

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

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Opening up



The Commercial Review screenshot

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb speaks Tuesday evening while addressing the ongoing coronavirus pandemic in Indiana. He noted vaccination appointments will open to all Hoosiers ages 16 and older beginning March 31 and state COVID-19 restrictions will be lifted April 6. While the statewide mask mandate will be lifted, Indiana will shift to a "mask advisory," recommending masks be worn in indoor public settings.

Vaccine eligibility to expand widely on March 31; state COVID-19 restrictions will be lifted April 6

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Beginning next week, coronavirus vaccinations will be available to all Hoosiers 16 and older.

Less than a week later, state COVID-19 restrictions will be lifted.

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb during a speech Tuesday announced plans for the continued rollback of restrictions related to the coronavirus pandemic that has been ongoing for more than a year.

"Some big steps forward," said Heath Butz of Jay County

Health Department shortly after Holcomb concluded his speech. "I hope that people continue to do those measures, even if they aren't required, in the situations that need them — social distancing, masking, hand sanitizing. I think all of us want to keep moving in this positive direction and I think doing those little things will help us continue in that direction."

Holcomb noted the federal government Tuesday told states to expect large increases in the number of vaccines they receive beginning next week.

For that reason, he said as of March 31 vaccination appointments will be available to all Hoosiers 16 and older. Currently, appointments are available to those 40 and older.

The current state health emergency and related executive order expire March 31. Holcomb said Tuesday he will extend the health emergency for another month, allowing the state to act quickly if circumstances change and to access the millions of dollars of federal funds that are available to help fight the pandemic. The executive order that

details restrictions will be extended through April 5. After that, state COVID-19 restrictions, such as the mask mandate and limits on capacity at restaurants, will be lifted. (The state will shift to a "mask advisory," 6 feet of social distance will still be recommended and local government officials will be able to put restrictions in place as they see fit.) Kindergarten through 12th grade schools will stay under current restrictions for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.

See **Opening** page 2

Vote in Israel has no clear winner

Netanyahu appears to be short of a majority

By LAURIE KELLMAN
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Uncertainty hovered over the outcome of Israel's parliamentary election today, with both Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and sworn political rivals determined to depose him apparently lacking a clear path to a governing coalition.

Deadlock in the 120-seat parliament was a real possibility a day after the election, which had been dominated by Netanyahu's polarizing leadership.

With about 90% of the vote counted by this morning, Netanyahu's Likud party and its ultra-Orthodox and far-right allies fell short of a 61-seat majority — even if the Yamina party of Netanyahu ally-turned-critic Naftali Bennett were to join a Netanyahu-led government. Bennett has refused to endorse either side.

At the same time, a small Arab party emerged as a potential kingmaker this morning after the latest count indicated it would cross the threshold to get into parliament. Like Bennett, the head of the Ra'am party, Mansour Abbas, has not ruled out joining either camp.

"We're not in anyone's pocket," he told the 103 FM radio station.

"We're willing to have contact with both of the sides with anyone who is trying to form a government and sees himself as a future prime minister," Abbas added, reflecting the long road of negotiations ahead. "If there's an offer we will sit, we will talk."

With key players on both sides ruling out an alliance with Abbas, a fifth election also remained a possibility if neither camp can form a coalition.

See **Israel** page 5

Colorado shooter ID'd

By PATTY NIEBERG,
THOMAS PEIPERT
and COLLEEN SLEVIN
Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. — Law enforcement officials and former associates of a 21-year-old accused of killing 10 people at a Colorado supermarket described the suspect as someone prone to sudden rage who was suspended from high school for a sudden attack on a classmate that left the student bloodied.

Ahmad Al Aliwi Alissa, who is from the Denver suburb of Arvada, was booked into jail Tuesday on murder charges a day after the attack at a King Soopers grocery in Boulder. He was due to make a first court appearance Thursday.

Alissa had bought an assault weapon on March 16, six days before the attack, according to an

21-year-old described as 'prone to sudden rage'

arrest affidavit. Investigators have not established a motive, said Boulder County District Attorney Michael Dougherty. It was not immediately known where the suspect purchased the weapon.

Among the dead was Boulder police Officer Eric Talley, 51, who was the first to arrive after responding to a call about shots fired and someone carrying a gun, said police Chief Maris

Herold. Talley had ties to east central Indiana, having graduated with two degrees from Ball State University and served as a volunteer at the IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital fitness center.

A law enforcement official briefed on the shooting said the suspect's family told investigators they believed Alissa was suffering some type of mental illness, including delusions.

See **Shooter** page 5



The Washington Post/Rachel Woolf

People brought flowers to the Boulder Police Department in honor of officer Eric Talley, who was killed while trying to protect others. Talley was a 2004 Ball State University graduate who previously served as a volunteer instructor in the fitness center at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital.

Deaths

Nickolas Overla, 22, Dunkirk
Glen Johnson, 96, Portland
Wilma Theurer, 91, Madison Township
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 70 degrees Tuesday. The low was 43.
Expect partly cloudy skies tonight with a low of 47. Thursday's high will be 64. Showers are expected in the afternoon, with thunderstorms possible.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

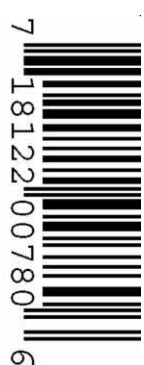
In review

Jay County Public Library's spring break events will continue Thursday with a 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.

Coming up

Thursday — Coverage of today's meeting regarding flood mitigation.

Saturday — What's it like to experience 1,100 degrees? Rays of Insight.



Bill could establish coal ash program

By ENRIQUE SAENZ
Indiana Environmental Reporter

A bill written to lighten the load for the Indiana Department of Environmental Management could now task the agency with overseeing the storage and disposal of hundreds of millions of tons of toxic coal ash in the state, with less rigorous regulations than those required by the federal government.

Senate Bill 271, originally written to remove IDEM's responsibility to assess industrial waste control facility property tax exemptions and to change where the state posted its impaired waters list, could now establish the state's first coal ash permitting program.

The program could save coal ash-producing industries money by ultimately regulating

coal ash disposal through policies less stringent than the federal regulations currently in effect in Indiana.

An amendment to the bill introduced by Rep. Mike Speedy (D-Indianapolis), vice chair of the House Environmental Affairs Committee, rewrites the Indiana Code to allow the state to regulate coal combustion residuals, or coal

ash. The bill, if passed, would force IDEM to inform the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency about the new permitting program and establish the program within 16 months after passage of the bill.

"Without this amendment, there is strong potential that IDEM would let this program revert to the federal level. It is in the best interest of not only

power companies but ratepayers and our state government and all taxpayers that this is a program that stays with the state and stays with IDEM," said Speedy during the introduction of the amendment.

The bill passed the House Environmental Affairs Committee 9 to 4, and will head to the full Indiana House of Representatives for consideration.

CR almanac

Thursday 3/25	Friday 3/26	Saturday 3/27	Sunday 3/28	Monday 3/29
64/44	55/42	67/42	51/32	56/40
There is a 90% chance of rain during the day and night. Thunderstorms possible in the afternoon.	Showers likely before 8 a.m. Otherwise mostly cloudy with a slight breeze.	The forecast calls for a mostly sunny day with a chance of rain at night. Cloudy in the evening.	Skies will be mostly clear throughout the day and night as temperatures begin to drop.	Another sunny day is on the forecast for Monday. Clear skies in the evening.

Lotteries

Powerball
Estimated jackpot: \$220 million
16-23-35-37-40-41-51-57-58-59-60-64-66-68-75-78
Cash 5: 22-24-30-40-44
Estimated jackpot: \$105,000

Mega Millions
12-23-35-38-55
Mega Ball: 11
Megaplier: 2
Estimated jackpot: \$137 million

Hoosier
Midday
Daily Three: 9-0-8
Daily Four: 0-7-1-8
Evening
Daily Three: 4-6-4
Daily Four: 6-0-2-8
Quick Draw: 3-4-10-15

Ohio
Midday
Pick 3: 4-8-1
Pick 4: 8-8-4-9
Pick 5: 8-0-4-0-9
Evening
Pick 3: 2-6-4
Pick 4: 7-0-5-9
Pick 5: 8-9-5-3-9
Rolling Cash: 4-13-30-32-37
Estimated jackpot: \$110,000

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery	Central States Montpelier
Corn.....5.60	Corn.....5.52
Wheat6.06	April corn5.54
	Beans14.42
	April beans14.42
	Wheat6.16
	July wheat5.93
POET Biorefining Portland	Sunrise St. Anthony
Corn.....5.67	Corn.....5.51
April corn5.71	April corn5.58
	Beans14.38
	April beans14.40
	Wheat5.80
	July wheat.....5.78

The Andersons Richland Township
Corn.....5.58
April corn5.58
Beans14.53
April beans14.53
Wheat6.30
April wheat6.30

Today in history

On March 24, 1776, the president of Argentina, Isabel Peron, was deposed by her country's military.

In 1765, Britain enacted the Quartering Act, requiring American colonists to provide temporary housing to British soldiers.

In 1882, German scientist Robert Koch announced in Berlin that he had discovered the bacillus responsible for tuberculosis.

In 1913, New York's Palace Theatre, the legendary home of vaudeville, opened on Broadway.

In 1958, Elvis Presley was inducted into the U.S. Army at the draft board in Memphis, Tennessee, before boarding a bus for Fort Chaffee, Arkansas.

