

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Shifting to fiber

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

The courthouse may be upgrading to fiber.

Jay County Commissioners on Monday agreed to move forward in drafting a contract with Portland-based Community Fiber Solutions for fiber optic internet at Jay County Courthouse.

Fiber optic cables are made of long, thin strands of glass and transmit data through light pulses. At present, the courthouse uses a copper-based connection for internet through Comcast.

"Fiber doesn't experience the interruptions and the interference that copper signals can," said Community Fiber Solutions commercial account executive Doug Bieberick. "... it's the state of the art — it's the latest and greatest thing that's out there."

Commissioners OK moving forward with courthouse internet service upgrade

The agreed upon proposal, a five-year contract without a service agreement, will cost \$269 a month. Commissioners can upgrade to higher speeds or add on a service agreement in the future if desired.

County auditor Anna Culy has mentioned at commissioner meetings the past few months that the current system is not fast enough for day-to-day processes. She added Monday that courthouse workers have issues doing video

conference calls like Zoom. While the copper cables do have speedy download speeds, current upload speeds (used for actions like sending video) aren't fast enough, Culy continued.

Earlier in the meeting, county recorder Betty St. Myers told commissioners her office does about 95% of its recording online now. (Before the coronavirus pandemic, it was only 30%). See **Commissioners** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Cake concentration

Skye Kennedy focuses on her technique Saturday afternoon while participating in Jay County 4-H's youth cake decorating workshop in the Bob Schmit Memorial Exhibition Hall at Jay County Fairgrounds.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Ready for treats

Seven-year-old Aubrey McClain gives a grin as she waits for candy to be dropped into her basket during Dunkirk's Easter Treat Trunk event Saturday at Dunkirk City Park.

Dunkirk finalizes alcohol policy

Consumption and sales allowed with prior approval

By ROSE SKELLY
The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — A policy allowing the sale of alcohol in Dunkirk City Park has received final approval.

Dunkirk City Council approved an ordinance that will allow vendors to sell alcohol with special permission at its second reading Monday.

Dunkirk Mayor Jack Robbins also discussed how the proposed U.S. Aggregates expansion in Portland would affect Dunkirk businesses.

At its March 22 meeting, council approved an ordinance on first reading that would allow vendors to sell alcohol in Dunkirk City Park if they had the proper permit and permission from both council and Dunkirk Park Board. It needed to be approved again on second reading to go into effect.

According to the ordinance, vendors who received permission from the park board and council would have to have a state permit and create a designated area for people to purchase and consume the alcohol. The vendors would need to provide security and would be responsible for not overserving customers.

Residents who opposed the bill at last month's meeting again asked council not to pass the ordinance.

Gloria Hamilton said she did not want children to be exposed to those who had been consuming alcohol, and that the policy might keep families from attending events at the park. She also shared her concerns that people who had been drinking could become violent.

"There could be drunk people walking around all over where there could be children," Hamilton said. "People could choose not to come if there's going to be alcohol, because if there's going to be alcohol, I'm not bringing my children."

See **Policy** page 5

Senate finalizing state budget

By DAN CARDEN
The Times (Munster)
Tribune News Service

Decisions about the next two years of school funding, infrastructure investments, and everything else on which Indiana state government spends money are set to be finalized in the next two weeks.

The Republican-controlled Senate is poised to approve its version of the 2022-23 state budget Tuesday, kicking off the final rounds of spending negotiations between the Senate, the Republican-controlled House and Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb ahead of

the planned April 21 adjournment of the General Assembly.

At stake is how to divvy up some \$35.8 billion in state funds over the two-year period that begins July 1, 2021, along with some \$3 billion in federal funds coming to Indiana under the American Rescue Plan enacted last month by the Democratic-controlled Congress and Democratic President Joe Biden.

The House and Senate budget plans are similar in many respects. Both allocate approximately 50% of state spending to elementary and high school education, both restore cuts to state

agencies and universities imposed early in the COVID-19 pandemic, and both establish new relief programs to aid Hoosiers and Indiana businesses negatively impacted by COVID-19.

They also diverge within each of those categories. The House, for example, directs much of its education funding increase to private school vouchers for wealthier families and a new education savings account program for students opting out of public and private schools, while the Senate focuses on boosting state support for all students,

including special education students.

House Speaker Todd Huston, R-Fishers, said that issue is likely to be a sticking point as the House plans to "very aggressively" push for its position during budget discussions with the Senate and the governor.

"The House Republican caucus has been consistent in our belief that parents should have the choice for their children and we will be consistent in that message at the negotiating table," Huston said. "We'll work with them to help them see the light."

See **Budget** page 5

Deaths

Marlene Fouch, 85, Redkey
Cathy McClain, 72, Angola
Eva Journay, 98, Decatur
Phyllis Giddings, 89, Dunkirk
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 63 degrees Monday. The low was 46.
Tonight's low will be 40. Expect mostly sunny skies Wednesday with a high of 57 and winds gusting to 20 miles per hour.
For an extended forecast, see page 2.

In review

Jay County Health Department is now accepting walk-in appointments for the coronavirus vaccine for those 18 and older from 1 to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
Those interested in getting the vaccine can also make an appointment at ourshot.in.gov.

Coming up

Wednesday — Results from today's JCHS softball game against Eastbrook.

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



Commissioners ...

Continued from page 1
Culy reminded commissioners of St. Myer's comment along with the other courthouse offices in need of internet (such as Jay Circuit Court and Jay Superior Court).
Commissioners looked at a variety of options for fiber optic service from both Comcast and Community Fiber Solutions, with the latter coming in lower across the board.
Also Monday, commissioners heard an update from Jay County Development Corporation director Travis Richards. As he did at a JCDC meeting last week, Richards noted unemployment has returned to pre-pandemic levels but also mentioned the impending closure of Portland's Coca-Cola facility in November.
He noted housing continues to be a need locally and beyond.
"We've made some progress with some other developers and other folks but haven't gotten to a point where we've been able to get it across the bench line and

get shovels in the ground yet, but I'm hopeful we'll be able to do that pretty soon," Richards said.
He also mentioned his organization is interviewing applicants for the director position of Jay County Community Development and hopes to have a decision made within a month.
Highway department superintendent Donnie Corn spoke with commissioners Monday as well to share updates. Commissioners approved his request to purchase a \$8,000 hydraulic hose crimping machine purchase from NAPA Auto Parts. Corn explained the unit will help to repair trucks as needed when plowing in winter.
He added Indiana Department of Transportation had previously planned this year to remove and replace the steel bridge on Indiana 26 over the Salamonie River near Jay-Randolph Developmental Services this year, but it has pushed that project back to 2023. (Corn noted INDOT is

still looking for a buyer to purchase and disassemble the bridge.)
Commissioners reviewed quotes with Corn for emulsion materials used in road repair and chose RS-2 from Marathon at \$1.38 per gallon and AE-90S from Asphalt Materials Inc. at \$1.66 per gallon.
They also gave Corn the OK to seek quotes for a new printer and fax machine for his department.
Commissioners also agreed to give \$50,000 in economic development income tax (EDIT) funds to Jay County Fair Board for its Christmas light show that is planned to debut in November. (The fair board request now pending approval from Jay County Council, which meets Wednesday.)
Also Monday, commissioners:
•Discussed parking around the courthouse. County clerk Jon Eads noted Court Street has a sign designating the road as parking for elected officials only

and asked if that rule was enforced. County attorney Bill Hinkle agreed to review legislation regarding ownership of the street for the next meeting.
•Appointed Kaleb Hemmellgarn to Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals. He will take the place of Dennis Rogers, who recently resigned.
•Signed a letter of opposition to Indiana State Senate Bill 303 at the request of POET Biorefining of Portland. Aker said the local business is opposed to the legislation, specifically the following (as written in a digest of the bill on the Indiana General Assembly 2021 session website): "Provides that a fuel dispenser from which a retail customer dispenses gasohol containing more than 10% and not more than 15% ethanol must display the statement, 'Attention: E15. Check owner's manual for compatibility and warranty requirements.' or a similar statement approved by the United States Environmental Protection

