

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

'Signing' students

New event seeks to connect businesses with local youth

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Engineering and advanced manufacturing teacher Kyle Love imagined having five or six local industries attend the inaugural Jay County Signing Day.

About 18 companies expressed interest in attending the event intended to help seniors find jobs at local industries. "When they all started responding, I was like ... we're going to have to figure something out," Love said. "We had a lot more involvement from the industrial partners than I expected."

Several local manufacturers and other businesses met with

students Tuesday at Jay County Junior/Senior High School for Jay County Signing Day. It continues today for juniors and seniors to get interview experience and possibly find part-time summer work or full-time employment.

The inaugural event — it was originally scheduled for last year and canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic — kicked off interviews for the first time Tuesday and concluded interviews at the end of the school day today. An official "signing day" for students signing into new positions is planned June 2.

See 'Signing' page 5



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Adam Homan (left) of POET Biorefining speaks with Jay County High School senior Mitchell Winner on Tuesday at the inaugural Jay County Signing Day. The event drew about 18 companies to the school. They interviewed juniors and seniors interested in internships, summer jobs or full-time employment after graduation.

Title best

Jay County High School's Elisa Parazzi celebrates after setting a new career-best mark of 5 feet, 6 inches, in the high jump during Tuesday's sectional meet at Delta. The Italian exchange student had already secured the sectional championship as the only athlete to clear 5, feet, 5 inches, her previous best, before continuing on to a new career apex. Senior Kinsey Shannon successfully defended her 100-meter dash sectional title as she earned the only other win for the Patriots, who were third in a 13-team field. For more on the meet, see page 8.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

School financial outlook improves

FR now projecting a budget surplus this year

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — The numbers are better than expected.

Fort Recovery School Board received an overview of its five-year financial forecast during a work session before its meeting Monday. Ohio's economic issues as a result of the coronavirus pandemic are not as bad as projected, treasurer Deanna Knapke explained.

Fort Recovery Local Schools is projected to finish fiscal year 2021, which ends June 30, with a budget surplus of \$256,270. That would bring its year-end cash balance to more than \$7.1 million, continuing a trend of budget surpluses from the last several years.

The new forecast shows an improvement over November, when a budget deficit of \$156,819 was projected for fiscal 2021.

The financial forecast presented Monday projects budget deficits beginning at \$101,736 in 2022, \$439,439 in 2023, \$880,608 in 2024 and more than \$1.2 million in 2025. Those deficits would drop the district's year-end balance to \$4.4 million by the end of fiscal year 2025. (In the November forecast, it was predicted by 2025 the year-end balance would fall to \$2.7 million.)

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine cut about \$300 million from K-12 public school funding in May 2020 for the remainder of the fiscal year. In January 2021, DeWine ordered the restoration of about \$160 million in public school funds, meaning Fort Recovery schools only took a loss of \$78,000. (State funding accounts for about 54% of the school's budget.)

See Outlook page 5

Village to purchase baseball field

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — The village has OK'd a contract to purchase the site of the current high school baseball field.

Mayor Dave Kaup and fiscal officer Roberta Staugler signed the purchase agreement Monday following a Fort Recovery Village Council meeting.

In April 2017, Fort Recovery Diamond Club cited limited facilities, poor location and

drainage problems with the field located at the west end of Caldwell Street. Fort Recovery Local Schools is planning to build a new baseball diamond just south of the current softball field on the east side of the Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle property.

"Short-term plans are to keep it as it is as a ball diamond," explained village administrator Randy Diller.

In the future, the property could be used for a new water plant or something else, he added.

Initial plans for the high school's new facility include a new press box, restrooms, concession building, bleachers with canopies and a batting cage for the softball team. At an estimated \$1 million, the construction is being funded by local donations in addition to a loan.

Fort Recovery School

Board members in February authorized superintendent Larry Brown and treasurer Deanna Knapke to enter into an agreement with Fort Recovery Athletic Boosters for the project. Construction is expected to begin this year.

Also Monday, council decided to request a four-way stop at the intersection of Wayne and Broadway streets after it becomes the highway truck route. The proposed signs will need to be

requested through Ohio Department of Transportation before they can be placed. (The street turns into Ohio 49 going northwest out of Fort Recovery.)

Council made the decision after debating whether a two-way or four-way stop would be best. Some noted they would like to see the stop made safer, while others said it would be easier to add stop signs later if needed.

See Purchase page 2

Deaths

Mabeline Barcus, 82, rural Portland

Majel Tucker, 99, Deerfield

Milton Lotz, 88, Monticello
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 75 degrees Tuesday. The low was 55.

Tonight's low will be in the low 60s. Expect mostly sunny skies Thursday with the high climbing to 84. Highs are expected to stay in the 80s through at least Tuesday.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The Commercial Review will publish a new special section about summer/fall festivals and events May 28. To make sure your festival or event is listed, email details to news@thecr.com.

Coming up

Thursday — Coverage of today's The Portland Foundation annual meeting.

Saturday — Results from Friday's JCHS softball game at Richmond.



Judge asked to block new abortion law

By TOM DAVIES
Associated Press
INDIANAPOLIS — Abortion rights groups asked a federal judge on Tuesday to block a new Indiana law that would require doctors to tell women undergoing drug-induced abortions about a disputed treatment for potentially stopping the abortion process. The lawsuit filed with the U.S.

District Court in Indianapolis argues that the requirement would confuse patients and increase the stigma associated with obtaining an abortion, while also forcing doctors to give what they regard as dubious medical information. The groups want a judge to block the new so-called "abortion reversal" law from taking effect as scheduled in July.

Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb last month signed the bill, which GOP legislators argued would ensure that a woman had information about halting a medication-induced abortion if she changes her mind after taking the first of the two drugs used in the procedure and takes another drug instead. The lawsuit maintains the

requirement wrongly singles out doctors providing abortion drugs and their patients. "No other healthcare providers are required to inform their patients about experimental medical interventions, the safety and efficacy of which are wholly unsupported by reliable scientific evidence, and no other patients are required to receive

such information as a condition of treatment," the lawsuit said. Six states already have similar requirements in place, while such laws in North Dakota, Oklahoma and Tennessee have been blocked by legal challenges, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a research group that supports abortion rights.

CR almanac

Thursday 5/20	Friday 5/21	Saturday 5/22	Sunday 5/23	Monday 5/24
84/63	86/63	87/65	88/66	87/66
Summer-like weather is setting in as the high climbs to 84 degrees under mostly sunny skies.	Expect mostly sunny skies again with a high of 86.	The high temperature will be 87 under mostly sunny skies.	Mostly sunny skies are in the forecast again with a high of 88.	Expect a high temperature of 87 under mostly sunny skies.

