution and supply chain is critical, the World Health Organization has found that many countries are not prepared for the roll-out. We see reports of health facilities throwing out unused and spoiled vaccines, and vaccine wastage rates are rarely reported.

•Equity: Vaccines are disproportionately going to well-off populations. Globally, more than 50% of all vaccines have been reserved by high-income countries representing 13% of the world's population. And COVAX, a global initiative aimed at equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, remains underfunded. At the domestic level, early numbers show that racial minorities and marginalized groups are getting vaccinated at lower rates.

•Trust: Vaccine hesitancy — the refusal to accept available vaccines — is a critical barrier to achieving a comprehensive, global distribution. Misinformation around vaccines and general lack of confidence in government are contributing factors.

The open approach

Open government can help to achieve the effective, efficient and equitable delivery of vaccines. Apply-



ing the pillars of transparency, civic participation and public accountability throughout the life cycle of vaccines can mitigate corruption risks, achieve value for money, build public trust and ensure that vaccines are reaching the people who need them most.

Review and approval

Involving non-governmental experts in the initial authorization process and being open about the safety and effectiveness of particular vaccines is critical for addressing vaccine hesitancy, particularly given the accelerated timelines of current approval processes. Research shows that government transparency around vaccine safety, combined with frequent communication throughout the regulatory process, increases trust in vaccines.

Open contracting

Open procurement processes — from tender to execution — ensure value for money, reduce corruption, and boost public trust. They are particularly important given early evidence of unfair pricing practices. Investigations show that pharmaceutical companies are requesting sovereign assets as collateral for legal costs, are being exempted from financial liability through public funds, and are often charging lower-income governments more than high-income ones.

Open distribution

Publishing timely information and publishing with citizens are essential to an open roll-out. Our analysis of vaccination data shows that several countries are not regularly disclosing

basic data on recipients, highlighting the scarcity of details that can help ensure both a more equitable distribution and data privacy. In the United States, for example, state-level data on the number of vaccinations by race has spurred new vaccine equity policies.

Monitoring and oversight

Establishing multiple, public-facing channels for monitoring — such as formal oversight bodies, corruption hotlines, and grassroots social accountability initiatives — can help to detect waste, fraud and abuse. Governments should commit to 1) enabling space for civil society to play a monitoring function and 2) quickly addressing any deficiencies identified.

Moving from ideas to action

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) provides a platform for government and civil society reformers to weave open government approaches into their vaccination policies. Members have already designed and implemented similar reforms that can be strengthened and adapted to address COVID-19 vaccines, such as:

•Argentina expanded health contracting disclosures to include agreements signed with laboratories, open data on individual purchases, and a list of most-procured medications.

•Liberia committed to disclose supply chain management decisions and updates, including on emergency procurements during the pandemic.

•Colombia committed to establish citizen audits for government expenditures on COVID-19 emergency measures.

With more than 100 Open Government Partnership members co-creating action plans this year, reformers can take advantage of this opportunity to make concrete commitments that apply an open government approach to vaccines. Doing so will be critical to ensure an effective, efficient and equitable vaccine distribution, and by extension, to save lives and livelihoods.

The Commercial Review

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



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

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

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Justin Merriman

Hitting 100 million

A resident speaks with a healthcare worker before getting the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination at a West Virginia United Health System vaccine clinic in Morgantown, W.Va., on March 11, 2021. The United States is expected to hit 100 million COVID-19 vaccine shots today. The pace of shots has risen to an average of nearly 2.5 million per day for the last week.

Man is charged with four murders

Police say shootings followed argument over stimulus \$

By RICK CALLAHAN
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — An Indianapolis man was formally charged with murder Thursday in the killings of three adults and a child he allegedly shot to death after he and a former girlfriend argued because he wanted a share of her federal COVID-19 relief money.

Malik Halfacre, 25, faces four counts of murder and one count each of attempted murder, armed robbery and auto theft, among other charges, in Saturday's killings, Marion County Prosecutor Ryan Mears said.

Halfacre allegedly shot a woman, who is the mother of his 6-month-old daughter, critically wounding her, and fatally shot four of her relatives inside a home where officers found the bodies of Anthony Johnson, 35, Dequan Moore, 23, Tomeeka Brown, 44, and Eve Moore, 7.

