

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Mask mandate off for county buildings

*Commissioners lift restrictions to match state*

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Masks will no longer be required.

The mask mandate in Jay County offices and departments will be lifted Tuesday.

Jay County Commissioners signed a resolution effective Tuesday, doing away with the facial covering requirement when entering buildings such as Jay County Courthouse.

The resolution is similar to one passed March 11 (effective the next day) which stated county entities were open to the public again. (For three months prior, county buildings and departments were open to appointments only, and county government business was limited to essential work only.)

The difference between the last resolution and Thursday's resolution is members of the public and county employees will no longer be required to wear facial coverings. Commissioners signed the resolution in response to Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb's orders to lift state COVID-19 restrictions Tuesday.

"I'm just glad to be getting anything close to normalcy," said commissioner Chad Aker after the meeting. "I think this has been around long enough people know the rules, and a lot of people have been vaccinated or have already had it."

See County page 2

## Unfavorable vote



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

A crowd of more than 80 was in attendance Thursday evening at Jay County Courthouse for the Portland Plan Commission meeting regarding proposed rezoning of land to allow for the expansion of the U.S. Aggregates stone quarry. Plan commission in a 6-2 voted recommended that the rezoning not be approved. The issue now moves to Portland City Council, which makes the ultimate decision on rezoning requests.

## Portland Plan Commission votes against rezoning for U.S. Aggregates expansion

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

The local stone quarry's rezoning request now moves to Portland City Council.

It does so with an unfavorable recommendation from the city's plan commission.

Portland Plan Commission on Thursday voted 6-2 against U.S. Aggregates' request to rezone a parcel of land located between county road 100 South and Tyson Road to allow for the expansion of its stone quarry operation.

The unfavorable vote came a few minutes after a motion for a favorable recommendation came in at 4-4. (Five votes are required to pass a motion before the nine member



The Heritage Group

board, which has one seat vacant following the recent resignation of Tom Laux.)

The rezoning request now moves to city council for a final decision.

Council must take up the issue within 90 days. (If the rezoning is approved, the company would then need to seek a variance

This map provided by The Heritage Group, parent company of U.S. Aggregates, shows land the company requested be rezoned to allow expansion of its stone quarry. (The Commercial Review has added indicators for Tyson Road and county road 100 South to supplement the graphic.)

the plan commission in February, is requesting that about 115 acres of land between county road 100 South (Seventh Street) and Tyson Road, east of county road 200 West, be rezoned to industrial from the current agricultural/residential. The company hopes to expand from its current location — 2228 W. 125 South — opening a new quarry site and investing more than \$10 million over the next three to five years.

Thursday's decision came after a 20-minute presentation by U.S. Aggregates, and hours of public comment and discussion amongst the plan commission members.

See Vote page 5

from Portland Board of Zoning Appeals to allow mining at the site.)

U.S. Aggregates, which initially made an informational presentation to



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Carrying cones

Fifth grader Halle Homan carries cones inside after her class, taught by Andrew Davidson, finishes an Easter egg hunt Wednesday at Westlawn Elementary School in Dunkirk. Fifteen different classes participated in egg hunts led by Dunkirk Public Library on Wednesday and Thursday. Each class had its own hunt, and at each, a gold egg was hidden among eggs. Students who found the special egg were awarded a \$10 gift card to Dairy Dream in Albany. (Or they could choose to keep the gold egg.)

## City lift stations will be upgraded

### 4TC hired for work on control panels

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Two Portland lift stations will be upgraded.

Portland Board of Works on Thursday approved the installation of new control panels for the city's Charles Street and Jay County High School lift stations.

Portland wastewater superintendent Brad Clayton recommended utilizing 4TC Corporation of rural Portland for the work. The company's quotes came in at \$9,390 for the Charles Street lift station and \$1,360 for the high school lift station.

The work at the Charles Street site is more extensive because it includes all new equipment. 4TC will install two motor starters for pumps, a 60-amp main breaker and two 30-amp breakers for short-circuit protection as well as

other equipment and build a vented enclosure for the equipment.

The project at the high school lift station involves modifying controls, installing a meter and cleaning and repairing the enclosure.

Clayton said he recommended 4TC in part because the company has handled work on other lift station control panels and he would like to keep them uniform throughout the city. Board of works members Jerry Leonhard, Steve McIntosh and Portland Mayor John Boggs unanimously approved his recommendation.

Also Wednesday, the board acknowledged a project that called for the construction of a trail from the Weiler-Wilson Park/Hudson Family Park bridge to Jay-Randolph Developmental Services has been canceled.

The city had been awarded a \$168,000 Department of Natural Resources grant toward the proposed project — the trail would have run from the bridge east behind Portland Water Park and East Elementary School to Jay-Randolph Developmental Services — in 2018. The grant was set to expire next year.

See Upgraded page 2

### Deaths

Robert Bentz, 71, rural Redkey  
Brenda Smith, 73, Gallipolis, Ohio  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

The temperature in Jay County hovered between 30 and 36 degrees Thursday. Tonight's low will be 30. Expect sunny skies Saturday with the high climbing into the 60s and winds gusting to 30 miles per hour. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday in the shopping center at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, the parking lot east of Redkey Post Office and the parking lot south of Salamonia Fire Station.

### Coming up

Saturday — Results from tonight's FRHS softball game against Mississinawa Valley.

Tuesday — Coverage of Monday's Portland City Council meeting.



# Obituaries

## Robert Bentz

July 27, 1949-March 28, 2021  
Robert Wayne Bentz, age 71, a resident of rural Redkey, passed away on Sunday, March 28, 2021.



Bentz

Robert was born on July 27, 1949, in Portland, Indiana, the son of Elias Byron and Reba Deleah (Abbott) Bentz. He graduated from Portland High School and served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam. He married Jo Landers on Nov. 22, 1987. Bob retired from FCC in Portland.

Survivors include: His wife — Jo Bentz, rural Redkey, Indiana  
Two sons — Shane Bentz (wife: Cindy), Madison, Wisconsin,

and Jerry Bentz (wife: April), Midland, Texas  
One daughter — Reba Bentz, Indianapolis  
Two brothers — Charlie Bentz (wife: Sharon), Portland, Indiana, and Jack Bentz (wife: Marilyn), Portland, Indiana  
One sister — Shirley New (husband: Bill), New Castle, Indiana  
Four grandchildren  
Visitation will be held on Monday from noon to 2 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will follow at 2 p.m. on Monday at the funeral home. Pastor Darrel Borders will officiate the service and burial will follow in Salomonia Cemetery. American Legion Post #211 of Portland will conduct military graveside rites. Memorials may be directed to

American Legion Post #211 Honor Guard.  
Condolences may be expressed at williamson-spencer.com.

## Brenda Smith

Sept. 18, 1947-March 29, 2021  
Brenda Lucille Smith, age 73, of Gallipolis, Ohio, died Monday evening March 29, 2021, at the SOIN Medical Center in Beavercreek, Ohio.