Lotteries

Powerball
Estimated jackpot: \$201 million
11-12-15-16-26-27-30-40-41-45-46-51-62-66-70-76-80
Cash 5: 06-07-22-26-41
Estimated jackpot: \$127,500

Mega Millions
03-05-56-61-66
Mega Ball: 4
Megaplier: 2
Estimated jackpot: \$475 million

Hoosier
Midday
Daily Three: 2-3-6
Daily Four: 6-7-9-0
Evening
Daily Three: 7-6-2
Daily Four: 7-4-3-9
Quick Draw: 03-05-10

Ohio
Midday
Pick 3: 5-4-2
Pick 4: 0-0-3-9
Pick 5: 8-2-9-5-6
Evening
Pick 3: 7-4-4
Pick 4: 3-7-2-1
Pick 5: 8-2-9-5-6
Rolling Cash: 01-08-14-18-26
Estimated jackpot: \$172,000

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery
Corn.....6.79
Wheat.....76.62

POET Biorefining Portland
Corn.....6.93
June corn6.93

The Andersons Richland Township
Corn.....6.78
June corn6.78
Beans15.74
June beans15.74
Wheat6.71
June wheat..... 6.71

Central States Montpelier
Corn.....6.73
June corn6.73
Beans15.64
Sept. beans13.16
Wheat 6.71

Sunrise St. Anthony
Corn.....6.75
June corn6.78
Beans15.44
June beans15.44
Wheat6.36
July wheat.....6.36

Today in history

On May 19, 1967, the Soviet Union ratified a treaty with the United States and Britain, banning nuclear and other weapons from outer space as well as celestial bodies such as the moon. (The treaty entered into force in October 1967.)

In 1536, Anne Boleyn, the second wife of England's King Henry VIII, was beheaded after being convicted of adultery.

In 1913, California Gov. Hiram Johnson signed the Webb-Hartley Law prohibiting "aliens ineligible to citizenship" from owning farm land, a measure targeting Asian immigrants, particularly Japanese.

In 1920, ten people were killed in a gun battle between coal miners, who were led by a local police chief, and a group of private security guards hired to evict them for joining a union in Matewan, a small "company town" in West Virginia.

In 1943, in his second wartime address to the U.S. Congress, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill pledged his country's full support in the fight against Japan; that evening, Churchill met with President Franklin D. Roosevelt at the White House, where the two leaders agreed on May 1, 1944, as the date for the D-Day invasion of France (the operation ended up being launched more than a month later).

In 1971, a sudden storm created chaos in Jay County, with limbs strewn all over. A limb fell on a moving vehicle on Meridian Street and lightning struck a tree at 210 E. Water St.

In 2019, "Game of Thrones" aired its 73rd and final episode on HBO, with a record-setting number of viewers. —AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.

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

Monday
9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

3:30 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland.
4 p.m. — 10 a.m. — Portland Board of Works special meeting, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.
6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St.
7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.

Obituaries

Mabeline Barcus
Sept. 1, 1938-May 17, 2021
Mabeline L. Barcus, age 82, a resident of rural Portland, passed away on Monday, May 17, 2021, at her son's home in rural Portland. She was a former resident of Pennville.

Mabeline was born on Sept. 1, 1938, in Poneto, Indiana, the daughter of Gerald and Olive (Onweller) Bower. She graduated from Poling High School in 1956 and married Ken Barcus on Sept. 27, 1957.

Mabeline was a member of Union Chapel church where she served as pianist for many years, Sunday School teacher, youth leader and choir director. She retired from USDA Farm Service Agency in Portland in 1999 after 26½ years of service.

Survivors include:
Her husband of 63 years — Ken Barcus, rural Portland, Indiana
One daughter — Tina O'Dell (husband: Ron), Pennville, Indiana
Two sons — Steve Barcus (wife: Brenda), rural Portland, Indiana, and Kevin Barcus (wife: Wanda), rural Redkey, Indiana
One sister — Marge Barger, Bluffton, Indiana
Seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren

Visitation will be held on Wednesday from 4 to 7 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday at 11 a.m. at Union Chapel Church, 6200 N. 375 West, Bryant, Indiana. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will be held in I.O.O.F. Twin Hill Cemetery in Pennville, Indiana.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be directed towards Union Chapel Church. Donations to the church may be given at tithe.ly/give/?=1521093.
Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.



Barcus

Survivors include:
Two daughters — Virginia Hillard (husband: Jerry), Galion, Ohio, and Majel Jordan (husband: Russ), Portland, Indiana
Fourteen grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren
She was preceded in death by her husband; a son, Carl Tucker; and her siblings, Hubert DeBoy, Gerald DeBoy, Edwin DeBoy and Lucille Cook.

An Eastern Star service will be held at noon on Friday at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Visitation will follow the Eastern Star service from noon to 2 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will follow at 2 p.m. on Friday at the funeral home with burial at Lawndale Cemetery, west of Deerfield.

Memorials may be directed to the Redkey Chapter of the Eastern Star or Muncie Mission.
Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

Milton Lotz
Oct. 18, 1932-May 13, 2021
Milton B. "Milt" Lotz, 88, of Monticello passed away at 11:45 p.m. Thursday, May 13, 2021, at White Oak Health Campus.

He was born on Oct. 18, 1932, in Portland, Indiana, to the late Lester "Les" and Lois (Buckmaster) Lotz. He married the former Ida Pearl Brown on Sept. 10, 1960, in the United Methodist Church in Portland and she preceded him in death on April 18, 2012.

Milt was a 1950 graduate of Portland High School. Milt enlisted in the United States Navy in September of 1951 from which he served until September of 1955 and was honorably discharged as an electrician's mate first class. He was a 1959 graduate of Tri-State College in Angola (now Trine University), where he earned his bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering.

Milt joined Northern Indiana Public Service Company on Sept. 15, 1959, as a junior engineer. He was later transferred and worked in offices in Hammond as a substation engineer, Michigan City as engineering supervisor of district engineering, and later back to Monticello as superintendent of the Monticello district. In June of 1987 he was promoted to manager of the Monticello District from which he retired March of 1993 after a 33-year career with NIPSCO.