The ex-girlfriend told police

that Eve Moore — identified in court documents as "E.M." — was her daughter, that Tomeeka Brown was her mother, Dequan Moore was her brother, and Anthony Johnson was her cousin, according to a probable cause affidavit.

Mears said that while the case "breaks your heart" the toughest part for him as a father of two young children is Eve Moore's killing.

"I think everyone asks the same question about the 7-year-old: Why? She didn't have anything to do with the stimulus check, she didn't have anything to do with the money and she lost her life. And if that doesn't break your heart I don't know what will," he said at a news conference.

Mears said that the night of the killings Halfacre had "a very spirited discussion over stimulus money" with a woman his office said he is believed to have once been in a relationship with before he left the home and then returned armed with a firearm and the argument resumed.

"During the course of this argument that continued over the stimulus money there is an allegation that he did begin to remove money from our victim's purse and during the course of this an altercation occurred which resulted in people being shot," Mears said.

Spar ...

Continued from page 1

"That's why they're not merely internal matters, and why we feel an obligation to raise these issues here today."

National security adviser Jake Sullivan amplified the criticism, saying China has undertaken an "assault on basic values."

"We do not seek conflict but we welcome stiff competition," he said.

Yang responded angrily by demanding the U.S. stop pushing its own version of democracy at a time when the United States itself has been roiled by domestic discontent. He also accused the U.S. of failing to deal with its own human rights problems and took issue with what he said was "condescension" from Blinken, Sullivan and other U.S. officials.

"We believe that it is important for the United States to change its own image and to stop advancing its own democracy in the rest of the world," he said. "Many people within the United States actually have little confidence in the democracy of the United States."

"China will not accept unwarranted accusations from the U.S. side," he said, adding that recent developments had plunged relations "into a period of unprecedented difficulty" that "has damaged the interests of our two peoples."

"There is no way to strangle China," he said.

Blinken appeared to be annoyed by the tenor and length of the comments, which went on for more than 15 minutes. He said

his impressions from speaking with world leaders and on his just-concluded trip to Japan and South Korea were entirely different from the Chinese position.

"I'm hearing deep satisfaction that the United States is back, that we're reengaged," Blinken retorted. "I'm also hearing deep concern about some of the actions your government is taking."

Underscoring the animosity, the State Department blasted the Chinese delegation for violating an agreed upon two-minute time limit for opening statements and suggested it "seem(ed) to have arrived intent on grandstanding, focused on public theatrics and dramatics over substance."

"America's approach will be undergirded by confidence in our dealing with Beijing — which we are doing from a position of strength — even as we have the humility to know that we are a country eternally striving to become a more perfect union," it said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian, speaking later in Beijing, said Blinken and Sullivan had provoked Chinese officials into making a "solemn response" after U.S. officials made "groundless attacks" against China.

"It was the U.S. side that ... provoked the dispute in the first place, so the two sides had a strong smell of gunpowder and drama from the beginning in the opening remarks. It was not the original intention of the Chinese side," Zhao told reporters at a daily briefing.

Deeds

Brandon Foreman to Foreman Brothers Properties LLC, quit claim deed — Lots 10 and 11, Baker Addition, Portland

Brandon M. and Curtis D. Foreman to Foreman Brothers Properties LLC, quit claim deed — Lot 7, 8 and 9, Baker Addition, Portland

Melissa Williamson Englehardt to Christopher R. Englehardt, quit claim deed — Lot 26, Hanlin Addition

Keith D. and Janet F. Shauver to Christopher R. Englehardt, quit claim deed — Lot 26, Hanlin Addition

Bion Kent Rayburn Revocable Living Trust and Carolyn June Rayburn Revocable Living Trust to Joshua Selvey, trustee deed — Part of Section 23, Richland Township

Sharon S. Myers to Betzy Keihn, quit claim deed — Part of Section 31, Bearcreek Township, 0.760 acres

Joseph L. Johnson to Ronnie Thomas, quit claim deed — Part of Section 10, Knox Township, 4 acres

Matthew R. Maddox to Evergreen Rentals LLC, warranty deed — Lots 38 and 39, Manning and Evans Subdivision, Dunkirk