In 1965, Ranger 9, a lunar probe launched three days earlier by NASA, crashed into the moon (as planned) after sending back more than 5,800 video images.

In 1971, Dale Shreeve of Portland became the city's first Democrat to file in that year's municipal elections. He filed to run for city council.

In 1989, the supertanker Exxon Valdez ran aground on a reef in Alaska's Prince William Sound and began leaking an estimated 11 million gallons of crude oil.

In 1999, NATO launched airstrikes against Yugoslavia, marking the first time in its 50-year existence that it had ever attacked a sovereign country. Thirty-nine people were killed when fire erupted in the Mont Blanc tunnel in France and burned for two days.

In 2002, at the 74th Academy Awards, Halle Berry became the first Black performer to win a Best Actress Oscar for her work in "Monster's Ball," while Denzel Washington became the second Black actor, after Sidney Poitier, to win in the best actor category for "Training Day."

—AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today
6 p.m. — Jay County Soil and Water Conservation District, Barry Miller residence, 705 E. 300 North, Portland.

Thursday, April 1
10 a.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.

6 p.m. — Portland Plan Commission, auditorium, Jay County Courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

Obituaries

Nickolas Overla

Jan. 29, 1999-March 21, 2021
Nickolas Allen Overla, 22, of Dunkirk, Indiana, passed away unexpectedly Sunday afternoon, March 21, 2021.

He was born Jan. 29, 1999, in Marion, Indiana, the son of Archa Albert and Tonya Renee (Hensley) Overla. He was a graduate of East Noble High School of Kendallville, Indiana.

Nick was working for FCC of Portland, Indiana. He enjoyed spending his leisure time fishing and swimming. He was known for his kindness to others, helping anyone that needed it. He was known to be a gentle teddy bear to his family.

He leaves to cherish his memory his adoptive parents; great-grandmother Treva Dotson; grandmother Joyce Bernal; brother Christopher L. Overla (Angela) of Avilla, Indiana; a half-brother, James Barton (Hanna) of Anderson, Indiana; four sisters, Elizabeth Scott of Haltom City, Texas, Tabatha Derringer of Mesquite, Texas, Tiffany Derringer of Athens, Alabama, and Marisa Overla of Dunkirk, Indiana; and a half-sister, Charise Barton of Muncie, Indiana.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Amy L. Overla; a brother, Fabian Overla; and a sister, Jada Mace Overla.

A service to celebrate Nick's life will be 2 p.m. Friday, March 26, 2021, at Wilson Shook Funeral Home, Dunkirk Memorial Chapel of Dunkirk, Indiana. Burial will follow in Dunkirk IOOF Cemetery of Dunkirk, Indiana. Family and friends may gather to share and remember from 1 p.m. to service time on Friday, at the funeral home.

All are asked to observe the state mask mandate.

Condolence may be expressed at wilsonshookfh.com.



Overla

Glen Johnson

Dec. 20, 1924-March 21, 2021
Glen Jay Johnson, 96, of Portland, Indiana, formerly of Redkey, Indiana, passed away peacefully Sunday, March 21, 2021, at Bethel Pointe Health and Rehabilitation Center in Muncie, Indiana.

Glen was born in Dunkirk, Indiana, on Dec. 20, 1924, a son of the late William Washington and Maude May (Henry) Johnson. He was a 1943 graduate of Redkey High School and was formerly employed by Lokers in Muncie, Indiana, as a TV repairman.

Glen was a member of the Redkey Church of the Nazarene and the Redkey Masonic Lodge. He was a very active and generous man with a giving heart and loved to help people.

Glen was known for his 2-mile walk through town each day, followed by an afternoon crossword puzzle.

He is survived by one brother, Kenneth A. Johnson (wife: Mary Jane) of Muncie, IN; two sisters, Mary Helen Reynolds of Dunkirk, Indiana, and Marjorie Forrest of Greenfield, Indiana; and several nieces and nephews.

Glen was preceded in death by his parents; and five brothers, Damon, William, Harry, Gayle and Keith Johnson.

Friends are invited to call Thursday, March 25, 2021, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at MJS Mortuaries - Redkey Chapel. Funeral services will follow at 1 p.m. with Pastor Rob Farris officiating. Burial will be held in Hillcrest Cemetery in Redkey, Indiana.

Please be assured that for your health and safety, all Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, government and local health department recommendations and guidelines are followed (county metrics maximum with social distancing, masks are to be worn while in attendance, hand sanitizer will be available,



Johnson

extra cleaning, and disinfecting measures have been taken). Arrangements have been entrusted to MJS Mortuaries - Redkey Chapel.

Wilma Theurer

Dec. 2, 1929-March 22, 2021
Wilma J. Theurer, age 91, of rural Madison Township, Jay County, passed away Monday, March 22, 2021, at IU Health Jay.

She was born in Jay County on Dec. 2, 1929, the daughter of Howard and Irene (Delauter) Hilfiker. She was married on June 19, 1948, to Ernest "Shorty" Theurer; and he preceded her in death on Dec. 13, 2016.

Wilma was a homemaker and member of the St. James Lutheran Church in Salamonina. She was a 1947 Madison Township High School graduate.

Surviving are three sons, Mike Theurer (companion: Melody Bisel) of Portland, Gary Theurer of Union City, Indiana, and Roger Theurer (wife: Charlene) of Union City, Indiana; one daughter, Reda Theurer Miller (husband: Tod) of Portland; one brother, Allen Hilfiker of Salamonina; two sisters, Joan Klingel of Saratoga and Martha Shaneyfelt of Banbridge, Georgia; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Patricia Theurer; and a granddaughter, Mandy Theurer.

Private family services will be held in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Robin Owen presiding. Burial will follow in the Salamonina Cemetery.

Memorials can be made to Mandy's Benefit or St. James Lutheran Church.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

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.

Opening ...

Continued from page 1

Like Butz, Holcomb encouraged Indiana residents to continue to take sensible precautions such as getting testing, isolating when necessary, staying home when sick, washing hands, being cautious about contact with those at high risk and wearing a mask.

"When I visit my favorite restaurants or conduct a public event, I will continue to appropriately wear a mask," he said. "It's the right thing to do."

"As we continue to do these few things, the light at the end of the tunnel becomes brighter and brighter."

When vaccine eligibility opens to those 16-and-older next week, appointments can be scheduled at ourshot.in.gov or by calling the state's 2-1-1 telephone assistance service.

Jay County has vaccination clinics available at Jay County Health Department and IU Health Jay.

To ensure that all doses are used, the health department encouraged those younger than 40 to sign up for its standby list by calling (260) 726-8080.

"We ask everybody, please get scheduled," he said. "We have lots of times available ... this week and the weeks to follow. We have lots of slots available for

anybody that hasn't gotten their shots. ... We want to serve as a provider and get everybody vaccinated."

As of Tuesday, more than 6,750 doses of coronavirus vaccine had been administered in Jay County, with 2,642 fully vaccinated. Statewide, about 2.44 million doses have been administered with 970,161 fully vaccinated.

Holcomb spent the bulk of his speech Tuesday recapping the events of the last year-plus, noting Indiana's first COVID-19 related death on March 16, 2020. Since then, the death toll has been more than 12,500 Hoosiers and 550,000 Americans, with more than 2.6 million deaths worldwide. (That includes 28 Jay County residents.)

He praised the efforts of those who took steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, from state health commissioner Dr. Kristina Box to all those who have made adjustments to their daily lives.

"In a way, the hero in this modern-day tragedy is everyone who adjusted their lives to protect our families, our coworkers and our neighbors," Holcomb said.

"I've never been prouder, prouder because of the Hoosier spirit itself," he added. "Indiana, indeed, rose to the challenge, time and time again."

SERVICES

Thursday
Johnson, Glen: 1 p.m., MJS Mortuaries, 109 S. Meridian St., Redkey.

Friday
Overla, Nickolas: 2 p.m., Wilson-Shook Funeral Home, Dunkirk Memorial Chapel, 317 N. Main St., Dunkirk.

Saturday
Alexander, Joe: 11 a.m., Antioch Lutheran Church, 14908 Minnich Road, Hoagland.

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

Service listings provided by
PROGRESSIVE OFFICE PRODUCTS
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*Savings amounts based on information reported by customers who switched to The Hartford from other carriers between 1/1/19 and 12/31/19. Your savings may vary. *First Accident Progression is not available to CA policyholders. Terms and conditions apply. *SB is a limited time offer and not available in all states. Email address required in most states. Allow 4-7 weeks for delivery. Sells not included. *Based on customer experience review shared online at www.thehartford.com/aarp as of June 2020.

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FR preschool sign-up is scheduled

It's time to get ready for the 2021-22 school year.

Fort Recovery Local Schools has set its preschool registration at 7 p.m. April 27 in the Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School auditoria.

Social distancing and mask wearing are encouraged.

In order to attend preschool, children must be at least 3 years old by June 1. Tuition is based on household income and frequency of attendance, with two-day, three-day and four-day programs available

Taking Note

with morning and afternoon sessions.

To register, parents should bring a copy of their child's birth certificate, Social Security card and immunization record.

Children do not need to attend the registration session. Those unable to attend the session can request more information by calling (419) 375-4131.

Contest set

Jay County Public Library is sponsoring a poetry contest in April.

The library is looking for local poets who are willing to submit and read their original piece. Poems must be original and must be able to be read in 3 minutes or less.

