

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Redkey receives grant for paving

Town will upgrade six streets

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

REDKEY — The town will see some paving this year.

Indiana Department of Transportation announced Thursday that Redkey was approved for a \$151,317 Community Crossings grant for paving six streets.

“Oh, wonderful,” said Redkey Town Council president Dottie Quakenbush upon receiving news of the grant this morning. “That is awesome. That’s great news.”

“I think it’s just wonderful. It’s much-needed for our town. ... These small towns get so bogged down with broken down buildings and stuff, and anything we can do for the looks of the town is worth every bit.”

The grant requires a 25% match — \$50,439 — from Redkey.

The paving will include the following:

- High Street between Meridian and Railroad streets

- Railroad Street between High and Main streets

- Sheridan Street between Meridian and Butler streets

- Grandview Street between Meridian and Butler streets

- Butler Street between Sheridan and Grandview streets

- Oak Street between Main and Vine streets

“It will be a nice asset to the town,” said Quakenbush. “Everybody needs good streets.”

Redkey was one of 218 municipalities and counties to receive grants totaling just over \$100 million. Jay County Development Corporation gathered information necessary for the grant and Ryan Lefeld of Choice One Engineering put together the application.

See Grant page 2

Skyler support



Photo provided

The Esparza family learned of Skyler’s leukemia diagnosis early in January. He started treatment two days later. Now, almost four months following his diagnosis, Skyler is gearing up for his last chemotherapy treatment. Pictured, bottom row, from left, are Skyler and Jasmine Esparza. Top row, from left, are Jennifer, Tony and Darius Esparza.

Jay County community has come through to help 11-year-old who was diagnosed with leukemia

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Four days after New Year’s Eve, 11-year-old Skyler Esparza was diagnosed with leukemia.

Two days later, he started chemotherapy.

Less than two weeks

after, donations for his treatment began pouring in from the Jay County community.

Even now, nearly four months following Skyler’s diagnosis, there are still fundraising efforts in the works.

“Everything’s happened so quickly,” said Tony Esparza, Skyler’s dad. “There’s so many things that people have done or (are) doing.”

Diagnosis

Tony and Jennifer

Esparza, Skyler’s mother, took their son to the doctor initially at the end of December. He was diagnosed with strep throat. After five days on antibiotics, nothing had changed. Skyler still had a

swollen throat and lymph nodes, and no appetite.

A quick blood draw at Skyler’s next appointment Jan. 4 helped determine the real cause: leukemia.

See Support page 2

Pence mulling '24 run

By MEG KINNARD

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Former Vice President Mike Pence, positioning himself for a possible return to elected office, told an audience in early-voting South Carolina that he will spend the coming months “pushing back on the liberal agenda” he says is wrong for the country.

“We’ve got to guard our values ... by offering a positive agenda to the American people, grounded in our highest ideals,” Pence told an audience of several hundred on Thursday at a Columbia dinner sponsored by a conservative Christian nonprofit. “Now, over the coming months, I’ll have more to say about all of that.”

Pence, whose relationship with President Donald Trump frayed as Trump pressured Pence to block certification of the presidential election results, praised Trump’s tenure as “four years of promises made, promises kept.”

The choice of South Carolina for Pence’s first public address since the end of the Trump administration has definite political overtones, helping him develop exposure for a potential 2024 presidential bid. The state holds the first presi-

Former VP says he will be ‘pushing back on the liberal agenda’

dential primaries in the South, and candidates of both major parties typically spend more than a year in South Carolina ahead of those votes, introducing themselves and trying to secure support.

Republican candidates use South Carolina as a proving ground to test their “pro-life” mettle. Thursday’s event, hosted by Palmetto Family Council, also gave Pence a backdrop for some of the issues for which he long advocated as an Indiana congressman-turned-governor, such as restrictions on abortion and support for the overturn of Roe v. Wade.

Palmetto Family — which lobbies for what it considers to be “biblical values,” such as heterosexual marriage — most recently helped push through a ban on most South Carolina

abortions, a law now being challenged in federal court.

“We will stand with the right of every American, of every faith, to live, to work, to speak and to worship according to the dictates of their conscience,” Pence said.

Pence, who since leaving office has been doing work with the Heritage Foundation and Young America’s Foundation, has not indicated if he plans a future run. As vice president, he made numerous trips to South Carolina, meeting several times with Gov. Henry McMaster for coronavirus-related forums and campaigning in the state for U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham and U.S. Rep. Nancy Mace.

But the question of whether Pence’s former boss will run again still looms large for the possible Republican field.

See Pence page 5



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Weed removal

Fort Recovery High School student council members Abby Knapke, left, and Elizabeth Alig help remove weeds from the flower beds beside the historical museum Tuesday. The group visited places around the village to help with community service work.

Weather

Jay County got about 2.25 inches of rain Thursday and had a high temperature of 64 degrees. The low was 46.

Tonight’s low will be in the mid

30s with winds gusting to 20 miles per hour. Expect a windy, warm Saturday with a high of 73 and gusts up to 30 miles per hour. See page 2 for an extended forecast.

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 — A look back at the 1996 Jay County Invitational. Retrospect.

Wednesday — Coverage of Tuesday’s Portland Park Board meeting.

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Support ...

Continued from page 1
Skyler was taken immediately to Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis for further treatment.
He was diagnosed with acute myelogenous (or myeloid) leukemia, a type of cancer that starts in the bone marrow and can move quickly into the blood and to other parts of the body. According to the American Cancer Society website, it can progress rapidly if not treated.
Its treatment also uses higher doses of chemo over a shorter period of time, which can cause serious potential risks.

Seeking donations

After Skyler's diagnosis, his brother, Darius, hosted a fundraiser on his video game Fortnite livestream. Tony's lifelong friend, Brock Myers — "Uncle Brock" to Skyler and his siblings — asked Darius to do a fundraiser livestream again so he could push it on Facebook.