Lisa D. Sawver to Windgate Properties LLC, tax title deed — Lots 6 and 7, Corwin Subdivision

Krista N. Rodeffer to Zane Shawver, sheriff/marshal deed — Lot 79, Mt. Auburn Addition, Dunkirk

Jarad A. Haggard to John Gibson, warranty deed — Section 27, Knox

Township, Dunkirk, about 10 acres

James G. Wagner to John D. and Mary E. Wagner, quit claim deed — Lot 9, Block 11, East Addition, Portland

Gerald D. Thornton (deceased) to Dale L. Moyer, deed affidavit — Part of Section 19, Wayne Township, 1 acre

Dale L. Moyer to Menausha L. VanSkyock, warranty deed — Part of Section 19, Wayne Township, 2 acres

Travis B. Towell to Brandon D. and Jeana Ingram, warranty deed — Part of Section 6, Bearcreek Township, 2.07 acres

J and S Rinker Family Farm LLC to Mary E. Rinker, quit claim deed — Part of Section 35, Knox Township, 75.25 acres

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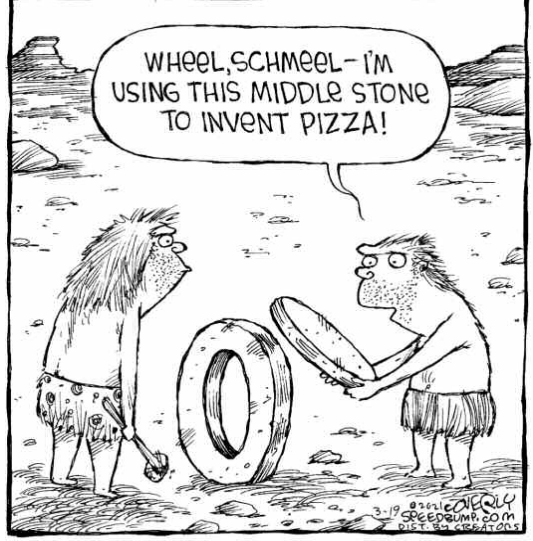
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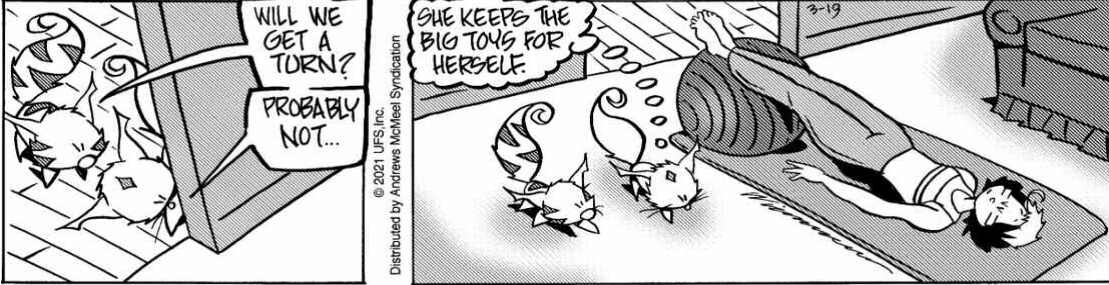
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There's no stopping Tharp

Jay County native is still going strong as she nears 80

By PETER MARKS

The Washington Post

NEW YORK — To say Twyla Tharp is still at it after all these years would be inaccurate. Because there is never anything still about Twyla Tharp.

The title of the new PBS documentary about this seminal figure in modern dance — who has sent bodies of all shapes into orbit and even made Mikhail Baryshnikov go artfully wobbly in the knees — puts it nicely. “Twyla Moves,” it’s called. A survey of Tharp’s origins and the evolution of her restless aesthetic, Steven Cantor’s film takes the measure of the choreographer’s career as she approaches her 80th birthday. Still creating dance, even in the isolation of a pandemic-enforced quarantine.

“What I’m doing now is working with 17 dancers in a company I have never seen,” Tharp says in a recent Zoom interview from her New York apartment, where she has been engaged in online rehearsals of a new ballet for a troupe in Germany.