Submit entries to the library by sending an email to jaylibrary315@gmail.com by April 20. A live reading will be scheduled for the last week of April.

Friends of Jay County Public Library will provide prizes in three age groups — 12 and younger, 13 to 17 year olds and adults.

Crop funding available

Indiana State Department of Agriculture announced recently that it is seeking project propos-

als 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.

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

Jury duty takes a toll

By KWAME DAWES

Only 0.03% of us end up doing jury duty each year.

But we all carry an awareness that it can be us next.

According to casi.no.org a quarter of American adults serve on jury duty at least once in their lifetime.

Kathleen McClung's

American Life in Poetry

poem reminds us of the cost of such duty.

The poem appears in her 2020 chapbook, "A Juror Must Fold In On Herself."

The Forewoman Speaks

Among us twelve, just three have raised a child. We're mostly gray and promise to be fair and wonder if the prosecutor smiled to greet or warn, or both. We go nowhere for weeks. We're stiff and silent in these rows, our faces stony though we ache to cry, delete that damn surveillance video (Exhibit A) that shows a girl, six, die, night, crosswalk, SUV. And in the end, our verdict signed and dated, read aloud, we will resume routine—go meet a friend for lunch on Harrison, admire a cloud above the bridge, ten thousand cars an hour, some backseats full of kids.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2020 by

Kathleen McClung, "The Forewoman Speaks" from "A Juror Must Fold In On Herself," (Rattle Foundation, 2020). Poem reprinted by permission of Kathleen McClung and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2021 by The Poetry Foundation.

Stepmom sworn to secrecy

DEAR ABBY: My beautiful 17-year-old stepdaughter, "Amelia," recently became sexually active. She's in a "serious" relationship with the boy she had sex with. They have been together for six months, and from what she's told me, they both gave each other their virginity and protection was used. She has not disclosed this to her parents.

My husband and Amelia are very close, but she and her mom recently had a falling-out. Amelia pledged me to secrecy, and I immediately scheduled her to see an OB/GYN to get her on birth control.

My question is, should I tell my husband? I feel awful not telling him, but she has told me she doesn't want either of her parents to know. I'm grateful she comes to me for things like this, but eventually, it's going to come out when my husband sees the explanation of benefits from the insurance.

Amelia's mom and I have a solid relationship, and my husband and her mom also have a good one. I don't want to keep secrets regarding their daughter, but I don't want to betray my stepdaughter either. Please help. — STRUGGLING STEPMOM

DEAR STEPMOM: It isn't necessary to betray your stepdaughter's confidence to get her the help she needs. Go online to [\[hood.org\]\(http://hood.org\), locate the nearest Planned Parenthood clinic and share that information with Amelia. The organization provides a wide range of low-cost services to women and men, including family planning, STD diagnosis and treatment, and birth control on a confidential basis. You should also encourage Amelia to discuss this with her parents. She is behaving responsibly in wanting to protect herself.](http://plannedparent-</p>
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DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married for decades, but 10 years ago she had, at the least, a texting affair with "Brad," a longtime friend of her brother's. Her brother, who knows about the affair, lives on a large tract of land owned by their father. Brad is there often to go hunting with her brother. My wife and I used to visit frequently, but now there is some concern that Brad might be there and we'll have a conflict, so we don't go as much. The affair was very upsetting to me, but my wife



Dear Abby

insisted we keep it quiet so her brother could continue his friendship with Brad.

Over the years, she has occasionally had online contact with Brad and even told him that she appreciated him talking with our son because our son has few friends. But now our son, who knows nothing about the affair or how bad it hurt me, has become friendly with Brad. It is very difficult hearing him talk about things they do together. Should we tell our son about the affair? — STILL HURT IN TEXAS

DEAR STILL HURT: Tempting as it may be to "out" your wife to your son, keep that information to yourself. I question the wisdom of Brad having been encouraged to cultivate a relationship with your son since this friendship is the fruit of that decision. Because you prefer not to hear what your son and Brad are doing, the next time it comes up, change the subject. He may or may not catch on and question you about the reason, but if he does, all you need to say is you'd rather not discuss it.

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 90069.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church,

122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

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

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

Thursday

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second

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

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

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION MISSISSINAWA CHAPTER — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 25, at Jay County Historical Museum. The program will be about the Franklin family in Jay County with Anita Isch as the speaker. The organization is open to women 18 and older who have an ancestor who provided patriotic service during the American Revolution. For more information, call Kathy Selman at (260) 251-1694 or Sue Sommers at (260) 726-2678.

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10

a.m. upstairs at True Value Hardware, Meridian Street, Portland. For more information, call (260) 729-2532.

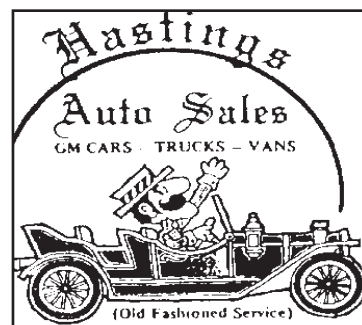
Monday

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.



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Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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

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Standardized test taking is scary

By JACK RONALD

The Commercial Review

It's testing season.

ISTEP may be gone, but ILEARN is alive and kicking as any kid, teacher or parent could tell you.

ILEARN, incidentally, stands for Indiana Learning Evaluation Assessment Readiness Network. (I learned that — pun intended — by Googling the name of the test. Students are not allowed to Google when taking the ILEARN test.)

Tests, as we all know, are scary.

My first encounter with standardized testing came along somewhere in grade school. I remember an "achievement test" in fifth grade, but there might have been earlier assessments in third or fourth.

Why were they scary? In

Back in the Saddle



part, because they were so bossy.

"Do not turn this page until you are told," they scolded. So we all immediately wondered what was on the next page. There's nothing like "do not" to inspire a kid's curiosity.

What could it be? And what would be the consequences if we actually turned the page? Would we be kicked out of school? Would we burst into flames?

Or would they take away our No. 2 pencil, the one we had

been so careful to use when we "filled in the bubbles" with our answers?

I don't think I had encountered the term "No. 2 pencil" until my first standardized test. Pencils were just pencils. And — for that matter — "No. 2" had a slightly off-color connotation. As in, "Did you go No. 1 or No. 2?"

But a No. 2 pencil was required. Without it, a kid might be kicked out of school or burst into flames or — even worse — be forced to turn the page before he or she was told.

There were, at some point, IQ tests, which were even more pointless than achievement tests. Measuring "achievement" made a certain amount of sense; measuring a kid's potential to achieve simply seemed dumb.

One family I grew up with

was obsessed with IQ tests and IQ scores. Every kid in the family knew his or her IQ. They knew where the cutoff for moron was, and they knew who qualified as a "genius."

As you might expect, none of that turned out well.

Knowing one's potential — and test status — didn't translate to achievement, mental health or anything other than in-family bragging rights.

But the tests were pretty much impossible to avoid.

If you wanted to apply to college, you had to take the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the SAT. There was no other choice.

(Today, colleges and universities are trying to re-tool the admissions process so that standardized testing is not part of the equation. But in my era, it could be a game changer for

one's future.)

For the most part, I was OK with the testing.

My only real problem came with those conceptual math problems that asked you to figure out a seating arrangement based upon which members of the dinner party were left-handed, which ones spoke only Spanish, which ones walked with a limp, which ones hated Republicans, which ones liked to talk about fly fishing, which ones looked like Eleanor Roosevelt, which ones preferred salt, which ones were on salt-free diets, which ones loved left-handed snowboarders, which ones played Flamenco guitar, which ones were vegan and which ones shouldn't have been invited to the dinner party in the first place.

I could never get the hang of those.

Who benefits from legislation?

By MORTON J. MARCUS

"The Indiana General Assembly acts on behalf of the people of Indiana," State Sen. Hempstead Helpful proclaimed.

"That's just not true," I protested. "Just look at House Bill 1166. It passed the House Ways and Means Committee 22 to 2 and the full House 71 to 22 and hardly anyone in the state knew about it."

"Sonny," Hemp said. "Those wide margins indicate how important HB 1166 is for the welfare of the public. What does that bill do? It says that if you appeal the assessed value of your property, and win the appeal, your property assessment can't be raised by the county assessor for the next four years."

"That's strange," I complained.

"That's justice, son. just-ice!" Hemp declared. "It freezes your assessment and protects you from the wrath of an assessor who feels disrespected by having his/her evaluation of your property overturned."

"How often does that happen?" I inquired. "How many appeals are filed each year in each county? How many by residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural and other property owners? What are the success rates of those appeals? And how many successful appeals are reversed by the subsequent actions of the assessors?"

"Listen, kid," Hemp was getting heated. "You and your numbers fetish are not relevant to legislation. We, your elected representatives, respond to the people's concerns. And my office heard many a gruesome story of sociopath assessors who disregarded the appeal process."

"It seems like a heavy-handed approach to anecdotal evidence by wealthy property owners," I commented. "Big businesses can afford the attorneys and experts needed to file a successful appeal. The ordinary homeowner is in no position to go through the process and win. And why the secrecy?"

"There was no secrecy," Hemp objected, offended. "All routine legislative processes were followed. The problem, if there is one, starts with the media

Eye on the Pie



The lower AVs will lead to higher tax rates, tax shifts to other taxpayers and possibly lower local revenues because of higher tax cap losses in some places.