Milt was a member of Monticello Jaycees where he served in all offices and was a past president. He served as president of the Monticello Community Recreation and Swimming Pool. Milt was a Hammond Jaycees member, Calumet region Toastmaster Club, Dunes chapter of Professional Engineers, Michigan City Chapter of Kiwanis Club and Monticello Kiwanis Club. He was a member of the American



Lotz

Majel Tucker
April 10, 1922-May 17, 2021
Majel Marcielle Tucker, age 99, a resident of Deerfield, passed away on Monday, May 17, 2021, at Lutheran Life Villages in Kendallville, Indiana.

Marcielle was born on April 10, 1922, in Jefferson Township, Jay County, Indiana, the daughter of Wade and Ruth (Whaley) DeBoy. She graduated from Gray High School and married Charles Leo Tucker on Feb. 7, 1942. He passed away on July 10, 2000.

Marcielle worked at Randolph County Hospital for 10 years and Jay Garment in Portland. She attended Deerfield United Methodist Church where she was a member of the United Methodist Women. Marcielle was a 50-year member of the Eastern Star where she played piano for 24 years.



Tucker

SERVICES

Thursday
Chrisman, Cheryl: 10 a.m., Bryant Wesleyan Church, 209 S. Hendricks St., Bryant.
Barcus, Mabeline: 11 a.m., Union Chapel Church, 6200 N. 375 West, Bryant.

Friday
Huntsman, Patsy: 1 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.
Tucker, Majel: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Saturday
Lotz, Milton: 2 p.m., Springer-Voorhis-Draper Funeral Home, 202 S. Illinois St., Monticello.

Service listings provided by
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120 N. Meridian St.
Portland, Indiana 47371
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Continued from page 1
Fort Recovery's water tower will be receiving some maintenance repairs, including another cleaning, new paint and a urethane coating over the entire tower, Diller said. The project will cost about \$45,000, and the coating will last about 10 to 15 years.

Council approved a request from Fort Recovery Local Schools to close Fremont Street between Williams and Wagoner streets between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Friday for the high school's "seniorfest" activities.

It also approved a request submitted by Matt Wendel to close a section of Black Eagle Drive for a private party starting at 3 p.m. July 31.

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Comfort found in life's defiance

By KWAME DAWES

The insane birds in "Almost Forty," by the always eloquent and emotionally generous poet, Ada Limón, seem to be warning of the coming of winter, but it is time, really, and its passing, that they anthem.

American Life in Poetry

Yet, Limón finds strained but necessary comfort in the defiance that comes from desiring a long life and good health. She has written

five books of poetry. She has been a finalist for the National Book Award, the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award.

Almost Frosty

The birds were being so bizarre today,
we stood static and listened to them insane

in their winter shock of sweet gum and ash.
We swallow what we won't say: Maybe

it's a warning. Maybe they're screaming
for us to take cover. Inside, your father

seems angry, and the soup's grown cold
on the stove. I've never been someone

to wish for too much, but now I say,
I want to live a long time. You look up

from your work and nod. Yes, but
in good health. We turn up the stove

again and eat what we've made together,
each bite an ordinary weapon we wield

against the shrinking of mouths.

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

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JCPL celebrates military service

Jay County Public Library is celebrating military service members this month in honor of Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day.

Until Saturday, the library will collect items — beef

jerky/meat sticks, protein bars, snack packages, card games, puzzle books and other items — for care packages to be sent to active duty service members with a connection to Jay County. They are

scheduled to be mailed next week.

Indiana author Kayleen Reusser will also visit the library for three events. She will speak Thursday about women who volunteered in the mili-

tary during World War II, Monday about the D-Day invasion and Tuesday about her interviews with seven men who were captives of German and Japanese forces. All three events will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Host is ready to ban brother

DEAR ABBY: My brother "Patrick" and I have known "Bobby" for about 20 years. Patrick is closer friends with him because they live in the same town. Recently, we found out that Bobby's best friend was arrested for child pornography. While Bobby knew nothing about this before the arrest, he still wants to support his friend.

I told Patrick he will no longer be welcome in my home (I host for all the holidays) if he doesn't cut off all contact with Bobby. My brother says I'm being too harsh because you can disapprove of someone's behavior and still be a friend. I think that child pornography is morally and ethically wrong and there is no middle ground here. What do you think? Should Bobby have a seat at our table? (He has no other living family.) — NOT WELCOMED IN THE EAST

DEAR NOT WELCOMED: I do not think you should excommunicate your brother because of something Bobby's friend did. I believe the Bible says that while you can hate the sinner, you should still love the sinner, and that is what Bobby is doing. If you wish to check the reference, you may discover you have a copy some-

where in your home. You can review that chapter with your brother at your holiday table.

DEAR ABBY: I am 35, and my boyfriend is 31. We met at work and moved in together. It has been five years now and still no proposal. I thought we were on the same page, but he just purchased a brand-new muscle car and is only concerned about that, buying new sneakers (he has a sneaker obsession) and making more money. I currently share a rental lease with him and am considering going my separate way in three months, mainly because he is complacent and our relationship has become stagnant. It is going nowhere. Please help. — HOPED FOR MORE IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR HOPED FOR MORE: Getting to know someone takes time. Be glad you have realized this man isn't husband material



Dear Abby

before you wasted more time waiting for him to mature. Hang in there until the lease is up, then move resolutely on, parting I hope, as "friends."

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my best friend since I was 15. I am now 50. I have never had an orgasm. I want to experience one so badly that I am willing to cheat. We have talked about our sex life, and how it has not been satisfying for me. Please tell me what I can do. — MISSING IT IN INDIANA

DEAR MISSING: Before looking for sexual fulfillment outside your marriage, you and your husband should ask your doctor for a referral to a sex therapist. You both married very young, and he may never have learned how to please a woman. This does not mean he isn't capable of learning. Frankly, because you have never experienced an orgasm, YOU may need some coaching or some "pointers."

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.