That soon led to incentivizing fundraising goals and shaving heads and beards for the cause.
"It kind of took off from there," Tony explained.
Several fundraisers and other donation methods — such as change jars — cropped up in the county in January and February. A few local efforts included the following:
•Some of Skyler's friends' moms, Mandi Glassford (son Cooper) and Amy Mikulski (son Julian), worked with T-Flyerz owner Chase Ainsworth to design a t-shirt and sell it, with all profits going to the family.
•Erin Bright handled a silent auction online with more than 200 items donated.
•East Jay Elementary and East Elementary schools hosted a dress-up week to collect donations and sold more than 620 t-shirts.
•Jay Community Center held a laundry detergent fundraiser.
Also, Chris Snow walked door-

to-door to local businesses asking for support and spreading the word about the Esparzas. Snow read about Skyler's condition on Facebook while sitting in the dentist's office.
"I'm reading this, and I'm getting tears in my eyes," Snow recalled. He thought of his son, Nick, who is the same age as Skyler, and decided he would help by asking for donations from local businesses.
"The outpouring of support for that family — it makes me proud to be a part of this community," Snow said.
Looking ahead
Both Tony and Jennifer take turns staying with Skyler while he's receiving treatment in Indianapolis. (Current coronavirus restrictions only allow one parent to stay at a time.)
Skyler was in remission in February. According to the cancer society website, between 85% and 90% of children with acute

myeloid leukemia go into remission after induction, the first main phase of chemotherapy. Although no signs of the leukemia are present at this point, it doesn't necessarily mean it has been cured.
"He's been pretty much the same ... he's an 11-year-old kid that's stuck on a hospital floor," Tony said in a February interview.
In April, Skyler spent two weeks in the intensive care unit for an infection during his third round of chemo. Skyler had some brain bleeding and paralysis on his right side, so he also did rehabilitation treatment for a week and a half before recovering.
(Despite COVID-19 restrictions, both Tony and Jennifer were allowed to be present simultaneously when their son was deemed in critical condition and moved to intensive care.)
Skyler was able to return home this week. On Wednesday,

he will turn 12. He's also starting his last chemotherapy treatment next week.
"(We) had a scary third round," Tony admitted. "We've just got to cross our fingers for round four."
Grateful family
The Esparzas noted they're grateful for all the donations. Tony added if the fundraising surpasses their financial needs, they will find a way to give back to the community.
"A very big thank-you out to everyone," Jennifer said. "There's just no way to personally thank every single person."
"Let's Ride 4 Sky," a benefit ride for the Esparza family, is scheduled for May 22 at the Portland American Legion. Registration begins at 11 a.m. Tickets cost \$20 per bike or \$25 with a rider and \$10 per car load. For more information, check the Facebook event page at bit.ly/3nBbwm4.

CR almanac

Saturday 5/1	Sunday 5/2	Monday 5/3	Tuesday 5/4	Wednesday 5/5
73/56	78/60	74/54	66/47	63/42
Sunny all day with a few clouds at night, leading to a warm Sunday. Winds may reach as high as 30 mph.	Mostly sunny all day with a 20% chance of rain in the afternoon. Otherwise warm temperatures.	90% chance of rain and thunderstorms starting in the afternoon.	Another rainy day with a 50% chance of showers and mostly cloudy skies.	More rain with a 30% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy skies all day.

Lotteries

Powerball 46-49-50-54-57-65-67
Estimated jackpot: \$129 million
Cash 5: 15-18-27-32-44
Estimated jackpot: \$614,500

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$319 million

Hoosier
Midday
Daily Three: 9-4-3
Daily Four: 5-4-2-3
Evening
Daily Three: 0-7-5
Daily Four: 7-3-2-5
Quick Draw: 6-9-15-16-17-18-21-24-30-34-41-43-44

Ohio
Midday
Pick 3: 7-4-7
Pick 4: 8-5-5-7
Pick 5: 9-4-0-5-3
Evening
Pick 3: 5-1-9
Pick 4: 7-3-4-7
Pick 5: 0-4-3-6-8
Rolling Cash: 16-23-35-36-37
Estimated jackpot: \$110,000

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery	Central States Montpelier
Corn.....7.05	Corn.....6.85
Wheat7.00	May corn.....6.86
	Beans15.61
	Sept. beans12.73
	July wheat 7.15
The Andersons Richland Township	Sunrise St. Anthony
Corn.....6.85	Corn.....6.85
May corn.....6.85	May corn.....6.85
Beans15.61	Beans15.24
May beans15.61	May beans15.24
Wheat 7.14	Wheat6.89
May wheat 7.14	July wheat.....6.80

Today in history

On April 30, 1975, Berlin bunker, Adolf Hitler took his own life along with that of his wife of one day, Eva Braun.
In 1789, George Washington took the oath of office in New York as the first president of the United States.
In 1803, the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France for 60 million francs, the equivalent of about \$15 million.
In 1945, as Soviet troops approached his

In 1968, New York City police forcibly removed student demonstrators occupying five buildings at Columbia University.
In 1971, Hook Drugs of Indianapolis confirmed plans to build a new store in the north 900 block of Meridian Street.

—AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday
1:30 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners executive session, Hinkle, Racster and Schemenauer offices, 121 W. High St., Portland.
5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.
7 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

Tuesday
7 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.
7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St.
7 p.m. — Salomonia Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center.



Photo provided

Proclaimed

Portland Mayor John Boggs recently signed a proclamation declaring May 2 through 8 as Respect, Appreciation and Support for Law Enforcement Week in the city. Pictured behind Boggs are Portland Breakfast Club president Jeff Bowen, Portland Evening Optimist Club president Deb Imel, West Jay Optimist Club president Sandy Rogers, Portland Police Chief Josh Stephenson and Portland officers Mitchell Rigby, Luke Darby and Erica Post.

Felony court news

Drug possession
Several people pleaded guilty to drug-related charges recently.
Heather R. Best, 35, 410 E. Pleasant Lot 1, Pennville, pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 4 felony, in Jay Circuit Court. She was sentenced to eight years in the Indiana Department of Correction with four years suspended and given credit for 183 days served. She was assessed court costs of \$185, fined \$1 and ordered to pay \$200 for a drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of her plea agreement, a Class A misdemeanor charge for driving with a suspended license and a Class B misdemeanor charge for possession of marijuana were dismissed.
Mindy M. Cline, 40, 720 W. Centennial Ave., Muncie, pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 5 felony, in Jay Circuit Court.
She was sentenced to five years in the Indiana Department of Correction with two years suspended and given two days credit for time served. Three years of her sentence will be served on house arrest, provided she remains employed and continues supporting her dependents.
She will be placed on probation for two years following completion of the Delaware County Community Corrections Program. She was assessed \$185 of court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee.
As part of her plea agreement, a Class A misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia were dismissed.
Cassandra R. Myers, 43, 202 N. Meridian St., Portland, pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony, in Jay Superior Court.
She was sentenced to 150 days in Jay County Jail and given 108 days credit for 54 days served. She was assessed court costs of \$185 and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee.
See page 5

SERVICES

Today
Brackman, Virgil: 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Saturday
Lanning, Lulu Joyce: 3 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Monday
Zimmerman, Angeline: 11 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

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

Grant ...