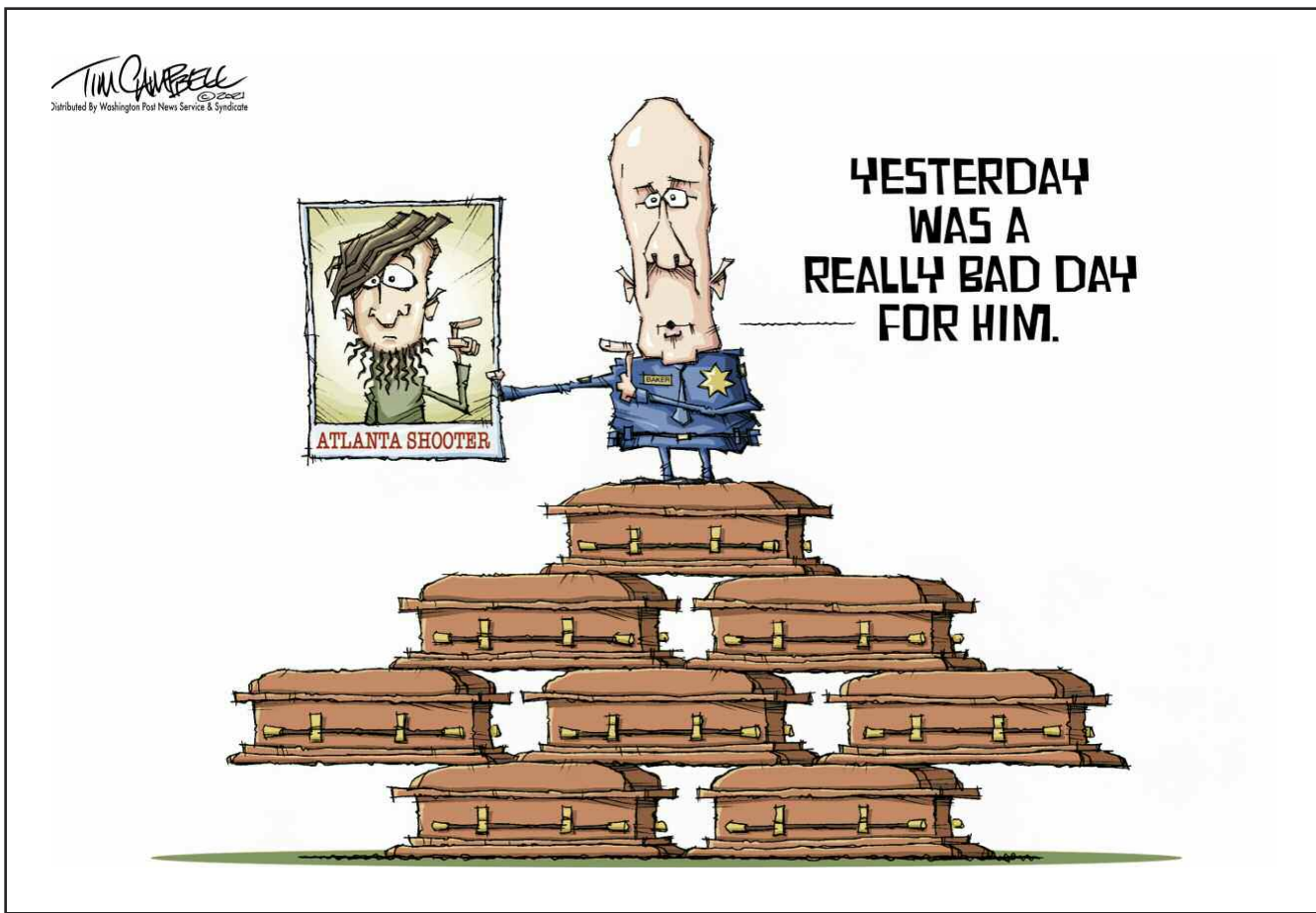
failing to cover the story. The House committee voted on Feb. 2 and the media that day was covering a Pennsylvania groundhog, not the happenings at the Indiana Statehouse."

"But how can you say this bill helps the people?" I wanted to know. "The Legislative Services Agency has said, 'This bill will result in lower AV (assessed value) for some properties for up to four years. The lower AVs will lead to higher tax rates, tax shifts to other taxpayers and possibly lower local revenues because of higher tax cap losses in some places.'"

"Youngster," Hemp admonished, "When the biggest business interests in this state benefit, we all benefit. As the president of General Motors told Congress many years ago, 'What's good for General Motors, is good for America.' It's the Indiana right there on the State Office Building wall, 'A State that Works.'"

Thus, I added, as I do whenever that motto is mentioned, "for whom?"

Marcus is an economist. Email him at mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com.



YESTERDAY WAS A REALLY BAD DAY FOR HIM.

Foreign policy needs a new path

By ELBRIDGE COLBY

Special To The Washington Post

The central theme of President Joe Biden's foreign policy is a global, muscular liberalism. Ensuring that democracy "will and must prevail," Biden told the Munich Security Conference, is "our galvanizing mission." This appears to mean taking on threats to democracy wherever they lie — challenging both China and Russia, which Biden has said posits "just as real" a threat as Beijing — while continuing the "forever wars," halting reductions of U.S. forces in Europe, sanctioning the new military government in Myanmar, signaling a firm line against North Korea and more.

This might have been a defensible policy decades ago, when U.S. wealth dwarfed that of the Soviet Union and China. Or in 1999, before China's rise, the sapping wars in the Middle East or the profound effects of the financial crisis had all been felt. But it is not a sensible policy today.

For the first time since the 19th century, the United States is not clearly the world's largest economy. China is already larger by many measures and growing faster than we are, including in the wake of COVID-19. And traditional U.S. allies are declining in relative wealth and power. Meanwhile, the United States and its allies face challenges as varied as Russia, Iran and North Korea; nonstate terrorists; pandemics; economic recovery; and climate change.

Given all this, Americans must refocus on what our foreign policy should be about. That means, beyond defending ourselves from attack, making sure we can determine our future free of external coercion and being able to trade and invest overseas on terms that promote a broad-based national prosperity. This requires ensuring that key markets, particularly Asia, are not dominated by a hostile power. Such a state could

Elbridge Colby



exclude us from these markets and use its growth and power advantages to dominate our national life.

This is not a partisan issue: Strong constituencies on both the left and right are tired of and frustrated by the proposition that U.S. foreign policy should entail safeguarding the success of democracy and development around the globe. Global, muscular liberalism of both parties has manifestly failed to deliver the strength and broad-based prosperity to allow us to shape our future on our own terms. Americans deserve better.

This doesn't mean withdrawing from everywhere and hoping for the best. Nor does it mean muzzling ourselves about human rights abuses or democracy. But we need to look after U.S. interests in a competitive, rivalrous world — enlightened interests that frequently align with others, yes, but our interests all the same. "Realpolitik" has a cynical, old-world overtone. Yet it means focusing on what matters and working with others who share our interests.

To start, this involves concentrating on China, which is by far the most important entity in the international system other than the United States. If Beijing dominates Asia, the world's largest market, China will be globally pre-eminent — and is likely to use its power to coerce and weaken the United States. Consider what China is already doing to Australia, Taiwan and other states. No other global threat — not Russia, Iran or North Korea — can do this. As Winston

Churchill said, if we get things right in the decisive theater, we can put everything straight after.

This will require working with whoever would help achieve U.S. goals. The Biden team seems to be betting that democracies will align in a global struggle against what Secretary of State Antony Blinken calls "techno-authoritarianism." But full-scale alignment is unlikely. As German Chancellor Angela Merkel has demonstrated, most prominently by striking a major investment pact with Beijing shortly before Biden's inauguration, rhetorical fondness for the "rules-based international order" can exist alongside pursuit of self-interest. Many democracies, especially in Europe, don't share U.S. threat perceptions, given our country's history as a Pacific power. Recognizing this, we need to work with those countries willing to invest resources in confronting China, such as India and Vietnam, or those willing to help us shift effort away from lesser threats like Iran — even if those partner countries are not model democracies.

For the first time in a long time, the United States is not overwhelmingly predominant. That means we cannot afford to be profligate with our power, wealth and resolve. Rather, we must manage the threats we face — above all China — in ways that promote U.S. power and well-being, rather than vainly expending them in a global ideological struggle or retreating in hopes that the world will favorably stabilize on its own. Such a course is the only option responsive to the needs and risk tolerances of the great bulk of Americans. It is thus the only responsible foreign policy for our democracy in this day and age.

Colby is a principal at the *Marathon Initiative*. While serving as deputy assistant secretary of defense from 2017 to 2018, he led the development of the 2018 National Defense Strategy.

The Commercial Review

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



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Washington Post/Bill O'Leary

Blossoms beginning

Spring weather brings visitors to the Tidal Basin on Monday in Washington, D.C. The District's famed cherry blossoms typically draw crowds in large numbers, but restrictions will be in place this year because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

AP journalist gets released

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — Thein Zaw, a journalist for The Associated Press who was arrested more than three weeks ago while covering a protest against the coup in Myanmar, was released from detention today.

As he left a court hearing, Thein Zaw told the AP by phone the judge in his case had announced all charges against him were being dropped because he was doing his job at the time of his arrest. He also called his family.

"I'm looking forward to meeting my family members," he said. "I'm sorry for some colleagues who are still in prison."

Thein Zaw had been charged with violating a public order law that carries a penalty of up to three years' imprisonment.