Agency." Aker said the business argued the requirement is redundant.
•Agreed to spend \$15,027 on a data processor for Jay County Recorder's Office.
•OK'd the highway department to spread stone on the Jay County Solid Waste Management District driveway.
•Approved a \$3,012.76 bid from The Fire Store of Coatesville, Pennsylvania, for a Decon Shower System (Jay County Health Department plans to use the portable shower for decontamination, such as at a house formerly used for cooking methamphetamine or other drugs).
•OK'd a request from Sheriff Dwane Ford to purchase two water pumps for \$3,738 for Jay County Jail using the facility's budgeted maintenance funds.
•Paid \$15,000 for a new server at Jay County Sheriff's Office and \$5,500 to both Midwest Pet Refuge and Jay County Humane Society for county animal control services.

CR almanac

Wednesday 4/14	Thursday 4/15	Friday 4/16	Saturday 4/17	Sunday 4/18
57/36	53/37	59/40	56/41	59/42

Lotteries

Powerball
Saturday
14-16-23-50-53
Powerball: 3
Power Play: 3
Estimated jackpot: \$67 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$220 million

Hoosier
Monday
Midday
Daily Three: 9-4-1
Daily Four: 5-5-9-4
Evening
Daily Three: 3-9-1
Daily Four: 3-6-9-2
Quick Draw: 1-2-3-4-6-16-18-27-33-37-38-40-42-50-52-53-59-69-70-77
Cash 5: 1-3-14-24-45

Ohio
Monday
Midday
Pick 3: 9-3-9
Pick 4: 1-1-0-1
Pick 5: 0-7-9-7-1
Evening
Pick 3: 9-1-8
Pick 4: 4-4-1-4
Pick 5: 8-5-3-7-4
Rolling Cash 5: 6-20-25-26-36
Estimated jackpot: \$155,000
Classic Lotto: 3-5-7-18-44-48
Kicker: 3-7-7-4-3
Jackpot: \$7 million

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery	Central States Montpelier
Corn5.94	Corn.....5.84
Wheat6.12	May corn.....5.85
POET Biorefining Portland	Beans14.15
Corn.....6.02	Sept. beans12.15
May corn.....6.04	July wheat 6.07
The Andersons Richland Township	Sunrise St. Anthony
Corn.....5.85	Corn.....5.89
May corn.....5.89	April corn5.92
Beans14.18	Beans13.99
May beans14.18	April beans14.01
Wheat 6.34	Wheat5.88
May wheat 6.34	July wheat.....5.91

Today in history

On April 13, 1970, Apollo 13, four-fifths of the way to the moon, was crippled when a tank containing liquid oxygen burst. (The astronauts managed to return safely.)
In 1613, Pocahontas, daughter of Chief Powhatan, was captured by English Capt. Samuel Argall in the Virginia Colony. (During a year-long captivity, Pocahontas converted to Christianity and opted to stay with the English.)
In 1861, at the start of the Civil War, Fort Sumter in South Carolina fell to Confederate forces.
In 1971, lightning caused a couple of fires in Jay County, including one that destroyed a barn at the Clarence Miller Farm.
—AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

Wednesday
7 p.m. — Jay County Council, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

Thursday
5 p.m. — Redkey Town Council executive session, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St.

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

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

Obituaries

Marlene Fouch

May 28, 1935-April 9, 2021
Marlene J. (George) Fouch, 85, of Redkey, Indiana, passed away peacefully at her home, Friday, April 9, 2021, with family by her side.
She was born May 28, 1935, in Marshall County, the daughter of Verl R. and Grace (Troxell) George. She was a 1952 graduate of Nappanee High School.
Marlene worked as an administrator for Delaware County ASCS office. In the early years, she worked at Dairy Dream and for Dr. Moore, the eye doctor in Albany, held administrative position at the Albany Nursing Home for many years and worked at McCords 5c & 10c (dime) store in Albany for many years.
She enjoyed spending her leisure time gardening, quilting and restoring furniture. She never met a hobby or craft she couldn't conquer.
She leaves to cherish her memory two sons, Breen L. Peck of Redkey, Indiana, and Harper K. Peck (wife: Martha) of Wauseon, Ohio; a daughter, Diana Selvey (husband: Gary) of Albany, Indiana; a sister, Carol Titus of Nappanee, Indiana; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.
She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Ronald C. Fouch; a brother, Boyd George; and a sister, June Kurtz.
Marlene had prearranged for no services or calling hours. She will be laid to rest in Hepton Cemetery of Nappanee.
Memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 50 E. 91st St. #100, Indianapolis, IN 46240, or An Albany Christmas, c/o Joe Brown, 955 W. 1st St., Albany, IN 47320.
Wilson Shook Funeral Home, Dunkirk Memorial Chapel has been entrusted with arrangements.
Condolences may be expressed at wilsonshookfh.com.



Fouch

Cathy McClain

March 14, 1949-April 10, 2021
Cathy (Stoner) McClain, age 72, a resident of Angola, passed away on Saturday, April 10, 2021 at her home in Angola. She was a former resident of Portland.
Cathy was born on March 14, 1949, in Muncie, Indiana, the daughter of Edward "Buck" and Thelma (Maynard) Emery. She worked for Portland Police Department as a dispatcher; Community Care West and, Jay County Hospital physical therapy, managed Cline Wilt Lumber and worked as a clerk for Mel Smitley Auctioneering.
Cathy married Harry "Butch" Stoner and he passed away in 2001. She later married James McClain and he passed away in 2018.
Survivors include:
One daughter — Sara Porter (husband: Joseph), Angola, Indiana
One son — Brian Stoner (wife: Jessica), Berne, Indiana
Eight grandchildren and one great-granddaughter
She was preceded in death by a daughter, Lisa Stoner; and her siblings, Stan Emery and Judy Journey.
Visitation will be held on Friday from 10 a.m. to noon at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Friday at the funeral home. Melinda Porter will officiate the service and burial will follow at IOOF Cemetery in Montpelier.
Memorials may be directed towards the family in care of Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home to assist with expenses or Parkview Hospice.
Condolences may be sent to williamsonspencer.com.



