

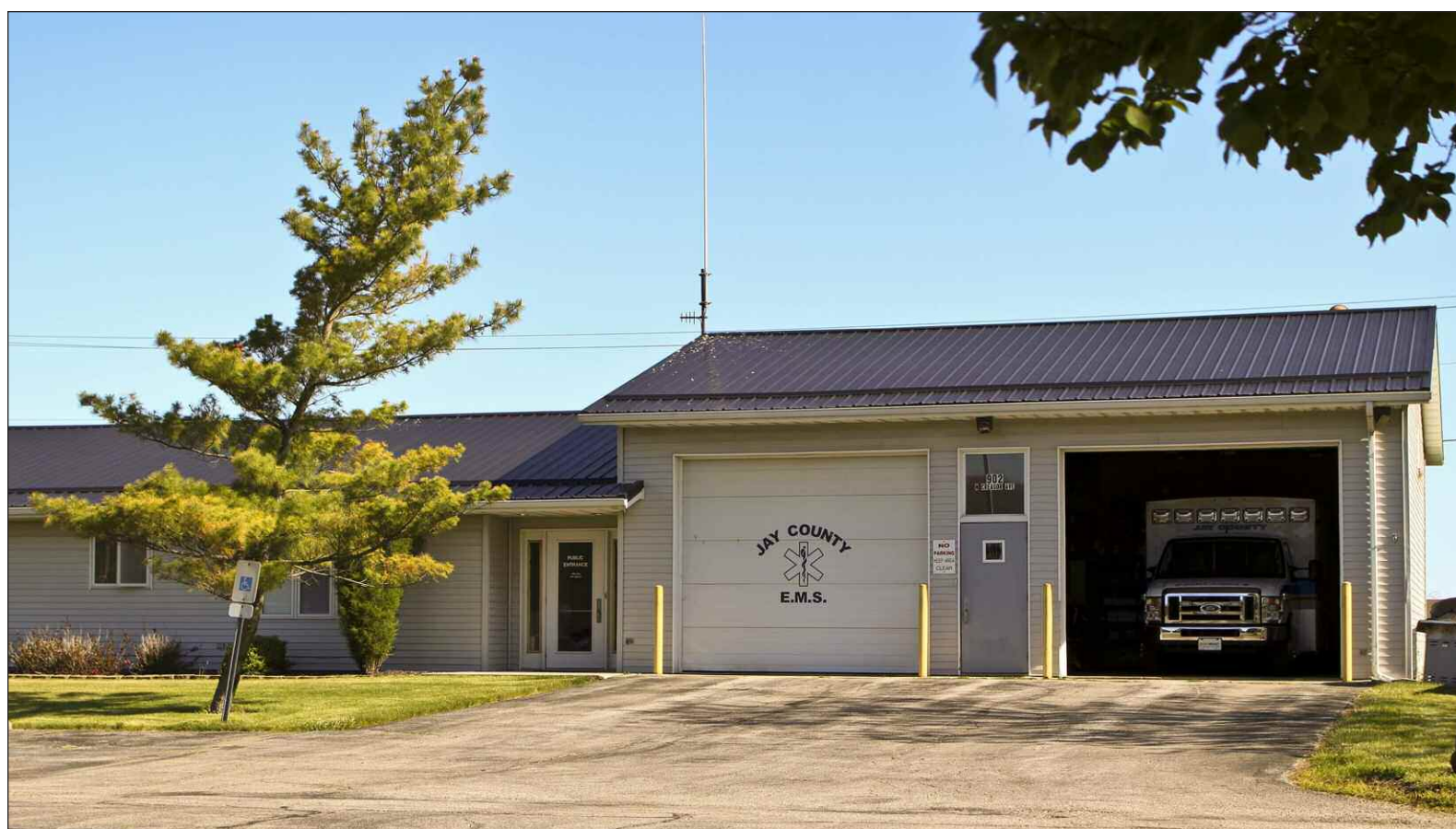
The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

JEMS repaying



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Jay Emergency Medical Service will be paying an \$83,200 settlement to Medicare and Medicaid. An audit from AccuMed Billing Inc. — the current billing system used by JEMS — revealed several deficiencies in billings made from April 2011 through March 2017 and showed JEMS had over-charged the two government-funded healthcare insurance groups. The settlement OK'd by Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council is less than a quarter of what was originally billed to both organizations, according to software data from certified public accountant firm BKD.

Errors in billing to Medicare and Medicaid from 2011 through 2017 results in \$83,000 settlement

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Jay Emergency Medical Service is paying a more than \$83,000 settlement to Medicare and Medicaid after errors were found in billings from April 2011 through March 2017.

The settlement is less than a quarter of what was billed to both government-funded health plans.

County attorney Bill Hinkle, during a joint meeting of Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council on Wednesday, cited the rea-

son as unintended filing errors. Commissioners signed documentation to more forward with the settlement, and council made the additional appropriation in the amount of \$83,223.

JEMS signed a five-year contract with AccuMed Billing Inc. starting in April 2017 to provide billing services for ambulance runs, Hinkle read from a prepared statement.

As part of its standard procedure, AccuMed reviewed billings submitted by JEMS to Medicare, Medicaid and

private health insurance agencies. The company found billing deficiencies submitted to the government-funded health plans.

Hinkle contacted both council president Jeanne Houchins and then-commissioner president Chuck Huffman about the situation. They contacted law firm Hall-Render of Indianapolis for assistance with the case, and attorney Steve Pratt suggested an audit.

Nearly 4,400 claims were submitted to both Medicare and Medicaid

in the six-year period, as determined from an audit by certified public accountant firm BKD.

BKD randomly chose 100 claims for a closer evaluation and found some were lacking proper certification for non-emergency transport, some with coding errors and one without a medical necessity.

"The physician who orders the transfer has to document why the patient has to go by ambulance as opposed to any other means," explained JEMS director Gary Barnett. "They

have to document the reason why an ambulance is absolutely required and the crew has to mimic that verbiage into the documentation of the chart."

Claims submitted to Medicare and Medicaid must be for a medical necessity, have proper certification and coding numbers, and be signed by either the patient or family. Failure to properly document and file is a violation of both government plans and can result in additional fines.

See **Repaying** page 2

Council backs quarry project

County council votes in support of U.S. Aggregates

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

U.S. Aggregates' has made some changes and is planning to reapply for rezoning again for the expansion of its quarry operation.

Jay County Council voted to support the expansion Wednesday.

U.S. Aggregates Area operations manager Eric Reynolds visited council to inform it about changes to their application.

Several parcels have been removed from the company's rezoning request, including land between county road 200 West and Indiana 67, directly south of Beacon Heights. The request now covers only land east of county road 200 West and south of Tyson Road, a total of about 108 acres.

The new application has not yet been submitted to Jay/Portland Building and Planning Department. Once it is, the next step will be returning to Portland Plan Commission to seek its recommendation for approval.

Earlier this year, U.S. Aggregates requested that a total of 115 acres to allow for the expansion of its stone quarry operation. The proposed expansion site is north of its current location at 2228 W. 125 South.

Several community members spoke out against the rezoning operation at city meetings and wrote letters to the editor published in The Commercial Review.

See **Backs** page 2

Jay back to orange

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Two weeks ago, Jay County was at the lowest risk level for the spread of coronavirus.

Now, it's at the second-highest. Jay County was rated "orange" (high risk for the spread of coronavirus) in Indiana State Department of Health's update Wednesday.

It was the first time the county has been orange since Jan. 26. It had been rated "blue" (low risk) or "yellow" (moderate risk) for 14 consecutive weeks.

Jay County showed sizable increases in both metrics the state measures to assess the risk level. Its cases per 100,000 residents jumped to 229, up from 137 the previous week. It had been as low as 23 in early March.

The county's seven-day positivity rate nearly doubled, hitting 9.75% after being at 4.98% last week. It had been as low as 1.87% in March. (County ratings are updated weekly on Wednesday based on Sunday's numbers. As of Wednesday, the rate had climbed to 13%.)

Jay County has seen a spike in COVID-19 cases in the last two

County case numbers and positivity rate continue to rise

weeks, including 40 new cases in just a four-day span from May 5 through 8. The county has already totaled 62 cases through the first 11 days of May, surpassing its total for February (57) and March (52). There were 68 cases in April.

The county is averaging 6.2 new cases per day this month, up from 2.27 last month and the low of 1.67 in March.

Indiana had six counties rated orange this week as compared to eight last week. But its number of yellow counties, including Delaware, went up to 45 from 37 last week. The remaining 41 counties, including Randolph, Blackford, Wells and Adams, were blue.

State officials also opened the Pfizer vaccine, which is avail-

able at IU Health Jay, to Hoosiers 12 and older. (It had previously only been approved for those 16 and older).

"We all want that normalcy, and the best way to get there is to increase the number of people who are fully vaccinated," said state health department's chief medical officer Dr. Lindsay Weaver.

Vaccination clinics continue to be open at Jay County Health Department and IU Health Jay. Appointments can be made online at ourshot.in.gov or by calling the state's 2-1-1 telephone assistance service. The health department has also opened its vaccination clinic to walk-ins from noon to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

See **Orange** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

On the drums

Irick Donathon performs on the snare drum Saturday afternoon during the a MusicWorks recital at Arts Place in Portland.

Deaths

Jerry Bell Jr., 57, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County High temperature Wednesday was 61 degrees. The low was 36.

Tonight's low is expected to be in the low 40s. Skies will be sunny Friday with a high of 67.

See page 2 for an extended forecast.

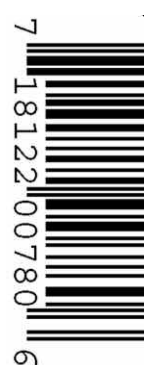
In review

Jay County Clerk's Office, which has been closed because of a COVID-19 outbreak, has been re-opened. The office will be available from 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m. daily.

Coming up

Friday — An update on the construction project at Arts Place.

Tuesday — Coverage of the Jay County Community Awards ceremony.



Backs ...

Continued from page 1
After an unfavorable 6-2 vote from Portland Plan Commission in April, the company pulled its rezoning request with plans to modify its application. Reynolds began by reading a letter to the editor published in The Commercial Review April 27. U.S. Aggregates has been in business in Jay County for more than 50 years and directly employs 22 people and indirectly supports another 107 jobs, Reynolds wrote in the letter. He noted Wednesday the quarry will run out of reserves in three to five years and it hopes to continue work in the area by expanding its operation. The expansion would add another 30 years of material. Reynolds said U.S. Aggregates has taken community concerns into account in its new application.