Marriage licenses

Joshua A. Morgan, 32, Indianapolis, and Holly M. Abernathy, 29, Dunkirk

Dylan I.D. Noles, 28, Portland, and Sierra I. Sabato, 27, Portland

Andrew P. Wright, 44, Portland, and Rita C. Lawrence, 38, Portland

Morgan M. Burkhart, 21, Dunkirk, and Brett A. Rowles, 25, Dunkirk

Henry D.M. Schwartz, 22, Bryant, and Elizabeth G.S. Schwartz, 21, Bryant

Ervin W. Schwartz, 22, Decatur, and Barbara H. Wickey, 21, Bryant

Ethan N. Myers, 21, Portland, and Alayna E. Aparicio, 21, Portland

Marcus E. Girod, 21, Geneva, and Ada W. Wickey, 21, Bryant

Faith J. Fisher, 22, Redkey, and Sean A. Harrison, 23, Winchester

Kendrick L. Brown, 38, Muncie, and Angela M. Hug, 37, Portland

Sylinda D.M. Elam, 39, Portland, and Felicia A. Teeter, 40, Portland

Ervin E. Schwartz, 23, Berne, and Edna L. Wickey, 21, Bryant

Marcus M. Bailey, 35, Portland, and Alisha L. McClure, 40, Portland

Community Calendar

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

Today

WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

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

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday at Harmony Cafe, 121 N. Meridian St.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Begin-

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

A BETTER LIFE - BRIDGES HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

STRESS AND ANXIETY CLASS — Meets each Wednesday at 2nd Chance at Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call

(206) 726-9625 or (260) 703-0534.

Thursday

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

A BETTER LIFE - BRIDGES 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.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester;

in community room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

EN AVANT CLUB — Meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

ORGAN TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the IU Health Blackford main conference room.

JAY COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY — Will meet at 5:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Jay County Public Library. The public is welcome.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North.

Friday

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will meet at noon Friday, May 21, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Monday's Solution

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

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

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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

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Weather thwarts plans for baseball

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

Ray Cooney's words echoed in my head as I went out the door. "You do this every year," he said.

An exaggeration? Sure. But there was an element of truth in what he said.

My wife and I tend to get a little premature when it comes to spring and baseball.

In part, that's because her birthday falls close on the calendar to opening day.

The first 10 days of April roll around, and we're ready to hear the crack of the bat.

Unfortunately, when the first 10 days of April roll around, our snow shovels are as likely to be as active as any team's bats.

Yes, we've attended early season baseball in the snow.

More than once.

At one memorable Indianapolis Indians game, the two of us along with daughter Sally and

Back in the Saddle



now son-in-law Ben were featured on the Jumbotron. Why? Because there were so few people crazy enough to be in the stands.

On at least two occasions — once when we were playing host to a visiting Russian friend and once when our grandsons were visiting from Boston — the weather was so crappy and so wintry that nobody took to the field.

And then there was an opening-week Cincinnati Reds game to celebrate Connie's birthday when the weather was not only miserable but I became the tar-

get for a pigeon. I still remember the "splat" sound when it hit my shoulder and the chorus of "oooooh" from the folks seated behind us.

But this year, I told myself, would be different.

COVID-19 was a factor in that. While we had made a couple Portland Rockets games last summer, there was no season for the Fort Wayne TinCaps or the Indy Indians. And Major League Baseball was essentially played in the Twilight Zone.

With every hint that spring might finally arrive, I started thinking baseball.

When I checked the TinCaps website and saw there was no information on the 2021 season, I grew frustrated and contacted Brent Haring. Brent's the group sales ticket guru for the TinCaps, and he's been a familiar face in Jay County over the years.

He got back to me almost

immediately and brought me down to earth.

The problem, as Brent explained it, was that under the ever-changing COVID restrictions, the "bowl" of Parkview Stadium would be limited to 25% occupancy.

And more than 25% of those seats had already been sold to season ticket holders — season ticket holders who didn't get a chance to see a single game last year.

Figuring out how to free up some seats for sale to the general public and more casual fans — we traditionally have gone to four or five TinCaps games each year — was incredibly complicated.

It was a matter of both diplomacy and negotiation.

Still, Brent assured me, they would figure it out.

In other words, I was told to cool my jets and be patient. So I did just that.

When I finally gave in and checked back on the website, I got lucky, securing four good seats on the first-base line with great sight lines.

A couple of emails later and we'd made a date with friends in Fort Wayne.

The tickets were for a Sunday afternoon game. They were, in fact, for a game on Sunday, May 9.

You might remember that day. It rained. It rained a lot. The temperature never made it above 41 degrees.

The day before had been perfect. The day after was nice.

But the day we had tickets for was a disaster.

The good news is that the day was so bad that the game was canceled and our rain checks were valid.

Now, if all goes well, we'll join our friends for a Sunday afternoon in July.

Snow is unlikely to be in the forecast.

Compromise can serve the country

Bloomberg Opinion

On May 12, 113 days into his presidency, Joe Biden finally sat down with leaders of the House and Senate — Chuck Schumer, Mitch McConnell, Nancy Pelosi and Kevin McCarthy. It's surprising and disappointing that this took so long to happen. Here's hoping many more such meetings follow.

Biden invited the leaders of both parties to the Oval Office to discuss infrastructure, taxes and other issues. He began by saying, "When I ran, I said I wasn't going to be a Democratic president, I was going to be president for all Americans." That's a promise the country needs him to keep. Until now, unfortunately, he has largely left Republicans out in the cold.

To win Republican support for an infrastructure bill, the president could have invited McConnell and McCarthy to help formulate a plan shortly after his inauguration. Instead, the White House released a \$2.3 trillion wish list that it knew stood little chance of garnering a single Republican vote in the Senate. Allies praised its scope, which stretched "infrastructure" to include expanding access to long-term care under Medicaid; this antagonized Republicans, who attacked it relentlessly. Both sides understood it was a dead letter. It's hard to take any of this seriously, and six weeks later, nothing has happened.

No wonder Americans think poorly of Washington.

It's true that Biden doesn't need Republican votes to pass an infrastructure bill. The Senate parliamentarian has ruled that it can be taken up as part of budget reconciliation, with passage requiring only a simple majority. But that doesn't mean Schumer should try to ram it through on a party-line vote with Vice President Kamala Harris breaking the tie.