Continued from page 1
No other Jay County communities applied during this round of grant funding.
Portland, Dunkirk and Bryant were awarded Community Crossings grants in December.
Grants to other area communities announced Thursday included: \$1 million for Winchester; \$999,719.39 for Adams County; \$758,554 for Muncie; \$604,066.75 for Delaware County; \$587,907.65 for Wells County; \$231,201.44 for Union City; \$197,657.85 for Randolph County; \$137,615.25 for Montpelier; and \$88,870.24 for Selma.
"Community Crossings is a major asset to Indiana cities, towns and counties as they build and modernize local roads and bridges," INDOT Commissioner Joe McGuinness said in a press release. "The state's funding partnership allows local partners to tackle larger scale project more quickly than would otherwise be possible, maximize their resources to complete more projects and achieve the best possible value for Hoosiers."
Redkey was also awarded a \$120,000 Community Crossings grant in April 2020. That funding covered paving for two sections of Main Street — between Railroad and Sycamore streets, and between Union and Meridian streets — as well as parts of High Street between George and Butler streets, and Butler Street between High and Bell streets.

Geneva Gardens Greenhouse

260 E. 800 S. Geneva, IN 46740

Hours: 7:00am to 7:00pm
No Sunday Sales

Berries Produce
Pumpkins available in season

Thank You

To our neighbors, friends & family for your kind thoughts & prayers. To the Portland American Legion Honor Guard & Pastor Darrell Borders for the lovely service. Also to our friends at the Westchester U.M.C. for food brought to us.
The Family of Jim Jackson

THOSE WE LOVE DON'T GO AWAY
THEY WALK BESIDE US
EVERY DAY, UNSEEN, UNHEARD,
BUT ALWAYS NEAR, STILL
LOVED
STILL MISSED
AND VERY DEAR.

10 years have passed since you left us,
and yet not a day goes by where your name is not spoken or a story of you told by someone who loved you!
You are forever in our hearts!
The Family of Matt Aker



Photos provided

Five generations

Pictured are five generations of the Hamilton/Bailey/Lowe family and Hamilton/Bailey/Lowe/Horn family. Above left are Wayland John Hamilton with his father Nathan Hamilton of Coldwater, Ohio, grandmother Erin Bailey, Portland, great-grandfather David Lowe of Dunkirk and great-great-grandmother Deloris Lowe of Winchester. Above right are Wayland Hamilton, being held by his great-grandmother Linda Lowe of Dunkirk, father Nathan Hamilton, grandmother Erin Bailey and great-great-grandfather George Horn of Dunkirk.

Sign-up open for KiPS program

It's time to start thinking about getting ready for kindergarten.

Registration is now open for Jay County Public Library's Kindergarten Prep School (KiPS) program.

The program is designed as a "jumpstart" into kindergarten. It will be held from 9 a.m. to noon each Wednesday from June 23 through Aug. 15.

Registration forms are available at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. The deadline is May 15.

The library is also in need of volunteers for the KiPS program. Adults or teens who are interested can pick up an application at the library.

For more information, contact Shana Neuen-schwander at shaman@jay-cpl.lib.in.us or (260) 726-7890.

Culture has led dating experience to suffer

DEAR ABBY: I am a 48-year-old woman, divorced for 10 years. During that time, I have been in two serious relationships. I'm no prude, but it seems like everyone I date, and who my friends and I talk to, and articles I see are all about sex, having sex, rushing to sex. It's like there's no emphasis on actually getting to know a person anymore.

I'd like to believe that sex is something people who are already emotionally intimate can share. But by the third date, sex is not only expected but considered "normal." When I say that it's too soon for me, I'm not called back for another date. If I do go forward with sex, I feel compromised and cheapened when the "relationship" ends. These men didn't

Dear Abby



take the time to actually know ME.

Please understand. I'm mature enough to handle this, but I'm deterred from dating because of it. Are there any men out there who want a connection that isn't just physical? — NOT CONNECTING IN MISSOURI

DEAR NOT CONNECTING: Yes, there are. But in our hookup culture, it may take time to find them. I agree

that we live in a sex-obsessed society, as we are constantly reminded in print, television, film and online media. Many men in your age group avoid emotional intimacy because they have been divorced and don't want to quickly jump back into a committed relationship.

It's possible you might have better luck if you join activity groups in which the members have common interests besides running right off to the bedroom. You should never allow yourself to be coerced into doing anything you don't feel ready for. Unlike what some people may believe, sex does not automatically go with the dinner.

.....

DEAR ABBY: My husband

and I have been together for 10 years and were legally married a year ago. Our wedding was last-minute because my mother asked us to move the date up and make it happen fast. We obliged because she was very sick at the time, and we put the wedding together in nine days. The ceremony was beautiful. My mother passed away days later. It is obvious to me now that she knew she was terminal; however, I did not.

Since the date of her death is so close to our anniversary, it's a very emotional and hard time for me. I would prefer to celebrate on a different day, perhaps the anniversary of our first date. My husband tells me that while he understands it's hard for me, the date of our legal ceremony is important to him and

worthy of celebration. I just don't feel much like celebrating. Although I know it's not fair to him, all I want to do is mourn the loss of my mother. How should I handle this? — BITTERSWEET MEMORIES IN FLORIDA

DEAR BITTERSWEET: A compromise is in order. Explain again to your husband that because you lost your mother only a year ago, and this will be the first anniversary after her death, you would prefer to either forgo a celebration this year or celebrate on a different date. Assure him that your sadness will lessen eventually, and when it does, you will be fine celebrating your wedding anniversary with him in the future.

Community Calendar

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

Saturday

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

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

Monday

PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will

meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

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

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

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

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For

more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

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

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

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

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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.

Calvary U.M.