"I want everyone to know we did take what the community is sharing with us very seriously," Reynolds said. In relation to blasting and water concerns, he added, there are state and federal provisions that constrict companies to certain limits. "We have it set up where, if somebody has a concern, call us," he said. "We'll call you before we blast, we'll set up a seismograph up in your yard to help you understand what's going on in that area." "It doesn't mean they're not going to feel it; it doesn't mean they're not going to, maybe, hear it. But, we're not causing any damage to them," he added. There will be at least \$6 million in investments made as a result of the expansion, he estimated. Several council members voiced support of the request.

"I think the pros for this outweigh the cons," said council president Jeanne Houchins. "If we don't support an existing business, what's that say for Jay County?" Council member Ted Champ also noted that U.S. Aggregates has been in the county for several years. He added that the expansion will bring a lot of money into the county as well. "Jay County is a great place to live, and we all know this, but we don't have Ford and Chevy coming to Jay County," he said. "So when we have opportunities on this, in my opinion, we have to capitalize on them because we don't get these kind of opportunities every day." Council voted unanimously to support the company's effort to expand. Also Monday, council made an additional appropriation of

\$83,223 for a Jay Emergency Medical Service settlement (see related story). Council and commissioners Brian McGalliard and Chad Aker, who were in attendance, agreed to host a joint session at 6 p.m. June 2 to determine usage of incoming American Rescue Plan monies. Auditor Anna Culy said it can be used for a number of reasons related to COVID-19 support. Houchins also noted there will be a public hearing for the Skycrest Solar Energy Farms at 6 p.m. June 9 in the courthouse auditorium. In other business, council: •OK'd Jay County Drug Coalition to distribute about \$20,000 in drug and alcohol countermeasure fees from Jay County courts. •Agreed to hire Rachel Walker as a full-time public defender

with a \$9,000 pay increase. Previously the office did not have a full-time position offering a 100% case load and preventing attorneys from taking cases in other counties. About 40% of the public defender's budget is reimbursed from the state, meaning the new position will cost the county less than \$6,000 additionally per year, chief public defender Brandon Murphy explained. •Made the following additional appropriations: \$50,000 for the Jay County Fairgrounds Christmas light display, \$1,850 for witness fees to Jay County Prosecutor's Office and \$15,000 for Jay County Circuit Court jury fees. •Transferred \$700 for gas, lube and oil for Jay County Coroner's Office and \$41 for witness fees for the prosecutor's office.

CR almanac

Friday 5/14	Saturday 5/15	Sunday 5/16	Monday 5/17	Tuesday 5/18
67/48	69/52	70/54	70/56	73/56
Sunny and warmer temperatures. A slight breeze will continue through the day.	Partly sunny during most of the day. Skies may become cloudy at night. Otherwise, it will be warm.	Partly sunny skies with warm temperatures. There is a 50% chance of rain at night.	There is a 50% chance of rain with a likely continue all day and night.	Another potential day of rain with a 30% chance of showers. Otherwise partly sunny.

Lotteries

Powerball 1-19-20-38-54 Power Ball: 17 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$183 million	Cash 5: 3-15-16-27-34 Hoosier Lotto: 3-7-20-31-36-43 Estimated jackpot: \$10.6 million
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$430 million	Ohio Midday Pick 3: 4-9-6 Pick 4: 7-6-1-9 Pick 5: 7-1-9-9-8 Evening Pick 3: 3-1-5 Pick 4: 5-4-1-9 Pick 5: 5-8-9-8-2 Rolling Cash: 8-16-18-28-38 Classic Lotto: 2-6-28-29-32-48 Kicker: 1-9-8-7-8-6 Estimated jackpot: \$8.3 million
Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 9-0-7 Daily Four: 9-6-4-1 Evening Daily Three: 6-8-1 Daily Four: 0-6-6-7 Quick Draw: 7-15-17-19-20-21-24-29-41-43-45-55-58-60-61-66-67-69-73-76	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....7.21 Wheat7.00	Central States Montpelier Corn.....7.22 June corn7.22 Beans16.57 Sept. beans13.66 Wheat7.11
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....7.31 June corn7.43	Sunrise St. Anthony Corn.....7.26 May corn.....7.26 Beans16.31 May beans16.31 Wheat6.76 July wheat.....6.76
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....7.28 June corn7.28 Beans16.52 June beans16.52 Wheat7.11 June wheat.....7.01	

Today in history

On May 13, 1607, English colonists arrived by ship at the site of what became the Jamestown settlement in Virginia (the colonists went ashore the next day).
In 1568, forces loyal to Mary, Queen of Scots, were defeated by troops under her half-brother and Regent of Scotland, the Earl of Moray, in the Battle of Langside.
In 1917, three shepherd children reported seeing a vision of the Virgin Mary near Fatima, Portugal.
In 1958, Vice President Richard Nixon and his wife, Pat, were spat upon and their limousine battered by rocks thrown by anti-U.S. demonstrators in Caracas, Venezuela.
In 1967, a vault fire at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in Culver City, California, destroyed hundreds of the studio's early films.
In 1971, Denney Blankenbaker of Pennington High School tossed a no-hitter in the Bulldogs' 6-0 victory over Southern Wells.
In 1972, 118 people died after fire broke out at the Sennichi Department Store in Osaka, Japan.
—AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today
3 p.m. — Jay County Commission executive session, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
Monday
4 p.m. — Jay School Board executive session, Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland.
5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station.

Obituaries

Jerry Bell
July 19, 1963-May 11, 2021
Jerry L. Bell Jr., age 57, of Portland passed away Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at his residence. He was born in Hartford City, Indiana, on July 19, 1963, the son of Jerry and Carolyn (Wyatt) Bell Sr. He was married on June 3, 1989, to Krystal Jackson who survives. He graduated from Jay County High School in 1982 and was retired from Berne Security after 30 years. He also worked at Second Chance Ministries with recovering addicts helping them with the road to recovery.

Surviving are his wife Krystal; one son, Zachary Bell (wife: Jessica) of Urbana, Illinois; his mother Carolyn Bell of Portland; one brother, Timmie Bell of Portland; one sister, Deanna Cline (husband: Trent) of Portland; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a sister, Corina Boice. Celebration of life services will be held Saturday, May 22, 2021, at 11 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral



Home with Pastor David Keen presiding. The family will receive guests from 10 to 11 a.m. Memorials can be made to Second Chance Ministries. Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.
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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

Pet of the week

Mango, a mixed-breed puppy that is neutered and up to date on vaccinations, can be adopted for \$100 from Jay County Humane Society, 1313 Shadeland Ave., Portland. The shelter can be reached at (260) 726-6339.

Repaying ...

Continued from page 1
BKD initially used a software program to determine about \$170,000 overcharged to Medicare and about \$220,000 overcharged to Medicaid. Up to a 200% penalty fee could have been added to the county's repayment of these amounts as well. Jay County self-reported the errors to the U.S. attorney for Medicare violations and the Indiana

attorney general for Medicaid violations. Pratt argued to both parties that most of the errors resulted from failure to properly file documentation for medically necessary ambulance runs, Hinkle said. He suggested JEMS repay both Medicare and Medicaid for the claims which were not medically necessary. The U.S. attorney found services

improperly billed to and paid by Medicare totaling \$32,288. The Indiana attorney general determined the amount owed to Medicaid at \$23,094. With a 150% penalty fee tacked onto each amount, the total settlement is \$33,223. "So, basically it was just a paperwork issue — nothing that was intentional, fraudulent, or, we'll say, grossly negligent," Hinkle said.

Orange ...

Continued from page 1
As of Wednesday, 10,695 doses of coronavirus vaccine had been administered in Jay County. So far, 5,185 individuals have been fully vaccinated. About 4.66 million doses have been adminis-

tered statewide with nearly 2.2 million fully vaccinated. During a press conference Wednesday, state officials noted that 99.3% of Indiana coronavirus cases are in those who are not vaccinated. The state

ranks 41st out of 50 states in terms of the percentage of the population that has been fully vaccinated. "We're working on those who have been on the fence or who remain hesitant, and we're doing that one shot at a time," state health commissioner Dr. Kristina Box said. "We have made incredible progress as a state and our fight against this pandemic, but we still have a journey ahead of us and we don't want to give up any ground."

Felony arrests

Dealing drugs
A Portland man was arrested Tuesday for drug dealing. Brian M. Pinkston, 37, 4268 S. 700 East, was preliminarily charged a Class A felony for dealing in a nar-

cotic drug. He's being held in Jay County Jail without bond. **Theft**
A Hartford City woman was arrested Wednesday for theft. Brenna L. Wiggins, 29, 2212 N. 100 West, was preliminarily charged a Level 5 felony for the crime. She paid \$4,500 bond and was released from Jay County Jail. **Identity deception**
A Geneva man was arrested Wednesday for synthetic identity deception. Dawn L. Johns, 37, 2025 E. Butcher St., was preliminarily charged a Level 6 felony for the crime. He paid \$5,000 bond and was released from Jay County Jail.

S. Boundary Pike, has two charges for failing to appear in court. She has original charges for possession of a narcotic drug, a Level 6 felony, and theft, a Class A misdemeanor, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. She was released from Jay County Jail on \$5,000 bond. Stephen L. Burgess Jr., 31, 2215 RainTree Place, has three original charges for a Level 6 felony charge of possession of methamphetamine, a Class A misdemeanor for possession of a controlled substance and a Class C misdemeanor for operating a vehicle while intoxicated. He was booked into Jay County Jail without bond.