McClain

in Jay County, the daughter of the late John M. and Mable J.M. (Lee) Bischoff.
On Aug. 31, 1947, Marie married William H. Journey. He preceded her in death on Nov. 11, 2011.
Marie lived a life of service through church, family and friends. She was a member of St. Mark's United Methodist Church where she was involved in the deaf ministry as an interpreter for many years. She was also a member of the Shakespeare Mothers Study Club, United Methodist Women and the prayer group, and taught Sunday School.
She is survived by two sons, Rex L. (Carolyn) Journey of Bryant, Indiana, and Rick L. (Judy) Journey of Bellevue, Ohio; a daughter-in-law, Rita Journey of Decatur, Indiana; eight grandchildren, Wes (Kate), Brian (Erin), Justin (Brittany), James (Jennifer), Jonathon (Alaynee), Brandon (Shu), Stephanie (Jonathan Rice) and Christine; and 17 great-grandchildren.
She was preceded in death by a son, Ronald W. Journey, on Sept. 18, 2018.
A private burial was held at Salamonie Cemetery.
In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Mark's UMC Endowment Fund or Samaritans Purse-Operation Christmas Child.
Arrangements were handled by Haggard-Sefton-Hirschy & Zelt Funeral Home.
To sign our guest book, visit hshfuneralhome.com.
Phyllis Giddings, Dunkirk, Jan. 15, 1932-April 10, 2021. Services will be 1 p.m. Wednesday at Meacham Funeral Service.
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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.



Journey

Capsule Reports

Goose gone

A Redkey man drove into a goose on Indiana 67 about 7:25 p.m. Sunday.
Gregory S. Coons, 50, was driving northeast on the highway just south of county road 600 South when a goose hit his windshield. Damage to Coon's 2018 Kia Soul is estimated between \$1,000 and \$2,500.

Highway collision

A Redkey man failed to notice oncoming traffic and drove into a Redkey woman's vehicle at the intersection of county road 600 South and Indiana 67 about 10 a.m. Sunday.
Burlin D. McCormick, 77, was driving west on county road 600 South. He stopped at the intersection with Indiana 67 and failed to notice a 2013 Kia, driven by Christin L. Hough, 30, driving toward him, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report.
McCormick drove his 2017 Kia Soul

into the intersection and it struck the driver's side of Hough's vehicle, which spun and came to a stop in a ditch on the south side of the intersection.
Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Backing accident

An Albany woman backed into oncoming traffic on Main Street about 4 p.m. Friday.
Loretta J. Bashore, 58, was backing a 2009 Pontiac G6 of a parking space at First Merchants Bank. She failed to notice a 2014 Chrysler Town and Country — driven by Portland resident Susan E. Bloom, 60 — behind her and backed into the vehicle, according to a Portland Police Department report.
The Pontiac is registered to April L. Watson of Albany and the Chrysler is registered to MSB Inc. of Portland.
See page 5

SERVICES

Wednesday
Taylor, Naomi: 11 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 190 S. Union St., Pennville.
Giddings, Phyllis: 1 p.m., Meacham Funeral Service, 648 W. State St., Albany.

Friday
McClain, Cathy: 1:30 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Service listings provided by
PROGRESSIVE OFFICE PRODUCTS
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Portland, Indiana 47371
(260) 726-9201
progressiveofficeproducts.com

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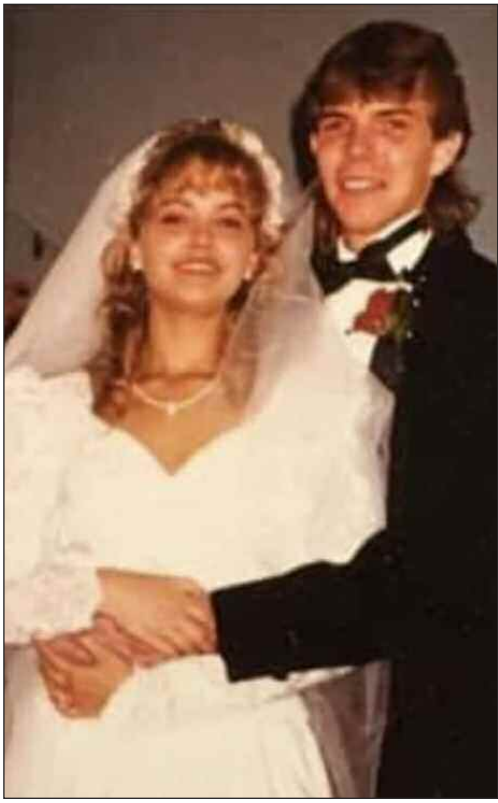
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25th anniversary



Tish and Jon Blankenship - 1996

Tish and Jon Blankenship

Jon and Tish Blankenship of Dunkirk are celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary today.

Tish Barron and Jon Blankenship were married April 13, 1996, at Southside Church of Christ in Portland with Pastor Flint Redwine officiating.

Jon is a continuous improvement manager for Tyson Foods, where he has worked for 25 years. Tish is a registered nurse for IU Health, working in the med-surg and emergency departments at IU Health Jay and IU Health Blackford.

They are the parents of two sons, Jonathan and Gabe, and a daughter, Chelsea.



Jon and Tish Blankenship - 2021

Dear Abby



Wife should attend funeral

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married 20-plus years. His mother has never liked me. I have never done anything to her or her husband.

My father-in-law passed away two years back, and my mother-in-law is older. If something happens to her, how am I supposed to react? I know I have to be there for my husband. My husband and I get along wonderfully, but at the same time, I would feel like a hypocrite if I went to her funeral. We haven't spoken in over a year.

Other family members have repeated things she has said about me as well as my family. I put up with her behavior for years. I only quit talking to her or going around her a year ago. — HATES HYPOCRISY IN MICHIGAN

DEAR HATES: Funerals are for the living. Do not succumb to the temptation to use your mother-in-law's as a platform to demonstrate your dislike of her. Attend the funeral and comfort your husband, who likely will be hurting and need your support. And when you do, ABOVE ALL, refrain from humming, "Ding, Dong, the Witch is Dead."

Hopefully next call will be good news

By DIANA DOLECKI

Special to The Commercial Review

We had a bit of a scare this past weekend. My sister-in-law, Diane, called and said Michael was in the hospital. Michael is her husband and the older of my two brothers.

Apparently, he was admitted the night before but she didn't want to bother us because she knew we went to bed early. I wanted to tell her, "Good Lord! If the word hospital is in the conversation, I don't care what time it is. Just call me." Of course I didn't say it out loud. I couldn't have done anything to help but I was truly grateful that she called.

Michael had been on his way home from work when he began to feel like something wasn't right. He pulled over in Palestine to wait for the feeling to pass. He said he felt like he was in a recliner looking down at himself. He also felt like someone had

As I See It



punched him in the back and the pain went clear through to his chest. This tells me one thing — there must be recliners in the afterlife.

He finally made it home. He must have looked and felt bad enough that either he or Diane called the ambulance. They hauled him to the hospital in Richmond. His blood pressure was sky high. They fed him some baby aspirin and ran a bunch of tests.

The good news is that he didn't have a stroke. He didn't have a heart attack. He didn't have a panic attack. All they could find

was that his blood pressure was at least twice what mine was the last time I went to the doc. They didn't offer an opinion as to why it was so high.

Plus, like many people in this country he is overweight. They eventually sent him home with blood pressure medicines and an order to lose weight.

When I was working on the family genealogy I made a page of medical information. I was surprised at how many times the cause of death for long dead relatives was listed as stroke, with heart attacks running close behind. Hypertension was often listed as a contributing cause.

Depending on which branch of the family tree you are looking at, we are also a bunch of well fed people. I had noticed at Christmas that Michael looked like he didn't need any pillows to play Santa.

I feel sorry for Diane if she is

going to try to revise their meals. Dieting is never fun. I only hope this last scare is enough to get him to take a little better care of himself.

I remember how excited I was when Michael was born. He was a happy baby, a little pudgy but he outgrew that. He was our adventurous guy. Many of our family stories begin, "Remember when Michael ..."