Smith

Born Sept. 18, 1947, in Gallipolis, she was the daughter of the late Lloyd and Rose Marie Sanders Hendren. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, David Hendren.  
Brenda enjoyed a host of activities after her retirement, these activities included doing research on Gallipolis and her family history, drawing, painting and writing, collecting dolls, quilting, spending time with her cats and sitting by the river in the Gallipolis park.  
She is survived by a son, Andy (Angie) Smith; daughter, Amy Garringer; grandchildren, Cody Smith, Lachelle (Mitch) Potter, Kelsie (Bailey) Krendick and Emily Garringer; great-grandchild Rowan Potter; brother Don Hendren; sister Bertie Muhlenkamp; and sister-in-law Karin Hendren. Also surviving are nieces and nephews Vikki (Brian) Pullins and family, April (Brad) Moellenberndt and family, Loraine (Zach) Phillips and family, Michael Hendren and family, Dane (Ira) Hendren and family, Kyle Hendren, and fami-

ly and Justin Hendren and family.  
Funeral services will be 1 p.m. Saturday April 3, 2021, at the Waugh-Halley-Wood funeral home. Friends may call at the funeral home on Saturday from noon to 1 p.m.

All those attending are to wear masks and follow social distancing guidelines.

An online guest registry is available at waugh-halley-wood.com.

\*\*\*\*\*  
*The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.*  
*There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.*

# CR almanac

Saturday 4/3	Sunday 4/4	Monday 4/5	Tuesday 4/6	Wednesday 4/7
<b>61/41</b>	<b>68/46</b>	<b>71/51</b>	<b>72/53</b>	<b>72/53</b>
Another day of sunny skies in the forecast for Saturday. Winds between 10 and 20 mph.	Mostly sunny skies by day and clear evening skies by night. Otherwise relatively warm.	Sunshine is the forecast for Monday with temperatures near the low 70s. Partly cloudy at night.	Skies will be mostly sunny all day with warm temperatures. Cloudy at night.	There is a 30% chance of rain during the day and a higher chance at night. Otherwise mostly cloudy.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$32 million	19-21-25-27-29-30-37-44-45-51-53-54-62-65-74-77 Cash 5: 1-4-13-14-35 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$168 million	<b>Ohio</b> Midday Pick 3: 7-9-8 Pick 4: 6-4-1-1 Pick 5: 8-4-8-3-4 Evening Pick 3: 0-6-8 Pick 4: 2-2-2-5 Pick 5: 0-8-9-2-0 Rolling Cash: 12-15-27-30-31 Estimated jackpot: \$130,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Midday Daily Three: 4-9-8 Daily Four: 4-1-8-9 Quick Draw: 3-4-10-18-21-28-30-34-35-41-49-51-58-59-60-61-67-72-74-80 Evening Daily Three: 3-7-3 Daily Four: 5-4-1-0 Quick Draw: 2-5-9-11-	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....5.68 Wheat .....5.70	<b>Central States Montpelier</b> Corn.....5.62 May corn.....5.63 Beans .....14.14 Sept. beans .....12.19 July wheat .....5.80
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....5.80 May corn .....5.82	<b>Sunrise St. Anthony</b> Corn.....5.67 April corn .....5.70 Beans .....14.06 April beans .....14.08 Wheat .....5.61 July wheat.....5.65
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn.....5.63 May corn .....5.67 Beans .....14.24 May beans .....14.24 Wheat .....6.11 May wheat .....6.11	

## Today in history

**On April 2, 1792,** Congress passed the Coinage Act, which authorized establishment of the U.S. Mint.

**In 1917,** President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war against Germany, saying, "The world must be made safe for democracy." (Congress declared war four days later.)

**In 1932,** aviator Charles A. Lindbergh and John F. Condon went to a cemetery in The Bronx, New York, where Condon turned over \$50,000 to a man in exchange for Lindbergh's kidnapped son. (The child, who was not returned, was found dead the following month.)

**In 1971,** Portland High School's chapter of Future Farmers of America held its annual parent-son banquet with Radio WOW farm services director Jay Gould as the guest speaker.

**In 1986,** four American passengers, including an 8-month-old girl, her mother and grandmother, were killed when a terrorist bomb exploded aboard a TWA jetliner en route from Rome to Athens, Greece.

**In 2003,** during the Iraq War, American forces fought their way to within sight of the Baghdad skyline.

**In 2005,** Pope John Paul II died in his Vatican apartment at age 84.

—AP and The CR

## Citizen's calendar

<b>Monday</b> 4 p.m. — Jay School Board executive session, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland.	5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.
5 p.m. — Jay School Board special meeting, General Shanks, 414 E.	7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

# County ...

Continued from page 1  
More than 7,700 doses of coronavirus vaccine had been administered in Jay County as of Tuesday. The county has recorded more than 1,800 cases of COVID-19 over the course of the ongoing pandemic.

Also Thursday, commissioners agreed to hire advisory firm Baker Tilly for its services, as needed.

This decision came in response to a discussion about the American Rescue Plan Act — a \$1.7 trillion federal coronavirus relief package — and its impact on Jay County.

County auditor Anna Culy estimated the county will receive approximately \$3.9 million in relief funds, not including other grants. She noted this is money, an

advance grant, is handled differently from the last relief package, which was handled with reimbursements.

"I want to make sure it's done right," Culy said, noting her term is over at the end of 2024. "I term out in two years, and whoever is auditor next is going to be saddled with finishing this up."

# Upgraded ...

Continued from page 1  
Jay County Trails Club members had visited city council and park board meetings last month to advocate for the project. John Moore of the trails club said at the park board meeting that he believed between the grant, the required local match and other fundraising there

would be no additional cost to the city.

On Thursday, Boggs said the city was unable to come to an agreement with the trails club on the project.

City officials had previously expressed concerns about the location of the trail, noting that the street and parks department stores stone and other

materials in the proposed path of the trail.

"It was underfunded and ill-designed," said Boggs. "We couldn't come to an agreement on it, so we just decided to give the money back."

"I hate to give money back but don't want to take money and then not be able to execute it, too."

In other business, the board:

- Approved a renewed contract with Indiana Department of Transportation for sweeping state and U.S. highways in the city. Portland is responsible for sweeping 6.4 miles of highway at least twice a year and is reimbursed by the state for the work.

# Felony arrests

### Drug possession

Two men and a woman were arrested Thursday for drug possession.

Phillip A. Pavey II, 38, 131 N. Depot St., Portland, was preliminarily charged with three Level 6 felonies for maintaining a common nuisance, possession of methamphetamine and possession of cocaine, methamphetamine or a narcotic drug. He was also charged a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. Pavey is being held in Jay County Jail on \$10,000 bond.

Brandi L. Curtis, 41, 539 N. Plum St., Albany, was preliminarily charged two Level 6 felonies for possession of cocaine, methamphetamine or narcotic drugs and maintaining a common nuisance. She was also charged a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. She's being held in Jay County Jail on \$8,000 bond.

Joshua T. Smock-Roser, 44, 102 N. George St., Ridgeville, was preliminarily charged two Level 6 felonies for maintaining a common nuisance and possession of cocaine, metham-

phetamine and narcotic drugs. He was also charged two Class C misdemeanors for two counts of possession of paraphernalia. He's being held in Jay County Jail on \$9,000 bond.

### Probation violation

A Bluffton man was arrested Thursday for violating his probation.

Kyle E. Myers, 36, 360 E. Leaf St., has a previous Class B felony charge for dealing in narcotic drugs. He's being held in Jay County Jail on \$15,000 bond.

# Capsule Reports

### Events scheduled

Several Easter events are scheduled for this weekend.