Church
Drive In - Drive Thru
Chicken n' Noodle
Dinner
\$8.00

May 1 11am-2pm
In Back of Church
301 N. Main Street
Dunkirk, IN

Jay County Optimist Clubs

Respect for Law Week

May 2
thru
May 8



The Jay County Optimist Clubs are honoring all the Police Officers that work in Jay County. It is our hopes and wishes that the citizenry of Jay County will also show respect for our Law Officers always, but make a special effort during the Respect for Law Week May 2 through May 8, 2021.

Through the Jay County Optimist Respect for Law Week Jay County Optimist Members will honor and show respect for all city, county and state Law Officers in Jay County and well wishes from the Jay County Optimist Clubs.

We believe it is important as citizens to abide by the law, respect Law Enforcement and do what we can do to maintain peace. We hope that our project lets officers know that we appreciate them and what they do and will help in this effort.

Optimism in Jay County was started in 1975 when the Breakfast Optimist Club was established with The Portland Evening Club in 1988 and West Jay Optimist Clubs established later. Over \$2,000,000 of Optimist Projects have come to fruition since the establishment of the first Optimist Club in Jay County.

Optimist International is one of the Largest Service Club Organizations with clubs in The United States, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and throughout the world including Jay County. Respect for Law is one of the organizations most popular programs with more than 1,500 clubs participating annually.

Carrying the motto "Bringing out the Best in Kids," Optimists conduct positive service projects that reach more than seven million young people each year. To learn more about the Optimist Clubs in Jay County please contact Jeff Bowen, President of the Portland Breakfast Optimist at 260-251-5024, Debra Imel, President of The Portland Evening Optimist Club at 260-726-5736, or Sandy Rogers, President of the West Jay Optimist Club at 765-209-0226.

Jay County Optimist
Respect for Law Week
Thank an Officer!



Show respect for law enforcement

To the editor:

The Jay County Optimist clubs are honoring all police officers who work in Jay County. It is our hope and wish that the residents of Jay County will also show respect for our law officers always, but make a special effort during Respect for Law Week May 2 through 8.

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Letters to the Editor

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Leland LeMaster
Optimist chair
Respect for Law Week

Blood always leads to nausea

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Health class always made me nauseous as a kid.

There's just something about looking at the inside of a body illustration that makes me squeamish. And don't get me started about blood.

I can remember one day from seventh grade. We had some extra time to kill at the end of class, so our health teacher flipped on a surgery video. One of my good friends, Punit Patel, watched in awe the entire time. (He later attended Purdue University for a biology degree with plans to become a pediatrician.) Me, well, I made friends with the white board on the side wall. No internal organs there, although the video sounds were enough to make me gag.

The moment I see exposed organs or fresh blood, I find myself reaching for the nearest trash can. It's not a fear, I've realized, but it is something that makes me extremely uncomfortable.

In eighth grade, I ripped open my knee after falling off my bike at my grandparents' house. I should've gotten stitches — I still have the scar to prove it — but instead we wrapped it with a few of my grandpa's old socks and called it a day.

Normally, watching so much blood drip down my leg would've been enough to make me pass out. But, I needed to find help, so I limped to the woods until I found my grandma driving her four-wheeler down one of the paths.

I'll always be grateful Gramma didn't go ballistic when she saw my wound. She calmly took me back to the house to clean and dress it.

Justin, my boyfriend, also gets squeamish around blood, but he's had to act on several occasions regardless of that sentiment.

Michael, his little brother, is the kid who is always getting hurt — he's broken several bones. One day, the boys were playing outside, and someone threw a stick at Michael. Like an arrow to its target, the stick punctured Michael's eye.

Justin ruined his favorite shirt that day while carrying his brother to his parents. The shirt was drenched in blood by the end of the whole ordeal.

Michael's eye healed. Modern medicine is amazing. He'll never forget that day, though. It would've been a lot worse if Justin hadn't taken action immediately.

My philosophy is this: when someone is hurt, the

On the Line



The moment I see exposed organs or fresh blood, I find myself reaching for the nearest trash can.

first words out of your mouth shouldn't be, "this is bad." Be calm. Act quickly and efficiently, and try not to make the victim any more scared than they already are. You can go hurl to your heart's content later if need be. (Maybe that's the former lifeguard in me coming out.)

Sometimes I think maybe I just get squeamish about myself, because the idea of getting surgery also horrifies me. If I need it, I'm going to ask the doctor to knock me out. Too bad I won't be able to do that for childbirth someday.

Vaccines are also a tricky thing for me. As long as I'm not watching the needle go in, though, I'm generally OK. I won't lie — it does bother me, but I've found ways to distract myself until it's done.

Speaking of shots, I got my second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine Tuesday. Just thinking about it made me squeamish because I was worried I'd have side effects.

And, I did. The next day, my whole body was sore, I had a raging headache and upset stomach, and I couldn't decide if I was hot or cold.

But vaccines are designed to help your body build its immunity defenses. My brother and I also got sick after we had a nasal injection of the swine flu vaccine. If anything, having a reaction is proof the vaccine is doing its job.

Compared to actually contracting the virus, I'll take the side effects, and I'll take the uncomfortable shot that comes with it. I'm thankful to have contributed my part in moving on from the coronavirus pandemic.

Just don't ask me to look at my bloodied bandage, because I won't.



Competition is a good thing

By JOE KIRBY

The Fulcrum

Tribune News Service

A fourth-generation South Dakotan and a lifelong Republican, I was once again disappointed this month when another legislative session came to an end marked by senseless disputes between far-right Republicans and their slightly more moderate brethren on issues of little importance to most of us.

They debate issues such as limiting the rights of the small number of transgender people in our state to participate in sports or use public bathrooms — or undoing what the voters approved through initiatives in the previous election. Meanwhile, issues such as economic development, health care, election reform, infrastructure improvement and other projects designed to make our state better are all neglected.

Politics in Pierre has become a broken record. It's not hard to understand why.

My state's election system is broken, as it is in so many one-party states across the country. It gives absolute power to the majority party. That's not who we're supposed to be. South Dakotans love competition — Republicans in particular. In fact, our state party celebrates free enterprise and capitalism in its platform.

So why does it fear competition in our elections?

In South Dakota, the primary is the only election that matters. The winner of the Republican nomination is the winner of the general election almost every time. But only registered Republicans may participate in the GOP contest, even though our state's "members only" primaries are paid for by all the taxpayers.