SERVICES

Friday
Brotherton, Randall: 10 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Saturday
Bell, Jerry: 11 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

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

The Portland Foundation seeks an experienced and energetic person to join our team as Office Coordinator

who will be responsible for overall office coordination including greeting guests, organizing office for efficiency, supporting team to ensure effective communication in all aspects of donor relations

Candidates Must Have:

- Excellent computer and telephone techniques
- Knowledge in Microsoft Office
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Ability to learn

The position will be 30 hours per week with competitive wages and benefits. Approximate start date is May 24, 2021. Send resume to Doug Inman, Executive Director, 107 South Meridian Street, Portland, IN 47371

THE PORTLAND FOUNDATION

Failed to appear
A Portland woman and Anderson man were arrested Wednesday for failing to appear in court. Mariah C. Ullom, 21, 995



Photo provided

National awards

The Jay County FFA soil judging team recently competed in the Indiana National Soils Invitational in Oklahoma. The team — pictured from left, Chloe Campbell, Abby Benter, coach Cody Linville, Logan McGinnis and Lucas Lyons — placed first in the homesite portion of the competition and second in land judging. McGinnis took second place in the individual homesite competition and Benter was sixth. Benter also took fourth individually in the land portion of the contest.

Cornerstone is hosting classes

A series of summer classes will be available this year in Muncie.

Cornerstone Center for the Arts will host eight-week summer classes beginning June 14.

Classes will include ceramics, burlesque performance, martial arts, visual arts, yoga, dance and jujitsu. Both in-person and online classes are available for students of all ages.

Registration is open now. The deadline is June 4.

For more information, or to register, visit cornerstonearts.org or email info@cornerstonearts.org.

Registration open

John Jay Center for Learning is now accepting registrations for its VEX Robotics summer camps and clinics.

John Jay will host camps for all levels of robotics participants from June 21 through 25 and June 28 through July 2. Morning and afternoon sessions will be available.

Taking Note

The registration fee is \$50. Attendance will be limited, so registration in advance is required.

To sign up, stop in at John Jay at 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

Enrollment open

Throughout May, Ivy Tech Community College is offering Virtual Express Enrollment.

Students will be able to sign up virtually for classes that begin June 7. Those interested must RSVP and visit IvyTech.edu/EEDay for their campus's event dates and information.

Appointments will include assistance with assessment, a meeting with an advisor and registering for classes.

Long-married man remains in the closet

DEAR ABBY: I have been married more than 25 years and have kids. I'm also gay. I always have been, but when I was a teenager, it wasn't acceptable and I always believed I would just outgrow it, or learn to live with it. Then came the computer era and the internet — things I never dreamed of while growing up. They changed my life, yet I'm still closeted.

I have had two gay relationships. Both lasted less than a year. I feel like my whole life has been a lie, and I pretty much screwed up my wife because of it. I did provide her with all the creature comforts financially, and gave her two beautiful kids.

I just don't know if it's worth coming out at this point in my life. I'm also reluctant because I don't have a guy in my life right

Dear Abby



therapist to deal with the ramifications of your disclosure, so be prepared because it may be a shock when she learns the person she has spent the last quarter of a century with is not exactly who she thought he was.

.....

DEAR ABBY: I was adopted and recently came across my biological family. It's huge. I suffer from severe depression and now know that most of my bio family does, too.

During the past year, my husband and I decided to tackle it head-on with medication, and there has been a noticeable change in me. My husband is very supportive, and we are close. Problem is, I want to meet my out-of-state bio brother alone. He's the only full sibling I

have, and our connection is uncanny.

My husband is a hyper extrovert, and I don't want his charming antics to distract from this moment (although usually I love it). He, however, says he can't agree. He's afraid something with the new family will set off a depressive episode, and I'll be too far away for him to get to me. That's understandable. But what do I do? I still feel the same. Is he right or am I? — CONNECTING IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CONNECTING: Not knowing how serious your depressive episodes have been, my instinctive reaction is to advise you to listen to your husband. Surely he wouldn't have to be with you every minute and could stay at a nearby hotel or motel

while you are seeing your sibling.

That said, if there is any chance that an episode could result in you becoming self-destructive, it is important to discuss this visit with the therapist who prescribes your medications before making any plans to go. Do tell your husband that if he accompanies you, you would like him to tone down his need for attention so he won't distract from your experience or your brother's.

.....

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Community Calendar

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

Today

PIKE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS — Will meet at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 13, at Richard's Restaurant in Portland.

PORTLAND AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY — Will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 13, at the post at 211 W. Walnut St.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-

9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

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

SENIOR CITIZENS CARD CLUB — Will meet at 1 p.m. on the first, second, third and fifth Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY HEALTH JAY HOSPITAL OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of each month in Indiana University Health Jay Hos-

pital Conference Room B. The group is for ostomy and intestinal diversion patients and their friends and family to offer mutual support and learn about the latest products and information.

JAY COUNTY TRAILS CLUB — Will meet at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center.

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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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.

Big May MARKDOWNS

Buy any 4x4 ad, get one FREE

75% off any color add 63 inches (half page) or larger

That's \$247 for a half-page color ad

That's \$412 for a full-page color ad

Special sections not eligible. Ads must run in The Commercial Review in May

Small Business Packages \$222 EVERY DAY

The Commercial Review
260-726-8141
www.thecr.com
ads@thecr.com

Optimist clubs offer their thanks

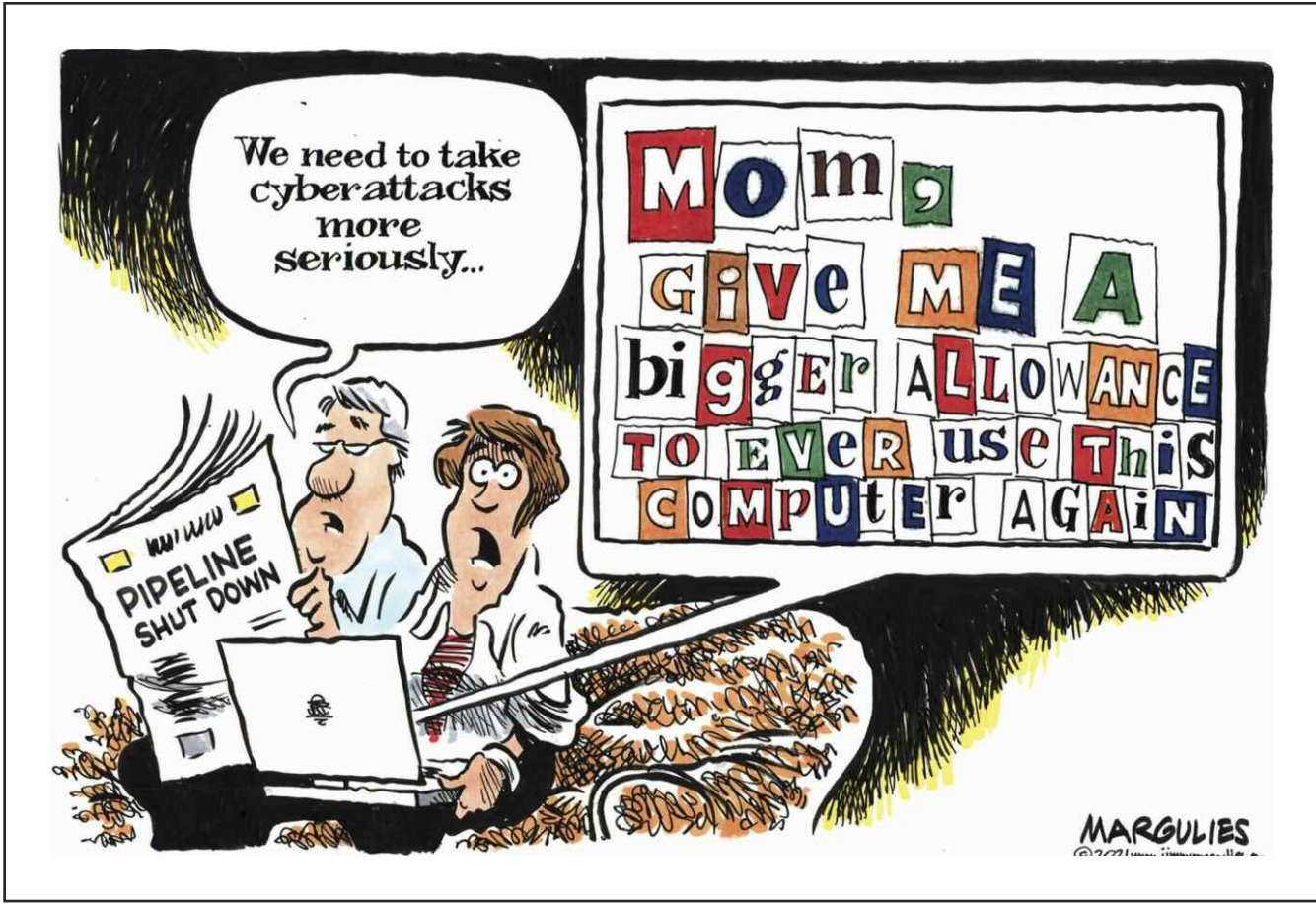
To the editor:
The Jay County Optimist Clubs would like to thank the residents of Jay County for taking the opportunity to encourage the show of respect for all the law enforcement officers of Jay County.

Optimist Respect for Law Week was an opportunity to say thank you to the officers of Jay County. We would like to challenge everyone to remember all officers every day for their service to the people of Jay County. Simply say thank you as often as you are in the presence of an officer.

Thanks to all the businesses and people who participated during the week with free coffee and help making the week a success — Jinny's Cafe,

Letters to the Editor

- all Pak-a-Sak locations, Village Pantry, Burger King, Bizy Dips, Grounds on the Fly, Circle K, Jay County Antique Mall, Richards Restaurant, Arby's, McDonald's, Sharlette's Fudgerly, Dunkirk CountryMark and Glass Capital Grill.
- Thank you, Jay County. Jeff Bowen, Portland Breakfast Optimist Club president
- Debra Imel, Portland Evening Optimist Club president
- Sandy Rogers, West Jay Optimist Club president



Tiny majorities are new normal

By DAVID BLYER
The Washington Post

There's a new normal in the Senate: tiny majorities.

Democrats currently have a shaky one-vote advantage in the upper chamber. Every senator is a potential deal-breaker; Sen. Joe Manchin, D-West Virginia — the chamber's most moderate Democrat — has something akin to veto power over every Democratic proposal.

Over the past 10 years, neither party has had more than a 55-vote majority.

The 2022 election likely won't change this narrow balance of power. But it might change which party controls the chamber. A close look at the map shows that both parties have just a few vulnerable seats. Here's the landscape and what it means.

Democratic vulnerabilities

Democrats are defending 14 seats, but only four currently look competitive.

Georgia: Sen. Raphael Warnock, D, eked out a win against a flawed opponent in 2020, and now he has to turn around and run again.