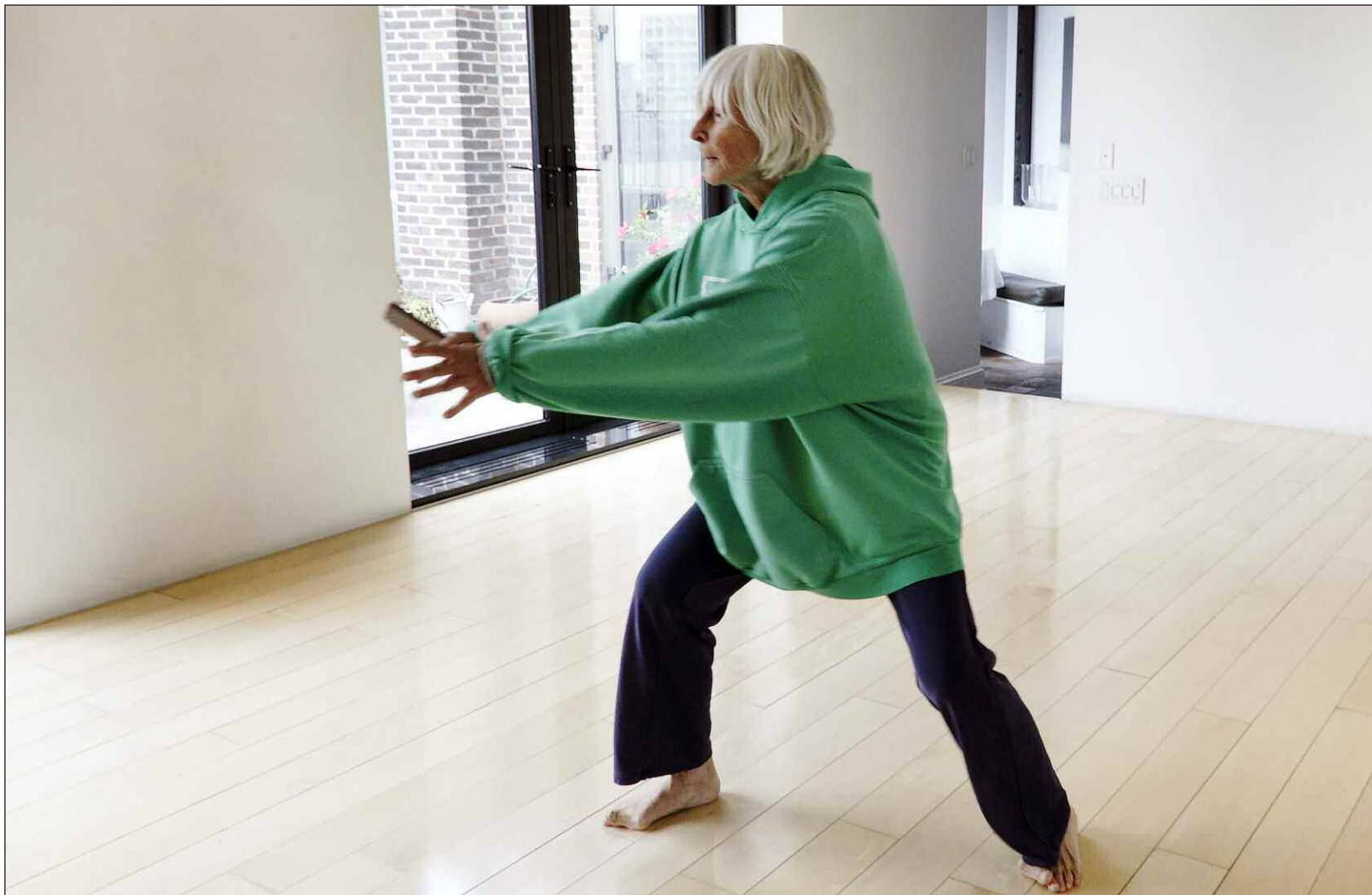
That Tharp would use the shutdowns to unlock her imagination further does not come as a surprise. Nor does the fact that she’s never met in person the dancers and technical people she’s working with.

“She has been so uniquely focused on dance her whole entire life, at the expense of everything else, that there was not really that much else to dredge up,” Cantor says.