Democrats claim 27% of our registered voters, while 24% are independents and 48% are Republicans. I suspect the GOP number is inflated somewhat by independents — and even Democrats who plug their noses and join a party they do not support just so they can exercise a meaningful vote. Still, while Republican-affiliated voters make up less

than half the electorate of the state, they get to call all the shots.

And that includes redrawing legislative districts every 10 years to further protect their democracy-thwarting advantage.

Which leads to an odd result. A majority of active registered voters in South Dakota have little to no voice in state government. Our election system is rigged so that a majority of the voters are largely irrelevant.

It's a political monopoly, pure and simple. And any honest conservative will tell you that monopolization leads to subpar results.

It's bad enough that candidates who emerge from the Republican primary have either no challenger at all or only a token competitor in the general election. But the Republican primaries themselves are also uncompetitive. The GOP nominees for statewide office have often faced only nominal opposition in the primary, because party leaders make sure the fix is in.

And once those candidates cruise to victory and enter office, those same leaders ensure these officials hew close to the party agenda or else face the threat of a well-financed and more dogmatic opponent in the next primary.

The Republicans have even reduced the right of voters to use the state's initiative and referendum process. In recent years, they have put up difficult roadblocks for good-faith efforts by South Dakotans who want to petition for change.

So it looks like they not only don't want competition, they also don't trust the people.

A good recent example is how Gov. Kristi Noem and the Legislature mounted attacks this spring on the medical and recreational legalizations of marijuana — both approved

overwhelmingly by the voters in November.

Monopolies, whether they are economic or political, never favor citizens. Just like the marketplace, without competition in our politics there are no incentives to be responsive to public opinion. The result is stagnation and dysfunction, not innovation.

It's not good for our state and it's not good for my party, the Republican Party. Competition makes you better. It makes you more creative, more productive and stronger. Competition produces desirable results.

We need to develop the incentives for new voices to be heard, not because we would necessarily agree with them, but because they would challenge our Republican Party to think deeper and do better. And there are proposed reforms that would go a long way toward achieving that goal. Alaska, Washington and Nebraska all have different forms of nonpartisan open primaries that require all candidates to compete on an even footing and let all voters vote.

Ranked-choice elections and other alternative voting systems allow voters to express their preferences more accurately — allowing voters to avoid the either/or choice among sometimes repugnant options. There are models of nonpartisan redistricting that put citizens in charge of drawing legislative districts. We should explore and debate all of them.

South Dakota Republicans support competition in business. They are proud of the state's business climate, which they use effectively to attract new businesses to the state. Their platform expresses support for the free enterprise system and the benefits of capitalism. But if open competition is good for our economy and consumers, why don't we have it at the ballot box?

Let's fix our elections and build a stronger, and more productive future for our state.

Kirby is a retired insurance company executive in South Dakota and a volunteer spokesman for Open Primaries, which advocates for allowing all voters to participate in nominating elections.

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

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

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Pence ...

Continued from page 1
Trump has not explicitly stated his plans but has teased a possible bid, saying Thursday on Fox Business that he's "100%" thinking about running in 2024 — and would even possibly consider Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis as his running mate.
Earlier this month, another possible GOP contender, former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, said when asked about 2024 by The Associated Press that she would stand down if

Trump opted to run again. Former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has launched an aggressive schedule, visiting states that will play a pivotal role in the 2024 primaries and signing a contract with Fox News Channel. DeSantis has been courting donors, including in Trump's backyard, with a prominent speaking slot before the former president at a GOP fundraising retreat dinner at Mar-a-Lago, the Florida resort where Trump now lives.
On Thursday, Pence high-

lighted accomplishments of the Trump administration, including three successful confirmations of U.S. Supreme Court justices, withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal and relocation of the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.
He also recalled fondly their 2016 campaign, saying that Trump told him at the close of that year's GOP convention in Cleveland that the two of them would campaign hard, "and then he looked over at me, and he hit me in the shoulder, and

he said, 'And then it's going to be great.'" "And I've got to tell you, it was," Pence went on. "It was four years of consequences, four years of results, and four years of promises made, promises kept."
Earlier this month, Trump told Republican donors he was "disappointed" in Pence.
South Carolina Democratic Chair Trav Robertson said Pence was coming to the state to "try and salvage his relationship" with Trump supporters

irked that Pence didn't support efforts to block certification of the 2020 presidential election.
On Thursday, Pence pledged to reveal more of his ideas soon, promising that he would be challenging the Biden administration's "avalanche of liberal policies" as he ramps up speaking engagements around the country.
"We have the winning agenda," Pence said. "And now it's incumbent upon us to take that winning agenda to the American people."

Felony arrests

Invasion, resisting

An Albany man was arrested Thursday for invasion of privacy and resisting an officer.
Michael R. Coleman, 47, 10001 Sharpbend Road, was preliminarily charged Level 6 felonies for invasion of privacy and resisting an officer. He was booked into Jay County Jail and is being held without bond.

Probation violation

A Whitestown man was arrested Thursday for violating probation.
Neal E. Fields, 43, 6007

Perry Worth Road, was originally charged two Level 6 felonies for dealing in methamphetamine and residential entry. He was booked into Jay County Jail and is being held on \$1,200 bond.

Domestic battery

A Portland man was arrested for domestic battery Wednesday.
Brandon C. Jenkinson, 27, 1024 N. State Line Road, was preliminarily charged a Level 6 felony. He was released from Jay County Jail on \$5,000 bond.

Capsule Reports

Intersection crash

A Union City teen drove into the back of a Portland woman's vehicle at the intersection of Wayne and Main streets about 4:45 p.m. Wednesday.
Isabelle G. Miller, 17, told Portland police she was driving a 2014 Ford Focus east on Wayne Street at the intersection

with Main Street. She didn't notice the 2016 Nissan Rogue, driven by 37-year-old Megan E. Martin, heading south on Wayne Street. (Main Street does not have a stop sign at the intersection.) Miller drove into the back of Martin's Nissan, causing between \$1,000 and \$2,500 in estimated damage.