Democrats have a strong base of Black and college-educated White voters, but the state is closely divided: Joe Biden won by only 0.2 percentage points in 2020. The Peach State might be the GOP's best pickup opportunity.

Georgia Republicans attempted to tip the scales by passing a new law that includes new voter-ID measures and limits on early voting. Critics say the law will decrease Black turnout, while others argue that these changes will have a negligible effect.

The GOP primary is still taking shape, but multiple candidates — including former football star Herschel Walker — might run.

And Warnock knows his opponent will be tough. On Twitter, he said, "I'm the most vulnerable incumbent Senate Democrat up for reelection next year" before asking for campaign donations.

Arizona: In 2020, Mark Kelly, a former astronaut, narrowly won his race to fill the last two years of John McCain's term. Now he, too, has to run again.

Republicans have paths to victory: If they win back a small slice of the college-educated White voters who deserted the party in 2020 or build on Donald Trump's gains with Latinos, they could reverse Kelly's tiny edge.

But the Arizona GOP is its

David Blyer



own worst enemy. The party is obsessed with the (false) notion that Trump won in 2020. It has started a partisan audit to prove that, and Chairwoman Kelli Ward told Gov. Doug Ducey to "Shut the hell up" after he defended the state's vote count. It's not clear whom the party will nominate (or who will run), but an extremist candidate who shares the party's obsessions might turn off swing voters.

Nevada: Nevada is a sleeper swing state. Biden and Hillary Clinton both won the state by only two points. The state is flush with non-college-educated White voters and Latinos — as well as newcomers from other states. It remains unpredictable.

Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto, D, already has millions in the bank, and it's not clear whom the GOP will nominate. But if Biden overreaches on policy and loses some swing voters, a Republican could swoop in and win this purple seat.

New Hampshire: Biden won New Hampshire by seven points, and Sen. (and former governor) Maggie Hassan, D, has a long history of winning statewide in New Hampshire. But if popular Gov. Chris Sununu, R, runs and Biden is a drag on down-ballot Democrats, the GOP has a shot. This seat is still a reach for Republicans, though.

Republican vulnerabilities

Republicans are defending more seats than Democrats, but most are in safe, red states. That said, three seats might give the GOP heartburn:

Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania is, according to major handicappers, a true toss-up. Sen. Pat Toomey, R, is retiring, leaving an open seat in an evenly divided state.

Many Democrats have already entered the race — including John Fetterman, the lieutenant governor and former mayor of a western Pennsylvania steel town, and Malcolm Kenyatta, a 30-year-old Philadelphia-area activist turned state representative.

On the GOP side, few have officially declared their candidacy — though Rep. Mike Kelly, a strong supporter of Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 election results, and moderate for-

mer congressman Ryan Costello are both considering bids.

More candidates will probably join the race, but regardless of who they are, the race will likely be competitive.

Wisconsin: Wisconsin, like Pennsylvania, is an evenly divided state. And Sen. Ron Johnson, R, has a target on his back.

Johnson, originally elected as a tea-party insurgent, has spoken positively about insurrectionists who stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6 and questioned whether all Americans need a coronavirus vaccine. Democrats call him "Villain number one on the Senate map" — meaning that, if he runs, his opponent will have staggering amounts of money to spend.

Johnson might choose to retire, which would create a chaotic, possibly fratricidal Republican primary. Democrats are hoping to lure Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes, one of their strongest potential candidates, into the race.

North Carolina: In North Carolina, Democrats are a bit like Charlie Brown and the football. Every cycle, Democrats pick a seemingly strong candidate, do well in polls and convince themselves they'll win. And on Election Day, Republicans usually pull off a narrow victory.

But both parties are optimistic, and candidates are pouring into the field. Two Trump-friendly candidates — Rep. Ted Budd and former congressman Mark Walker — are already in the race, as is former governor Pat McCrory. The Democratic field includes Cheri Beasley, the state's first Black female Supreme Court chief justice; state Sen. Jeff Jackson, a military veteran; and Erica Smith, who placed second in the 2020 North Carolina Senate primary, among others.

What it means

It's still early, and an electoral wave in one direction or the other could completely reshuffle the map. For now, only a handful of races look competitive. But we live in a volatile and changing political era. Best bet: The most likely result is another thin and fragile majority for whichever party prevails in the 2022 Senate races.

Which means a dwindling number of moderates will retain outside influence in the upper chamber.

.....
Byler is a data analyst and political columnist focusing on elections, polling, demographics and statistics. He joined The Washington Post in 2019.

How much \$\$ is enough in reserve?

By KEN DE LA BASTIDE
Herald Bulletin (Anderson)

How much of our tax dollars should the state of Indiana hold in reserve?

Unlike many states and the federal government, the Hoosier State requires that state and local units of government operate on a balanced budget.

Most residents would agree that provision of the Indiana Constitution makes perfect sense. It was added when the state defaulted on loans in 1841. The state couldn't make the interest payments on several major projects, including the planned canal that never was completed.

So, how much should the Indiana General Assembly keep in reserve for unexpected expenditures?

By the end of the current fiscal year on June 30, 2023, the state surplus is expected to approach \$3 billion.

The general rule of thumb the Indiana State Board of Accounts recommends for local units of government is cash reserves of 10% of the expected budget expenditures.

If the projections are right, the state reserves will be approximately 12% of the state's budget needs.

In fact, any surplus over \$2.5 billion at the end of fiscal year 2022, next June 30, is designated to lower what the state owes for pensions.

As one lawmaker explained it's like paying off a car loan early. You save the interest.

Obviously, back when Republican Mitch Daniels served as governor he wanted any reserve funds over a certain percentage to be returned to those Hoosiers that pay income taxes.

The Automatic Taxpayer Refund legislation was adopted in 2010 and established recognizing that after some prudent reserve level was reached, the money should be returned to those who paid it.

It actually kicked in in 2012 when the state's savings account exceeded 10% of the budgeted amount.

The deemed amount was \$760 million, with 50% going to pay pension liabilities and the remainder given as a tax credit to residents.

The payment was \$111 for a single taxpayer and \$222 for a couple filing a joint return. Granted not a huge amount, but it probably would have been spent

Ken de la Bastide



... back when Republican Mitch Daniels served as governor he wanted any reserve funds over a certain percentage to be returned to those Hoosiers that pay income taxes.

locally to bolster businesses.

In their infinite wisdom, lawmakers quickly changed the law to increase the Automatic Taxpayer Refund from 10% to 12.5%.

Over the past decade, there have been no discussions about returning any of the reserve funds to the taxpayers.

When Daniels was pushing for passage of the Automatic Taxpayer Refund, his rallying cry was "It's Your Money."

Daniels was correct — it is our tax dollars.

Many Hoosiers pay income and property taxes, sales tax, food and beverage taxes, excise taxes on vehicles and the list goes on and on.

The state reserve doesn't include the \$2.4 billion provided by the federal government to offset the coronavirus pandemic and more federal cash is in the pipeline.

It would be a welcome idea if the Indianapolis lawmakers asked the voters and taxpayers how much should be kept in reserve and at what point does it mean a possible tax refund.

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This column was provided to The Commercial Review through the Hoosier State Press Association Information Network.

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US PS 125820

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

The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and four holidays (New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

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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VOLUME 149—NUMBER 9
THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 13, 2021

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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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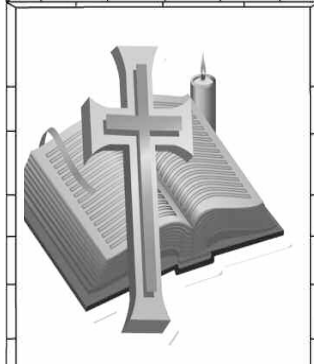
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Asbury United Methodist
204 E. Arch St., Portland
Joe Boggs
(260) 726-8464
Services: 9:30 a.m.
asburyministries.org

Banner Christian Assembly of God
1217 W. Votaw St., Portland
Michael Burk
(260) 726-4282
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Bellefountain United Methodist
440 S. 600 East
Gordon Jackson
Services: 9 a.m.

Bethel United Methodist
Indiana 167, 4 miles north of Dunkirk
Scott McClain
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Bluff Point Friends
80 E. 650 South
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Boundary St. Paul
Corner of Treaty Line Road and county road 300 East
Ava Gannon
(260) 726-2373
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Bryant Wesleyan
209 S. Hendricks St.
Paul VanCise
(260) 997-6231
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.
bryantwesleyanchurch.com

Calvary United Methodist
301 N. Main St., Dunkirk
Susan Durovey-Antrim
(765) 499-0368
Services: 10 a.m.
susan.duroveyantrim@in.umc.org

Christ Chapel
105 S. Elm St., Fort Recovery
Quentin Elesa
(419) 733-1469
christchapel.fr.com

Church of Christ (Southside)
1209 S. Shank St., Portland
Bob Graham
(260) 726-7777
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6:30 p.m.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
1865 S. Indiana 167, Dunkirk
Andrew Stevens
(765) 768-6969
Services: 10 a.m.

Church of the Living God (Miracle Missions)
8472 S. 800 East, Union City
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Church of God of Prophecy
797 N. Creagor Ave., Portland
Nanette Weesner
(260) 766-9334
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nanybell@yahoo.com

Church of the Brethren
Floral and Chicago avenues, Portland
Kevin McClung
(260) 729-7295
Services: 10 a.m.

Church of the Living God
South Broad Street, Dunkirk
Rev. Theodore Wagoner
Services: 7 p.m., 7 p.m. Friday

Collett Nazarene
450 South, 1 mile west of U.S. 27
Billy Stanton
(260) 251-2403
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Cornerstone Baptist
211 E. Main St., Portland
Wayne Ward
(260) 726-7714
Services: 10 a.m.

Dunkirk Nazarene
226 E. Center St., Dunkirk
Tom Fett
(765) 768-6199
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Evangelical Methodist
930 W. Main St., Portland
Steve Arnold
(260) 251-0970
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

Fairview United Methodist/Jay County
2875 E. 200 South
Gordon Jackson
Lay leader: Beth Stephen
(260) 726-9184
Services: 10:15 a.m.

Faith Community
9560 W. 200 South, Dunkirk
Joe Schmit
(260) 251-5254
Services: 10 a.m.