He was one of nine media workers taken into custody during a Feb. 27 street protest in Yangon, the country's largest city, and had been held without bail. About 40 journalists have been detained or charged since the Feb. 1 coup that ousted the elected

government of Aung San Suu Kyi, roughly half of whom remain behind bars.

They are among thousands of people who have been arrested since the takeover, many of them protesters. Today, more than 600 demonstrators were released.

The AP and many press freedom organizations have called for the release of Thein Zaw and the other detained members of the press.

"The Associated Press is deeply relieved that AP journalist Thein Zaw has been freed from prison in Myanmar," said Ian Phillips, AP vice president for international news. "Our relief is tempered by the fact that additional journalists there remain detained. We urge Myanmar to release all journalists and allow them to report freely and safely on what is happening inside the country."

Thein Zaw was arrested as he was photographing police, some of them armed, charging down a street at anti-coup protesters.

Israel ...

Continued from page 1
In that case, Netanyahu would remain a caretaker prime minister while facing a corruption trial and possible confrontation with U.S. President Joe Biden over Iran.

The final tally of the votes cast at regular polling stations was near complete today, Israeli media said. But even then, much could still change. The elections commission was still counting about 450,000 absentee ballots from voters who cast them outside their home polling place.

The initial results showed the country as deeply divided as ever, with an array of small sectarian parties dominating the parliament.

The results also signaled a continuing shift of the Israeli

electorate toward the right wing, which supports West Bank settlements and opposes concessions in peace talks with the Palestinians. That trend was highlighted by the strong showing of an ultranationalist anti-Arab religious party.

After three previous inconclusive elections, Netanyahu had been hoping for a decisive victory that would allow him to form a government with his traditional ultra-Orthodox and hard-line nationalist allies and seek immunity from corruption charges.

In an address to supporters early today, a subdued Netanyahu boasted of a "great achievement" but stopped short of declaring victory. Instead, he appeared to reach out to his

opponents and called for formation of a "stable government" that would avoid another election.

"We must not under any circumstances drag the state of Israel to new elections, to a fifth election," he said. "We must form a stable government now."

Bennett could play an outsized role. He shares Netanyahu's hard-line nationalist ideology and would seem to be more likely to ultimately join the prime minister. But Bennett has not ruled out joining forces with Netanyahu's opponents.

During the campaign, Netanyahu emphasized Israel's highly successful coronavirus vaccination drive. He moved aggressively to secure enough vaccines for Israel's 9.3 million

people, and in three months the country has inoculated some 80% of its adult population. That has enabled the government to open restaurants, stores and the airport just in time for election day.

He also tried to portray himself as a global statesman, pointing to the four diplomatic accords he reached with Arab countries last year. Those agreements were brokered by his close ally, then-President Donald Trump.

Netanyahu's opponents say the prime minister bungled many other aspects of the pandemic, particularly by allowing his ultra-Orthodox allies to ignore lockdown rules and fuel a high infection rate for much of the year.

Over 6,000 Israelis have died from COVID-19, and the economy continues to struggle with double-digit unemployment.

They also point to Netanyahu's corruption trial, saying someone who is under indictment for serious crimes is not fit to lead the country. Netanyahu has been charged with fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in a series of scandals that he dismisses as a witch hunt by a hostile media and legal system.

The Biden administration has kept its distance, a contrast to Trump's support. Netanyahu has hardly mentioned the new American president, with whom he's clashed over how to rein in Iran's nuclear capabilities.

Shooter ...

Continued from page 1
Relatives described times when Alissa told them people were following or chasing him, which they said may have contributed to the violence, the official said.

The official was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

After the shooting, detectives went to Alissa's home and found his sister-in-law, who told them that he had been playing around with a weapon she thought looked like a "machine gun" about two days earlier, according to an arrest affidavit.

No one answered the door Tuesday at the Arvada home believed to be owned by the suspect's father. The two-story house with a three-car garage sits in a relatively new middle- and upper-class neighborhood.

When he was a high school senior in 2018, Alissa was found guilty of assaulting a fellow student in class after knocking him to the floor, then climbing on top of him and punching him in the head several times, according to a police affidavit.

Alissa "got up in classroom, walked over to the victim & 'cold cocked' him in the head," the affidavit read. Alissa complained that the student had made fun of him and called him "racial names" weeks earlier, according to the affidavit. An Arvada police report on the incident said the victim was bloodied and vomiting after the assault. Alissa was suspended

from school and sentenced to probation and community service.

One of his former high school wrestling teammates, Angel Hernandez, said Alissa got enraged after losing a match in practice once, letting out a stream of invectives and yelling he would kill everyone. Hernandez said the coach kicked Alissa off the team for the outburst.

"He was one of those guys with a short fuse," Hernandez said. "Once he gets mad, it's like something takes over and it's not him. There is no stopping him at that point."

Hernandez said Alissa also would act strangely sometimes, turning around suddenly or glancing over his shoulder. "He would say, 'Did you see that? Did you see that?'" Hernandez recalled. "We wouldn't see anything. We always thought he was messing with us."

Arvada police investigated but dropped a separate criminal mischief complaint involving the suspect in 2018, said Detective David Snelling. The man also was cited for speeding in February. "Our community is obviously concerned and upset that the suspect lived here," Snelling said.

Well after dark Tuesday night, about 100 people mourned at a makeshift memorial near the grocery that was adorned with wreaths, candles, banners reading "#Boulderstrong" and 10 crosses with blue hearts and the victims' names. Therapy dogs were on hand to provide comfort.

Deeds

Mary H. Miller to herself, death deed — Lot 17, Spahr and Andrews Addition; Section 13, Richland Township, 40 acres; Part of Section 13, Richland Township, 76.80 acres; Part of Section 13, Richland Township, 0.22 acres

Wayne V. Kummer Revocable Trust and L. Fern Kummer Revocable Trust to Brandon L. and Kayla L. Willmann, warranty deed — Part of Section 34, Knox Township, 6.41 acres

Connie J. Ferguson and Charles Ferguson (deceased) to Connie J. Ferguson, death deed — Lot 197, Woodlawn Park Addition

2020 School Corporation Annual Performance Report

Jay School Corporation, Portland, Indiana 3945

Superintendent, Mr. Jeremy W. Gulley
Business Manager, Ms. Tarinna Morris

General Explanations

The APR is a report on the performance of schools and school corporations (districts) in your area. The goal is to provide information regarding the progress schools are making to help students become college-and-career ready. Where possible, this report contains three years of data to show trends – not just this year’s results. In addition, the State Average is also shown for comparison purposes. There are additional indicators that are available on the Indiana Department of Education’s Web site (inview.doe.in.gov), including data broken out by different student subgroups, such as race, gender, income level and special education.

Indiana educators and citizens have developed higher academic standards for all students. These standards are necessary to prepare Indiana students to be successful in life, whether they go directly to higher education or to the workplace. For high schools, you also will see graduation rates and the percentage of graduates who plan to go on to college.

Other important data are provided, such as average attendance rates and indicators of school safety, including expulsions and suspensions. Also included is information about your school corporation, such as how much is spent, on average, for each student; how much teachers are paid; and the percentage of corporation students who are in special education classes or gifted and talented classes. COVID-19 NOTE: Due to COVID-19, ILEARN/ISTEP assessments were not administered during the 2019-2020 school year.

Contact:

If you have any questions about this information, you should contact your local school corporation or contact the Department of Education at 317-234-1332 or by e-mail at datarequests@doe.in.gov.

2020 Financial Goals

PL 191-2006 (HEA 1006) states the following: “Beginning with the 09-10 school year, each governing body shall establish goals for each category of expenditures set forth in section 4 of this chapter that will increase the school corporation’s allocation of taxpayer resources directly to student instruction and learning, in light of the unique circumstances present in the school corporation.”

The State Board of Education has approved the following definitions: Student Instructional Expenditures are 1) Student academic achievement expenditures plus 2) student instructional support expenditures. Other Expenditure Categories are: 3) Overhead and operational expenditures plus 4) non-operational expenditures.

The Jay School Corporation shall maintain the current percentages between the expenditures for the student instructional expenditure categories and the other expenditure categories as described in IC 2110-3-4 for the next fiscal year.

Civil Rights Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination Assurance Statement

Jay School Corporation will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or handicapping conditions, including limited English proficiency, in its educational programs or employment policies as required by state and federal law.

Current Jay School Board of Trustees for 2020 School Year

Mr. Phil Ford, President
Mr. Ron Laux, Vice President
Ms. Krista Muhlenkamp, Secretary
Ms. Donna Geesaman, Member
Mr. Michael Shannon, Member
Mr. Chris Snow, Member
Mr. Jason Phillips, Member

Jay County School Corporation Mission Statement

In partnership with our families and the community, the mission of the Jay School Corporation is to provide a quality educational program, which causes each student to think, reason, communicate, and to make positive contributions to our community.