The fact is, Republicans have good ideas that ought to be considered, including on the topic that will be the biggest point of contention: how to pay for it all. Biden and Democrats want to roll back the 2017 tax cuts and raise other taxes. That's a non-

Guest Editorial

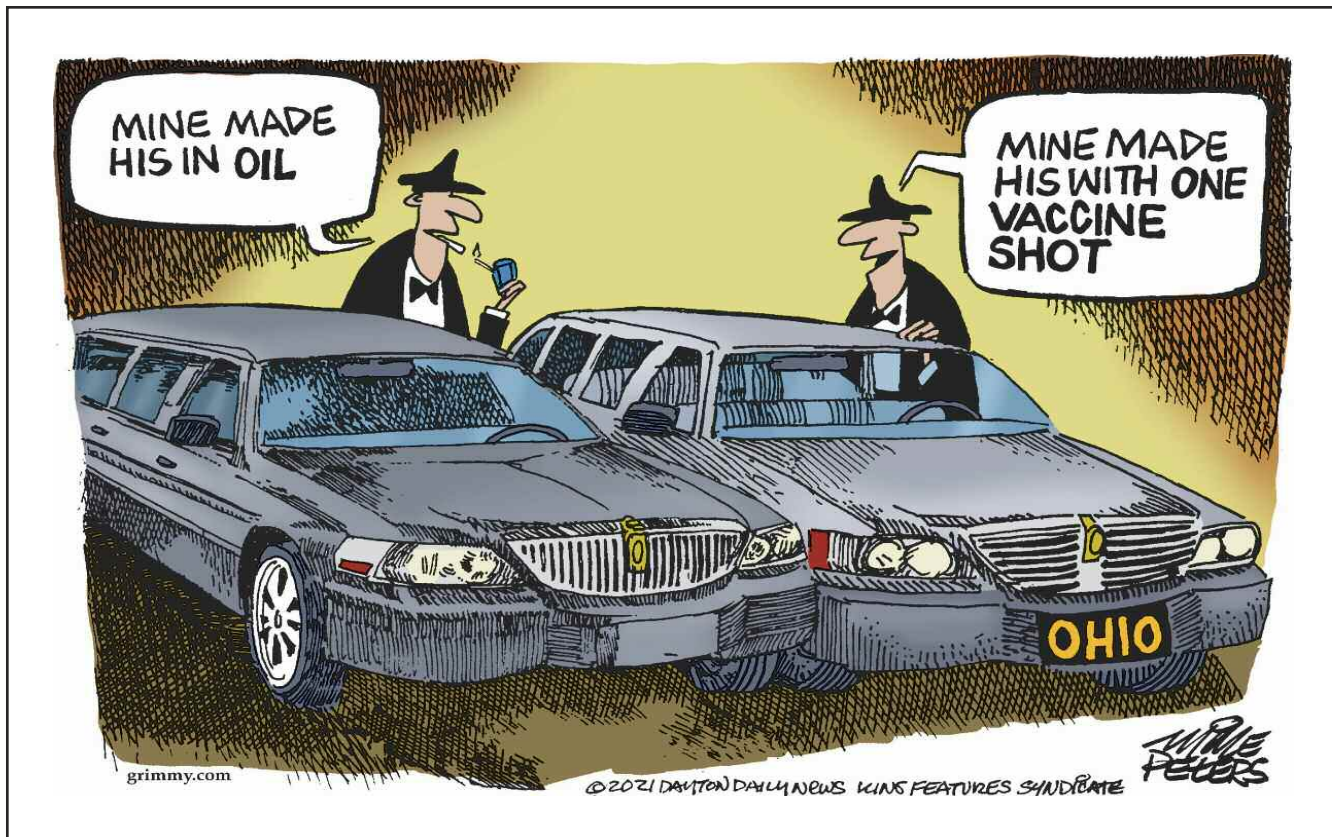
starter for most Republicans. Senator Mitt Romney has worked with Senator Shelley Moore Capito and a group of 20 lawmakers on a counter-proposal financed partly through user fees. As Romney said, "The pay-for ought to come from people who are using it. So if it's an airport, the people who are flying. If it's a port, the people who are shipping into the port. If it's a rail system, the people who are using the rails. If it's highways, it ought to be gas if it's a gasoline-powered vehicle."

Capito has said she's open to raising the gas tax, which is long overdue, or to a charge based on vehicle miles traveled. Utah has recently begun a VMT pilot program, which has the benefit of generating revenue even as electric vehicles become increasingly common. A mix of user fees and taxes — in other words, a compromise — would be ideal.

Republican senators met with Biden on May 13 to discuss these ideas and called the talks productive.

Enlisting Republicans can be helpful to Democrats in other ways, too. For instance, Schumer could blame the other side for ditching Biden's Medicaid provision (which belongs in a health-care bill) and the president's proposal to require that projects use unionized labor (which will raise costs). There are better ways to help working people than excluding non-union workers and reducing the amount of infrastructure that can be built and repaired.

The president was right to campaign as a bridge-builder. But building bridges — and roads and other infrastructure — requires cooperation, flexibility and pragmatism, as any engineer will tell you. To succeed, Biden will need to keep showing more of those virtues, and not just on taxes and infrastructure. It's a worthy goal for the next hundred days, and well beyond.



Answer will come soon

By HENRY OLSEN

Special To The Washington Post

Republicans and businesses have been complaining that workers are not taking available jobs because they can make more on unemployment. As Republican-led states repeal the federal supplemental unemployment benefits program, we will soon know whether this complaint has merit.

Congress adopted the unprecedented supplement of state unemployment benefits in the first COVID-19 relief bill in March 2020. That provision gave states the option of giving its unemployed citizens an extra \$600 a week on top of the regular state-financed unemployment check. This temporary provision expired on July 31, but as the pandemic continued, it was modified — first by executive order and twice more by law. Current law gives unemployed workers a flat, federally financed \$300 a week on top of the state payments. This measure will expire on Sept. 6.

Many Republicans have argued that this payment creates perverse incentives. Their logic was simple: The extra flat benefit plus state-level check meant many low-wage workers could earn as much or nearly as much staying at home than taking a job. The \$300 check alone equaled \$7.50 an hour for someone working a 40-hour week, more than the federal \$7.25 minimum wage. The rest of the payments vary by state and depend on how much people earned before losing their jobs, but even low-wage workers in stingy states could expect to earn at least a significant portion of their pre-unemployment wage in state benefits. If someone can earn \$10 to \$15 an hour whether they sit at home or go to work, it's pretty clear what many rational people would choose to do.

The weak April unemployment report brought this debate to a head. Economists had expected employers to create roughly 1 million new jobs;

Henry Olsen



instead, the report showed only 266,000 were added. Democrats denied that the supplemental benefits were to blame, but data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics show that there were a record-high 8.1 million job openings in March. BLS data also show there are only 1.2 unemployed people for each opening, a figure historically associated with low unemployment and a booming economy. So there are plenty of jobs to take; for some reason, people aren't taking them.

Republican-led states are betting that the federal supplements are the reason. By Monday, five red states — Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Montana and South Carolina — had announced that they were pulling out of the federal program. That number has grown to at least 16, including the large states of Georgia, Ohio and Arizona. The details differ in each state, but unemployed workers in all of them will stop receiving their extra \$300 a week no later than mid-July.