Family Worship Center
200 E. Elder St., Portland
Ronald Willis
(260) 726-4844
Services: 11 a.m., 7:30 p.m. Wednesday
thefamilyworshipcenter.org

Fellowship Baptist
289 S. 200 West
Hugh Kelly
(260) 726-8873
Services: 10 a.m.
pastorkelly@fbc-portland.com

First American Baptist
427 S. Main St., Dunkirk
Dan Coffman
(765) 768-7157
Services: 10:40 a.m., 5 p.m.

First Church of Christ
1049 Union City Road, Fort Recovery
David J. Nicholson
(419) 375-2860
Services: 10:30 a.m.
fbcftrecovery.org

First Community Baptist
341 S. Meridian St., Redkey
Everett Bilbrey Jr.
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

First Free Will Baptist
12369 W. 600 South, Dunkirk
Marion Donathan
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Services: 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m., 6 p.m. Wednesday

First Presbyterian
402 N. Ship St., Portland
Rev. M. Rex Espiritu
(260) 726-8462
Services: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 10:15 a.m.
firstpcportland.org

Fort Recovery Church of the Nazarene
401 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery
Revs. Brad and Kate Ratliff
(419) 375-4680
Services: 10:30 a.m.
frnaz@frontier.com

Fort Recovery United Methodist
309 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery
Rev. Allan Brown
(419) 678-2071
Services: 9 a.m.

Full Gospel Lighthouse Tabernacle
468 E. Washington St., Dunkirk
Robert Thomas
(765) 348-4620
Services: 9:30 a.m., 6:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Thursday

Geneva First United Methodist
100 W. Line St., Geneva
Barry McCune
(260) 368-7655
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Geneva Nazarene
225 Decatur St., Geneva
(260) 525-8609
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.
Prayer meeting: 6 p.m. Wednesday

Gilead Church
County road 650 North, one-quarter mile east of Balbec
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Hickory Grove Church of the Brethren
Indiana 1 and Indiana 26
Earl Doll
(260) 731-4477
Services: 10:30 a.m.

High Street United Methodist
435 High St., Geneva
Rev. Joseph Hampton
(260) 368-7233
Services: 9 a.m.

Holy Trinity Catholic
7321 E. Indiana 67, Bryant
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Services: 8:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m. Saturday
churchofthemothytrinity.com

Hopewell of Life Ministries
County road 200 South, 2 miles east of Indiana 1
Rev. Ruth Funk
(260) 251-8581
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Catholic
506 E. Walnut St., Portland
Fr. Peter Logsdon
(260) 726-7055
Services: 6:30 p.m. Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Kingsley Full Gospel
4030 S. 700 East, Dunkirk
Stuart Phillips
Services: 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday

Mary Help of Christians
403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Ned Brown
(419) 375-4153
Services: 4:30 p.m. Saturday, 9:30 a.m.

Mount Tabor United Methodist
216 W. Pleasant St., Dunkirk
John Retter
(765) 768-7273
Services: 9 a.m.

Mount Zion United Methodist
County roads 600 East and 200 North
Rev. Darrell Borders
(260) 726-4786
Services: 9 a.m.

New Beginnings Holiness Church of Blaine
4017 W. 200 South
Randy Smith
(260) 251-2406
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nbholiness.com

New Covenant Fellowship
1238 W. 450 South
Chuck Myers
(260) 251-0063
Services: 10:30 a.m.

New Life Ministries
415 S. Helen St., Portland
Dr. Kay Fairchild
(260) 755-6354
Services: 4 p.m.
drkayfairchild.com

New Mt. Pleasant United Methodist
5905 S. Como Road
Tim Wallace
(765) 499-7838
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Noble Congregational Christian
1964 N. 800 East
Aaron Huey
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Oak Grove United Methodist
829 S. Indiana 1
Tricia Williams
(765) 730-3770
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Pennville Friends
Maple Street and Indiana 1, Pennville
Dee Hartman
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Pennville United Methodist
190 W. Main St., Pennville
Gary Newton
(765) 669-1070
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Pleasant Hill
9945 N. 800 East, Union City
Bruce Bryan
(765) 964-3664
Services: 9 a.m., 6 p.m.
mypleasanthillchurch.org

Portland First Church of Nazarene
920 S. Shank St., Portland
Stephen Hundley
(260) 726-8040
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Portland Friends
226 E. Main St., Portland
Herb Hummel
(260) 729-7393
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:15 a.m.
friendscare4others.net

Praise Chapel Church of God
4527 E. 1000 North (Jay-Randolph county line)
Rev. David Parry
(765) 584-7045
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Redeemer Lutheran
Malin and Elm streets, Bryant
Martin Bornhoeft
(260) 997-6787
Services: 9 a.m.

Redkey Faith Ministries
9811 W. Indiana 67, south-west of Redkey
Rev. Craig and Robin Cotherman
(765) 369-2920
Services: 10 a.m.
RedkeyFaith.org

Redkey First Christian
Union and Malin streets, Redkey
Jeff Hammers
(765) 468-6172
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Redkey United Methodist
122 W. Main St., Redkey
Lori McIntosh
(765) 369-2085
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Redkey Church of the Nazarene
801 W. High St.
Robert Farris
(765) 369-2676
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

River of Life
722 W. Main St., Portland
Susan Hathaway
(260) 729-1095
Services: 10:30 a.m.

The ROCK
1605 N. Meridian St., Portland
Matt Ransom
(260) 726-7474
Services: 9 and 11 a.m.
matt@therockjkc.org

Salamonia Church of Christ
3900 S. 600 East
Bruce Phillips
(260) 335-2017
Services: 9 a.m.

Second Chance at Life Ministries
228 S. Meridian St., Portland
Dave Keen (260) 251-8792
Mike Eads (260) 703-0733
Services: 10:30 a.m.

St. James Lutheran
County road 600 East, south of county road 400 South
Robin Owen
Services: 10:30 a.m.
pastorrobin@gmail.com

St. Joseph Catholic
1689 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Ned Brown
Services: 7:30 a.m. Sunday

St. Mary's Catholic
346 S. Broad St., Dunkirk
Rev. Kevin Hurley
Services: 5 p.m. Saturday, 5:30 p.m. Thursday

St. Paul Catholic
517 Meiring Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Ned Brown
Services: 8:30 a.m. Sunday

St. Peter Catholic
1477 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Ned Brown
Services: 10 a.m. Sunday

Sugar Grove Nazarene
County roads 400 North and 550 West
Rev. Dan Sickels
(260) 731-4733
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m. (the 2nd and 4th Sunday at Pennville Park)

Sugar Grove United Methodist
County roads 600 South and 1150 West, Dunkirk
Scott McClain
Services: 9 a.m.

Temple Baptist
Indiana 167, between Dunkirk and Albany
(765) 768-7708
Services: 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday

Trinity Lutheran
301 N. Wayne St., Fort Recovery
Robin Owen
(419) 375-4498
Services: 9 a.m. (contemporary service, fourth Sunday)
pastorrobin@gmail.com

Trinity United Methodist
323 S. Meridian St., Portland
Darrell Weaver
(260) 726-8391
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.
portlandtrinity.com

Union Chapel
6200 N. 375 West, Bryant
Rev. Michael Morgan
(352) 425-5914
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

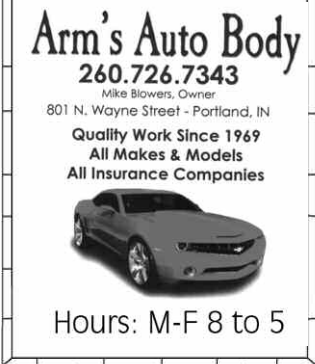
Union Chapel Church of the Nazarene
County road 900 North (Jay-Wells county line)
Fred Stevens
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Westchester United Methodist
4487 E. 400 North
Randy Fennig
(260) 726-6311
Services: 10:35 a.m.

West Walnut Church of Christ
204 W. Walnut St., Portland
Gil Alicea
(260) 726-4691
Services: 10 a.m.
westwalnutchurchofchrist.org


Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Darrell Borders
218 E. High St., Portland
(260) 726-8832
zionlutheranportland@gmail.com
Services: 10:30 a.m.

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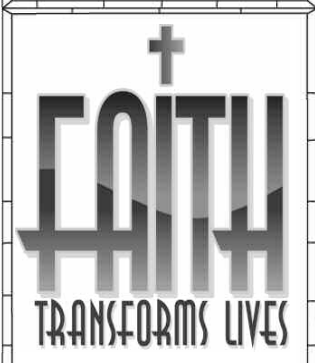


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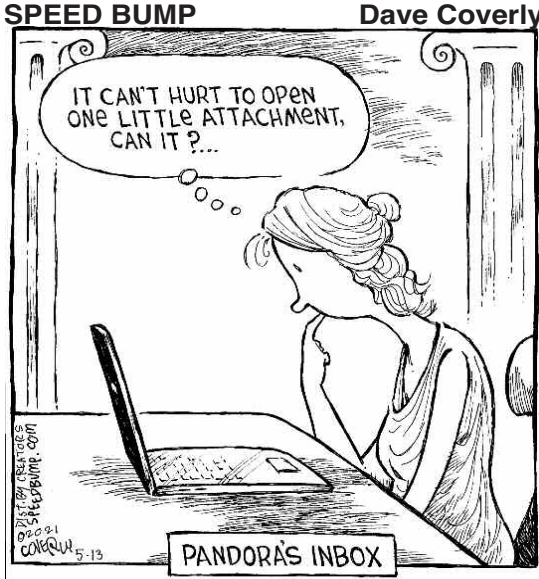


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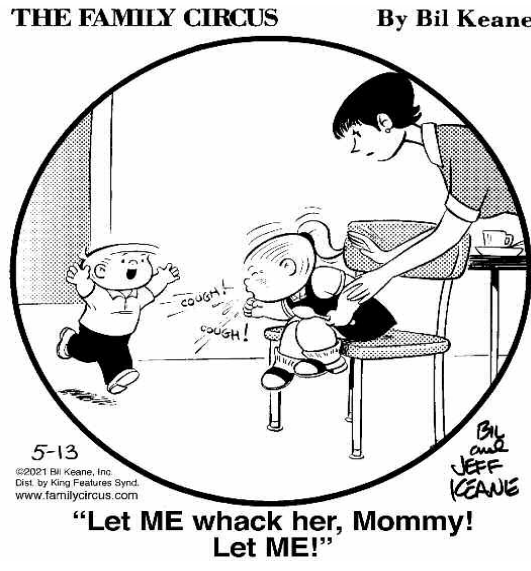
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Peanuts



AN OBSERVANT SCOUT CAN LEARN A LOT ON A HIKE...