Jay School Corporation, Portland 3945

Indicator	Corporation Results				State
	'16-'17	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20	Total
A-F Accountability Grade	B	B	B	B	
Student Enrollment	3,376	3,250	3,167	3,147	1,135,199
Non-Waiver Grad Rate	89.8	74.2	79.8	83.0	88.25
Percentage of Career and Technical Diplomas	8.9	4.6	4.6	12.0	9.02
Number of Certified Teachers	194	191	178	165	60,474
Teacher Salary Range - Minimum	\$31,217	\$26,780	\$35,603	\$37,706	\$35,834.94
Teacher Salary Range - Maximum	\$62,402	\$64,702	\$65,996	\$68,306	\$67,453.24
Number of Students in Special Education	829	825	788	779	173,516
Percent of Students in Special Education	24.6	25.4	24.9	24.8	15.9
Number of Students in Gifted and Talented Education	272	239	270	315	133,326
Percent of Students in Gifted and Talented Education	8.1	7.4	8.5	10.0	12.8
Number of Students Receiving Free or Reduced Lunches	1,827	1,801	1,590	1,668	533,656
Percent of Students Receiving Free or Reduced Price Lunches	54.1	55.4	50.2	53.0	48.3
Number of Limited English Proficiency Students	91	122	139	163	72,309
Percent of Limited English Proficiency Students	2.7	3.8	4.4	5.2	6.4
Percent of Students in Foster Care	N/A	1.6	2.49	2.5	1.81
Number of Students in Career and Technical Program	811	809	771	751	206,025
Percentage of Students in Career and Technical Program	24.02	24.89	24.3	23.9	42.8
Intra District Mobility	1.3	1.1	0.8	0.8	0
Inter District Mobility	5.5	5.9	6.4	6.4	0
Graduation Rate	95.9	86.9	90.3	83.3	88.4
Number of Incidents of Restraint	0	32	107	72	7,364
Number of Incidents of Restraint Involving a School Resource Officer	N/A	0	0	0	2,224
Number of Incidents of Seclusion	0	1	0	0	6,219
Number of Incidents of Seclusion Involving a School Resource Officer	N/A	0	0	0	297

Corporation Goals for Expenditure Categories in Indiana Code 20-42.5-3-5

*** Suppressed

Jay County High School, Portland 3239

Indicator	School Results				State
	'16-'17	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20	Total
Number of Students Expelled or Suspended involving Drugs, Weapons, or Alcohol	7	2	1	13	5,095
Number of Out of School Suspensions	24	74	84	82	55,563
Number of In School Suspensions	133	94	109	93	41,240
Number of Bullying Incidents	0	0	1		

*** - Suppressed n/a - No Data

Definitions (in the order found on the report)

A-F Accountability Grade

Grade calculated by the IDOE per 511 IAC 6.2-6 and officially assigned by the State Board of Education. For 2018-19, Schools and Corporations were assigned the better of their 2017-18 grade or the 2018-19 calculated grade.

Student Enrollment

Number of students enrolled on October 1 of the school year. Note: Counts for Membership purposes are taken on a different day and may differ.

Non-Waiver Grad Rate

For 2018-19, the percentage of students who entered Grade 9 in Fall 2015 and graduated in four years or less without a waiver

College and Career Readiness Rate

The percentage of 2018 four year graduates who passed an Advanced Placement test, passed an International Baccalaureate test, received 3 hours of Dual Credit, or received an Industry Certification. Note: These data are not available for the 2020 cohort at time of publication.

Career and Technical Diplomas

Core 40 with Technical Honors Diplomas

Certified Teachers

Teachers certified to teach as reported by School Corporation (includes guidance counselors and other non-Administrator staff)

Teacher Salary Range

Salary range is calculated by reviewing the salaries for teachers as provided by the School Corporation. Teachers must be reported at 100% for 180-195 days

Students in Special Education

Students (including non-public Students) who are receiving special education services

Students in Gifted and Talented Education

Percentage of students enrolled in gifted and talented education programs as defined locally

Percent of Instruction Delivered Through Career and Technical Education

Percentage of total instructional hours delivered through vocational education classes

Students Receiving Free or Reduced Price Lunches

Students who receive free or reduced price lunches due to family income level

Limited English Proficiency Students

Students whose inability to communicate English prevents them from participating fully in a standard educational program

Foster Care Students

Students who are foster care students

Alternative Education

Students enrolled and receiving instruction for at least 10 days in an approved alternative education program

Intra District Mobility

Percentage of students who moved from one school to another in the same school corporation

Inter District Mobility

Percentage of student who moved from one school to another in a different school corporation

Pupil Enrollment to Certified Employee Ratio

Number of Students per Certified Employees are reported by the School Corporation.

Attendance Rate

Average attendance rate for students.

High School Data

ISTEP+

Grade 10 exam for high school graduation. Pass rates for Grade 10 ISTEP are for first time attempts only.

Career and Technical Programs

Programs administered through the Department of Workforce Development that often result in an Industry Certification

International Baccalaureate

Program of Study offered by some authorized schools that may result in a student receiving a specialized diploma called an International Baccalaureate Diploma. More information can be found at www.ibo.org

Core 40

Basic High school graduation requirements

More information on the graduation requirements and types of diplomas can be found at <http://www.doe.in.gov/student-services/student-assistance/academic-guidance>

Core 40 with Honors diploma

Either Core 40 with Academic Honors or Core 40 with Technical Honors

Graduation Rate

For 2015-16, the percentage of students who entered Grade 9 in Fall 2013 and graduated in four years or less.

Elementary/Middle School Data

ILEARN

Grade specific exam given to all students. All students in Grades 3-8 are tested annually in Math and English/Language Arts. Students in grades 4 and 6 are also tested in Science.

Students in grades 5 are also tested in Social Studies.

IREAD

Exam given to all students in grade 3 to test reading proficiency. Students must pass the exam to advance to grade 4

Jay County High School, Portland 3239

Indicator	School Results				State
	'16-'17	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20	Total
A-F Accountability Grade	B	B	B	B	
Student Enrollment	1,073	1,018	1,003	938	1,135,199
Non-Waiver Grad Rate	89.84	74.18	79.84	82.96	88.25
College and Career Readiness Rate	84.70	79.50	83.9	N/A	N/A
Number of Certified Teachers	61	61	59	52	60,474
Number of Students in Career and Technical Program	811	809	771	751	206,025
* Grade 10 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	33.8	34.8	24.5	N/A	N/A
* Grade 10 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	60.3	53.1	44.4	N/A	N/A
* Grade 10 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Science Standard	43.5	46.2	22.2	N/A	N/A
Percent of Graduates Who Have Passed Both ECA Standards	93.6	84.9	***	***	***
Percent of Graduates Granted Waivers	6.4	14.6	11.6	0.44	0.23
SAT Average Score for Graduating Class	1056	N/A	1055		
Number of graduates receiving Core 40 Diploma	186	185	186	180	161.7
Percent of 12th Graders Taking SAT	42.6	N/A	18.8		
Percent Core 40 with Honors Diploma	50.0	34.7	45.5	46.7	40.3
Percent Core 40 Diploma	78.8	77.4	83.0	80.0	91.0
Pupil Enrollment to Certified Employee Ratio	15.1	15.3	15.1	15.3	13.4
Graduation Rate	95.9	86.9	90.3	83.3	88.4
Attendance Rate	91.0	90.0	91.1	93.4	95.4
Number of Students with More Than 10 Unexcused Days Absent	409	412	353	223	0
Number of Students absent greater than 10% of School Year	305	329	244	138	0
Number of Students Retained in the 9th Grade	0	0	0	0	132
Number of Students Who Have Dropped Out	0	6	9	28	6,083
Number of Students Suspended	148	143	157	130	82,767
Number of Students Expelled	4	6	1	2	1,989

*** Suppressed

Bloomfield Elementary School, Portland 3241					
Indicator	School Results				State
	'16-'17	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20	Total
A-F Accountability Grade	B	B	B	B	
Student Enrollment	249	280	272	267	1,135,199
Number of Certified Teachers	13	14	17	16	60,474
Percentage of Students Passing IREAD	97.6	93.8	96.2	N/A	N/A
* Grade 3 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	74.4	62.5	60.8	N/A	N/A
* Grade 3 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	88.3	87.5	51.0	N/A	N/A
* Grade 4 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	61.5	72.1	51.6	N/A	N/A
* Grade 4 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	70.0	62.8	45.2	N/A	N/A
* Grade 4 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Science Standard	82.5	67.4	48.4	N/A	N/A
* Grade 5 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	86.8	67.4	59.5	N/A	N/A
* Grade 5 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	68.4	65.2	38.1	N/A	N/A
* Grade 5 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Social Science Standard	71.0	65.2	40.5	N/A	N/A
* Grade 7 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Social Science Standard	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pupil Enrollment to Certified Employee Ratio	13.1	14.7	11.3	11.6	13.4
Attendance Rate	96.7	96.3	96.6	96.3	95.4
Number of Students with More Than 10 Unexcused Days Absent	17	17	21	19	0
Number of Students absent greater than 10% of School Year	11	16	8	8	0
Number of Students Suspended	11	11	11	4	82,767
Number of Out of School Suspensions	11	11	11	3	55,563
Number of In School Suspensions	1	1	0	1	41,240