The Easter bunny will visit Jay Community Center and be available for photos from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday.

Easter egg hunts are slated for 10 a.m. Saturday at Redkey Elementary School and 11 a.m. at Redkey Church of the Nazarene.

A "Drive Thru Easter EGGstravaganza" will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday at Pennville Park.

Dunkirk is holding an Easter egg hunt at 2 p.m. April 10 at Dunkirk City Park.

### Animals hit

Three animals caused accidents Tuesday.

Jacob C. Schwartz, 23, Portland, was driving west on county road 400 North near Grisell Road in Pennville about 4:55 a.m. when he drove into a deer with his 2000 Ford Mustang. Damage is estimated between \$1,000 and \$2,500.

Jama L. Stant, 41, Redkey, was driving east on Indiana 18 near the intersection with county road 500 West about 5:40 a.m.

when she drove into an unidentified small animal. Damage is estimated at less than \$1,000.

Sherry L. Feathers, 63, Portland, was driving east on county road 50 North near county road 600 East about 9:37 p.m. when she drove into a deer with her 2012 Ford Explorer. Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

### Truck hit

A Loogootee woman drove into the back of a truck on Indiana 26 about 4 p.m. Wednesday.

Connie L. Norris, 59, Loogootee, was driving her 2014 Mazda CX-5 west on the highway approaching the intersection with Indiana 1. She told Jay County Sheriff's Office she saw a 2019 IHC stopped at the intersection and assumed the driver, Scott E. Padfield, 67, Marion, had turned it onto Indiana 1. She said she was looking for traffic on the highway and moving forward and drove into the back of the truck.

Padfield's truck is registered to Penske Truck Leasing Co of Reading, Pennsylvania. Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

## SERVICES

### Today

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

### Saturday

**Wendel, Charles:** 10 a.m., MJS Mortuaries, 109 S. Meridian St., Redkey.

**Smith, Brenda:** 1 p.m., Waugh-Halley-Wood Funeral Home, 810 2nd Ave., Gallipolis, Ohio.

### Monday

**Bentz, Robert:** 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Service listings provided by  
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<sup>2</sup>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 Forgiveness is not available to CA policyholders. Terms and conditions apply. \*SR is a limited time offer and not available in all states. Small address required in most states. Allow 4-7 weeks for delivery. Sells not included. \*Based on customer experience reviews shared online at www.thehartford.com/aaarp as of June 2020.

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## Small things bring comfort

By LORI WEISBERG  
The San Diego Union-Tribune  
Tribune News Service

SAN DIEGO — Seven hundred square feet. That has been Joan Schomburg's orbit for the last year as the pandemic, little by little, vanquished the few indulgences the 87-year-old San Diego woman used to enjoy.



Tribune News Service/The San Diego Union-Tribune/Sam Hodgson

Joan Schomburg, 87, whos been living mostly in isolation during the pandemic, poses for a portrait at her home March 3 in San Diego.

ElderHelp. Periodic lectures geared for seniors. A Padres game.

"I'm pretty much stuck here until I go to the doctor," she says of her Normal Heights apartment. "If we have cloudy days

or rainy days, that's depressing. There are some days I feel like screaming if things aren't going well, but I don't. Or maybe I have a little bit."

Schomburg, though,

isn't prone to brooding. Chatty and affable, she finds comfort in the smallest of things, like the string of orange balloons twinkling at night in her neighbor's yard or watching the wind whip through trees she can see from her apartment window. Her weekly grocery order now includes bouquets of flowers, which she fastidiously tends to, trimming them and replenishing their water.

After a fall and hip surgery last year sidelined her, Schomburg says she has regained her interest in reading and cooking an occasional chicken dish. Her landlord and friend loaned her four books, including a collection of Mister Rogers' writings and a nonfiction tale that she just finished.

"Oh, look, there's Leonardo," she says excitedly, mid-sentence, as her landlord's golden retriever greets her outside her front door. "He's wagging his tail like crazy. He's licking my hand right now."

As trying as the last year has been, Schomburg, who will soon be getting her second vaccine, says she now is able to see a sliver of a silver lining in the pandemic.

"You realize you can get through it even though it's not fun," she said after pausing a moment to reflect. "A friend came over the other day to get some extra food from Jewish Family Service, and she said, 'I'm alive.'"

"That is the bottom line."

## Sign-up process begins

It's time to think about kindergarten.

Jay School Corporation's enrollment process for **Taking Note**

kindergarten for the 2021-22 school year is underway.

The process begins online by filling out a registration form at [jayschoolcorp.org](http://jayschoolcorp.org). After filling out the form, parents will be contacted in may about setting up a kindergarten assessment. For that session, parents will need to bring a copy of their child's birth certificate and social security numbers.

### 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 emailing [jaylibrary315@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### Hosting workshop

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

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

## Man refuses to put his will in writing

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my husband for seven years. We are in our 60s. He refuses to make a will. He tells me what he "would" put in his will and asks me if I am OK with his wishes.

He has an adult child from his first marriage and would like to include her in the will. I'm fine with what he wants. This conversation has been going on for more than five years now, but he never acts on it. I am very hurt and frustrated.

The house is in his name, and my name isn't even on his checking accounts. I resent him for this. There are times when I want to get a divorce because I feel if something should happen to him, I will have no security. I also think he is being selfish and unloving to me and his adult child to leave us in a situation where we would have to go through the probate process. Please help me to get through to him. — RESENTFUL IN MAINE

DEAR RESENTFUL: Your husband may be afraid to face

Dear Abby



the idea of his own mortality. He wouldn't be the first. The two of you need to make an appointment with an attorney who specializes in wills and estates. If he doesn't put his wishes in writing, the assets he has worked so hard for may be seriously diminished when the state decides "for him" and takes a sizable chunk out of the estate.

While you are talking with the lawyer, there should also be a discussion of end-of-life planning. Does he want hospice? Palliative care? Do you know what his wishes are in the event he is unable to speak for him-

self? Those wishes should be in writing and so should YOURS. (This subject should also be raised with your doctor(s).)

Most people want to keep what they have worked for and decide for themselves what will happen when they die. Death is a fact of life, and hiding from it won't make it go away.

.....

DEAR ABBY: I send out lots of greeting cards every year for birthdays, anniversaries and Christmas. I keep a large number of them on hand so I am prepared.

I received a Christmas card this year from an elderly family member that said: "Thank you for the insulting anniversary card." "Insulting" was underlined twice. I was dismayed. Their anniversary was last August. I have no idea which card I sent since I keep so many on hand. I am guessing it may have been a humorous card that they didn't find funny, but I'm not sure.

Both are very alert and orient-

ed. What is the proper thing to do here? Do I call them and apologize when I have no idea what it said? Should I not send an anniversary card next year or send a very generic one? I have been very upset that my good wishes were so poorly received. Any advice you can give would be appreciated. Thank you. — CONFUSED IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR CONFUSED: Call the couple and ASK what it was about the card that upset them. Explain that it wasn't your intention to offend them, and apologize. DO send an anniversary card when the time comes, but when you do, make absolutely certain the message inside is appropriate.

.....

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](http://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@theocr.com](mailto:news@theocr.com).

### Today

SOFT SHOULDERS — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place at Swiss Village in Berne. For more information, call (260) 589-3173.