He is a hard worker and gets lots of overtime. Perhaps this latest incident is a warning sign for him to slow down a little?

After talking to Diane, I called my brother, David. It sounded like he didn't know anything about Michael. I told him what I knew. We chatted for a while and agreed to keep each other informed about our brother.

It could have been so much worse. I hope that the next time she calls it is with good news and that they both are doing well.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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 - BRANNA'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 11:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the chapel at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital.

Wednesday

WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are

invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

PING PONG — Will be played from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays at West Jay Community Center.

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 (260) 726-9625 or (260) 703-0534.

BRYANT/NEW CORYDON SENIOR CITIZENS — Will meet at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Bryant Community Center for a carry-in dinner. Meat is provided.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — For caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias, the group will meet at 6 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month at Blackford Community Hospital conference room, 410 Pilgrim Boulevard in Hartford City. For more information, call Joni Slentz or Lisa Garrett at (765) 348-1072 or (800) 272-3900.

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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

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.

APRIL PRICE DROPS

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Contact legislators about funding

To the editor:

To say that Indiana House Bill 1005 has been a lightning rod for criticism may turn out to be the understatement of the year.

As House bill 1005 passed the House and moved to the Indiana Senate, the decision was made to not hold a hearing on it. Indiana State Sen. Jeff Raatz, chair of committee on education and careers, stated the bill had a robust hearing on the House side and nothing new could be presented.

The reality is this bill has created a firestorm since its introduction. Just a few examples. So far, 160 out of 298 public school boards have passed resolutions condemning the harmful effects of House Bill 1005 on public

Letters to the Editor

schools. Also the Indiana Superintendents Association, the Indiana School Boards Association, the Indiana School Business Managers Association, the city council of Martinsville Indiana and business leaders from Warsaw have voiced opposition to this legislation.

My favorite is Ball State University economist Michael Hicks, who writes a column that appears in Indiana newspapers. Hicks has

written at least four columns in recent weeks on public education and adequate funding. The following is a quote from his Feb. 28 column — “Indiana is failing at the single most important thing the state does to insure a growing economy: educate our children and young adults.”

To avoid the firestorm on the Senate side, leadership pulled the provisions of House Bill 1005 and inserted them directly into the Senate appropriations bill. This legislation proposes to send millions of dollars of Indiana’s tax money and use it to increase support for private schools through the expansion of vouchers, the amount of those vouchers and a new provision, the educational savings account.

When this legislation left the House, \$102 million out of the \$378 million of new money would be diverted to support private schools. The Senate budget was passed last week and increases new money for education plus trims the amounts proposed by the House for vouchers and educational savings accounts.

Where does all of this go now? Answer: Legislators from both the House and the Senate will meet to craft a compromise that can gain the necessary votes to pass both houses and then move a two-year budget to the desk of Gov. Eric Holcomb.

The concern is the amounts trimmed by the Senate chamber will be restored in the process of compromise. Indiana House

Speaker Todd Huston has said that house negotiators would be working to help senators “see the light” on voucher expansion.

I can’t help but wonder if the \$35,000 campaign contribution from Hoosiers For Quality Education in 2020 is influencing his support of voucher expansion.

What can you do to support Indiana’s public schools?

Please contact your state legislators and ask them to vote no on any expansion of vouchers and educational savings accounts. You can, in a matter of a few minutes, leave a message for your representative. The House number is (800) 382-9842 and the senate number is (800) 382-9467.

Phil Zicht
Winchester

Fight against all forms of racism

By **LESLIE K. WANG**
The Progressive
Tribune News Service

The brutal, random attack on a 65-year-old Filipino woman on the streets of New York City has drawn strong condemnation, not only for its sheer violence but because security guards nearby watched without intervening.

The assailant, later apprehended, yelled “You don’t belong here!” along with racial slurs, in the March 29 attack.

Unfortunately, this was just the latest addition to a long list of incidents targeting those assumed to be Chinese in the wake of COVID-19, which former President Donald Trump and others blamed on China, using racially charged terms like “China virus” and “kung flu.”

Hate crimes against Asian Americans skyrocketed by 150% in major U.S. cities last year. Asian Americans are being treated as foreigners and blamed for causing the coronavirus. As an Asian American, I have been called racial slurs on the streets several times. Others I know have been told, “Go back to your own country!”

Some do, or at least make an attempt. I have spoken to many American-born Chinese professionals who, like me, have at some point relocated to China, lured by exciting economic opportunities and a deep yearning for racial belonging which they have not found in the United States.

But even in China, they still feel as though they do not belong. They may find that they are expected to speak perfect Mandarin and express more loyalty to China than the United States, as is summed up by a question they are often asked: “If China and the United States went to war, which country would you support?”

In searching for racial acceptance in their ancestral homeland, some U.S.-born Chinese people feel as though their American identities are completely erased. As one person I spoke to explained, “People here definitely see you as Chinese first, not American.” In essence, moving abroad provides no escape from stereotypes that classify them as Chinese.

Compared to other immigrant groups, many Chinese Americans occupy a privileged status in regard to income, education and integration into mainstream society. However, they grow up without a clear sense of where they fit within the U.S. racial

Leslie K.
Wang



The current wave of hate crimes against Asian Americans is part of a long history of anti-Asian exclusion fueled by a simplistic view of race that reduces identity and belonging down to physical appearance.

system, which tends to be defined by Black-white relations.

Viewed as racially and culturally “other,” Chinese Americans are slotted into two limiting stereotypes: either economically successful “model minorities” whose strong work ethic and family values are deemed superior to other racial or ethnic groups or “forever foreigners” suspected of bearing disease or being loyal to China’s communist regime.

No matter the political climate, U.S.-born Chinese people are often not recognized as “real” Americans.

The current wave of hate crimes against Asian Americans is part of a long history of anti-Asian exclusion fueled by a simplistic view of race that reduces identity and belonging down to physical appearance.

Once we begin to consider the fight against anti-Asian racism as a key part of dismantling white supremacy, the sooner that Asian Americans can find a sense of belonging in their own country. For now, many feel caught between two countries, with no real home.

.....
Wang is an associate professor of Sociology at the University of Massachusetts Boston.



Address constitutional ambiguity

By **LEO MORRIS**
Indiana Policy Review

During my tenure as president of one of the nonprofit boards I served on, there was a dispute between board members and the executive director over something the director proposed to do.

He thought — and about half the board agreed with him — that the action would be consistent with his duties under our bylaws. About half the board, including me, thought he was overstepping his authority.

As the board took action on his proposal, his side was feeling pretty confident. Their votes totaled one more than half, and since they knew I could not vote as president unless there was a tie, their wish would carry the day.

But what they thought they knew was wrong. I understood Robert’s Rules of Order, which our bylaws required us to use, better than they did, or at least had read it one page further than they had, and knew I was allowed to vote if that vote would change the outcome. I voted no, creating a tie, and the proposal failed.

I relate that incident to make a point beyond the obvious one of putting my humble bragging on display, a temptation to which I modestly admit succumbing on occasion:

The executive of an organization carries out the orders of board members, who must follow the bylaws of the organization in issuing those orders.

That’s pretty straightforward, and it should hold whether the organization is a nonprofit organization, a multinational corporation or a government.

But it can get complicated in a hurry, as we have seen in the ongoing dispute over the constitutionality of Gov. Holcomb’s forceful and numerous “emergency” edicts during the COVID pandemic.