West Jay County Middle School, Portland 3285					
Indicator	School Results				State
	'16-'17	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20	Total
A-F Accountability Grade	B	C	C	C	
Student Enrollment	245	210	197	187	1,135,199
Number of Certified Teachers	24	19	18	17	60,474
* Grade 6 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	74.0	62.7	45.3	N/A	N/A
* Grade 6 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	81.4	75.8	49.1	N/A	N/A
* Grade 6 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Science Standard	67.9	62.7	47.2	N/A	N/A
* Grade 7 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	39.4	62.5	29.0	N/A	N/A
* Grade 7 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	61.9	63.4	47.8	N/A	N/A
* Grade 7 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Social Science Standard	60.5	66.2	0	N/A	N/A
* Grade 8 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	70.5	50.0	46.3	N/A	N/A
* Grade 8 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	56.4	51.6	55.2	N/A	N/A
Percent of 8th Graders in Algebra I	24.1	20.6	31.4		
Pupil Enrollment to Certified Employee Ratio	10.2	12.3	10.9	11	13.4
Attendance Rate	94.1	93.7	95.1		
Number of Students with More Than 10 Unexcused Days Absent	54	34	23	20	0
Number of Students absent greater than 10% of School Year	38	31	15	14	0
Number of Students Suspended	22	37	44	26	82,767
Number of Students Expelled	0	4	2	2	1,989
Number of Students Expelled or Suspended involving Drugs, Weapons, or Alcohol	3	5	2	2	5,095
Number of Out of School Suspensions	22	37	31	11	55,563
Number of In School Suspensions	0	0	27	20	41,240
Number of Bullying Incidents	0	0	34	10	4,496

Redkey Elementary School, Portland 3247					
Indicator	School Results				State
	'16-'17	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20	Total
A-F Accountability Grade	B	B	B	B	
Student Enrollment	172	187	188	207	1,135,199
Number of Certified Teachers	11	16	13	13	60,474
Percentage of Students Passing IREAD	100.0	96.8	96.2	N/A	N/A
* Grade 3 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	69.2	62.5	62.5	N/A	N/A
* Grade 3 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	88.4	71.9	62.5	N/A	N/A
* Grade 4 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	68.0	67.9	55.2	N/A	N/A
* Grade 4 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	75.0	82.1	48.3	N/A	N/A
* Grade 4 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Science Standard	72.0	0	69.0	N/A	N/A
* Grade 5 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	73.3	78.6	57.1	N/A	N/A
* Grade 5 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	76.6	64.3	46.4	N/A	N/A
* Grade 5 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Social Science Standard	75.8	71.4	57.1	N/A	N/A
* Grade 7 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Social Science Standard	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pupil Enrollment to Certified Employee Ratio	10.1	9.3	9.8	10.8	13.4
Attendance Rate	95.7	94.8	95.4	95.7	95.4
Number of Students with More Than 10 Unexcused Days Absent	20	25	21	14	0
Number of Students absent greater than 10% of School Year	6	14	11	9	0
Number of Students Suspended	8	10	3	4	82,767
Number of Out of School Suspensions	6	9	3	2	55,563
Number of In School Suspensions	3	4	0	2	41,240
Number of Bullying Incidents	0	0	1	1	4,496

East Elementary School, Portland 3287					
Indicator	School Results				State
	'16-'17	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20	Total
A-F Accountability Grade	A	B	B	B	
Student Enrollment	299	314	425	417	1,135,199
Number of Certified Teachers	14	16	17	18	60,474
Percentage of Students Passing IREAD	93.5	93.8	0	N/A	N/A
* Grade 3 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	71.7	82.0	0	N/A	N/A
* Grade 3 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	82.2	70.0	0	N/A	N/A
* Grade 4 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	79.4	77.3	0	N/A	N/A
* Grade 4 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	74.3	72.7	0	N/A	N/A
* Grade 4 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Science Standard	79.4	77.3	0	N/A	N/A
* Grade 5 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	95.3	75.0	0	N/A	N/A
* Grade 5 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	58.1	63.6	0	N/A	N/A
* Grade 5 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Social Science Standard	74.4	54.5	0	N/A	N/A
Pupil Enrollment to Certified Employee Ratio	14.9	14.2	13.7	13.4	13.4
Attendance Rate	96.3	96.3	95.2	94.5	95.4
Number of Students with More Than 10 Unexcused Days Absent	17	19	54	73	0
Number of Students absent greater than 10% of School Year	10	11	33	40	0
Number of Students Suspended	5	5	11	8	82,767
Number of Out of School Suspensions	5	5	4	6	55,563
Number of In School Suspensions	0	0	8	4	41,240

East Jay County Middle School, Portland 3265					
Indicator	School Results				State
	'16-'17	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20	Total
A-F Accountability Grade	B	B	B	B	
Student Enrollment	516	519	480	493	1,135,199
Number of Certified Teachers	38	37	28	28	60,474
* Grade 6 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	70.6	75.5	61.4	N/A	N/A
* Grade 6 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	69.3	65.6	44.3	N/A	N/A
* Grade 6 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Science Standard	66.8	52.5	44.9	N/A	N/A
* Grade 7 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	58.1	62.3	54.4	N/A	N/A
* Grade 7 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	60.8	61.6	49.0	N/A	N/A
* Grade 7 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Social Science Standard	64.6	66.5	0	N/A	N/A
* Grade 8 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	70.6	75.0	62.0	N/A	N/A
* Grade 8 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	63.9	64.2	62.0	N/A	N/A
Percent of 8th Graders in Algebra I	25.8	25.8	31.0		
Pupil Enrollment to Certified Employee Ratio	13.5	13.6	11.7	13.6	13.4
Attendance Rate	95.5	95.7	98.7		
Number of Students with More Than 10 Unexcused Days Absent	64	61	1	39	0
Number of Students absent greater than 10% of School Year	59	51	4	18	0
Number of Students Suspended	54	59	51	63	82,767
Number of Students Expelled	0	6	4	1	1,989
Number of Students Expelled or Suspended involving Drugs, Weapons, or Alcohol	7	7	6	5	5,095
Number of Out of School Suspensions	13	58	51	62	55,563
Number of In School Suspensions	49	1	0	2	41,240
Number of Bullying Incidents	0	0	5	5	4,496

Westlawn Elementary School, Portland 3289					
Indicator	School Results				State
	'16-'17	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20	Total
A-F Accountability Grade	A	B	B	B	
Student Enrollment	210	209	221	233	1,135,199
Number of Certified Teachers	13	15	13	13	60,474
Percentage of Students Passing IREAD	86.5	100.0	92.5	N/A	N/A
* Grade 3 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	70.5	59.3	48.7	N/A	N/A
* Grade 3 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	79.4	85.2	37.8	N/A	N/A
* Grade 4 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	62.5	73.3	63.3	N/A	N/A
* Grade 4 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	62.5	73.3	56.7	N/A	N/A
* Grade 4 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Science Standard	59.3	73.3	60.0	N/A	N/A
* Grade 5 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	86.2	74.2	53.6	N/A	N/A
* Grade 5 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	86.2	58.1	50.0	N/A	N/A
* Grade 5 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Social Science Standard	86.2	71.0	46.4	N/A	N/A
* Grade 7 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Social Science Standard	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pupil Enrollment to Certified Employee Ratio	10.5	9.9	11.6	12.2	13.4
Attendance Rate	95.7	95.0	94.8	94.4	95.4
Number of Students with More Than 10 Unexcused Days Absent	8	20	26	32	0
Number of Students absent greater than 10% of School Year	9	14	17	20	0
Number of Students Suspended	4	7	14	10	82,767
Number of Students Expelled or Suspended involving Drugs, Weapons, or Alcohol	0	0	1		
Number of Out of School Suspensions	3	5	4	4	55,563
Number of In School Suspensions	1	3	10	6	41,240
Number of Bullying Incidents	0	0	3	3	4,496

General Shanks Elem School, Portland 3273					
Indicator	School Results				State
	'16-'17	'17-'18	'18-'19	'19-'20	Total
A-F Accountability Grade	C	D	C	C	
Student Enrollment	315	296	381	405	1,135,199
Number of Certified Teachers	17	16	20	23	60,474
Percentage of Students Passing IREAD	87.3	79.6	89.1	N/A	N/A
* Grade 3 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	52.8	46.8	71.6	N/A	N/A
* Grade 3 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	66.0	68.1	52.3	N/A	N/A
* Grade 4 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	66.6	57.7	59.2	N/A	N/A
* Grade 4 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	58.8	51.9	55.2	N/A	N/A
* Grade 4 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Science Standard	70.5	51.9	54.4	N/A	N/A
* Grade 5 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Math Standard	44.0	56.6	51.6	N/A	N/A
* Grade 5 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Language Arts Standard	58.0	44.2	51.6	N/A	N/A
* Grade 5 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Social Science Standard	53.0	49.1	57.4	N/A	N/A
* Grade 7 Percent Passing ISTEP+/ ILEARN Social Science Standard	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pupil Enrollment to Certified Employee Ratio	14.3	14	15.2	15	13.4
Attendance Rate	95.8	95.9	95.8	95.7	95.4
Number of Students with More Than 10 Unexcused Days Absent	32	33	37	47	0
Number of Students absent greater than 10% of School Year	24	18	26	28	0
Number of Students Suspended	19	13	24	14	82,767
Number of Students Expelled or Suspended involving Drugs, Weapons, or Alcohol	0	0	2	2	5,095
Number of Out of School Suspensions	18	13	15	9	55,563
Number of In School Suspensions	9	0	18	5	41,240
Number of Bullying Incidents	0	0	2	2	4,496

For further information contact
504 COORDINATOR
AMERICANS with DISABILITIES and TITLE VI & IX COORDINATOR
 Ms. Ann Van Horn, Director of Special Education
 414 Floral Ave., Portland, Indiana 47371 Telephone (260) 726-2511 Fax (260) 726-2223
 For current information about your School District try our Web Site – jayschoolcorp.org
2020 School Corporation Annual Performance Report

General Explanation

This is a report on the performance of schools and school corporations (districts) in your area. The goal is to give you information to tell you what progress schools are making to help students learn more.