### CINCINNATUS

LEAGUE — Will meet at noon Friday, April 2, at Harmony Cafe in Portland. Members are encouraged to wear a face mask and practice social distancing.

### Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. upstairs at True Value Hardware, Meridian Street, Portland. For more information, call (260) 729-2532.

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is [museumsoldier.com](http://museumsoldier.com).

### Monday

PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

BRYANT AREA COMMUNITY CENTER — Walking from 9 to 10 a.m.

every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

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

EUCHRE — For those 55 and older from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at West Jay Community Center in Dunkirk.

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

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

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

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Portland Place, 430 W. Lafayette St. For more information, call (800) 589-1121.

PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.

### Tuesday

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

## Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

### Thursday's Solution

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

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.

# Don't Miss

# Advertising

# Special sections

We have a busy schedule of special sections and pages coming up.

Mark your calendar so you don't miss them.

### Ag Outlook

Friday, April 23 (ad deadline Apr. 16)

### FRHS Graduation

Friday, May 21 (ad deadline May 14)

### Summer Festivals

Friday, May 28 (ad deadline May 21)

### JCHS Graduation

Wednesday, June 16 (ad deadline June 9)

The Commercial Review  
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# It's time for a doggy birthday party

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

I've never celebrated my dog's birthday before.

Then again, Beauty is a dog. Canines don't wake up on the anniversary of their birth and expect cake. It's just like any regular day.

I don't know the exact day she was born, either. It's sometime in April.

She's almost 9 years old now. It's never too late to start, though, is it?

I'm thinking about throwing Beauty a mini party sometime this month. Cake, decorations

## On the Line



and a few dog toys are already in the works. You'd better believe I'll be uploading pictures to the 'Gram, too.

My birthday is also this month, but I don't plan to do anything exciting. I'd rather celebrate my little fur ball.

Why bake a cake for a creature who would be just as satisfied with a rawhide bone? Why throw a party for an animal who gets excitement from chasing their own tail?

Well, for lack of a better reason: I just want to do it.

I've seen several cute dog birthday party photos over the years, and each time I wonder if I should try my hand at it. I don't have any kids of my own — nor do I plan to for a long while yet — and Beauty gets excited just to see me walk through the door. And that's not to mention how thrilled she gets

when I offer her a morsel of human food.

A sweet treat, toys and oodles of attention?

She'll be on cloud nine.

The last year has been a rough one. For someone who moved here about seven months ago, I'm still trying to find a local hobby to pursue. The ongoing coronavirus pandemic has made adjusting to a new city difficult for me.

So, my hobby is my dog. Beauty seems pretty OK with that.

The recipe I'm looking at for a dog-friendly confection includes shredded carrots, unsweetened

applesauce and peanut butter, among other items. The outcome, unsurprisingly, resembles poop — perfect for my pet who likes to chow on foreign objects from neighborhood dogs' behinds.

Maybe the plain greek yogurt icing will help to make it more picturesque.

You can also bet I'll be slapping a few Milkbones in the shape of a nine or a B on top of it. A masterpiece? A monstrosity? Both words seem fitting.

Regardless, I guarantee my best friend will be thrilled to get the first slice.

## Stand against education agenda

To the editor:  
The tone of the 2021 budget session of the Indiana General Assembly has been quite different from the 2019 budget session when K-12 public education leaders stood with legislative leaders to announce a state budget that devoted \$763 million in new funding for K-12 public education.

This session has been one consumed with a contentious debate on the proposed expansion of school choice programs. Indiana already ranks fifth for spending of state tax dollars on private school programs, but now ranks just 39th in the nation for per-pupil expenditures for public schools and the more than 1 million students we serve — down from 22nd among states in 2004. Why this shift in legislative priority has occurred is befuddling, given that the facts neither support the need nor benefit of state funding for private schools.

Indiana School Boards Association urges legislators to build on the good budget passed in 2019 by providing adequate funding to address the teacher pay gap and a tuition support increase for public schools that keeps pace with, or exceeds, inflation. Choice Scholarship voucher expansion and the creation of education savings accounts (ESAs) will cost an estimated \$144 million over the next two years, diminishing the monies available to traditional public schools.

Despite serving less than 5% of Indiana K-12 students, funding for the voucher program to pay for private education will increase by more than 20% per year. The ESA program will be established at a projected cost of \$19 million during the 2022-23 school year and will operate much like a health savings account, where parents receive state tax dollars they can use to enroll their child in private education and pay for qualified educational expenses. The ESA concept treats education as a commodity purchased by parents with little accountability to the public for use of these funds.

The diversion of money away from the more than 90% of all students whose families have chosen public education as their schools of choice means less funds for raising teacher pay. After his teacher compensation commission noted that Indiana has ranked last in the U.S. since 2001 for average annual teacher pay increases, the governor in his State of the State speech advised legislators to avoid funding school

## Letters to the Editor

choice expansion at the expense of the traditional public school system. The legislature is required by Article 8, Section 1, of the Indiana Constitution to provide, by law, for a general and uniform system of Common Schools, wherein tuition shall be without charge, and equally open to all. Open enrollment has led to more than 70,000 students this school year enrolling in another public school district outside of their district of residence. In comparison, the Choice Scholarship voucher program funds about 35,000 students, of which 61% have never attended a public school.