Many will replace the unemployment benefit with a substantial re-employment bonus. Arizona is emblematic of that effort, as Republican Gov. Doug Ducey announced Thursday. Ducey, who was chief executive of the Cold Stone Creamery ice cream chain before entering politics, said unemployed workers whose new job paid \$25 an hour or less can qualify for a \$2,000 back-to-work bonus. He also said the state would provide three months of child-care assistance for bonus-eligible workers who return to work, as well as scholar-

ships for community college or GED preparation for those who want to upgrade their skills. Montana also has a back-to-work bonus for unemployed workers, and Republicans in Louisiana and the U.S. House have introduced bills to adopt the idea.

This stampede creates a natural experiment that will test whether supplemental benefits are an impediment to working. If job openings are filled faster in states ending their participation in the program than in states still participating, we'll have a clear case that they are creating a disincentive to work. This should show up pretty quickly in federal data, either through decreases in a state's unemployment rate, an increase in a state's labor force participation rate or (ideally) both. If these states don't see better results, however, it should be clear that the benefits were not significantly affecting employment decisions.

This experiment's outcome will also have a partisan dimension. To date, no Democratic-controlled state has suspended its participation in the federal supplementary benefit program. If that continues, and if the GOP-led states demonstrate better employment outcomes, Republicans will crow that their business-friendly approach is better for American workers. That's not something President Joe Biden will want to hear as he moves into the midterm elections. But if Republican states' policies don't result in more jobs, expect Democrats to attack Republicans for being heartless and television news shows to highlight wrenching personal stories of families who lost their benefits.

We almost never get to see a real-life test of an economic theory's validity. Republican governors are giving the country that test now; much rides on the outcome.

Olsen is a senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center.

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Indiana ending enhanced benefits

By TOM DAVIES
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana will drop out of the federal program providing an extra \$300 in weekly payments to unemployed workers and other programs that expanded unemployment benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic, the governor announced Monday.

The changes taking effect June 19 could cut off or reduce unemployment benefits to more than 220,000 people. Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb signed an executive order last week that reinstates a requirement that those receiving unemployment benefits will again have to show they are actively searching for work as of June 1.

The changes come as many businesses blame the extra \$300 weekly payment and the ease of obtaining unemployment bene-

fits with making it more difficult to fill job openings.

At least a dozen other states led by Republican governors have already announced they will stop paying the extra \$300 benefit as soon as June or July.

Indiana is also ending its participation in a federal program that made gig workers and the self-employed eligible for assistance for the first time and another that provides extra weeks of aid.

Holcomb said jobs are avail-

able around the state and pointed to Indiana's 3.9% unemployment rate for April, which was down from the pandemic peak of 16.9% a year earlier.

"I am hearing from multiple sector employers that they want and need to hire more Hoosiers to grow," Holcomb said in a statement.

The \$300 payments have more than doubled Indiana's average \$280 weekly unemployment payment, which has a maximum of \$390 a week. Indiana

has had nearly 170,000 people collecting the extra \$300 payments, according to the state's Department of Workforce Development.

As of late April, about 123,000 Indiana residents were receiving payments from the federal program for gig workers and the self-employed who lost income during the pandemic, according to federal reports. About 67,000 people from Indiana were collecting benefits under the federal program

extending payments beyond the previous 26-week limit of unemployment benefits.

Republican legislative leaders have urged Holcomb to withdraw Indiana from those federal programs.

The governor's order from last week means that those seeking unemployment benefits must submit a weekly report on their job-seeking efforts, which can include applying for work, attending job fairs or participating in state workshops.

An analysis by Bank of America economists found that people who had earned up to \$32,000 in their previous jobs can receive as much or more income from jobless aid. Some unemployed people say the extra benefit allows them to take more time to look for work, which can make hiring harder.

State will eliminate extra \$300 in weekly unemployment June 19

'Signing' ...

Continued from page 1
There were 24 tables set up around the school's commons area for local industries to interview with juniors and seniors. Two stations with representatives from May Financial and First Merchants Banks were also set up for students to practice interview skills without hiring expectations.

"If we get just a couple of students hired and we get interview experience for the rest, I consider it a win," said Jay County Development Corporation executive director Travis Richards. A summer job could transition into a long-term position, he said, which is how he started his career.

Richards worked for Body Company in Union City each summer while in high school and transitioned to its sister company, Workhorse, after the factory closed. Once he graduated from college, Richards started at the industry as a full-time worker.

"You might have an opportunity like that for somebody here," he said.

And while the focus is on industries, all local businesses are welcome to attend, Richards added.

Jeremy Freel, production manager at Sonoco Protective Solutions, has a background in teaching. He worked for 10 years as a physical education teacher and athletics director at the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Freel shared excitement Tuesday to be spending time with students again.

"I think this is where we need to focus a lot of the attention — at the school level," Freel said.

Businesses all over Jay County are hiring. Several companies at the event expressed interest in hiring seniors — or even juniors as part-time help — to fill vacancies. The event drew attention from beyond Jay County, with senior engineer Dave Lochtefeld of Celina Aluminum Precision Technology in Ohio among the participants.

"There's no workers left over there, so we'll go wherever we have to try and find help," said Lochtefeld.

Brenda Funk, human resources manager at Mothersum Sumi Systems Limited (MSSL) of Portland, had several students visit her table Tuesday. She complimented juniors and seniors on their interview skills.

In this setting, she explained, she wasn't looking for resumes but instead asked questions about which courses each student has taken, such as trade classes, and about part-time jobs they have worked. MSSL is currently working to fill 50 open positions.

Because it's the first time Jay County has ever hosted the event, Love explained, he plans to learn and improve it moving forward. He's

'I think they have the potential. We've just got to help them see it.'

—Matt Minnich, Minnich Poultry

thinking about combining Signing Day with Manufacturing Day in the fall when students have the opportunity to visit local industries. It was also canceled because of the ongoing pandemic.

"We're trying to get the COVID cobwebs off and get things back to somewhat of a normal routine," Love said.

He hopes to start planning for Jay County Signing Day at the beginning of the school year to get more students excited and make more parents aware of it. Even college-bound students, he added, have the potential to make connections for a future career.

He referenced senior Mitchell Winner, who interviewed with POET Biorefining general manager Adam Homan. Winner is planning to study computer science in college.

"That applies to a lot of these places," Love explained. "Computer science, you don't necessarily immediately think, 'Oh, I can go work at POET,' but they have people that do that. I'm just trying to show them there's more opportunity here than (they) may think."