“Twyla Moves,” which premieres Friday on the long-running PBS series “American Masters,” trains a lens on the perspicacious intellect and personality that frame the Indiana-born Tharp’s dance worldview, and on a body of work that stretches back to the 1960s.

The choreographer’s eclectic inspirations wind like a scenic highway through American culture, from ballet to figure skating, from Frank Sinatra to Philip Glass. Cantor dips into Tharp’s remarkably complete film archive for glimpses of her earliest explorations of minimalism with a group of female dancers that included Sheela Raj, Theresa Dickinson, Rose Marie Wright and Sara Rudner.

The grainy footage of Tharp in a rehearsal room with a young Baryshnikov in the mid-1970s gives way to clips from Milos Forman’s film adaptation of “Hair,” for which she devised the dervish-like movement. A signif-



Stick Figure Films

At 79, choreographer Twyla Tharp, who was born in Portland and later lived in Dunkirk, says she is in “remarkable physical condition” and has “always pushed myself to a limit beyond which others do not go.”

icant moment is devoted, too, to “Movin’ Out,” the 2002 musical based on Billy Joel’s songbook that Tharp directed and for which Broadway bestowed on her the Tony Award for best choreography.

Tharp, who founded Twyla Tharp Dance in 1965 and went on to choreograph for the Joffrey Ballet, American Ballet Theatre and the New York City Ballet, is a titan of contemporary dance: She received a Kennedy Center Honors in 2008, alongside Barbra Streisand, George Jones, Morgan Freeman and The Who. But she turned down the producers of the retrospective “American Masters” franchise several times, perhaps because it was something she thought could wait, as she put it, “until I was dead.” The pandemic changed Tharp’s mind, though, especially after she considered that Zoom could be a choreographic partner.

“This distance activation was the only way I was going to be working this year,” Tharp says she realized. “So it was like, ‘OK, I’ll do your PBS show. But half of it is going to be new work.’”

“Twyla Moves” is filled with images of Twyla moving: performing in 1969 amid paintings and sculptures at the Metropolitan Museum of Art with the women she lovingly calls “the bunch of broads”; over the shoulders and under the legs of Baryshnikov in 1975; and in her studio today, exercising, twisting, bending, demonstrating the

steps she expects dancers a third of her age to execute.

“I’m in remarkable physical condition,” she says. “I find that to work I need to maintain myself. I’ve always pushed myself to a limit beyond which others do not go.”

“She pushes people to enormous extremes outside of their comfort zone,” says Cantor, who logged 75 hours of Tharp on film over seven months.

For the 80-minute documentary specifically, Tharp decided to work on a new, compressed Zoom version of her 2012 piece “The Princess and the Goblin,” with a cast including Herman Cornejo, Maria Khoreva and Misty Copeland, a muse of Tharp’s and American Ballet Theatre’s first African American principal ballerina. The film records a process that is, for a viewer, conceptually challenging: how one might dream up the synchronous gestures of four people in four remote spaces and, at the same time, deal with the sound lags and interruptions of fickle internet connections.

“She spent a lot of time thinking it through and dancing it herself and thinking what step would lead to the next step,” Cantor recalls. “And how two people in two different screens in two different parts of the world look dancing together. She spent hours and hours and hours behind the scenes, just trying to work it out herself.”

Cantor’s camera catches Tharp in her studio, instructing sweaty

faces on computers: the art of making art, byte by byte.

“It’s going to be a huge shock to the performing industry, that the digital world is a reality, that people are going to continue to connect to the arts through this device,” Tharp notes during our Zoom exchange. “To a greater or lesser degree, it’s not going away. So to learn how to utilize it and be challenged through it, has value.

“You can’t be frustrated,” she adds. “You can’t be missing what ain’t there. You got to see what is there.”

Unlike the ballet Tharp has been working on with the German company, which debuts this month, the three-minute dance she created on “American Masters” was cast with dancers she has known for years. “So it’s like I knew that I had seen them,” she says. “I knew them tangibly. I know how much space they occupy while they’re in two dimensions.”

“Twyla Moves” dwells minimally on Tharp’s personal life. Other than her son, producer Jesse Huot, with whom she works, Cantor avers that Tharp “hasn’t really had long-term relationships or anything.” And many close friends, such as author Maurice Sendak, have died.