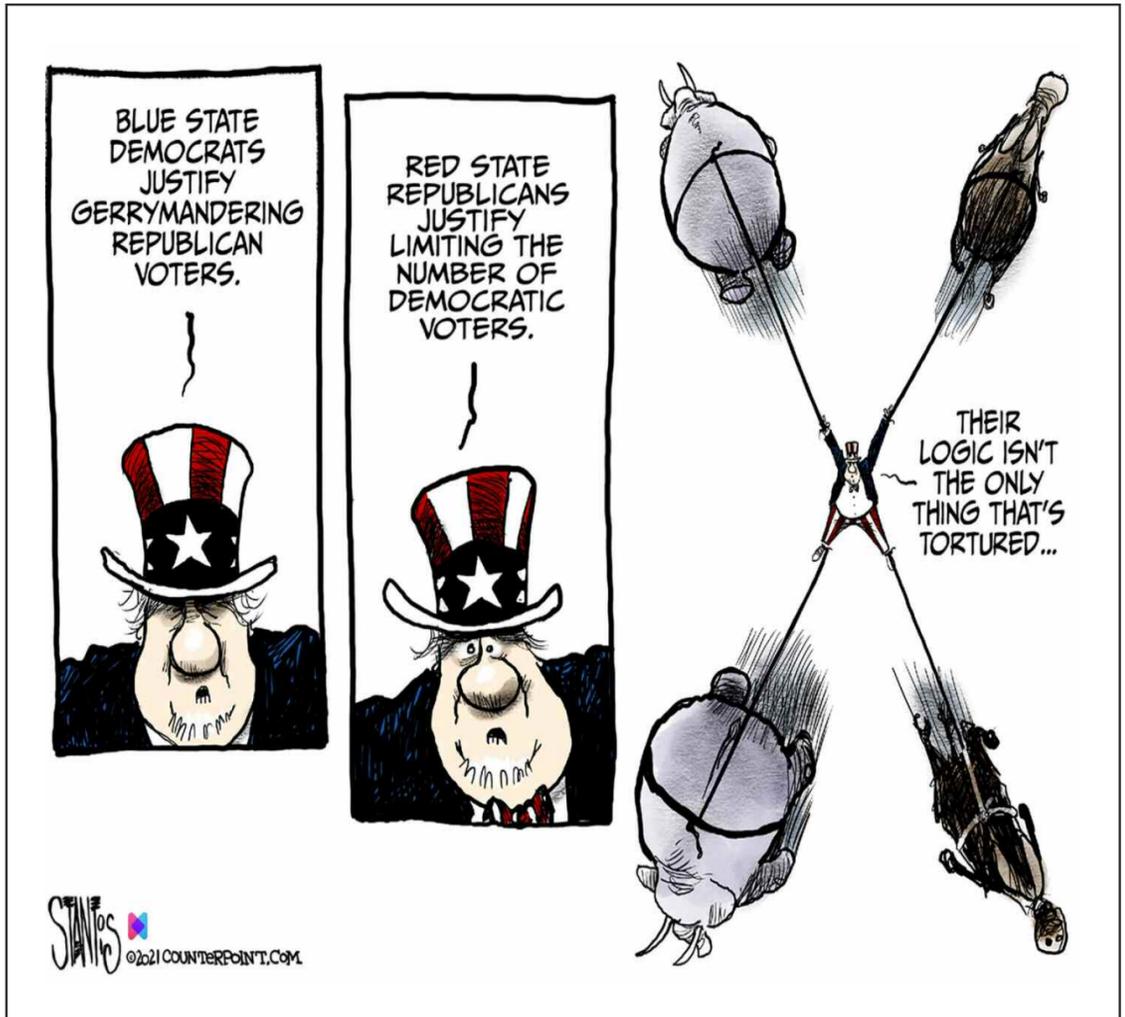
Legislative proposals will make even more families eligible for state-funded tuition to attend a private school. Eligibility to receive a voucher would expand from 150% to 300% of the amount to qualify for the federal free or reduced-price meals program. The annual income limit for a household of five would jump generously from approximately \$85,000 to \$170,000 — more than twice Indiana's median family income of \$73,876. These families already have the means to afford private education.

It is important for Indiana residents to know that a majority of the private schools benefitting from the Choice Scholarship voucher program are concentrated in just four counties — Marion, Allen, St. Joseph and Lake. Thirty-three counties have no private school voucher providers, and another 20 only have one. Why are hundreds of millions of dollars going to support a program that doesn't benefit all areas of the state, when K-12 public education in every county could be better funded?

Public schools are a pillar of our democracy and are the engines of opportunity for our citizenry. Public education remains necessary to produce a competitive workforce and serves as a catalyst for economic development and job growth.

Please join the more than 170 school boards that have passed resolutions to express opposition to this agenda and ask your legislators to vote no to the expansion of private school choice.

Adam VanOsdol  
Indiana School Boards Association



## Reach beyond differences

By SABRINA S. FU  
The Baltimore Sun  
Tribune News Service

As an American who has heard about thousands of shootings by now, I have never been asked about how I felt about any particular shooting — until a few days after the shootings at three massage businesses in Atlanta, dominated by women of Asian descent.

Yes, I am an Asian American, but more importantly, I am an American who deeply cares about our country — and hence, I am asking all of us to go beneath the surface of our fractured U.S.

I have heard about so many U.S. shootings the past decades — including the one that occurred just six days after Atlanta, in Boulder, Colorado — that many have blurred into one. It seems to me that people of all ages and religions have been in the wrong place at the wrong time, whether it be as bystanders shot in Baltimore or Chicago or D.C., or shot at in one of many places in our daily lives. A few examples: an elementary school in December of 2012 where 6- and 7-year-old children were shot (Newtown, Connecticut); a church in June of 2015 where people were shot during Bible study (Charleston, South Carolina); a synagogue service in fall of 2018 (Pittsburgh); and spas (Atlanta) and a grocery store (Boulder) in March of 2021.

Note the commonality of them all — people shot while doing ordinary things in their lives. Yes, they were of different ages, different skin color and different religions. We have chosen to concentrate on their differences rather than their

Sabrina S. Fu



commonality: Americans shot in the 21st century while doing ordinary things in their lives. And a society that lets this occur over and over again.

For me as a human being, each was awful. Just as awful is the recurring way in which we react: with a list of victims and shock, followed by condolences to a particular group of people, talk of the history of hate crimes against that group, and finding simple reasons for each shooting.

We use language such as “victim” and “perpetrator,” and do not discuss the deeper issues in our society — such as the language we use to continually divide us and the binary thinking that we are one or the other — rather than be able to see the character of each being beyond the surface labels we are given by race, religion, sex.

We seldom discuss the commonality of these shootings — that there are guns readily available and a culture that tolerates hate and division. And the word “discussion” gets diluted to shouting at each other and name calling and more surface reasoning for not digging deeper. Instead, I ask that we take responsibility for being part of the divisiveness of our nation, of our surface thinking, and our desire to cling onto ideolo-

gy of having to be “right” and thinking it must be “their fault.” In order to have actual discussions, we must be vulnerable, we must accept that we are all wrong to some extent, and we must actually listen to each other and acknowledge our common problems.

We have created the society we live in — some more so than others. We all matter in what direction our nation takes.

When do we start to take responsibility for a society that categorizes people by surface features of skin color, religion and sex, and continually use language to divide our nation in a binary manner — Republicans versus Democrats, gun rights versus gun control, white people versus people of color, victims versus perpetrators?

There is no better time than now to take responsibility for perpetrating this sad state of our nation. Those in power have continually divided us with their language and their action — or by being silent. And just as importantly, the vast majority of us have allowed the sad state of our nation to recur over and over again with our complicit silence. Speak up about the need to have difficult conversations, and change our divisive language.

Start thinking of “we” over “me.” It cannot be about me, an Asian American, just as it cannot be about any fill-in-the-blank American. It has to be about we, the United States of America. It's going to be a difficult conversation. But if we don't start now, what will become of “us” — the United States?

# The Commercial Review

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



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

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

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VOLUME 148—NUMBER 240  
FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 2, 2021

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SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Mommy, here's something the Easter Bunny could put in our baskets — or does he have enough stuff?"

Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Funky Winkerbean



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Do sum work? 4 Unpaid TV ad 7 Layers of paints 12 Marseilles monarch 13 100% 14 Sound 15 Ger. neighbor 16 Shower units? 18 Telly network 19 Santa's helpers 20 Pack cargo 22 "— the ramparts ..."

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solution time: 25 mins.

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers 1-58.

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION Located: 11559 West Highway 26, Dunkirk IN Saturday, April 10th, 2021

Old & Collector items. Household- Frigidaire side by side refrigerator, Maytag smooth top stove, Freedom Security Safe, 3 pc. bedroom suit, Grandfather clock, Crosley radio, Garfield toys, Pink depression, Small hump back trunk, Coke cases, Buggy wheel, Cider press, Schwinn bicycles.

Tools and Tractors- International 504 wide front gas tractor with Freeman loader and 3 pt, 12' Aluminum John boat, Craftman 10" band saw, Belt sander, Circular saw, and much more.