HE CAN LEARN ABOUT THE “WEB OF NATURE”

SUNLIGHT, AIR, PLANTS, WATER, SOIL, BIRDS, MICROORGANISMS....

ALL WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE A BETTER LIFE FOR BEAGLES!

Rose is Rose



ENJOY THE FEAST, MY FRIENDS!

LUNCH IS ON ME!

JUST GIVE ME A SIGNAL IF THE BIRD RETURNS..

IT'S PROBABLY TOO LATE FOR A SIGNAL.

Agnes



SWEET MOTHER OF ALL FORTUNE AND COMMERCE! WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT?!

IT'S JUST AN OLD JUNK LAWN MOWER.

WITH MY VAST KNOWLEDGE OF HAND TOOLS? BIG PAYDAY!

I'VE WATCHED YOU TRY TO PLUG IN HAMMERS.

SHUT UP AND HELP ME PUSH THIS CASH HOME!

Hi and Lois



HOW WAS THE GAME?

IT WENT INTO EXTRA INNINGS.

WHO WON?

THE GUY WHO TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS SO HE COULD GO HOME.

Funky Winkerbean



OKAY, I REDID OUR CHOIR VIDEO TO POST ON THE FUNDRAISING SITE 'MONEYFORNOTHING,' AND THIS TIME I INCLUDED OUR CHOIR CAT BINGO SINGING WITH US.

I POSTED IT ABOUT THREE MINUTES AGO.

LOOK! WE'VE ALREADY RAISED EVERYTHING WE NEEDED AND ENOUGH LEFT OVER TO BUILD A NEW CHURCH!

I NEED TO REEXAMINE MY ENTIRE UNDERSTANDING OF THE UNIVERSE...

Blondie



NOT ONLY IS THAT BEAUTY LOADED, BUT IT'S ALSO TODAY'S LAST-CHANCE SALE!

LAST-CHANCE SALE?

EXACTLY!

IF I DON'T MAKE THIS SALE TODAY, I'M FIRED!

Snuffy Smith



WHOA !! THEY GOT A PERFUME IN HERE THAT GOES FER A HUNNERT DOLLARS A BOTTLE NOW !!

BEAUTY PRODUCTS

BALLS O' FIRE !!

I SHOULD'A BEEN MAKIN' PARFUME 'STEAD'A MOONSHINE ALL THEM YEARS !!

Beetle Bailey



HOW IS THE SPEECH I DRAFTED FOR YOU?

GOOD, BUT I WANT TO CHANGE THIS “A” TO “AN”

WHY CHANGE THAT?

SO I CAN TAKE CREDIT FOR WRITING IT

30 LOST, STRAYED OR FOUND

ATTENTION! LOST A PET Or found one? The jay county humane society can serve as an information center. 260-726-6339

40 NOTICES

PLEASE NOTE: Be sure to check your ad the first day it appears. We cannot be responsible for more than one days incorrect copy. We try hard not to make mistakes, but they do happen, and we may not know unless you call to tell us. Call before 12:00 pm for corrections. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland, Indiana 260-726-8141.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Closet invader
- 5 Coffee, slangly
- 9 Ga. neighbor
- 12 On the Adriatic, say
- 13 — Bator
- 14 Overseas agreement?
- 15 Reality show for entrepreneurial hopefuls
- 17 Bruins legend
- 18 Sculptors
- 19 Ore deposits
- 21 Type measure
- 22 Bitter
- 24 Catch sight of
- 27 CEO's degree, maybe
- 28 Atkins diet no-no
- 31 Capote nickname
- 32 Spa sounds
- 33 “Kidding!”
- 34 Spanish greeting
- 36 Water-testing digit
- 37 Vail gear
- 38 In a while
- 40 Alien, for short
- 41 Upper body
- 43 Nile birds
- 47 Actress Mendes
- 48 Forgets what one was about to say
- 51 Scooted
- 52 Eve's man
- 53 Ocean motion
- 54 Sort
- 55 Wimble-don units
- 56 Leisurely
- DOWN**
- 1 Fern.
- 2 Fed.
- 3 Rip
- 4 “Family Feud”
- 5 Sticks (out)
- 6 In the style of
- 7 Moving truck
- 8 Bracelet site
- 9 Distributor of free groceries
- 10 Entice
- 11 Broad-casts
- 16 Docu-mentarian
- 20 Tolkien creature
- 22 Loathe
- 23 Job for Holmes
- 24 Ordinal suffix
- 25 “No seats”
- 26 Leverage one's authority
- 27 Partner
- 29 King, in Cannes
- 30 “Life Goes On”
- 35 Small batteries
- 37 Long-legged wading birds
- 39 Roman robes
- 40 Recede
- 41 Actress Hatcher
- 42 Elliptical
- 43 Doctrines
- 44 Go
- 45 Within (Pref.)
- 46 Distort
- 49 Poetic tribute
- 50 Take courses?

Solution time: 24 mins.

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Yesterday's answer 5-13

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47			48	49	50						
51			52					53			
54			55					56			

Little JJ's Tree Service
Tree Trimming, Removal, Stump Grinding, Firewood available
765-509-1956

BAIL BONDS
Travis Weaver
260-726-3189
across street from Jail

GABBARD FENCE
FARM • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL RESIDENTIAL • VINYL
SINCE 1967
rgfence@yahoo.com
(765) 546-8801

BOOLMAN'S
Auto Sales & Service, Inc.
Highway 67 W, Portland, Indiana
260-251-9735

Wendel's
Carpets & Upholstery Cleaning
Von Schrader Dry Foam Cleaning
For Quick Drying, Residential & Commercial
Green Seal Approved
Dave Wendel
Ph. 260-726-4520
Cell 260-729-2797

Dave's Heating & Cooling
Furnace, Air Conditioner
Geothermal Sales & Service
260-726-2138
Now accepting MC/Disc/Visa

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Local Agent
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Medicare Drug Plans
Medicare Advantage
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Hall ...

Continued from page 8

Indiana Fever vice president of basketball operations and general manager Tamika Catchings has four Olympic gold medals. Barbara Stevens won more than 1,000 games as a coach. They'll all get their time on the stage Saturday night in Uncasville, Connecticut — the Hall of Fame ceremony isn't at the Hall of Fame this year because of virus-related concerns — and they deserve far more than to be thought of as the "others" in this class.

"He made the WNBA cool," said Catchings, whose friendship with Bryant dated back to when they were little kids and their fathers played pro ball in Italy together. "He made it cool for him and Gigi to be courtside. You could always see him teaching her different things that were going on on the court. He'd lean over and they'd start evaluating and breaking down plays."

Every incoming Hall of Famer is presented for enshrinement by another Hall of Famer, and the women in this class got some seriously big-time names to fill those roles.

Catchings will be presented by NBA champion Alonzo Mourning and South Carolina coach Dawn Staley. Stevens will be flanked by Connecticut coach Geno Auriemma and former Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw, longtime rivals who'll become teammates for a night to pay tribute to the former Bentley coach who won the NCAA Division II national coach of the year award five times. And Mulkey is getting presented by none other than Michael Jordan, who somehow was her second choice for the job.

"Let me tell you how that transpired," Mulkey said this week. "Coach Leon Barmore is in the Naismith and he was my coach at Louisiana Tech, my mentor and he worked three years with me at Baylor. I asked him and he can't present me because of health issues. So, Michael and I played in the '84 Olympics together and I said, 'Let Michael do it' and he was gracious in accepting that. That's how that came about."

Mulkey sent Jordan a note, thanking her fellow 1984 Los Angeles Olympics gold medalist for his will-

ingness to be with her for the moment. Jordan will also present Bryant on Saturday night, and is likely to play a role in whatever tribute the Hall comes up with to commemorate the life of the five-time champion with the Los Angeles Lakers who he considered a little brother.

"I'm very respectful of who Michael is and respectful of the honor that he would do that for me," Mulkey said.

Stevens retired from Bentley last year after 34 seasons at the Waltham, Massachusetts school and 44 years as a college coach. She won 1,058 games; the only women's college coaches ever to win more are Tara Vanderveer, Auriemma and Pat Summitt. Vivian Stringer is 12 wins shy of Stevens' win total; it's going to be many, many years before another women's coach even gets close to that number.

"You look at all those coaches. They are huge names in the sport," Stevens told The Associated Press in 2018 before her milestone 1,000th victory. "I don't see the connection with me and them."

Jay ...

Continued from page 8

"(Rinkenbarger) was good," Cramer said. "Grace fought hard. She plays as hard as she can play, just sometimes you can't do it."

The Patriots' No. 1 doubles team of Madison Dirksen and Rachel Muhlenkamp, like Garringer, showed glimpses that they could pull out a win. After being down 3-1 to Ava Kinter and Becca Fiechter in the opening set, they rallied to take three of the next five games, but eventually lost the 10th game and the set.

They jumped out to a 2-1 lead in the second, but after losing three straight games they weren't able to get back over the hump to force a third set.

"That's only their second loss this year," Cramer said. "Madison has just turned this team around."

Holly Hemmelgarn and Lilly Hedges had a 3-2 lead over Christian Porter and Abby Miller — giving Jay County a first-set advantage in three of the five matches — but weren't able to close it out in a 6-3 loss.

The Adams Central duo raced out to a 5-0 lead in the second set before Hemmelgarn and Hedges stopped the streak, but the Patriots lost the set 6-1.

"They do well at times," Cramer said. "Both of them said they didn't play well tonight, but the other team probably caused that."

Jay County ends the regular season with a 5 p.m. home match Monday against Alexandria before the sectional tournament begins later next week (the tournament draw is also Monday).

The Patriots, who have not won a sectional title since 2015, have beaten sectional rivals Randolph Southern, Union City and four-time defending champion Winchester this season.

Even so, Cramer said the Patriots still have some work to do.

"Just fundamentals," he said. "Some of them soften their swing. Follow through, that's what we preach all the time. They get excited and just chop at it. You can't do that."