No, you and I are not the board

Leo
Morris



members for the state; there are between 6.5 and 7 million of us, and putting everything to a statewide vote would be as unwieldy as it would be unwise. So, we elect people to be our voice on the board — one representative for about every 65,000 of us, based on the 2010 Census, and one senator for about every 130,000.

All we can ask is that our surrogates pass laws faithful to the bylaws, as embedded in the Indiana Constitution, and that the executive faithfully execute them so that citizens clearly know what the rules are and that they will not change in the middle of the game.

Instead, if my conservative readers will forgive me for quoting former liberal Democratic State Rep. Christine Hale, they have created an “epically awkward” mess.

A majority of the Republican supermajorities in the House and Senate have said the governor’s edicts went too far, and they gave themselves the authority to call special sessions whenever it might be necessary to curb his power. “Foul!” cry Constitution watchers — only the governor has permission to call a special session.

But others have said the Legislature acted unconstitutionally in the first place by essentially giving the governor sweeping power to make law instead of merely carrying out the law and, further, that the mask mandate was especially egregious because it was not specifically mentioned in those sweeping powers.

The whole thing seems destined to end up before the Indiana

Supreme Court, and that’s fine. Arbitrating disputes between the other two branches is a core function of the court. And given how cavalierly some treat the U.S. Constitution, it is gratifying to know that so many show the state one a little respect.

But surely there is a better option: Read one page further into the bylaws so you might realize you don’t know them as well as you think you do and that some of them could benefit from clarification.

In giving the governor sweeping emergency powers, legislators clearly envisioned an emergency of short duration, like a flood or tornado, not something that lasted for months on end. Our part-time legislators meet only briefly, and the governor is always there, so the longer a situation lasts, the more he is able to make up the rules as he goes.

So, change the Constitution to stipulate how exactly the governor and legislators must interact when and if an emergency lasts beyond a specified duration. Things might not be as simple as citizens would like, but they don’t have to be as complicated as leaders sometimes seem to want them.

An amendment to the Indiana Constitution would need to be passed by two successive sessions of the General Assembly, after which it would go to the citizens for a vote.

And that would give a say in the rules of the game to all Hoosiers, the ones for whom and in whose name the bylaws were drafted and the laws are passed. A little power would return to those who need it most and be taken from those who wield it too freely.

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



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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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Policy ...

Continued from page 1
Glass Capital Grill owner Ryan Johnson, who has plans to sell alcohol at the city's Fourth of July celebration, told council he would follow the state rules and that his employees are trained to cut people off when necessary.

"At the end of the day, it's not all about that 'get drunk' attitude," Johnson said. "It's that camaraderie, it's that gathering together over a drink."

Once again, questions of the city's liability for drunk-driving accidents or injuries were raised. City attorney Wes Schemenaur told council that as long as the city ensured that vendors were following regulations, it should not be liable for any accidents.

Council voted to pass the ordinance 4-1, with Hamilton once again dissenting. Jessup changed

his vote to join Lisa Street, Tom Johnson and Jesse Bivens in approving the ordinance.

Vendors who wish to sell alcohol must first take their request to Dunkirk Park Board, which can either reject the request or recommend approval to Dunkirk City Council. Council then has final say on whether the vendor can sell alcohol. Aside from the state regulations, both boards can require vendors to follow certain rules, such as a drink limit for customers.

Also on Monday, Robbins commented on U.S. Aggregates' proposal to expand its operation in Portland. The company's request for rezoning to allow the expansion has been met with opposition.

Robbins pointed out that Dunkirk's Ardagh glass factory depends on the stone quarry for supplies to produce its products.

Other businesses, such as Red Gold Tomatoes in Geneva, depend on Ardagh for their products.

"They get 11 tons a day, seven days a week, coming out of U.S. Aggregates in Portland. So this is really going to affect Ardagh if they close down," Robbins said. "In another two or three years, will it shut down Ardagh? I don't know, but it's sure not going to help."

He has sent letters of support for U.S. Aggregates' proposed expansion to Portland City Council members, who will ultimately decide on the rezoning request.

In other business, council:

- Learned that Dunkirk Police Department's new Dodge Durango, purchased from Fuqua Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM in Dunkirk, has arrived. There will be a public hearing on April 26 for a \$40,000 additional appropri-

ation to pay for the vehicle and accessories.

- Renewed the city's insurance contract with Barnum Brown Insurance with an increase of 3.6% this year.

- Heard that Dunkirk City Pool is slated to open this summer, but there is currently a lack of lifeguards to staff the pool.

- Approved promoting Brock Farmer of the water department from a full-time laborer to a laboratory tech. The promotion comes with a \$1.45 an hour pay increase.

- Heard a proposal from Colonial Life and Accident Insurance to provide supplemental insurance to city employees. Robbins will meet with department supervisors to gauge the need for the insurance.

- Approved sponsoring the Jay County Junior-Senior High School prom for \$200.

- Paid Wilson Electric \$154.30 for repairs to the park garage heater and \$52.21 to Menards for park supplies.

- Gave Dunkirk Fire Department permission to host a boot drive Friday.

- Paid claims of \$246,378.19.
- At the Dunkirk Board of Public Works and Safety on Monday, board members Dan Watson, Street and Robbins approved an engineering contract with Fleis & VandenBrink for \$28,343 for the Highland Avenue sidewalk project.

Board members also approved a series of payments: \$2,178 to Axon Enterprise for a second payment for police Tasers, \$4,575.90 to Donley Safety for fire department supplies and \$549.99 to Ja-Mar TV, Appliance & Bedding for a refrigerator for the sewage department.

Felony arrests

Child solicitation

A Dunkirk man was arrested Monday for child solicitation.

Frederick O. Lemon, 52, 119 W. Jay St., was preliminarily charged a Level 4 felony for child solicitation. He's being held in Jay County Jail on \$15,000 bond.

Possession

Two men and women were arrested recently for drug possession.

Richard D. Hall, 58 E. Charles St., Redkey, was arrested Saturday and preliminarily charged a Level 6 felony for possession of cocaine, methamphetamine or narcotic drugs and two Class B misdemeanors for disorderly conduct and public intoxication. He was booked into Jay County Jail and is being held on \$4,500 bond.

Scott D. Hall, 51, 228 E. Walnut St., Portland, was

arrested Saturday and preliminarily charged a Level 6 felony for possession of cocaine, methamphetamine or narcotic drugs and a Class B misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. He was booked into Jay County Jail and is being held on \$4,000 bond.

Brandie L. Curtis, 41, 539 N. Plum St., Albany, was arrested Monday and preliminarily charged with possession of

methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. She was released from Jay County Jail on \$5,000 bond.

Courtney A.C. Bryan, 34, 19311 Highway 12 Lot 21, Edwardsburg, Michigan, was arrested Tuesday morning. She was preliminarily charged with two Level 6 felonies for possession of cocaine, methamphetamine or narcotic drugs and unlawful possession of a syringe.

Capsule Reports

Continued from page 2
Damage is estimated less than \$1,000.

Failed to see

Damage is estimated between \$25,000 and \$50,000 after a Dunkirk teen failed to notice a stopped vehicle about 9:10 p.m. Monday.

Taryn C. Caldwell, 17, was driving her 2019 Hyundai Kona south on Indiana 67 and approached the intersection with county road 125 South.