Deeds

Farmers and Merchants State Bank to Susan L. Brabaw, corporate warranty deed — Part of Section 27, Pike Township, 2.59 acres
Melvin G. Smitley to Vicki J. Smitley, quit claim deed — Tract 1, Part of Lot 17, Jackson and Reed Subdivision; Tract 1, Part of Lot 6, Stroble Addition; Tract 2, Lots 74 and 75, Votaws First Addition
Linda S. and Ned Rees to themselves, death deed — Unit E002, Heritage Commons Portland
Lovina J. and Simon L. Troyer to Ida J. and Samuel R. Girod, warranty deed — Part of Section 3, Bearcreek Township, 13.46 acres
Ford Family Farm LLC, Jill A. and Phillip D. Ford to Sun Chief Solar Farm LLC, easement — Part of Section 4, Richland Township
Marjorie R. and Ronald D. Fifer to Jennifer M. and Troy L. Emery, warranty deed — Parts of Section 14, Bearcreek Township, about 46 acres
Mary C. Juillerat to herself, death deed — Unit G002, Heritage Commons Portland
Beth C. and Leslie R. Roberts to themselves, death deed — Section 15, Madison Township, about 2 acres
Harvest Land Coop Inc to Co Alliance Cooperative Inc, deed affidavit — Parts of Section 8, Bearcreek Township, about 8 acres
Susan L. Brabaw to Alan D. and Mary A.

Adair, easement — Parts of Section 27, Pike Township, about 3.68 acres
Alan D. and Mary A. Adair to Susan L. Brabaw, easement — Parts of Section 27, Pike Township, about 3.68 acres
Ruth E. Fellers and Mike Fellers (deceased) to Kimberly S. Nuckols, quit claim deed — Part of Section 21, Pike Township, 1.338 acres
Dewayne C. Goss and France E. Goss (deceased) to Gary L. Goss, quit claim deed — Part of Section 12, Bearcreek Township, 15 acres
Roger C. Geesaman and Cheryl A. Geesaman (deceased) to Roger C. Geesaman, deed affidavit — Section 33, Wayne Township
Tonya and Jeff Upp to Eli Properties LLC, warranty deed — Lot 130, Woodlawn Park Addition
Thomas L. Sherwood, Rosemary Dean and Linda Olson to Oxbow Acres LLC, warranty deed — Lots 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Bartlett and Hanlin Addition
Louis R. and Marcella A. Dirksen to Alan P. and Victoria S. Dirksen, warranty deed — Part of Section 12, Knox Township, 79.85 acres
Charles S. Keen and Roberta S. Keen (deceased) to Ronald Mills, quit claim deed — Lot 10, Block 3, original plat of Salomonina
Rose Marie Archer to Mary Schwartz, warranty deed — Part of Section 13, Jefferson Township, 5 acres



For The Washington Post/Maddie McGarvey

Under investigation

Demonstrators stand outside Columbus, Ohio, City Hall on Sunday to protest the fatal police shooting of 16-year-old Ma'Khia Bryant. The Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation is investigating the case, which has raised questions about police officers' use of deadly force.

Felony court news

Continued from page 1
As part of her plea agreement, a Class B misdemeanor charge for possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor charge for possession of paraphernalia were dismissed.
Jennifer L. Cook, 45, 3395 S. 1150 W., Dunkirk, pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony, in Jay Superior Court.
She was sentenced to 272 days in Jay County Jail and given 110 days credit for 55 days served. She was assessed court costs of \$185 and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee.
As part of her plea agreement, two Class C misdemeanor charges for possession of paraphernalia and operating a vehicle while intoxicated were dismissed.
Whitney N. Hough, 413 E. Logan St., Redkey, pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony, in Jay Superior Court.
She was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail and given credit for 83 days served. Hough was assessed \$185 of court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee.
As part of her plea agreement, two Level 6 felonies for maintaining a common nuisance and unlawful possession or use of a legend drug and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia were dismissed.
Hough also pleaded guilty to unlawful possession of a syringe, a Level 6 felony, in Jay Circuit Court.
She was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail (to be served consecutively with the previous sentence) with 185 days suspended and given credit for four days served.
She was assessed more court costs of \$185.
As part of her plea agreement, two Level 6 felony charges for maintaining a common nuisance and possession of methamphetamine, a Class B

misdemeanor charge for possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor charge for possession of paraphernalia were dismissed.
Jadeh C. Hildebrandt, 23, 8182 S. 600 W., Portland, pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony, in Jay Superior Court.
He was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail and given four days credit for two days served. He was assessed court costs of \$185 and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee.
As part of his plea agreement, a Class A misdemeanor charge for possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor charge for possession of paraphernalia were dismissed.
Unlawful possession
A Portland man was sentenced to jail after pleading guilty to unlawful possession of a syringe, a Level 6 felony, in Jay Superior Court.
Colin J. Bradburn, 45, 203 1/2 W. Water St., was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but six months suspended and given 30 days credit for 15 days served. He was placed on probation for six months and ordered to submit an evaluation within 30 days for substance abuse counseling. He was also ordered to serve 75 days of his sentence on home arrest and assessed court costs of \$185.
Bradburn failed to appear in court six days later on a Jay County Community Corrections violation.
Battery
A Portland man was sentenced to prison after pleading guilty to battery resulting in bodily injury to a person younger than 14 years old, a Level 5 felony, in Jay Circuit Court.
Seth W. Litton, 23, 2884 W. Indiana 67, was sentenced to three years in the Indiana Department of Correction with one year suspended and two years on house arrest. He was

given five days credit for time served. Litton was assessed a \$100 administration fee for probation, ordered to pay a monthly \$15 fee for probation until it is completed and assessed court costs of \$185.
Drunk driving
Two Jay County men recently pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Level 6 felony, in Jay Superior Court.
James A. Loden, 65, 7054 W. 400 S., Redkey, was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but 20 days suspended and given eight days credit for four days served. He was placed on probation for 345 days, assessed court costs of \$185.50, ordered to pay a \$200 alcohol and drug countermeasures fee and ordered to submit an evaluation within 30 days for substance abuse counseling. The court recommended Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles suspend his license for one year from Oct. 5, 2020.
As part of his plea agreement, a Level 6 felony charge of operating a vehicle with alcohol concentration equivalent to .08 or more was dismissed.
Timothy S. Southerland, 42, 631 E. North St., Portland, was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but 70 days suspended and given 70 days credit for 35 days served. He was placed on probation for 295 days, assessed court costs of \$185.50 and ordered to pay a \$200 alcohol and drug countermeasures fee. Southerland was also ordered to submit an evaluation within 30 days for substance abuse counseling.
The court recommends Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles suspend Southerland's license for one year starting June 8, 2020.
As part of his plea agreement, a Level 6 felony charge of operating a vehicle with an alcohol equivalent of .15 or more and a Class A misdemeanor charge of driving with a suspended license were dismissed.