Please visit Auction Zip for photos, and contact our office at (260) 726-2700 with any questions. Gordon & Lucy Kesler, Deceased

Loy Auction AU31600027 260-726-2700 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Ben Lyons AU10700085 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Troy Foust AU19800068

PUBLIC AUCTION

Located: Bubb Exhibition Hall, Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 E. Votaw St., Portland, IN Saturday, April 3rd, 2021

9:30 am Antique-Old & Collector items-Guns-Indian Artifacts: Oak ice box; Oak glass ball square lamp; Edison Standard Phonograph; Dr. Pepper thermometer; Cola Cola trays; Wards Western Model 16M 20ga. bolt action shotgun; 380 semi-auto pistol.

Stoneware & Crocks: #3 Red Wing Jug, #10 crock, #6 crock. Indian Artifacts: 175+ arrowheads in various colors. Union Pacific Railroad spittoon; EZ Bake Flour sign; Dunkirk bottle; Dunkirk tokens. Fiesta; mixing bowls, teapots, pitchers, various trays, Tumblers, Vases, platters. Roseville; Pinecone (Green & Brown Color), Freesia, Sunflower. Large amount of Raymor pattern.

Auctioneers Note: This is an outstanding auction with a nice collection of quality items. This collection has been packed and stored for the past 5+ years.

Please visit Auction Zip for photos, and contact our office at (260) 726-2700 with any questions. Gordon & Lucy Kesler, Deceased

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# First inning dooms Reds on Opening Day

By DAVID JABLONSKI  
Springfield (Ohio) News-Sun  
Tribune News Service

Apr. 2 — Good feelings, or good vibes as shortstop Eugenio Suarez likes to call them, pervade every Opening Day in Cincinnati. It doesn't matter how the Cincinnati Reds performed in spring training — and they were the worst team in baseball this March. It doesn't matter what they did or didn't do in the offseason. It doesn't matter what the oddsmakers think of the team's chances.

Optimism abounds when the real games start, and it was high when first baseman Joey Votto bounced out of the dugout at Great American Ball Park during a pregame ceremony on Thursday, pointing both hands in the sky and saluting the fans who hadn't seen their favorite team play in person in 20 months.

Eleven minutes later, all the good feelings had vanished. That's how long the St. Louis Cardinals needed to build a 6-0 lead in the first inning. The Reds

offense did show up after failing to score in 22 postseason innings last year, but it couldn't keep up with the Cardinals, who won 11-6 on the 145th Opening Day in Cincinnati.

The fans dealt not only with that stunning first inning but also with one of the coldest openers in history. It was 37 degrees when the game began. Snow flurries fell at times during the game.

Fans barely had time to digest an emotional pregame ceremony in which the Reds

paid tribute to the late legend Joe Morgan and manager David Bell's younger brother Mike, who died Friday, and other members of the Reds family when starter Luis Castillo gave the Cardinals an early cushion.

After a leadoff groundout by Tommy Edman, six straight Cardinals reached base. Dylan Carlson's three-run home run put the Reds in a six-run hole one third of an inning into the season.

Castillo escaped the first inning without any more dam-

age, but he left the mound in the fourth inning. He allowed eight earned runs on eight hits in 3 1/3 innings. It was the worst outing of his career. He allowed eight earned runs once previously — also against the Cardinals — on Aug. 16, 2019, but lasted 4 1/3 innings in that game.

The first pitcher to follow Castillo, new Reds reliever Cam Bedrosian, didn't help matters when he gave up a two-run home run to the second batter he faced, Tyler O'Neill. The Reds trailed 11-3 at that point.

# Back ...

Continued from page 8  
He was forced to wear a back brace for four months and complete rehab before he could even think about playing baseball again.

The rehab, he said, wasn't even the most difficult part. It was "coming to the baseball field every day when I couldn't play," he said.

He was forced to miss his entire sophomore season, one in which he expected to make the varsity team.

Because he was unable to work out, he put on weight. By the time he was done with rehab, he had shot up to 234 pounds.

"It was tough," he said. "I saw my body deteriorating and I just couldn't do anything about it."

To make matters worse, he was unable to contribute on the field as the Patriots won back-to-back sectional championships and advanced to the regional final.

Sibray said the most difficult part after Blake's surgery was watching him struggle. Tyler Caldwell added he was fearful for his son.

"I watched him go from not being able to really walk after surgery ... to see him go through the depression of going six or seventh months of him not being able to do what he loves," he said. "(I had) the fear of him having to do it again."

But Blake had a goal he

wanted to reach. He lifted weights up to five days a week. He started going to baseball workouts at The Barn Academy in Muncie.

Then his junior season was canceled because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

"Kind of grateful for it," he said. "It gave me time to get ready for my travel ball season. But that year I was still heavier than I am now [190 pounds]. I definitely wasn't as strong as I am now."

Last fall, Blake returned to the baseball diamond as a member of the Indiana Prospects, an organization he had been a member of since he was 14.

"I was in tears," Sibray said, noting she had Blake's surgeon on call in case something went wrong.

In his first game back, the Prospects got no-hit. In his second, he ripped two balls to deep center field that dropped for doubles.

In 28 games for the Prospects, Blake hit .324 with a team-best 10 doubles. He also had a triple and 17 RBIs.

Then his dream came true.

On Jan. 19, two years after back surgery and without a high school game under his belt, Blake Caldwell signed to play baseball for Wabash College.

"It means a lot," he said. "As a little kid it was



Photo provided

Blake Caldwell was forced to wear a back brace for four months following surgery on his lower spine. The JCHS senior is set to make his Patriot baseball debut on Thursday after signing to play college baseball in January.

always my goal. I wasn't sure I was going to be able to get it again.

"They told me they weren't sure if I would be able to swing a bat or play baseball without pain again ... I am beyond

thrilled, blessed, everything, to be able to play."

So how does a kid with no high school experience sign to play in college?

Tyler said it's his son's work ethic that allowed him to get the opportunity

to achieve his goal. "When he was little the biggest thing we taught him was the only thing you can control is the effort you put into it and he has figured that part out," he said. "He has worked his butt off."

Before Blake realizes his dream at Wabash, he'll finally get his chance to represent Jay County at Don E. Selvey Field when the Patriots open their season Thursday against Elwood.

"He's kind of a quiet leader for us," JCHS coach Lea Selvey said. "We're counting on him."

Caldwell will be moving to first base from third, and Selvey said he'll be relying on his bat in the lineup as one of the team's four seniors.

"The thing I admire him the most for is he found a way," Selvey said. "His goal was to play in college and he just kept finding a way to get work done, get rehab done."

But, as Tyler said, his son's drive to succeed — they both admit Blake often puts too much pressure on himself — isn't the only factor in landing a spot with the Wabash Little Giants.

"That mountain was too high to climb by ourselves," he said. "There was no possible way. Everything fell in place for him to come back."

# On tap

## Local schedule

**Friday**  
Fort Recovery — Softball vs. Mississinawa Valley — 5 p.m.

**Saturday**  
Fort Recovery — Track at Versailles Tiger Invitational — 9 a.m.; Softball vs. Bath — 11 a.m.; Baseball vs. Crestview — 2 p.m.  
Jay County — Baseball scrimmage vs. Belmont — 11 a.m.; Softball scrimmage vs. Winchester — 11 a.m.