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys golf vs. South Adams — 4:30 p.m.; Softball vs. Heritage — 6 p.m.; Baseball vs. Heritage — 6 p.m.; JV softball at Heritage — 6 p.m.; JV baseball at Heritage — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Softball sectional final at Lincolnview — 5 p.m.; Baseball at Wapakoneta — 5 p.m.; JV baseball at Fort Loramie — 5 p.m.; Junior high track in MAC Championships at Minster — 4:30 p.m.
Fort Wayne TinCaps at Lake County Captains — 6:35 p.m.

Friday
Jay County — Softball at Wes-Del — 5 p.m.; JV softball vs. Norwell — 5 p.m.; Junior high track in ACAC meet at Bluffton — 5:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Track hosts MAC Championships — 4:30 p.m.; Baseball vs. Franklin Monroe — 5 p.m.
Fort Wayne TinCaps at Lake County Captains — 6:35 p.m.

Saturday
Jay County — Tennis at Lapel Invitational — 9 a.m.; Softball doubleheader at Hager-

stown — 10 a.m.; Baseball doubleheader at South Side — 10 a.m.; Junior varsity track at Huntington North — 11 a.m.; JV baseball vs. Norwell — 10 a.m.
Fort Recovery — Softball at Minster — 1:30 p.m.; JV baseball at Minster — 1:30 p.m.
Fort Wayne TinCaps at Lake County Captains — 6:35 p.m.

Sunday
Fort Wayne TinCaps at Lake County Captains — 1:30 p.m.

Monday
Jay County — Softball at

Marion — 5 p.m.; Baseball vs. Delta — 5 p.m.; Girls tennis vs. Alexandria — 5 p.m.; JV softball vs. Union (Modoc) — 5 p.m.; Junior high golf vs. McCulloch — 5 p.m.

TV schedule
Today
7 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Indiana Pacers vs. Milwaukee Bucks (FSN)
7:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Philadelphia 76ers at Miami Heat (TNT)
10 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Portland Trail Blazers at

Phoenix Suns (TNT)

Friday
9:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: New Orleans Pelicans at Golden State Warriors (ESPN)

Saturday
1 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Indiana Pacers vs. Los Angeles Lakers (FSN)
2 p.m. — NASCAR Racing: Monster Energy Cup Series — Dyrdele 400 (FS1)
4:05 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Oakland Athletics at Minnesota Twins (FS1)

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Saturday, May 15, 2021
TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: Sapphires Reception Center (1100 W Votaw St, Portland IN)

ANTIQUES-FURNITURE-APPLIANCES-Metal carousel horse, Ornate oak dresser, Victorian loveseat, Oval marble top stand, Ornate easel, 5 gallon milk can, Antique pictures and frames, Antique hand painted pictures, Cane chest, Vollmond cuckoo clock, Ice cream set with four chairs, Small cast iron bell, Oil lamps, Large cedar blanket chest, Shadow box with mirror, Antique and globe style collectible lamps, Galvanized and porcelain tubs, Wooden rocking chair, Lincoln and JFK busts, Large set of amber sandwich glassware, Large lot of Indiana glass, Pottery, Glass jugs and jardinières, Large lot of carousels, 4 piece wicker full size bedroom set, Wicker dresser, Wicker daybed with trundle, 55 inch flat screen TV, Element 32 inch flat screen TV, Amana double door refrigerator, much more not listed.

VEHICLE-TRAILER_COINS_TOOLS_MISC
1998 Buick Park Avenue, 1987 14-foot Wells Cargo trailer, 1941 Walking Liberty half dollar, Old pennies, Eisenhower dollars, Kennedy half dollars, Old stamps, Large lot of hand and power tools and many more items.

COVID-19 Information: To protect both our customers and employees, please remember to social distance. Limited supply of masks and sanitizer is available. Terms on personal property: Cash — Good Check — Credit Card
OWNER: Jerry and Sarah Miller Estate
Statements made sale day take precedence over written ad.
Shawver Auctioneering and Real Estate
AC31800004
AUCTIONEERS
Pete D. Shawver
Lic# AU19700040
260-726-5587
Zane Shawver
Lic# AU10500168
260-729-2229

More Photos available at www.auctionzip.com & www.auctionsoft.com.

Out The CR Classifieds www.the-cr.com

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 4422 E 350 S Winchester, IN
Saturday, May 15th, 2021
10:00am
REAL ESTATE:
Ranch style home with 2 bedrooms, 1 full bathroom and containing 1214 square feet of living area. Home has an attached 1 car garage and sets on 2.527 acres. There is a 30 x 30 pole barn with cement floor on this parcel. Home is a fixer upper but would make a good country starter home.

TOOLS-LIFT TRUCK-SEMI TRAILERS
Ross 1953 lift truck with forks; ; Lincoln 225 welder; semi trailers for storage; large gears, bearings, cogs, fly wheel; acetylene torches; acetylene tanks-oxygen; green house frame; lot of scrap; and many other items not listed.

OLD & COLLECTOR ITEMS — HOUSEHOLD
New Whirlpool gas range; Union Pacific RR brass spittoon; RR light parts; metal Coke display; Squirt case; Coors Light, Budweiser advertising cut outs; cardboard movie poster; circus posters; advertising thermometers; and many other items not listed.

Del Flory, Deceased by Susan Szymczak
Loy Auction AU31600027
260-726-2700
Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU1031608
Ben Lyons AU10700085
Travis Theurer AU11200131
Troy Foust AU19800068

PUBLIC AUCTION
Saturday, May 22, 2021
10:00 A.M.
LOCATION: 9502 N 250 W, Ridgeville, Indiana
Allis Chalmers D-17, Allis Chalmers B, Allis Chalmers G, Allis Chalmers 60 All Crop Combine, metal working machinery and tools, garage items, yard items, household, old Marvel comic books
Go to auctionzip.com search auctioneer 9332 for full listing and pictures

Mrs. Harold (Ruth) McCormick, Owner
Whitey's Auction Company
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2 Corinthians 8:21
(765)730-2350
Auctioneers:
Gary M. "Whitey" White AU19800069
Laci Smitley AU10600051

100 JOBS WANTED

AMISH CREW LOOKING FOR any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489.

110 HELP WANTED
CDL OTR DRIVER - Flexible home times. 2019 Coronado 13 spd / Cascadia/Auto. Can get \$1500+ weekly. 3 yrs. CDL exp. req. RGN, SD exp. helpful. All miles, drops, downtime, and weekends paid if out. Call 260- 273-1245
THE DUNKIRK PARK BOARD is accepting applications for the following position until May 19th, certified life guards. Applications can be picked up at the City Building from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm Monday-Friday. EOE

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT
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 gpcbusi-ness@embarqmail.com

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Attn: Business Manager or e-mail gpcbusi-ness@embarqmail.com

THE CLASSIFIEDS
Find it - Buy It Sell It!
(260) 726-8141

110 HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED – PART TIME
Water Office City of Portland
Additional part-time help is needed at The City of Portland Water Office. Hours and days will vary.
Duties will include accepting payments and making change at our drive-thru and inside counter, answering phone calls and assisting with new customers. Applicant must be able to work in a fast-paced atmosphere while providing excellent customer service.
Applications are Available at the Portland Water Office in City Hall, 321 North Meridian Street, Portland, Indiana 47371, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM thru May, 14, 2021. Application deadline is May 14 at 4:30 PM. No applications will be accepted after this time. The City of Portland is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

HELP WANTED – CERTIFIED
Lifeguard
City of Portland
The Portland Water Park is looking to hire CERTIFIED lifeguards on a full time and part time basis for the 2021 season. There is a potential need for admission and concession employees as well.
The guards need to be certified in Lifeguarding, CPR and First Aid Training and Aquatic Attraction.
There are courses being offered in the surrounding area if you would like to become certified. The starting pay is \$9 per hour.
The Water Park is open 7 days per week and employees will be expected to work weekends.
If you are interested in becoming a lifeguard at the Portland Water Park, please contact Missy Bader at bader-swimming@yahoo.com The City of Portland is an Equal Opportunity Employer

RETAIL SALES days, nights & weekends. Clean work environment, good hourly pay. Must be 21 or older. Apply @ Northside Carry Out, 1226 N. Meridian, Portland, IN. Attn: Ruth

250 PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice
Alcohol & Tobacco Commission
LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The Alcohol Beverage Board of Jay County, Indiana will hold a public hearing at 11:00 am on May 25, 2021 virtually through Microsoft Teams, to investigate the propriety of holding an alcoholic beverage permit by the applicants listed below.
Information on accessing the virtual meeting can be found at https://www.in.gov/atc/alcohol-resources/alcohol-beverage-information/#lb-hearing.
DL3810163 Beer Wine & Liquor - Package Store RENEWAL
PORTLAND CARRYOUTS LLC 1226 N. MERIDIAN ST. PORTLAND IN D/B/A NORTHSIDE CARRY-OUT
DL3804426 Beer Wine & Liquor - Package Store RENEWAL
PORTLAND CARRYOUTS LLC 501 S. MERIDIAN PORTLAND IN D/B/A SOUTHSIDE CARRY-OUT
RR3834684 Beer Wine & Liquor - Restaurant (209) RENEWAL
PORTLAND GOLF CLUB, LLC 124 WEST 200 SOUTH PORTLAND IN D/B/A PORTLAND GOLF CLUB
CR 5-13-2021-HSPXLP

In order for your advertisement to appear in the next day's paper, or for a correction or stop order to be made for an ad already appearing, we must receive the ad, correction or cancellation before 12:00 pm Tuesday-Friday. Deadline for Tuesday is 12:00 pm on the previous Monday. Deadline for The News and Sun is 3:00 pm Friday.