She did not notice that a 2012 Ford Fusion, driven by Portland resident Katelyn J. Bihn, 17, was stopped in the road and drove into the back of it. Both vehicles were towed.

Failed to yield

A Redkey woman failed to yield at a two-way stop on county road 800 South, causing an accident about 12:25 p.m. Thursday.

Lisa E. Guffey, 33, was driving her 2003 Chevrolet Suburban west on the

road and stopped at the intersection with Como Road. She later told Jay County Sheriff's Office she thought it was a four-way stop and proceeded into the intersection. Douglas R. Martin, 56, Geneva, then drove into her vehicle with a 2013 General Motors Sierra. (Como Road drivers do not stop at the intersection.)

The Sierra, which was towed, is registered to First Fleet Inc. of St. Louis. Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

Budget ...

Continued from page 1

More than 125 school boards and teachers' organizations across the state, including the 15 Lake County school districts, have condemned the House education funding plan for favoring private schools and private school students over the public schools the General Assembly has a constitutional obligation to support.

Another probable sticking point is a proposed increase in the cigarette tax. The House wants to hike the cigarette tax to \$1.50 per pack, up from \$1 per pack, to reduce smoking rates. The Senate believes the state doesn't need the revenue, so there's no reason to raise the tax.

Both chambers, however, seemingly are on board with extending a version of the state's cigarette tax to electronic cigarettes and other vaping supplies to treat all forms of smoking equally, at least on a tax basis.

On the other hand, representatives and senators

have yet to come together on how to spend American Rescue Plan funds, since the federal aid was not approved prior to the House adopting its version of House Bill 1001.

The Senate budget directs some of the money to broadband internet expansion (\$250 million), regional business development (\$150 million), mental health services (\$100 million), water and wastewater system improvements (\$100 million), career training programs (\$75 million), health improvement grants (\$50 million), and state and local police body cameras (\$25 million), among other projects.

The other projects include \$1.2 million for evaluating the feasibility of turning Gary's Buffington Harbor on Lake Michigan into an intermodal facility, taking advantage of its links to nearby water, rail, highway and air transportation, along with the availability of the site following the April 18 closure of the Majestic Star Casino.

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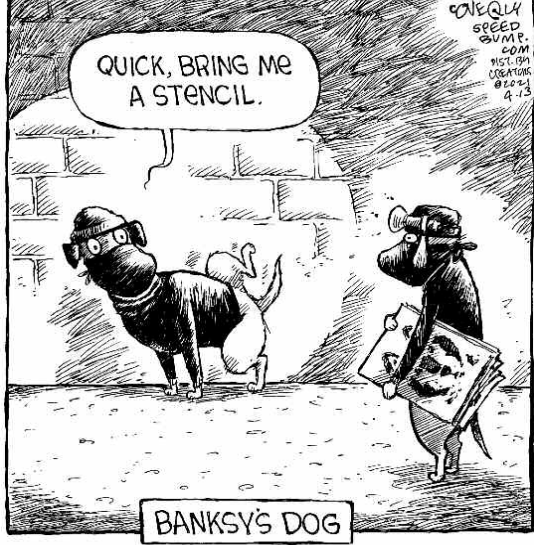
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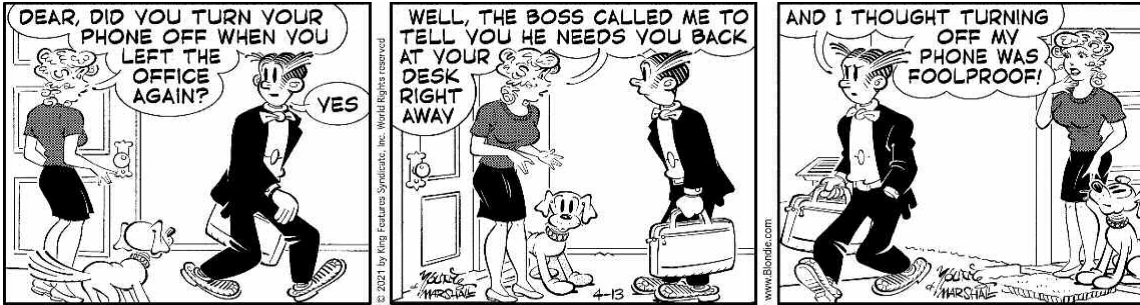
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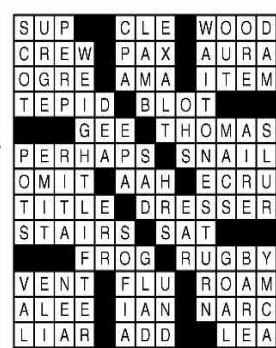
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Mr. Basketball field down to six finalists

By KYLE NEDDENRIEP

The Indianapolis Star
Tribune News Service

The 2021 IndyStar Mr. Basketball race is officially down to six finalists.

The Mr. Basketball winner will be announced on Friday at IndyStar.com. Here is a look at this year's finalists, which includes two Purdue recruits, who are also two-time state champions, one of the top four scorers in state history, two of the state's top scorers this season and a player who led his team to 53 wins and a state finals appearance over the past two seasons.

Mr. Basketball is awarded to the senior who receives the most votes from the state's high school coaches and media.

Shamar Avance, Lawrence North

The 6-1 guard was named the Marion County Player of the Year as he helped the Wildcats to a 53-5 record over the past two

seasons, including a Class 4A state finals appearance as a senior. Avance averaged a team-high 17.3 points and 4.3 assists, in addition to 3.6 rebounds per game. He shot 48.7% from the field overall, 32.5% from the 3-point line (41-for-126) and 74.1% from the free-throw line. Avance, who has offers from Indiana State, Miami of Ohio, Missouri-Kansas City, Tennessee-Martin and Texas Southern, scored 1,129 career points.

Brooks Barnhizer, Lafayette Jeff

The 6-7 Barnhizer, a Northwest-ern recruit, averaged 32.7 points, 11.5 rebounds, 6.5 assists, 3.8 steals and 2.6 blocked shots per game to lead Lafayette Jeff to a 25-3 record and the program's first sectional championship since 2010. Barnhizer shot 56.8% from the field and 39.9% from the 3-point line (77-for-193). He shot more than 10 free throws per

game, shooting 80.4% (229-for-285). Barnhizer scored 1,863 points and pulled down 819 rebounds in his three seasons at Lafayette Jeff.

Luke Brown, Blackford

The 6-2 Brown, a Stetson recruit, finished his career No. 4 on the state's all-time scoring list with 3,011 points. He averaged 31.7 points, 5.4 assists, 4.6 rebounds and 2.0 steals per game as a senior, shooting 54.2% from the field and 44.8% from the 3-point line (137-for-306). Brown was a sure thing at the free-throw line, shooting at a 92.3% clip (181-for-196) as a senior and 92.2% for his four-year career (652-for-707). Brown led Class 2A Blackford to its first sectional title since 1991 as a junior and a 25-5 record and its first regional title as a senior.

Caleb Furst, Blackhawk Christian

The 6-10 Furst, a Purdue

recruit, averaged 21.4 points, 14.1 rebounds, 3.0 assists and 2.2 blocked shots per game as a senior and led the Braves to a Class 2A state title as he finished with 20 points, seven rebounds and six blocked shots in the state championship win over Parke Heritage. Furst finished his high school career with 2,087 points and 1,253 rebounds. He shot 64% from the field as a senior. Furst also helped Blackhawk Christian to a Class A state championship as a sophomore and won 105 games in his high school career.