**Monday**  
Jay County — Softball vs. Blackford — 5 p.m.; JV softball at Blackford — 5 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Baseball at Lehman Catholic — 5 p.m.; Softball at Lima Central Catholic — 5 p.m.; JV baseball vs. Franklin Monroe — 5 p.m.; Junior high track hosts tri — 4:30 p.m.

**Tuesday**  
Jay County — Track at Blackford — 5 p.m.; Softball at Belmont — 5 p.m.; JV softball at South Adams — 5 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Softball at Fairlawn — 5 p.m.; Freshman baseball at Coldwater — 5 p.m.

**TV schedule**  
**Today**  
8 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Indiana Pacers vs. Charlotte Hornets (FSN)

**Saturday**  
5:14 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: NCAA Tournament Final Four — Houston vs. Baylor (CBS)  
8:34 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: NCAA Tournament Final Four — UCLA vs. Gonzaga (CBS)  
9 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Indiana Pacers at San Antonio Spurs (FSN)

**Sunday**  
Noon — National Hockey League: Detroit Red Wings at Tampa Bay Lightning (NBC)  
1:05 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Atlanta Braves at Philadelphia Phillies (ESPN)

3:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Los Angeles Lakers at Los Angeles Clippers (ABC)  
8:37 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Chicago White Sox at Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim (ESPN)

**Monday**  
1:10 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Minnesota Twins at Detroit Tigers (ESPN)  
4:10 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Kansas City Royals at Cleveland Indians (ESPN)

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Contract **Bridge** By Steve Becker

## Bidding quiz

You are South, neither side vulnerable. The bidding has been:  
West North East South  
1♥ Pass 2♣ ?

What would you bid with each of the following four hands?  
1. ♠KJ963 ♥Q4 ♦AK9 ♠J85  
2. ♠AK743 ♥7 ♦QJ942 ♠K7  
3. ♠AQJ9872 ♥5 ♦QJ103 ♠6  
4. ♠K8 ♥KJ62 ♦AQ732 ♠Q4

1. **Pass.** West should have at least 12 or 13 high-card points for his opening bid, and East 10 or more for his two club response. That doesn't leave much for your partner to have, and, in fact, he could be pointless.

To bid two spades, or double for takeout, would therefore be very dangerous and could cost you upward of 500 points if you are doubled for penalties. It is true that you had what seemed to be a fairly good hand when you first looked at it, but it's been shot to pieces by the opposing bidding. You can't afford to turn a deaf ear to what East-West have told you they have.

2. **Double.** The same observations apply here also, but the difference is that this time you have excellent distributional values in addition to your

high cards. There is a real possibility of competing successfully against the opponents, even though you know they heavily outnumber you in high-card strength.

For example, partner might have something like ♠Q9852 ♥9653 ♦103 ♠42, in which case four spades, down one or two, presumably doubled, would be a much better result than letting the opponents bid and make four hearts.

3. **Four spades.** You don't expect to make four spades, though you might if you get lucky. The real purpose of the four-spade bid is to steal the opponents' bidding space so they can't find out exactly what they have between them at a lower level. Occasionally this strategy will pay excellent dividends when the opponents wind up in the wrong contract.

4. **Pass.** Here, as in the first hand, you take your medicine and pass. The 15 high-card points you started with have shrunk considerably in value. Your K-J of hearts in front of the heart bidder are worth much less than they were before the bidding started, and the same can be said about the rest of your hand. To bid two diamonds at this point would be both dangerous and unrealistic.

Tomorrow: A remedy for insomnia.  
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## 110 HELP WANTED

**THE JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** are taking applications for the position of Jay County Retirement Center Maintenance through noon on April 5, 2021. Applications may be picked up at and returned to the Jay County Auditor's Office at 120 North Court Street in Portland, Indiana. Job Description available upon request. Jay County Government is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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Representative(s) Full & Part-Time. Seeking a hard-working, motivated, self-starter with a winning attitude who enjoys a challenge and will attract new clients to print and digital media. Responsibilities: Develop and manage revenue producing relationships with current clients and agencies. Prospect for new business and build a full pipeline of sales products. Analyze client marketing goals and develop needs based solutions to achieve them. Qualifications: Strong problem solving and analytical skills. Have basic computer skills. Be able to work on a deadline. Have good communications skills. Be organized and have a positive attitude. Be able to pay attention to detail. Have reliable transportation & valid driver license. Prior experience with digital & print advertising sales experience preferred but not necessary, we will train. Apply in person along with your resume or mail in your resume to: The Commercial Review PO Box 1049, 309 W. Main St., Portland, IN 47371 Attn: Business Manager or e-mail [gpcbusiness@embarq-mail.com](mailto:gpcbusiness@embarq-mail.com)

## 130 MISC. FOR SALE

**ALUMINUM SHEETS**  
23"x30", .007 thick. Clean and shiny on one side..35 cents each or four for \$1.40, plus tax. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland 260-726-8141.

## 190 FARMERS COL-UMN

**AG RENTAL** Spreaders: BBI, Artsway Vertical. New Holland 228 skid loaders w/full cab, heat/ac. Fort Recovery 419-852-0309

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**CROWNPOINTE OF PORTLAND** is hiring hard working, dedicated Certified Nurse Aids (C. N. A.). Full time, part time, and PRN positions available. Please apply in house at 745 Patriot Drive, Portland, IN 47371 or online at [www.cpcommunities.com/portland](http://www.cpcommunities.com/portland). For questions please call 260-726-3577.

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**NEED MORE STORAGE?** PJ's U-Lock and Storage, most sizes available. Call 260-726-4631.

## 200 FOR RENT

**PIEDMONT APARTMENTS**, 778 W 7th Street, Portland, Indiana, accepting applications for 1, 2, 3 bedroom apartments, no application fee. Rent base on 30% of your gross income. Call 260-726-2920, TDD 800-743-3333. This is an Equal Opportunity Housing Complex. This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

## 200 FOR RENT

**LEASE SPACE** available, Coldwater, OH. Manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, distribution, offices, inside and outdoor storage. Easy access to major highways and railroad access with loading docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, [www.sycamorespace.com](http://www.sycamorespace.com)

## 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY, SS: IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT 2021 TERM No. 38CO1-2003-EU-000012 In the Matter of the Unsupervised Administration of the Estate of: John Hugh Hammitt, Deceased NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION Notice is hereby given that Rebecca Sue Landers was, on the 29th day of March, 2021, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of John Hugh Hammitt deceased, who died on March 17, 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 30th 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 CR 4-2-9-2021 HSPAXLP

## 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY, SS: IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF: DAVID E. ARNOLD (Deceased) IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT CAUSE NO: 38CO1-2103-EU-000011 NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION Notice is hereby given that Kimberly Arnold was appointed as Personal Representatives of the estate of David E. Arnold, deceased, on the 16th day of March, 2021, who died on the 1st day of June, 2020. All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred. Dated this 17th day of March, 2021. COLDREN, FRANTZ & SPRUNGER Attorneys at Law P.O. Box 1013 Portland, IN 47371 CR 4-2-9-2021HSPAXLP

## 200 FOR RENT

**HOUSE FOR RENT!** 3 Bedroom, 1 Bath. \$700 a month. Central AC and Heat. Big back yard with mature trees. Detached garage with paved driveway. Close to Portland and Highway. No Pets or Smoking. Call 419-852-9539