Minnich Poultry operations manager Matt Minnich said Signing Day is a good opportunity for local industries to introduce themselves to young adults. Sometimes students may be a great fit for a company (and vice versa) but don't know of each other yet, he added.

"I think they have the potential," he said. "We've just got to help them see it."

Senior Dominic Huffman said he was possibly interested in working at MSSL or Minnich Poultry. The 18-year-old noted he would make a higher salary at either facility than from his current part-time position.

Another senior, Rieley Brewster, plans to attend Ball State University in the fall to study elementary education. She practiced interviewing during the event Tuesday.

And although she doesn't plan on picking up a part-time position this summer, she is thinking about looking into a job when she's on break from college in the next few years.

"I thought it was a very good opportunity for all high school students to get out there," Brewster said.



The Commercial Review/Jack Ronald

Planting preparation

John Goodrich (left), Rob Weaver (center) and Travis Richards of Portland Rotary Club work together on the process of bagging trees Saturday morning for distribution to fourth graders again this year. The club has been providing trees to students annually for about 40 years.

Outlook ...

Continued from page 1

Schools received federal funding through the Elementary and Secondary Schools Education Relief Funds (ESSER) and the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, which have both been used to offset expenses, Knapke said. She noted the school received about \$60,000 from ESSER funds and about \$45,000 from the CARES Act. Those monies were used for technology, cleaning and other coronavirus-related materials.

Another two rounds of ESSER funds, about \$229,000 and \$515,000, are expected in the future, she added, although Knapke did not include those figures in the forecast.

"Nothing's been told at this time as to what is going to happen with our state funding, so we are keeping our state funding pretty much flat throughout the forecast," she said.

Knapke also noted a few upcoming changes, including that employees will begin paying 12% of their insurance costs starting in January and 13% in January 2023. (At present, staff pay 10%.)

Board members approved a contract with Fort Recovery Education Association effective August 1 through July 31, 2024. According to a press release from the board, the association — which represents about 46 members — and school board agreed to a 1.9% salary increase for teachers and counselors in August 2021 and 2022, and a 2.2% salary increase starting in August 2023. There were also other changes in areas such as health care benefits and use of personal leave, according to the release.

The school board authorized Knapke and Brown to enter into an agree-

ment with Navigate 360, a safety planning and monitoring program. The emergency management suite offers digital safety plan charts, which can be accessed via mobile devices. Brown indicated this can be helpful to teachers so they can have access to needed plans anywhere.

Along with an interactive map and 360-degree photos of each room in the building, it also can create safety plans — Fort Recovery Local Schools' safety plans will need to be reviewed and re-approved in 2022 — and it offers a place for officials to upload safety drill information.

In other news, board members Anne Guggenbiller, Jake Knapke, Greg LeFevre, Don Wendel and Nick Wehrkamp:

- Learned from elementary school principal Kelli Thobe that the school is nearly maxed out of its preschool registration for next year with 99 students (it can register 100 total).

- Heard about several construction projects slated for the summer, including resurfacing the high school parking lot and replacing carpets or pouring floor treatments in several elementary and middle school areas. Also, about 20 new internet switches and 90 new access points will be added for the upcoming school year.

- Authorized an agreement between the school and Rehabilitative Services Inc. of Coldwater for athletic trainers, physical therapists and other certified personnel from July 1 through June 30, 2022.

- Approved a contract with West Central Ohio Assistive Technology Center for July 1 through June 30, 2022. Brown explained its services are used mainly for special education purposes such as those with visual impairments.

- Renewed or entered contracts with the following staff: elementary principal Kelli Thobe, building maintenance and custodial supervisor Kevin Will, district technology coordinator Ryan Fullenkamp, sophomore class advisor Julie Billenstein and substitute bus driver Tim Smith for the 2021-22 school year; also Ryan Thien as high school softball head coach, Carrie Schoen as high school softball varsity assistant coach, Mandy Gerlach as junior high girls basketball head coach, Kim Niekamp as junior high track head coach, Bob Heitkamp as junior high track assistant coach, Bob Leverette as the assistant boys basketball coach and Alan Evers as the assistant junior high boys basketball coach. (Board members chose to table hiring Charlie Vasey as high school assistant track coach and Brian Patch as the high school assistant baseball coach until the head coaches for each sport were hired.)

- Hired Holly Gann for help transitioning with the current athletic/transportation director from Monday through July 31 on an as-needed basis. She'll be paid \$278 per day with a limit of eight days total.

- Approved an overnight FFA officer retreat to Marysville June 1 and 2, and an overnight Ohio FFA camp field trip to Camp Muskingum in Carrollton from July 7 through 11.

- OK'd bus driver Mo Johnson to switch from an afternoon route to a morning and afternoon route starting in August.

- Accepted nearly \$720 in donations, including a \$500 donation from the VFW Post 6515 for the new middle school audiotape audio equipment.

Bringing baritone

Issac LeFevre sings a solo during the "Let's Groove" song at the Fort Recovery Local Schools choir concert Sunday. LeFevre received a superior rating in Baritone Class C in the Ohio Music Education Association District III Solo and Ensemble event this year.



SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly

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Sports

Elite, repeat

Parazzi sets new career-best to win high jump; Shannon successfully defends 100-meter title

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

MUNCIE — Elisa Parazzi somersaulted, threw her arms in the air and ran to celebrate with her teammates.

Kinsey Shannon looked questioningly at her coach while bending over, hands on knees, to catch her breath.

The reactions were different, the results the same. Both had won sectional championships.

Parazzi and Shannon each earned individual sectional titles Tuesday as they led the Jay County High School girls track team to a third-place finish in the meet at Delta.

The two victories combined with four runner-up finishes and two third-place efforts as the Patriots scored 99.5 points. (The top three competitors in each event advance to the regional meet.)

"We ran virtually as well as we could have run," said JCHS coach Joe Imel. "Going into it, I was just trying to get as many girls as we could to regional. ... I think the girls did a really good job today."

Yorktown and Delta each won five events, with the former scoring 153.5 points to run away with the title while the host Eagles placed second with 113.5. Muncie Central was fourth in the 13-team field with 73 points.

Parazzi provided the first thrilling moment of the evening for JCHS shortly after dancing to Michael Jackson's "Thriller" as it played over the public address system. Upon clearing the bar on her second attempt at 5 feet, 5 inches — Delta's Rhian Cline, the only other jumper remaining, would then miss on her third try — she somersaulted across the pit, jumped out of it with both arms thrown in the air and feet kicked up and ran to her teammates.