Trey Kaufman-Renn, Silver Creek

The 6-9 Kaufman-Renn, a Purdue recruit, led Silver Creek to Class 3A state championships as a sophomore and a senior and was named the state's Gatorade Player of the Year as a junior. Kaufman-Renn averaged 24.5 points, 11.8 rebounds, 3.6 assists

and 1.9 blocked shots as a senior and shot 57.3% from the field. Kaufman-Renn, who missed the first five games of his senior season with an ankle injury, finished as Silver Creek's all-time scoring leader with 1,832 career points and also had 877 rebounds. Silver Creek was 95-15 during Kaufman-Renn's career.

J.R. Konieczny, South Bend St. Joseph

The 6-7 Notre Dame recruit averaged 28.3 points, 7.7 rebounds, 3.5 assists and 2.4 steals per game to lead his Class 3A team to a 21-5 season and the program's first regional title since 1993. Konieczny shot 56.1% from the field and 34.9% from the 3-point line (44-for-126). Konieczny finished his high school career with 1,996 career points to become the all-time leader in the history of St. Joseph County.

Stays ...

Continued from page 8
Trailing 8-5 heading into the top of the seventh inning Monday, Jackie Homan got the Fort Recovery rally started with a single, and Chloe Grisez was hit by a pitch. Maddie Guggenbiller singled to load the bases before Sophie Pearson hit a two-run single.

One out later, Abby Knapke tied the game on a single, and Pearson scored on a passed ball for the eventual game-winning run.

Pearson finished with two triples, a single and five RBIs, while Brenna Homan and Grisez each had a double and a single. Jackie Homan tallied two hits as well.

Throwing two innings of relief, Jackie Homan got the win, striking out three and allowing just one hit.

On Saturday against Franklin Monroe, Fort Recovery won the opener 11-1 in five innings before a 7-5 triumph in game two.

Jackie Homan had a double and three singles while driving in three runs in game one. Pearson had two doubles, a single and three RBIs, while Macy Shinabery and Brenna Homan had two hits each.

Jackie Homan scattered two hits over five innings, allowing one earned run and striking out four to get the win.

In game two, Kensey Gaerke doubled and singled for the first multi-hit game of her career. Brenna Homan and Pearson also collected doubles.

Pearson got the win pitching, allowing five runs — four earned — on 10 hits while striking out six in the complete-game effort.



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Fort Recovery High School senior Jackie Homan catches a pop fly during the first game of a doubleheader against Franklin Monroe on Saturday at FRHS. The Indians swept the Jets, 11-1 and 7-5, before a 9-8 win over St. Marys on Monday.

Local ...

Continued from page 8
Sam Myers doubled for the Patriots, and Crosby Heniser, Kess McBride and Curtis had singles.

Heniser suffered the loss, surrendering three earned runs on five hits. He struck out a half dozen and walked a pair in five innings.

Late rally sinks FR

VAN WERT, Ohio — A late rally handed the Fort Recovery baseball team a 2-1 loss to the host Lincolnview Lancers on Monday.

Fort Recovery (3-3), which has lost back-to-back games, jumped out front 1-0 in the top of the fourth inning. Ryne Post and Cobe Wendel hit back-to-back singles, and then Post scored on a double steal.

The Lancers tied the game in the bottom of the sixth inning on a double, then got the eventual game-winning run on a passed ball in the same frame.

Riggs Tobe also had a hit for the Indians.

Freshman Troy Homan took the loss, allowing two runs — one earned — on three hits over six innings. He struck out five and walked one.

Patriots top Tigers

HAGERSTOWN — Jay County's girls tennis team moved to 2-0 on the season Saturday with a 4-1 victory against the Hagerstown Tigers.

Both doubles teams for the Patriots did not surrender a game in their victories. Madison Dirksen and Rachel Muhlenkamp won 6-0, 6-0 at No. 1 doubles,

while Lilly Hedges and Holly Hemmelgarn won by the same margin in their No. 2 doubles contest.

Kierston Blunk grabbed a 6-1, 6-2 victory at No. 3 singles, and Lyric Garinger won 6-1, 6-3 at No. 2 singles.

Grace Brewster fell 6-0, 7-5 at No. 1 singles.

In junior varsity action, Courtney Benter, Brenna Haines and Heaven Hambrick all got singles victories. Melana Zimmerman and Haylee Zimmerman teamed for a doubles win.

Girls open with win

The Jay County junior high girls track team opened its season Monday by taking first place over Southern Wells Raiders and Adams Central Jets.

The host Patriots scored 55 points for the win. Southern Wells (49) was the runner-up, and Adams Central (33) placed third.

Jay County's boys scored 41.5 points for second, behind Southern Wells (55) and ahead of Adams Central (39.5).

Morgan DeHoff and Kenzie Huey had two wins apiece for Jay County's girls. DeHoff was victorious in hurdles and long jump, while Huey beat the field in shot put and discus.

Jenna Dues (200-meter dash) and Mya Kunkler (high jump) also had individual wins, while the Patriots' 4x100 relay team took first.

Garrett Hiday (200 dash), Adam Alig (shot put) and Joseph Boggs (long jump) all had single victories. Jay County's 4x400 relay also placed first.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Softball vs. Eastbrook — 5 p.m.; Baseball vs. Eastbrook — 5 p.m.; Track vs. South Adams and Adams Central — 5:30 p.m.; JV baseball at South Adams — 5 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Baseball vs. Parkway — 5 p.m.; Softball at Parkway — 5 p.m.; JV baseball at Parkway — 5 p.m.

Thursday
Jay County — Boys golf at Wapahani — 4:30 p.m.; Track at Delta — 5 p.m.; Softball at Fort Recovery — 5 p.m.; Girls tennis at Bluffton — 5 p.m.; Junior high golf at Winchester Driver — 4:30 p.m.; Junior high track hosts Monroe Central and West-Del — 5:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Track hosts quad — 4:30 p.m.; Softball vs. Jay County — 5 p.m.; Baseball at New Knoxville — 5 p.m.;

JV baseball vs. St. Marys — 5 p.m.; Junior high track at Coldwater quad — 4:30 p.m.
Friday
Jay County — Softball vs. Norwell — 5 p.m.; JV softball at Norwell — 5 p.m.; Fort Recovery — Softball vs. Anna — 5 p.m.
Saturday
Jay County — Girls tennis at Eastern Hancock — 9 a.m.; Softball at Richmond

Invitational — 10 a.m.; Baseball doubleheader at Centerville — 10 a.m.
Fort Recovery — Baseball doubleheader vs. South Adams — 11 a.m.; Softball quad at Celina — 2 p.m.
Monday
Jay County — Boys golf at Delta — 5 p.m.; Softball vs. St. Henry — 5 p.m.; Girls tennis vs. Winchester — 5 p.m.; JV baseball vs. Belmont — 5 p.m.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Playing the odds

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♥ A J 5
♦ 5 4 2
♣ J 10 3
♠ 9 8 3 2

WEST
♠ 10 9 7 3 2
♥ A
♦ 9 6 5
♣ Q 10 7 5

EAST
♠ K Q 6 4
♥ K 10 8
♦ 8 7 4 2
♣ J 6

SOUTH
♥ 8
♦ Q J 9 7 6 3
♠ A K Q
♣ A K 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 1NT Pass

Opening lead — ten of spades.