Tharp pays tribute to Huot during our interview, clearing up a bit of Broadway mythology about “Movin’ Out.” At its tryout in Chicago, critics pointed out serious issues with the coherence of the musical, a tale of

American soldiers returning from Vietnam. As the story has been popularly told, Tharp meticulously charted reviewers’ objections and set about clarifying the narrative.

“Yes, but here’s how it worked,” Tharp explains. “I didn’t actually do that. My son did, because I was incapable of taking the vitriol out of the reviews to get to the usable entity, the observation aisle and the delivery mode. And the snark, if you will. He went through and did the analysis and pulled out all of the valuable information.”

The far better notices on Broadway paved the way to a 1,303-performance run in New York and a substantial afterlife for “Movin’ Out” on the road.

“Twyla Moves” leaves essentially underexplored a fascinating issue — how Tharp managed to walk away in 1988 from Twyla Tharp Dance, after the success of “In the Upper Room,” a mesmerizing modern ballet she created to Glass’s composition. (In 2000, the company was reformed with new dancers.)

The machine, she says in the documentary, “had to stop.” Running a nonprofit company involved too many distressing aspects: “The institution wants to support itself, first and foremost,” she tells me. “This actually is where the second chapter of the saga would begin.”

Another chapter — at 80? For an artist in perpetual motion, that doesn’t sound like a stretch at all.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

You are South in each of the following five bidding sequences. What is North’s most likely distribution?

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| 3♦ | 3NT |
| 4♥ | |

1. Five spades, six diamonds. North must have five spades as he would not have rebid the suit with only four of them. Also, he cannot have only five diamonds, since with five spades and five diamonds, he

would have opened the bidding with one spade, not one diamond. North therefore has six (or possibly even seven) diamonds.

2. Five or six spades, five diamonds. North is sure to have five diamonds, having bid the suit twice, so North must have at least five and possibly six spades.

3. 4-4-5-0. North should have exactly four spades and four hearts, having bid both suits secondarily, and is likely to have five diamonds, having bid that suit first. North could have 4-4-4-1 distribution, but he is much more likely to be 4-4-5-0 in this strong sequence.

4. 4-3-1-5. North almost surely has a singleton diamond; with 4-3-2-4 distribution, he would probably pass one notrump or raise to two notrump. The only other possibility is that North is 4-3-0-6, but he is much less likely to have that exact distribution.

5. Six hearts, five diamonds. North cannot be 5-5 in the red suits, as he would have passed three notrump, having already shown at least five hearts and five diamonds with his third bid. North’s last bid therefore guarantees six hearts.

Tomorrow: Rara avis.
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3-19 CRYPTOQUIP
PO ZFDZIF MFIPFEF WQMAOQI
FEFVAY HNAQHIIR ADDX
ZIHNF, P’W YHR ATRF HUF
ATPVXPVK ATPVKY AUQF.

Yesterday’s Cryptoquip: TRENDY TELEVISION TALENT SHOW WITH ASPIRING SINGERS FROM A FLORIDA PORT CITY: “MIAMI VOICE.”
Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals P

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PORTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT will be accepting applications for part-time dispatcher. All applicants must be 18 yrs or older, high school diploma or GED equivalent. Applications can be picked up at the Portland Police Department 319 N Meridian St., Portland, IN starting Wed., March 19th-26th. or on our website thecityofportland.net. Applications need to be in by March 26th, 2021 by 5pm.

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COUNTY OF JAY, SS:
IN THE JAY
SUPERIOR/CIRCUIT
COURT
CIVIL DIVISION ROOM
CASE NO:
38C01-2102-DN-018
Hope Powell Petitioner
VS
Clifton Powell Respondent
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR
DISSOLUTION OF MAR-
RIAGE

Hope Powell whose mailing address is PO Box 2 Bryant, IN 47326, And whose residence is in Jay County, Indiana hereby gives notice that Hope Powell Has filed a petition in the Jay Superior /Circuit Court Civil Division Room Requesting the marriage of Hope Powell and Clifton Powell be dissolved. Notice is further given that the hearing will be held on said Petition on the 23rd day of April, 2021 at 2 o’clock pm.
Hope Powell
Bryant, IN 47326
CR 3/12,19,26-2021-HSPAXLP