She had much the same reaction a few minutes later, though minus the somersault, as she achieved a new career best on her third attempt at 5 feet, 6 inches. (In 2019, a jump of 5 feet, 6 inches, was good for fifth at the state finals.)

"It felt amazing," said Parazzi, an exchange student from Italy who was also seventh in the long



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School senior Kinsey Shannon crosses the finish line first in the 100-meter dash Tuesday to successfully defend the sectional title she won in 2019. She and Elisa Parazzi (high jump) accounted for the Patriots' two wins as the team placed third behind Yorktown and Delta.

jump. Her best high jump prior to this season was 5 feet, 3 inches. "I wanted it for such a long time. When I cleared the bar, it was like, 'Oh my God, I really did it.'"

While Parazzi knew exactly where she stood in her event, Shannon was unsure about her place in the 100-meter dash field. She had pulled back a bit in the preliminaries, cruising in with a time of 13.81 seconds that gave her the fifth seed and put her in lane two. So when she hustled her way down the track in the finals and crossed the finish line, she didn't know if she had done enough to knock off the sprinters several lanes to her right.

An exhausted, questioning glance at coach Joe Imel confirmed that she had.

Shannon was the only runner

to break the 13-second mark, finishing in 12.97 seconds to take the top spot ahead of Yorktown's Brooke Miles (13.19). She and Delta's Makayla Robles (3,200 run) were the only athletes to successfully defend their sectional titles from 2019. (The 2020 season was canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic.)

"My block was on point and it's normally a little rough. That's what probably helped me," said Shannon, who was also second in the 400 dash and ran a blistering final leg of the 4x400 relay to bring the Patriots back to edge Yorktown for third place and the final regional berth. "I feel like I normally stand up too quick and I just kind of glided through the air it felt like."

Senior Abby Benter earned Jay County's only other runner-

up finish on the track, posting a time of 49.11 in the 300 hurdles. Caitlyn Campbell of Winchester ran away with the sectional title in 46.96.

The Patriots throwers joined with Parazzi to give the team a strong day in the field events. Sophomore Gabi Bilbrey was the runner-up in the discus at 100 feet, 3 inches, trailing only Yorktown's Gretchen Moore (103 feet, 10 inches). Kylie Klopfenstein launched the shot put 36 feet, 5 inches, to finish in the No. 2 spot behind Winchester's Anastasia Von Strauss (38 feet, 3.5 inches).

"This year was our first year where we have a designated throws coach for boys and girls," said Imel, referencing assistant coach Brian Miles. "And it has paid off. We've seen some big dividends, some gains with our

throwers, both boys and girls."

Sophia Fugiett, Molly Muhlenkamp, Willow Hardy and Lindy Wood opened the meet with a third-place finish in the 4x800 relay. Shea Bailey, Makinsey Murphy and Benter ran the first three legs of the 4x400 relay before Shannon rallied for the third-place finish.

The Patriots came up one spot short of a regional berth in four events. Placing fourth were Benter in the 100 hurdles, Fugiett in the 800 run, Bailey in the 200 dash and the team of Bralee Van-Skyock, Natalie Wehrly, Murphy and Bailey in the 4x100 relay.

Also scoring points for JCHS were Wood (fifth — 3,200 run), Wehrly (fifth — 200 dash), Murphy (sixth — 300 hurdles), Cash Hollowell (seventh — 100 hurdles) and Bilbrey (eighth — shot put).



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Fort Recovery High School freshman shortstop Troy Homan throws to second for a force out during the top of the first inning of the Division IV sectional semifinal on Tuesday. The Indians beat Ada, 17-1, in five innings.

Tribe trounces Bulldogs

By CHRIS SCHANZ

The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — Bulldog pitchers had a tough time finding the strike zone.

When they were accurate, the Indians let the ball fly.

Fort Recovery High School's baseball team exploded for seven hits, four walks and 15 runs — just in the third inning — in thrashing the Ada Bulldogs 17-1 in five innings during the Division IV Coldwater District sectional semifinal it hosted on Tuesday.

"Gosh, we just got it rolling," said FRHS coach Jerry Kaup. "They couldn't throw some strikes and we did a nice job as a team of not helping them."

"We waited on strikes. We hit good pitches, otherwise we didn't chase their pitches out of the zone. I think that was key."

Fort Recovery (9-16), the district's No. 6 seed, advances to the sectional final at 5 p.m. Thursday against No. 5 seed Crestview Knights. The Knights topped the Indians 5-4 April 3.

Already ahead 2-0 thanks to an RBI single from Brock Dues in the first inning and an RBI groundout from Kendrick Wendel in the second, Fort Recovery sent 21 batters to the plate in the third.

Ryne Post, got the scoring started with an RBI double and hustled his way home from second on a wild pitch after he already got a good jump trying to steal third. He later hit a bases-clearing triple to knock in a game-high four runs, all in the same inning.

"He did a great job," Kaup said of Post. He's been our best hitter. He played with some real hustle and

energy scoring from second base on a wild pitch.

"We were hoping to see a lot more of that. He's a talented young man and when he plays with that kind of fire it certainly gets us going."

After Post's three-run triple, Dues, who finished with three stolen bases, doubled to score the inning's 10th run. Derek Lochtefeld later hit a two-run double, and Wendel recorded his second RBI. Also in the inning, Cobe Wendel, Alex Dues and Landon Post drew bases-loaded walks, and Bo Thein had an RBI.

Post drew three of the Tribe's eight free passes, and seven of the nine spots in the Fort Recovery lineup scored two runs apiece.

Dillan Evers started for the Indians and pitched 2 2/3 innings. He gave up one earned run on five hits with four strikeouts and a pair of walks.

Curts, Patriots beat Blackford

HARTFORD CITY — Austin Curts and Ethan Morris were locked in a dual for six innings.

They combined for 14 strikeouts, only allowed four hits and walked just one batter.

Curts kept his dominance going. The Patriots finally got to Morris.

Three singles and a balk helped the Jay County High School baseball team score three runs in the seventh inning in a 3-1 win over the Blackford Bruins on Tuesday.

Kess McBride hit an RBI and Dusty Pearson knocked in a run to break a

Local roundup

scoreless tie with two outs in the seventh inning. A Morris balk allowed the final run to come home for the Patriots (11-7). Blackford scored in the bottom of the seventh but couldn't tie the game.

Sam Dunlavy led the JCHS offense with two hits, and Gavin Myers also had a single.

See Local page 7

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