In many deals, the outcome hinges on declarer's handling of a particular card combination. In such situations, declarer should try to work out the approach that offers the greatest chance of success.

Take this case where South was in four hearts. He won the opening spade lead with the ace and led a heart from dummy. When East followed with the eight, declarer played the queen, losing to the ace.

South ruffed the spade return, but since he could not get to dummy to lead another heart, he had to lead

one from his hand. This gave East two trump tricks, and the loss of a club at the end put the contract down one.

As can be seen, South would have made his game if he had played the nine on the first heart lead from dummy, which would have held his trump losers to two. The question, therefore, is whether the nine was the correct play, or whether declarer was simply unlucky.

To resolve such a problem, the first step is to omit from consideration all possible divisions of the missing cards where declarer's play makes no difference. Thus, South should immediately dismiss all 2-2 divisions, since only two trump tricks can be lost regardless of how he plays.

Similarly, if West holds the A-K-10, it won't matter what declarer does, as he is certain to lose three trump tricks. South likewise has no chance if the trumps are divided 4-0.

The only pertinent case — that is, where declarer's play does make a difference — is when the hearts are divided 3-1 and West has the singleton. Once East has followed with the eight, the singleton can only be the ten, king or ace.

Since there is twice as good a chance that West's singleton is the ace or king rather than the ten, South should go with the odds and finesse the nine at trick two.

Tomorrow: Alert defense.
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4-13 CRYPTOQUIP
P S A L W S T J Y W J S J T G A Y D G
T S K W G W Z P Z Z I D J S W H H T V G
D L O K W Y W D C, V L D A V T O C H
P A H T ? S P C C I T C C P G Z.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: REALLY BIG BODY OF WATER CONTAINING A WHOLE LOT OF PRECISE DETAILS: THE SPECIFIC OCEAN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals F

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1ST AND 2ND SHIFT COOKS. 3 days on, 3 days off. Call 260-997-8300 before 2pm.

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice
STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JAY, SS:
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
2021 TERM
No. 38CO1-2103-EU-000014
In the Matter of
The Unsupervised
Administration of
the Estate of
Wilma J. Theurer, Deceased
NOTICE OF
ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that Reda Theurer-Miller was, on the 30th day of March, 2021, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Wilma J. Theurer deceased, who died on March 22nd, 2021.
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 31st day of March, 2021.
Jon Eads
Clerk of the Circuit Court,
For Jay County, Indiana
HINKLE, RACSTER &
SCHEMENAUR
121 W. High Street
Portland, IN 47371
Attorney
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Sports

Patriot golfers clip Red Devils

Freshman DeRome leads Jay County boys golf to victory Monday

By CHRIS SCHANZ
The Commercial Review

The Patriots' lone senior didn't have his best night.

A couple youngsters helped make up for it.

Caleb DeRome, a freshman, was three strokes over par, and sophomore Brock DeHoff was four strokes behind him as the Jay County High School boys golf team edged the Richmond Red Devils 170-171 Monday at Portland Golf Club.

"Pretty nice evening, overall," said first-year JCHS coach Dave Haines, whose team was playing in its first dual match after opening the season Saturday in the Yorktown Invitational.

Two days after posting the team's lowest score in the Yorktown Invitational, DeRome continued the hot start to his career by firing a 3-over-par 38 to earn match medalist honors.

Playing as the Patriots' No. 3 golfer, he began his round with a bogey on the par-4 first hole, and took a penalty shot on the second hole after hitting it into the water. He finished with a double bogey, then settled down from there.

The youngster ended his round by shooting par on the next seven holes.

"His fundamentals are strong," Haines said. "He has a pre-shot routine that he never deviates from. He's just really strong fundamentally."

On the 358-yard, par-4 sev-



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

enth, DeRome had his second shot land about 35 feet below the pin on the green. His uphill putt was short, and he hit a 10-footer for par.

His tee shot on the 129-yard, par-3 eighth landed about 15 feet from the hole, and his potential birdie putt was 4 feet short.

DeHoff made par four times and had two double bogeys on his way to a 42, which matched senior Griffin Mann's score.

"Two of our freshmen (DeRome and Pryor) did a really good job," Haines said.

Mann was 4-over heading to the seventh hole, but he took a triple bogey as his first two shots sailed left. The second went out of bounds across coun-

ty road 200 South, and he had to settle for triple bogey.

Simon Pryor, another freshman, completed the Patriots' team total by shooting a 48.

Junior Kyle Sanders shot 49 but did not factor into the team total.

"We had a couple that seemed to be out of sorts a little bit," Haines said. "Their timing was off. They didn't know how to fix it and they shot a little higher than normal."

At the Yorktown Invitational on Saturday, Jay County placed 13th with its team score of 374.

DeRome paced the Patriots by shooting 89, with Sanders finishing with 92. Mann posted the team's third-best score of 94,

Caleb DeRome, a Jay County High School freshman, watches his putt on the fourth hole during a match with the Richmond Red Devils on Monday at Portland Golf Club. DeRome shot a 3-over 38, earning match medalist honors and leading the Patriots past the Red Devils, 170-171.

'Two of our freshmen (Caleb DeRome and Simon Pryor) did a really good job.'

—Dave Haines, Jay County boys golf coach

and Pryor ended with 99 to round out the team score. DeHoff shot 116.

Yorktown won its own invitational by scoring 327. Franklin was the runner-up with 328, and Noblesville totaled 329 for third.

On Monday, the Patriots' junior varsity team wasn't able to

make it a clean sweep of the Red Devils with a 194-216 loss.

Isaac Miller led Jay County with a 52, one stroke ahead of Sam Wilson. Gage Sims shot 54 while Liam Garringer completed the team total with his round of 57.

Zander Hudson also competed and shot 59.

Jay baseball drops two

A walk-off doomed the Patriots on Saturday. A few errors spelled the end Monday.

Jay County High School's baseball team dropped a pair of games recently, and is now 1-2 on the season.

The Patriots lost 10-9 on a walk-off single to the Mississinewa Indians on Saturday morning in Gas City, then fell 12-0 Monday at home to the Coldwater Cavaliers.

Against the Indians, Jay County scored four runs in the fifth inning and two in the seventh for a 9-8 lead. But the Indians tied the game in the home half of the frame before getting a two-out, walk-off single in the bottom of the seventh.

Blake Caldwell led the Patriots in the loss with a double, a single and four RBIs. Quinn Faulkner added a single and two RBIs, while Dusty Pearson and Josh Dowlen each drove in two runs without getting a hit.

Local roundup

Austin Curts took the loss, allowing two runs — one earned — on three hits with a walk and two strikeouts in three innings of relief.

On Monday, Jay County fell behind 3-0 in the first inning and was never able to get its offense going. The Cavaliers, who won the 2019 OHSAA Division III state championship, added another run in the third inning before striking for nine runs in the sixth. Coldwater got a double, two singles and a walk in the inning while benefitting from three JCHS errors.

See Local page 7

Tribe softball stays hot

Indians push winning streak to six games

FORT RECOVERY and ST. MARYS, Ohio — The Indians continue to stay hot.

After sweeping a doubleheader against the Franklin Monroe Jets on Saturday at home, the Fort Recovery High School softball team scored four runs in the top of the seventh inning Monday for a 9-8 victory against the St. Marys Memorial Roughriders.

It marks six consecutive wins for the Indians, who improve to 9-2 on the season.

See Stays page 7

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