## 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY, SS: IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT 2021 TERM No. 38CO1-2103-EU-000012 In the Matter of the Unsupervised Administration of the Estate of: Nancy S. Smitley, Deceased NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION Notice is hereby given that Stephen B. Smitley was, on the 30th day of March, 2021, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Nancy S. Smitley deceased, who died on December 28, 2020. 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 30th 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 CR 4-2-9-2021 HSPAXLP

## 220 REAL ESTATE

**FOR SALE 16.24 ACRES BARE LAND** on south side of 200 N west of 300 E Portland. Good building land. Contact Ben B. Girod 11464 S 150 E Geneva, IN 46740

## 230 AUTOS, TRUCKS

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**WE PAY CASH** for junk autos. We pick up at your location. 1-765-546-2642 or 1-765-857-1071. Slocum's Salvage

## 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

## Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY, SS: IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT 2021 TERM No. 38CO1-2103-EU-000013 In the Matter of the Unsupervised Administration of the Estate of: Nancy S. Smitley, Deceased NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION Notice is hereby given that Stephen B. Smitley was, on the 30th day of March, 2021, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Nancy S. Smitley deceased, who died on December 28, 2020. 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 30th 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 CR 4-2-9-2021 HSPAXLP

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## 4-2 CRYPTOQUIP

J G T L W P J O L W P S M X P B K L

T O P Y V T Y I S Q J Y L T S K T O O D

G Q Y W T S M D , M F T M ' L T

B J S M F - L F T M M K S J Y V P X T L J P Y .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: COMIC CHARACTERS WHO COULD GET SPECIAL POWERS FROM EATING FORTIFIED DINNERS: SUPPER-HEROES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals S

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Sports

Back to baseball

With college dream a reality, Caldwell is set to begin long-awaited JCHS baseball career following spinal surgery

By CHRIS SCHANZ

The Commercial Review Blake Caldwell had a dream of playing professional baseball. Upon discovering at a young age the probability of achieving his goal was extremely low, he amended his wish to a more achievable one: playing at the collegiate level.



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Blake Caldwell, left, a Jay County High School senior, and junior Quinn Faulkner laugh it up while stretching prior to the Patriot baseball team's practice on Tuesday at Don E. Selvey Field.

As an eighth grader on the football team at East Jay Middle School, Caldwell suffered a broken leg in a game against South Adams. While attempting to down an onside kick, he got hit and fell back awkwardly, snapping a portion of his tibia.

Once the injury healed and after he was perhaps cleared to play a little too soon, Caldwell joined the Chiefs' basketball team that winter. During a game, he dived in an attempt to stop a ball from going out of bounds.

"I played three games like that," he said.

The pain, which turned out to be in his lower back, lingered far beyond basketball season.

"We watched him go through it for two years and didn't realize

what it was," said Tyler Caldwell, Blake's father. "He kept saying, 'My back is tight.'"

Chalking it up to growing pains, Tyler and Blake's mother, Kristi Sibray, tried their best to help their eldest son manage the pain with stretches and frequent visits to the chiropractor.

Concussions as a freshman cut Blake's football career short, so he instead focused on baseball in spite of his back discomfort.

"I just told myself I was being a baby," he said. "I changed my swing freshman year. Went through freshman football, never ran into an accident (with my back). It would hurt, but it wasn't shocking until I went to get it looked at."

It took a swing during a fall

baseball workout to floor him. The violent twisting action shot pain through his body and dropped him to a knee. He wasn't able to fight through it, and that's when his parents were advised it wasn't just muscle soreness.

While the exact cause — whether the hit on the football field or diving for a basketball — is uncertain, the diagnosis was straightforward: pars interarticularis defect, or pars defect, in his L5 vertebrae in the lower back.

Layman's terms: a broken vertebrae.

Caldwell had three options to remedy the fracture; he could wear a back brace for four to five months with no guarantee of a fix, he could have surgery to put a

rod and screws in the vertebrae or have surgery to fuse the spine. The last of those options would limit his range of motion and make playing baseball difficult.

"I remember we were walking out (of the hospital), we both looked at him and said, 'You don't have to play baseball. You can have a good life,'" Tyler said. "He said, 'What kind of life is that?'"

"His mind was made up three steps outside the doctor's office that he was going to have surgery."

Blake said he didn't feel comfortable with the first option because it meant he still might miss time if his bone didn't heal with the brace alone. And the fusion was out of the question because baseball was his passion.

"Took us a little bit longer to be OK with (the surgery)," Sibray said. "We wanted him to be happy and do it, but then again you don't want your baby going under the knife."

Tyler added: "Anytime you have a 15-, 16-year-old son who's looking at back surgery, it scares the life out of you."

So the day after Christmas in 2018, Blake was the recipient of a rod and four screws in his lower back to repair the vertebrae.

It was a small step forward, yes, but the road to playing beyond high school became that much longer.

At the time of his surgery, Blake weighed 184 pounds. See Back page 7

Education Update

School Choice Myth Buster

Opposition to expanding private school choice (Voucher program and ESA) has 5 main talking points- NONE of which are true when looking at the scientific research and evidence.

MYTH 1: Choice undermines public school funding and cost taxpayers/ public schools.

FACTS:

- Students who receive a voucher make up 3% of our entire K-12 student population but they receive only 2% of the funding. (tuition support)
For the 2019-2020 school year, the average voucher amount was \$4,707, compared to the average traditional public-school state tuition support amount of \$6,872.

MYTH 2: Choice does not lead to better academic outcomes for students.

FACTS:

- 2019 Student Growth Scores (Source: DOE unredacted A-F student growth scores) • 23 of the top 50 schools for growth at the 10th grade level are voucher schools.
8 out of the top 10 are voucher schools.

Table with 4 columns: School Type, ELA 2018 I-LEARN Pass Rate, Math 2018 I-LEARN Pass Rate. Rows include Nonpublic Grades 3-8, Traditional Public Grades 3-8, Charter Grades 3-8, Nonpublic Grade 10, Traditional Public Grade 10, Charter Grade 10.

- 19 of the top 50 grade 3-8 schools are nonpublic (voucher) schools
Nationally, there have been more than 150 studies on school choice - more than any other education reform policy.
Students in private school choice programs see academic benefits.

MYTH 3: Choice programs do not have the same accountability as public schools.

FACTS:

- Voucher accepting nonpublic schools must give ILEARN
Voucher accepting nonpublic schools get A-F grades just like all other schools

- I-Learn or a test that can be correlated to I-Learn (some schools which specialize in special needs students give an alternative test to I-Learn but the scores can be correlated so there can be fair academic comparison).
The truest form of accountability is choice. No one is automatically assigned to any nonpublic schools. Parents have to choose to send their child to these schools and they can also choose to leave that school if it is not working.

MYTH 4: Choice programs allow for discrimination.

FACTS:

- 9/10 empirical studies show that choice programs lead to less segregation.
Voucher students are lower-income compared to traditional public school students
70% of voucher students are on Free and Reduced Price Lunch compared to 47% of traditional public school students

MYTH 5: Education Scholarship Accounts (ESAs) lead to fraud.

FACTS:

- ESA's are not a free-range debit card for parents. Families purchase services and products through a secure, regulated web portal where the DOE and Treasurer would only allow verified and approved providers and products to be purchased.
ESA programs have been around for 10 years and continue to further mitigate attempts of fraud.