THE COMMERCIAL REVIEW
309 W. Main
Portland, Indiana
260-726-8141

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THE COMMERCIAL REVIEW
309 W. Main
Portland, Indiana
260-726-8141

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
TRIPLE J FARMS CUSTOM BAILING For custom hay mowing, raking or bailing and straw for sale call Joe 260-251-9271

200 FOR RENT
INMAN U-LOC Storage. Mini storage, five sizes. Security fence or 24 hour access units. Gate hours: 8:00-8:00 daily. Pearl Street, Portland. 260-726-2833

Visit Us At: thecr.com

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker
A necessary extravagance
South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A 7 2
♥ K 10 9 8 7 6
♦ K 7 4
♣ K
WEST
♠ Q 10 9 4
♥ 5 2
♦ J 10
♣ J 8 6 2
EAST
♠ 8 5
♥ A J 4 3
♦ Q 9 3 2
♣ 7 5 3
SOUTH
♠ K J 6 3
♥ Q
♦ A 8 6 5
♣ A 10 9 4
The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♥	Pass

3 NT
Opening lead — six of clubs.
Assume you're in three no trump and West leads a club. There seem to be many chances for the contract, but if you relax your vigil for even a moment, you will wind up taking second money at the end.
Let's say you win the club with

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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5-13 CRYPTOQUIP
TNHS YF VFP SNLEO H SNLM
AFPQY HDDQV SF NLX XOLF
Z M J F C M X T L D L E W X S P J J
CFZZLEW HQAFN FQ.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: COLLEGE SORORITY IN WHICH THEY'RE ALWAYS DRINKING LOADS OF TEA AT FUNCTIONS: KAPPA CUPPA.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals T

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Sports

Patriot softball inches closer to ACAC title

The Patriots are one win closer to a conference title.

Rieley Brewster hit a walk-off home run and Haleigh Clayton and Taylor Brown threw a combined no-hitter as the Jay County High School softball team disposed of the Bluffton Tigers by a 10-0 score in five innings Wednesday, keeping alive the Patriots' hopes of their first conference championship.

The win improves the Patriots to 12-6 on the season and 5-1 in Allen County Athletic Conference play ahead of a 6 p.m. matchup tonight against the Heritage Patriots. A Jay County victory, coupled with Southern Wells defeating Woodlan, would give JCHS its first ACAC championship.

Jay County roundup

Jay County scored six times in the third inning, highlighted by a two-run double from Brewster, an RBI single from Renna Schwieterman, two errors and a bases-loaded walk.

An inning later, Schwieterman hit a two-run home run, temporarily putting her tied for the team lead with seven homers, until Brewster hit a solo shot to walk it off and re-take the top spot with eight home runs.

Brewster and Schwieterman had three RBIs each, with Mady Fraley, Maddy Rinker and Kristen Wendel also collecting RBIs.

Haleigh Clayton threw four hitless innings and struck out seven. Taylor Brown threw the final frame with one strikeout.

Curts leads baseball

Austin Curts hit a two-run home run and fanned a career-high 11 batters in leading the Jay County baseball team past the Bluffton Tigers on Wednesday, 8-1.

The Patriots moved to 8-6 (3-1 Allen County Athletic Conference) and will host Heritage (17-2, 3-2 ACAC) at 6 p.m. tonight.

Jay County jumped out to a 3-

0 lead in the bottom of the first inning on an Crosby Heniser RBI single, a Curts sacrifice fly and a Dusty Pearson RBI double.

Curts hit his two-run blast in the third inning to make it 5-0 before the Tigers got their only run in the top of the fifth.

The Patriots added three more runs in the sixth.

Curts allowed one earned run while scattering just three hits. He struck out a career-high 11 and didn't issue a walk in the 111-pitch, complete-game effort.

JV baseball blasts Tigers

BLUFFTON — Three runs in the first inning and a half dozen in the second carried the Jay

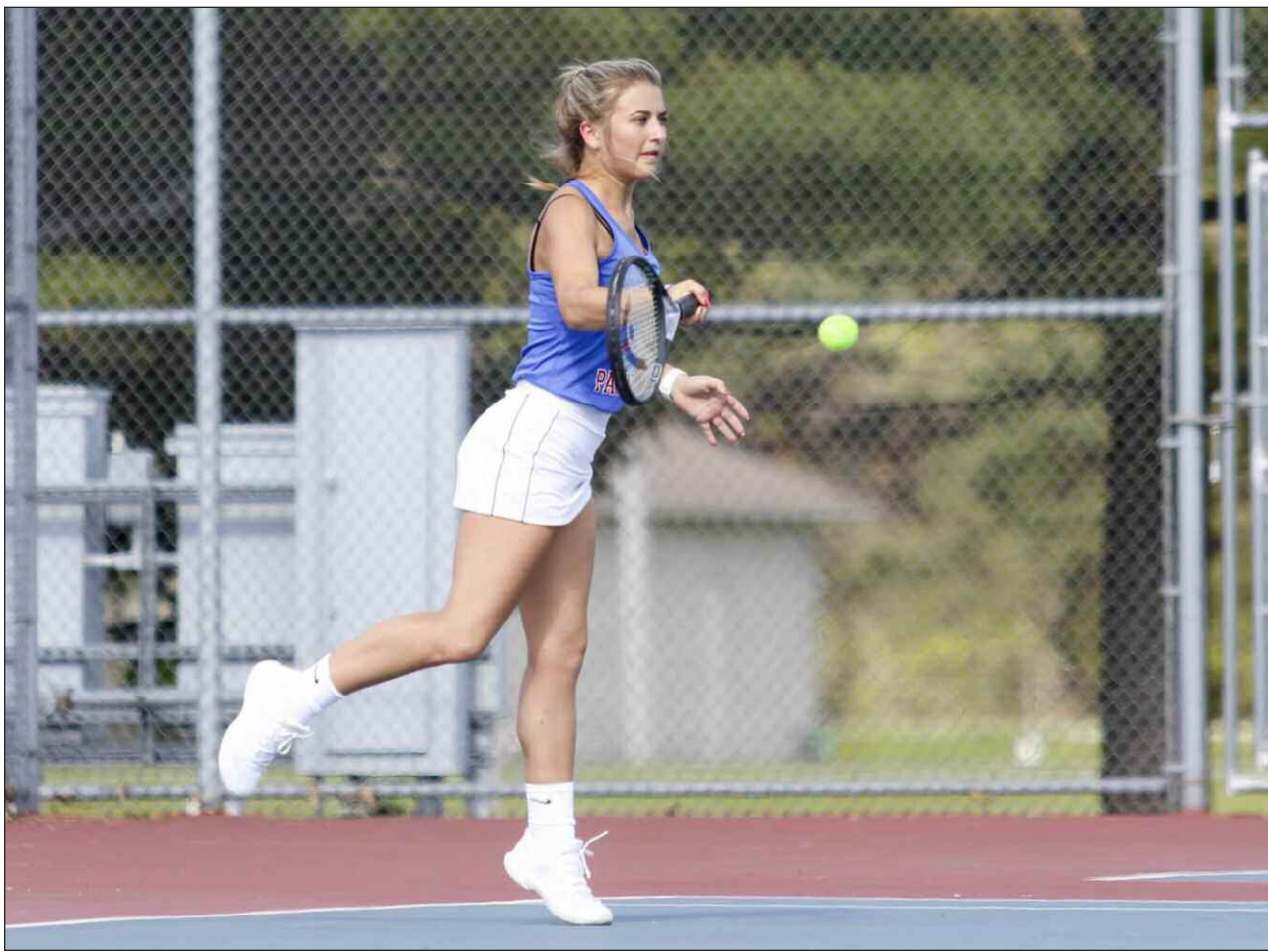
County junior varsity team to a 13-3 win over the Bluffton Tigers in six innings on Wednesday.

The Patriots (5-5) led 11-3 after the fifth inning before putting the game away in the sixth.

Christian Runkle had two doubles and two RBIs to pace the Patriots, while Bennett Weitzel hit a double and a single, and drove in three runs. Kenny Carducci doubled and singled, while Ryne Goldsworthy had two hits and three RBIs.

Bryce Wenk knocked in two runs. Cody Rowles and Peyton James each had two hits.

Jackson Edwards got the win, allowing three runs — one earned — on four hits in six innings. He struck out two and walked one.



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Kierston Blunk, a Jay County High School junior, hits a forehanded shot during her No. 3 singles match against Hillary Tobias of the Adams Central Jets on Wednesday at JCHS. Blunk lost to Tobias, 6-1, 6-1, and the Patriots dropped the match, 5-0.

Hall weekend about women

By TIM REYNOLDS

AP Basketball Writer

This long-awaited Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame enshrinement weekend will be largely about Kobe Bryant.

Of course, it won't be solely about Bryant, nor would he have wanted it that way. If he were here, he'd almost certainly be raving about the women going into the Hall this weekend with him.

Bryant was a huge proponent and supporter of women's basketball, and that wasn't just because his daughter Gianna — one of the eight people who perished alongside him in a helicopter crash on Jan. 26, 2020 — was coming into her own as a stand-out young player with a bright future. He made no secret about how much he respected the women's game, even telling CNN in one of the final interviews he gave, just 11 days before his death, that WNBA stars like Diana Taurasi, Maya Moore and Elena Delle Donne could keep up with NBA players.

Make no mistake: The three women who would have shared the stage with him Saturday night would have had his respect.

New LSU women's coach Kim Mulkey has three national championships from her just-ended stint at Baylor.

See Hall page 7

Jay can't grab share of ACAC crown

By CHRIS SCHANZ

The Commercial Review

The Patriots had a chance for a three-way tie for the conference title.

The Jets made sure it was kept between the Adams County schools.

Jay County High School's girls tennis team dropped a 5-0 match to the Adams Central Jets on Wednesday, ending the team's bid for its first Allen County Athletic Conference championship and just the second league title in program history.

"Adams Central is good," said JCHS coach Dave Cramer. "We battled them, but they're just that much better than us."

A win would have put Jay County (8-4, 1-2 ACAC) in a three-way tie for the league title with Adams Central and the South Adams Starfires, as all three squads would have been 2-1.

With the Jets' win, the conference championship will be shared by the Adams County schools.

Lyric Garringer, the team's only senior varsity player, had

the longest battle against Adams Central in her No. 2 singles match. She led Jessica Tobias in the first set, 2-1, 3-2 and 4-3, but lost the final three games and dropped the opening set, 6-4.

She lost the second set by the same margin.

"It was a good battle, but just one or two mistakes could change it around," Cramer said.

At No. 3 singles, Kierston Blunk at times tried to play aggressively and the gamble didn't pay off, as too many

unforced errors led to a 6-1, 6-1 defeat to Hillary Tobias.

"She struggled a little bit tonight," Cramer said. "I think she gets scared or intimidated because she can play a lot better than that."

Grace Brewster, the team's No. 1 singles player, lost the first five games to Saige Rinkenbarger before finally getting a tally in the win column. But she wasn't able to manage to take another game the rest of the match in her 6-1, 6-0 loss.

See Jay page 7

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