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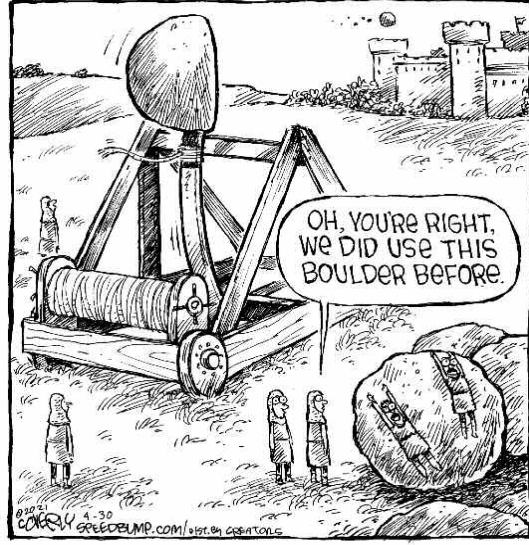
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Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



4-30

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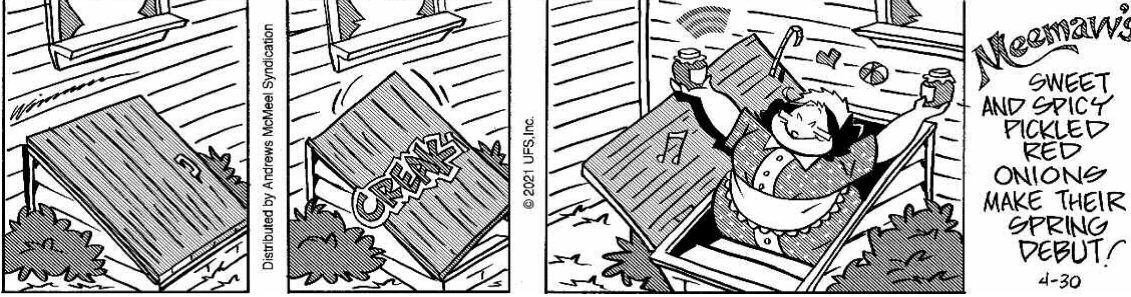
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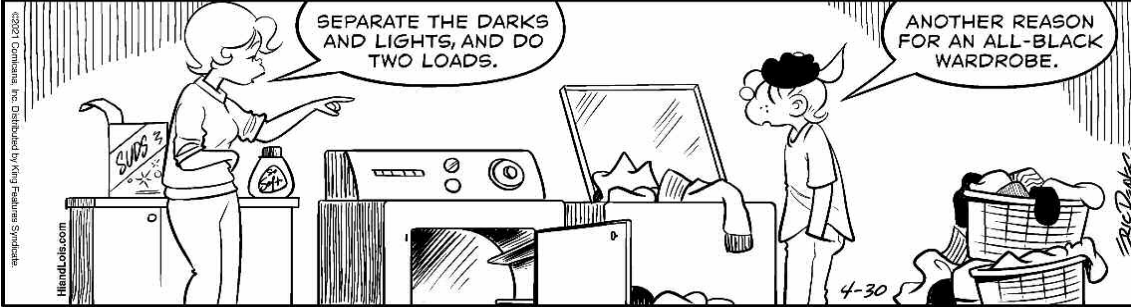
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Funky Winkerbean



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz You are South, and the bidding has gone: South 1♦ 2♦ 2♥ North 2♦ 3♣ What would you bid now with each of the following three hands? 1. ♠AKJ83 ♥AJ74 ♦Q96 ♣10 2. ♠KQ952 ♥AK86 ♦— ♣QJ43 3. ♠AQJ65 ♥KQ942 ♦J8 ♣4 1. Three diamonds. Your partner has made two forcing bids, so you should assume that he has not only the necessary values for game, but possibly also the values needed for a slam. 2. Five clubs. A raise to four clubs would suggest that you had only a minimum opening bid and were responding to three clubs merely because partner had forced you to bid again. 3. Three hearts. Partner does not know you have five hearts, so you should rebid them to clarify the nature of your hand. Tomorrow: An elegant performance.

CRYPTOQUIP

QL E LWWF PEB VWHI AEF EHF UWYRF UEYBI BQUNHIBB, BWOIAWFK OQVPS REAIR QS "HWS BELI LWD LWDN." Yesterday's Cryptoquip: KIND OF CHEESE THAT FLATTENED TROPICAL FISH MIGHT ESPECIALLY ENJOY EATING: MANTA-RAY JACK. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals K

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Napkin's place 4 Flavor enhancer, for short 7 Glazier's sheets 12 Nabokov novel 13 Hearing thing 14 "Tiny Alice" playwright 15 Derek and Diddley 16 Deficiency 18 Scrap 19 Dutch capital, with "The" 20 Peruse 22 Blog feed 23 Innocent one 27 Chef Garten 29 "Catch-22" author Joseph 31 Maxim 34 Michelangelo work 35 Setting 37 — Juan 38 Tend texts 39 FDR follower 41 Terrible guy? 45 Sum 47 — had it! 48 Fail to meet expectations 52 Moment 53 Confused 54 Started 55 Deluge refuge 56 Taxi 57 Asner and Harris 58 Snake's warning DOWN 24 Hearty quaff 25 Wager 26 Historic time 28 Born abroad? 30 Ecol. watchdog 31 Soul, to Sartre 32 Carried out 33 "Love Story" actress MacGraw 36 "Oops!" 37 Gawked 40 Stylish wrap 42 Travel papers 43 Declares 44 Guitar parts 45 Despot 46 Classic Fords 48 Reunion gp. 49 Chowd down 50 D-Day vessel 51 Director Ang

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Sports



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Fort Recovery High School catcher Riley Will reaches to place a tag on Minster's Justin Nixon for the final out of the third inning Thursday. Nixon earlier hit an RBI single in leading the Wildcats to a 2-1 victory over the Indians.

Colts pick Paye

Michigan pass rusher selected 21st

By MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer
INDIANAPOLIS

Kwity Paye just wanted a chance to hear his name called during the NFL draft so he could tell his mother, Agnes, she no longer had to work.