There are additional indicators that are available to you on the Indiana Department of Education's Web site (www.doe.in.gov/asap) including data broken out by different student subgroups, such as race, gender, income level and special education.

The data in this report has been supplied by the Indiana Department of Education and local school corporations. The report provides the most recent data available.

Indiana educators and citizens have developed higher academic standards for all students. These standards are necessary to prepare Indiana students to be successful in life, whether they go directly to higher education or to the workplace. The scores for ISTEP+ are listed under each school to reflect student progress toward those standards. For high schools, you also will see graduation rates and the percentage of graduates who plan to go on to college.

Other important information is provided, such as average attendance rates and indicators of school safety, including expulsions and suspensions.

Also included is information about your school corporation, such as how much is spent, on average, for each student; how much teachers are paid; and the percentage of corporation students who are in special education classes or gifted and talented classes.

If you have any questions about this information, you should contact your local school corporation or contact the Department of Education at 317-234-5585 or by e-mail at apr@doe.in.gov.
 CR/NS 3-24-2021-HSPAXLP

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ACROSS

- 30 Gratuity
- 1 Halloween greeting
- 4 Owns
- 7 "Li'l Abner" creator
- 8 Inventor Nikola
- 10 Rush
- 11 Fix a road
- 13 Bringing home the bacon
- 16 Clip - (some ties)
- 17 Ouzo flavor
- 18 Oklahoma city
- 19 Test tube solution
- 20 GPS suggestions
- 21 Avoid
- 23 Trusty horse
- 25 Botch up
- 26 Prom dress
- 27 911 responder
- 28 Riyadh resident

DOWN

- 33 Grabbing some z's
- 36 Ritzy spread
- 37 Tycoon
- 38 Lukewarm
- 39 Barak of Israel
- 40 Tax ID
- 41 Press for payment
- 1 Soaks up the sun
- 2 -Free fuel
- (contact lens solution)
- 10 Med. plan option
- 12 Finished
- 14 Bitty biter
- 15 Cooking fuel
- 19 Sports-caster
- 29 "Encore!"
- 30 Spring-steen's "Born -"
- 31 Sport shirt brand
- 32 Calligrapher's instrument
- 34 Currier's partner
- 35 Pearl Harbor site

Solution time: 23 mins.

I	M	A	M	O	L	D	E	E	L	S	
M	A	Y	A	R	E	A	R	E	A	P	
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			S	I	N	M	I	C			
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Yesterday's answer 3-24

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Junior league registration will be March 31, see Sports on tap

Emmert agrees to meet with protesting players, see story page 9

Sports

Oral Roberts protected from hype as No. 15 seed

By ERIC OLSON
AP Sports Writer

Take it from someone who experienced up close the magic and mania of being the lowest-seeded team to reach the Sweet 16: Spending this week in the relative isolation of the single-site tournament in Indianapolis will only help Oral Roberts as it prepares to play Arkansas.

Michael Fly, now the head coach at Florida Gulf Coast, was an assistant on the 2013 "Dunk City" team that became

the first No. 15 seed to make it out of the tournament's first weekend.

Eight years later, Fly remembered how the sudden celebrity, new fans jumping on the bandwagon and a week's worth of media hype overwhelmed the staff and players and ultimately caught up to them.

On the court, Oral Roberts is on the same path as FGCU, having upset a No. 2 seed (Ohio State) and a No. 7 (Florida) going into Saturday's game

against a No. 3 in the Razorbacks.

Off the court, and in the cocoon of the tournament setting as a precaution against COVID-19, access to the Golden Eagles will be limited. They will primarily be at their hotel and at practices.

In FGCU's case, then-coach Andy Enfield and the team stepped into a burning spotlight in Fort Myers, Florida, in the days between the first and second rounds in Philadelphia and

the regional in Arlington, Texas.

"I thought that was probably the biggest challenge of that whole situation," Fly recalled on Monday. "I still remember getting back and there were hundreds of people lining campus. I showed up to work one day and 'SportsCenter' was doing a broadcast from the arena, and the 'Today' show and 'Good Morning America' were there. You couldn't park anywhere. People were ransacking the book store looking for anything

with the FGCU logo."

Minutes after Oral Roberts' 81-78 win over the Gators on Sunday, coach Paul Mills said he is glad his team is staying put rather than heading back to Tulsa, Oklahoma, for a few days.

"The controlled environment, as the NCAA has put it, is terrific because we can get away from some of that fanfare that kind of comes your way and people pulling you in a number of different directions," Mills said.

See Hype page 9



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Post prepares

Landon Post of the Fort Recovery High School baseball team prepares to field a ground ball during the first inning of a scrimmage Monday against the Perry Commodores. The Indians open their 2021 season at 5 p.m. Monday at home against the Celina Bulldogs.

Torch relay not just a sideshow

By STEPHEN WADE
AP Sports Writer

TOKYO — The Olympic torch relay is usually just a sideshow for the real thing; the prelude, the buildup, the warm-up act that could be skipped.

Not this time. All eyes will be on the torch relay when it begins on Thursday from northeastern Japan, headed to the opening ceremony of the postponed Tokyo Olympics on July 23: 121 days with 10,000 runners expected to crisscross Japan's 47 prefectures.

The relay could be the "canary in the coalmine" for attempting to hold the Olympics in four months despite the pandemic. Social distancing, mask-wearing and limited crowds that are prohibited from loud cheering will be the order when the relay starts from Fukushima prefecture.

If the relay has problems, if COVID-19 cases pop up and if there are delays, it could send up red flags about the feasibility of

holding the Olympics.

Here's how seriously it's being taken: Toshiro Muto, the CEO of the organizing committee and a former deputy governor of the Bank of Japan, is in charge of the relay and not a secondary department head.

It was exactly at the start of the relay a year ago that the Olympics were postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic. It was the first postponement since the modern Olympic began in 1896.

Hope lights our way

This is the event that organizers and the International Olympic Committee hope will help turn public opinion in Japan in favor of the Olympics. The slogan for the relay is "Hope Lights Our Way." The notion is that the Olympics will be uplifting and a light at the end of the tunnel, which will allow Japan and the IOC to bask in the glow of the world returning to normal.

See Relay page 9

Baseball needs more than bigger bases

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP Sports Columnist

That baseball is in serious need of change isn't really in dispute. Even the most rabid fans grumble that the game is stagnant and one dimensional, sorely missing the strategies and nuances that in days past made it America's favorite pastime.

That Major League Baseball is finally trying to do something about it underscores the threat now being posed to the sport. People may still be going to the ballpark for an occasional night out — albeit in declining numbers — but plunging television ratings indicate they're voting with their remote when faced with the prospect of having to invest more than three hours into a game that offers little in return.

Still, I've got to admit having bigger bases wasn't on my list of things to do to make baseball relevant once again.

That's not to say the extra 3 inches being added onto bases at the Triple A level this year is a bad thing. A few more runners might reach first base safely and a few more might attempt to occasionally steal a base — which will both bring some more action to games, at least in theory.

There are other changes being tried out at the minor league level this year that are promising, too, even if they are not quite ready for prime time. Automated ball and strike calling in the low minors, restrictions on a pitcher throwing to first base and pitch timers will all be in play at various minor league levels.

And, at the top of the list, a requirement in Double A that infielders keep both feet on the dirt — with an option that at least two infielders must be on either side of second base.

The object isn't so much to get fans to care once again. It's to get them to watch once again, something even Miami manager Don Mattingly said is becoming increasingly difficult to do.

"I watched a lot of the playoff games after we were eliminated and quite honestly it was a little hard to watch," Mattingly said a few months ago. "There was nothing going on. Strikeout, strikeout, home run. It was hard to watch. It tells me we have to find a way to make our game move."

It's not just that games are too long, though they surely are. The average time for a nine-inning MLB game in 2019 was a record 3:07, up 17 minutes from just 10 years earlier, despite a few half-hearted attempts by MLB to get things moving along a little faster.

Tim Dahlberg



Just as big an issue is that so little happens during that time.

Nearly four of 10 plate appearances end without a ball being put into play. Analytics discourage ground balls and stolen bases, and the hit-and-run is a relic of the past.

Meanwhile, pitchers constantly dally on the mound, and batters can never seem to get set at the plate without adjusting batting gloves or stepping out of the box to contemplate the origin of the universe.

It's no longer a question of whether the game needs to change. It's a question of whether baseball can change quickly enough to avoid becoming a niche sport.

Losing fans with every game by putting a bad product on the field isn't a recipe for long-term success, something commissioner Rob Manfred seems to realize even if he has trouble articulating it. Manfred changed the rules during the pandemic with, among other things, a radical idea of putting a runner on second base to begin each extra inning — and got a surprisingly positive reaction even from baseball purists.

He also named former Cubs executive Theo Epstein to be a consultant on rules changes. Surprisingly enough, Epstein said he and other baseball executives bear partial responsibility for the game's changes because of their reliance on analytics in building and fielding teams.

"I take some responsibility for that because the executives, like me, who have spent a lot of time using analytics and other measures have unwittingly had a negative impact on the aesthetic value of the game and the entertainment value of the game," Epstein said.

The problem is, even the new rules in place in the minor leagues this year don't go far enough. Radical changes in both game length and game aesthetics are needed to make baseball more watchable, and it's not clear whether management or players have the stomach for it.

Meanwhile, the games continue to revolve around strikeouts and home runs. They last way too long and have become way too boring.

As Opening Day approaches, change can't come soon enough.

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