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Sports

Colts make Wentz trade official

By **MICHAEL MAROT**

AP Sports Writer
INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts made their big offseason splash last month. They just couldn't talk about it until Wednesday. Thirty minutes after the start of the new league year, the Colts made it official by announcing they'd acquired quarterback Carson Wentz from the Philadelphia Eagles for two draft picks. Indy gave up a third-rounder this year and a second-rounder in 2022, which could become a first-round pick if Wentz takes 75% of Indy's snaps this season. "We're excited to add Carson to our team and know he will contribute to the culture that

we've established here," general manager Chris Ballard said in a statement. "We believe that Carson's relationship with Frank (coach Frank Reich) and his familiarity with our offensive staff made this the right move for our organization." The biggest question since the deal was made Feb. 18 had been what number Wentz would wear after receiver Michael Pittman Jr., the Colts' top draft pick last season, declined to give up his No. 11 jersey. That may be settled now, too, after one of Wentz's biggest fans — Giovanni Hamilton — donned a blue No. 2 jersey in a Twitter post. Wentz was the No. 2 overall draft choice in 2016 behind quar-

terback Jared Goff, who also was traded earlier this year. Adding Wentz fills Indy's most glaring hole, one that unexpectedly opened when Andrew Luck abruptly retired before the 2019 season. Jacoby Brissett replaced Luck then, but returned to backup duty last season when the Colts signed 38-year-old Philip Rivers in free agency. With Brissett set to hit the open market and Rivers retiring in January, the Colts only had one quarterback on the roster — Jacob Eason, a fourth-round pick in 2020 who did not play as a rookie. The move reunites Wentz with Reich, who worked with Wentz for his first two NFL seasons as

the Eagles offensive coordinator. Wentz finished third in the MVP voting in 2017 — the season Philadelphia won the Super Bowl after Wentz went down with a season-ending knee injury and Nick Foles took over. "I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to coach Carson again and he will be a fantastic addition to this organization," Reich said. "I have the utmost respect for him as a competitor and his integrity as a man. Carson will bring great leadership to our locker room and will be an asset for the Colts both on the field and in our community." Last year, though, Wentz struggled. He completed just 57.4% of his passes while throw-

ing for 2,620 yards — both career lows. His 16 TD passes tied a career low and his 15 interceptions and 50 sacks were both career highs. The Eagles benched Wentz for their final four games. One thing that could help Wentz turn around his career in Indy: playing behind a better offensive line. Since three-time All-Pro guard Quenton Nelson arrived in 2018, the Colts have been ranked among the league's best at keeping quarterbacks upright. But this year they will be missing longtime left tackle Anthony Castonzo. He announced he was retiring in January.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Final swim

Gretchen Link of the Jay County Junior High School swim team competes in the 100-yard freestyle Monday evening during the Patriots' victory over visiting Blackford in their final meet of the year. Link placed third in the event behind teammates Morgan DeHoff and Maisey Keller.

Purdue leaning on Fab 4 for tourney run

By **MICHAEL MAROT**

AP Sports Writer
INDIANAPOLIS — Jaden Ivey grew up with high expectations. His mother, Niele, led Notre Dame to the first of its two national championships and now coaches at her alma mater. His father, Javin Hunter, played for the Fighting Irish and in the NFL. The younger Ivey was a highly-touted high school star, too. So when he got to Purdue last fall and started making an impact with three other talented freshmen, Ivey had a pretty good sense of what would happen next. Yes, fans started talking about The Baby Boilers, Part 2, the sequel to Purdue's incredible freshmen in 2007-08.

Only they hope to edit the final scene with one, long run at an NCAA Tournament being played exclusively in Indiana. "I packed a lot," Ivey said after finding out the fourth-seeded Boilermakers would face 13th-seeded North Texas on Friday in the South Region. "I packed my whole suitcase. I packed everything because I'm planning to stay 'til April." It's certainly plausible. The Boilermakers (18-9) have been one of the Big Ten's hottest teams since January, going 11-4, winning six of their last seven and jumping to No. 20 in the AP Top 25 despite last week's overtime loss to No. 9 Ohio State in the league tourney. And they're only the Indiana school still playing, too.