The Indianapolis Colts made it all possible with one call.

General manager Chris Ballard took the highly touted pass rusher from Michigan with the 21st overall pick Thursday night, capping an incredible story that began with Paye's mother fleeing Liberia's civil war near the turn of the century and eventually raising two sons in America.

"It means everything that was my goal my whole life," Paye said shortly after the selection. "Just seeing how hard she worked is what made me work hard. So being able to tell her that she's done (working), it means a lot."

The 6-foot-2, 261-pound Paye could mean a lot for the Colts, too.

Ballard has been looking for a young, consistent pass rusher ever since he took the Indy job following the 2016 season. The need became only greater this year when the Colts opted not to re-sign last season's two starting defensive ends, Denico Autry and Justin Houston. Autry signed with division rival Tennessee. Houston remains unsigned.

So when Paye slid through the top 20 picks, Ballard ended a three-year run of trading first-round picks.

Indy moved down three spots in 2018 before taking All-Pro guard Quenton Nelson, traded out of the first round in 2019 when they selected cornerback Rock Ya-Sin and sent last year's first-rounder to San Francisco for All-Pro defensive tackle DeForest Buckner.

This time, Ballard simply couldn't pass on an impact player living the American dream.

Paye was born in a refugee camp in Guinea before coming to America. Here, he became a citizen and learned how to play football well enough to wind up at Michigan. There, he turned himself into an NFL prospect and on Thursday, the payoff came when NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell announced Paye's name as the Colts' selection.

"I saw the video and I almost got teary-eyed watching it," Ballard said. "His mother, just what a tremendous lady and what she did for her kids and what they went through, she deserves a lot of credit."

See Colts page 7

Rally short for 6th straight loss

FORT RECOVERY — The Indians finally broke through in the fifth inning. But it just wasn't enough.

Fort Recovery High School's baseball team wasn't able to string together much offense Thursday in a 2-1 loss to the Minster Wildcats.

It was the sixth consecutive loss for the Indians, who dip to 4-10 (2-4 Midwest Athletic Conference). The Wildcats improved to 7-7 (3-3 MAC).

Justin Nixon put Minster ahead in the top of the third inning with a two-out single, scoring Eric Schmidt after he walked and reached second on a stolen base.

One inning later, consecutive errors gave the Wildcats runners on first and third ahead of

Local roundup

a Kody Richard groundout that scored Nathan Oldiges.

In the home half of the fifth, Derek Lochtefeld doubled to left, scoring Landon Post for the Tribe's only run. Johnny Nixon then retired the final eight Indians.

Justin Nixon led Minster with three hits. In addition to Lochtefeld's double, the Indians got singles from Riley Will, Brock Dues and Daniel Patch.

Johnny Nixon struck out five,

walked one and allowed one earned run on four hits in the complete-game win. Patch suffered the loss for the Indians. He gave up two runs — one earned — on four hits with six strikeouts and four walks over five innings.

Girls third

FORT RECOVERY — Despite winning 11 events, Fort Recovery's girls track team placed second in a meet it hosted with South Adams and Marion Local on Thursday.

South Adams scored 80.5 points for first, leaving Fort Recovery second with 71 points. Marion Local totaled 23.5 points for third.

South Adams' boys won as

well for the Starfire sweep, scoring 81 points. Marion Local (43) was second and Fort Recovery (37) was third.

Whitley Rammel won three field events, earning the top spot in high jump (5 feet, 2 inches), discus (89 feet, 6 inches) and shot put (36 feet, 5 inches).

Kierra Wendel (800 run - 2 minutes, 38.33 seconds), Natalie Brunswick (1,600 run - 5:38.48), Ellie Will (3,200 run - 12:22.17) and Mara Pearson (long jump - 15 feet, 4.5 inches) also had individual wins.

The Tribe girls swept all four relays as well.

Trevor Heitkamp accounted for the only two wins for the Tribe boys. He had a time of 4:59.26 to win the 1,600, and 10:52.5 for first in the 3,200 run.

Durant, Nets torch Pacers

By PHILLIP B. WILSON

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Brooklyn Nets coach Steve Nash realizes that sometimes there's no need to overthink situations, especially when working with great players such as Kevin Durant.

Nash let Durant do his thing on Thursday night, and the superstar responded with a season-high 42 points as the Nets glided to a 130-113 victory over the depleted Indiana Pacers.

"What can I say? I have the luxury of coaching Kevin Durant," Nash said. "You stick him in the game and good things happen."

Durant scored 22 points in the third quarter as the Nets stretched their lead to 21 points.

The All-Star forward took particular pleasure in drawing the attention of extra defenders, which opened up the offense for teammates. Durant finished with 10 assists. He was plenty efficient when he took his own shots, connecting on 16 of 24 in his eighth start since being sidelined for nearly two months with a hamstring injury.

"I want to create that double team," Durant said. "But when I have scoring opportunities, I like to take advantage as well."

It was his third game of 30 points or more since his return, which was also interrupted for three games by a thigh injury.

"It makes it easy for me when he's scoring points," said Nets reserve forward Alize Johnson, who had 20 points and 21 rebounds. "It's fun to watch."

Johnson was drafted by the Pacers in 2018, but didn't have a job as recently as last month.

"The energy was there from the moment I walked into the building," Johnson said. "I was ready to go out there and prove that I

belong."

"Incredible stat line," Nash said of Johnson. "He played with energy and brings it never night."

Playing without Kyrie Irving and James Harden, the Nets built a double-digit lead by the second quarter and were never seriously threatened.

The Nets are 29-8 since Feb. 10, best in the league, and have clinched a playoff spot.

Caris LeVert scored 12 of his 36 points in the first quarter for the Pacers, but the Nets still led 35-28 after one behind Jeff Green's 12 points in the period. Brooklyn's advantage reached 66-52 by halftime.

Edmond Sumner added 16 points and Doug McDermott scored 15 for the Pacers, who lost point guard Malcolm Brogdon in the second quarter with a sore hamstring.

"It's definitely tough," LeVert said. "As I continue to say, this has been a weird year. We've just got to continue to fight. We fought hard. (But) we definitely dug ourselves a huge hole."

The Pacers dropped to 11-19 at home. At 29-33, they're on track for their second losing season since 2011.

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