One reason, they've got an experienced cast playing lead roles. All-conference forward Trevion Williams, a junior, averages 14.9 points and 9.6 rebounds. Senior guard Sasha Stefanovic was one of the league's top 3-point shooters and has

returned following a positive COVID-19 test forced him to miss three weeks. The four freshmen in the supporting cast is pretty strong, too: Ivey, Zach Edey, Mason Gillis and Brandon Newman. Each possesses a different skill set and presents a distinct challenge for defenders. Ivey is the athletic, 6-foot-4 playmaking guard who can score in bunches. He averages just 10.5 points but has scored at least 14 in nine of Purdue's last 11 games. Gillis and Newman both redshirted last season. But at 6-6, 230 pounds, Gillis is the tough guy who enjoys mixing it up inside and the 6-5 Newman can handle the ball, make 3-pointers and defend.

Edey is the most unique. The long-armed, 7-foot-4, 285-pound Toronto native gave up pitching to pursue basketball and may be the most talented center in a long line that have come through coach Matt Painter's program. He averaged 10.2 points, 5.4 rebounds and 1.3 blocks in one of the country's most rugged leagues, becoming a big hit around campus and a big headache for defenders because he makes players of all sizes look small. "The thing he's been able to do is catch the ball in traffic, especially when the little guys are coming after him," Painter said. "He's been able to catch those balls and pass it. He's been able to catch those balls and score it. He's a good player and he just keeps getting better."

All four earned Big Ten freshmen of the week honors this season, a league record for one school. Edey and Ivey became the ninth set of Big Ten teammates to earn all-freshmen honors. They're a confident bunch, too.

Tokyo to announce fan ban

TOKYO (AP) — Tokyo organizers and the International Olympic Committee are poised to finally make it official that most fans from abroad will be prohibited from attending the postponed Olympics when they open in four months. The announcement is expected to come after "five-party" talks on Saturday with the IOC, local organizers, the Japanese government, the Tokyo

metropolitan government and the International Paralympic Committee. "People are waiting eagerly for an early decision so they can move to the next step," Seiko Hashimoto, the president of the organizing committee, said Friday in a news briefing. "We need to be able to make the decision soon." Despite some calls to delay it,

Hashimoto has promised a decision before the torch relay opens on Thursday from the northeastern prefecture of Fukushima. Hashimoto said all five parties will have to agree on the decision. But she said two have more influence than others: the IOC and the Japanese national government. "All decisions will be made by the IOC in the end," Hashimoto said.

Sports on tap

TV schedule

Friday
 12:15 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: NCAA Tournament — Virginia Tech vs. Florida (CBS)
 12:45 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: NCAA Tournament — Colgate vs. Arkansas (truTV)
 1:15 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: NCAA Tournament — Utah State vs. Texas Tech (TNT)
 3 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: NCAA Tournament — Oral Roberts vs. Ohio State (CBS)

3:30 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: NCAA Tournament — Hartford vs. Baylor (truTV)
 4 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: NCAA Tournament — Georgia Tech vs. Loyola Chicago (TBS)
 4:30 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: NCAA Tournament — Oregon State vs. Tennessee (TNT)
 6:25 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: NCAA Tournament — Liberty vs. Oklahoma State (TBS)
 7:10 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: NCAA Tournament — Wisconsin vs. North Carolina (CBS)
 7:15 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: NCAA Tournament — Cleveland State vs. Houston (truTV)

7:25 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: NCAA Tournament — North Texas vs. Purdue (TNT)
 8 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Indiana Pacers at Miami Heat (FSN)
 9:20 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: NCAA Tournament — Rutgers vs. Clemson (TBS)
 9:40 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: NCAA Tournament — Syracuse vs. San Diego State (CBS)
 9:50 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: NCAA Tournament — Morehead State vs. West Virginia (truTV)
 9:57 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: NCAA Tournament — Winthrop vs. Villanova (TNT)

Local notes

Registration continues Saturday
 Portland Junior League will have its second day of registration on Saturday. The session will be from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday at Jay Community Center, 115 E. Water St., Portland. Registration forms can be picked up at JCC, or they're available online at PJL's Facebook page. The league is open to boys and girls ages 5 to 15.
 To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@thecr.com.

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