

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Jay is ranked seventh lowest

Unemployment rate was 2.7% in April

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Local unemployment had already returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Now Jay County has one of the lowest rates in the state.

Coming in with 2.7% unemployment in April according to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development estimates released this week, Jay County recorded the seventh-lowest unemployment rate among the state's 92 counties.

Adams County had the lowest rate at 2.1%.

After seeing its unemployment rate climb to as high as 19.9% in April 2020 at the height of Indiana's coronavirus pandemic shutdowns, Jay County consistently saw its numbers drop through the rest of the year. By January, the local rate had dipped back to pre-pandemic levels at 3.7%.

The county was among the top 20 for lowest unemployment rate in January (17th) and February (19th) before tying for the 29th-lowest rate in March. April was even better.

It marked the lowest for Jay County since it recorded a rate of 2.4% in September 2019. And it was surpassed only by Adams, LaGrange (2.3%), Union (2.4%), Daviess (2.5%), Boone (2.5%) and Hamilton (2.6%) counties. Wells County was right behind Jay, tied with Dubois County with a rate of 2.8%.

Indiana showed similar improvement as the statewide unemployment rate dropped to 4.2% in April, the lowest mark since before the pandemic. It had been 4.65% in March.

See **Seventh** page 2

Pies will fly



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School senior Caleb Weaver (Clyde Chesterfield) addresses Alex Ardizzzone (Detective Detective) as Ruth Maitlen and Logan Zimmerman (Ethel and Ernest Edinberg) watch Monday during rehearsal for this weekend's production of "Offed at the Bake-Off."

Jay County High School thespians will present comical murder mystery 'Bake Off' this weekend

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Murder may not seem like humorous fare for the stage.

But when mixed with sweet whipped cream and airy pie crusts, it does the trick.

Jay County High School Thespian Troupe 574 will perform the comedic murder mystery "Offed at the Bake-Off" this weekend.

"We're just trying something a little different that people haven't seen here," said director Cain Bilbrey. "And it would be something fun."

"It's super funny," said JCHS senior Sky Renner, who plays Majorie Margarine. "It's full of utter ridiculousness."

The play by Matt and Mike Steele opens on a stormy night at the Knotting Inn on the Jersey Shore as various guests arrive for an annual bake-off. Contestants range from the egotistical defending champion to an elder-

ly woman accompanied by her husband to a teacher to the inn's proprietor.

Eventually, the Helen Hagerly's students (and perhaps some others) die.

Enter the aptly named Detective Detective (Alex Ardizzzone), who both narrates the show in a film noir style and seeks to find out which of the contestants and

other guests at the inn is the killer.

"The whole play is pretty much spent trying to figure out who murdered the students," said Caleb Weaver, a JCHS senior who plays inn owner Clyde Chesterfield. "It's a comedy, but it's also a little bit of a murder mystery. But mostly comedy. It's a lot of people

scrambling around, a lot of visual humor ...

"We've had a lot of serious shows (in the past)," he said, referencing "Bang Bang You're Dead" and "The Miracle Worker;" among others. "I've done funny shows in the past. I like this one because it strikes a nice middle ground. ... This show I think does a pretty good job of balancing it out and giving some nice beats to a show that's mostly slapstick comedy."

Weaver said he's also excited for the opportunity to do some improv, as part of the show includes audience participation with the performers then given the opportunity to respond.

It marks the first live production for the thespian troupe since it crammed three — "Almost, Maine," "Junie B. Jones" and "Bang Bang You're Dead" — into a single month in 2019.

See **Fly** page 5

On the stage

Jay County High School Thespian Troupe 574 will return to the stage with its first live show since November 2019 this weekend with its production of "Offed at the Back-Off." Details are below.

7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday
and 2:30 p.m. Sunday in the JCHS auditorium

Tickets are \$5 and are available at the door



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Derby benefit

A group of cars collide Saturday evening during a benefit demolition derby for the McLaughlin and Barnett families. Curt McLaughlin died of cancer in March. Brian Barnett has been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Both have been long-time supporters of demolition derby events.

Former Muncie mayor will plead

Tyler reaches deal on federal theft charge

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A former Indiana mayor accused of taking a bribe in exchange for a public contract has struck a plea deal with federal prosecutors.

Former Muncie Mayor Dennis Tyler, 78, has agreed to plead guilty to one felony count of theft. The plea agreement was signed Tuesday by Tyler, defense attorney James Voyles and Assistant U.S. Attorney Tiffany Preston.

In the plea agreement, Tyler admitted to receiving \$5,238 to steer Public Board of Works

contracts to an unnamed company. The contracts included ones involving a housing development intended for people experiencing homeless and disabled veterans. It also involved a site for two new car dealerships.

Tyler was indicted in November 2019 on theft of government funds charges. Federal prosecutors alleged Tyler accepted the bribe from an unidentified company in exchange for the awarding of public works projects in Muncie.

Tyler allegedly received the cash between 2014 and Aug. 25, 2016 through Tracy Barton, the Muncie Sanitary District's former superintendent of sewer maintenance and engineering. Barton was indicted in 2018 on charges of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, falsification of documents and witness tampering. He pleaded guilty earlier this month to conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

See **Plead** page 2

Deaths

Leda Mock-Axe, 74, Red-key
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County's high temperature hit 88 degrees Tuesday. The low was 68.

There is a chance of rain tonight with a low of 55. Expect mostly sunny skies Thursday with a high near 78 before possible thunderstorms in the evening.

See page 2 for an extended forecast.

In review

Need to fill out a birth announcement, engagement or wedding form to have your special event announced in the newspaper? They're now available electronically. Just go to thecr.com, hover over "Forms" and select the form you'd like to fill out.

Coming up

Thursday — Results from tonight's JCHS baseball sectional opener.

Saturday — Photos from Fort Recovery's monument lighting ceremony.



Felony arrests

Theft
A Redkey man was arrested Sunday for theft.
David L. Chilcote III, 37, 11807 W. Indiana 28, was preliminarily charged a Level 6 felony for theft and a Class A misdemeanor for criminal trespassing. He was released from Jay County Jail on a \$4,000 bond.

Failed to appear
A Portland woman was arrested Tuesday for failing to appear in court.
Brandi N. Paris, 31, 113 S. Munson Ave., has an original charge for

possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony, and operating a vehicle while under the influence, a Class C misdemeanor. She is being held in Jay County Jail without bond.

Probation violation
An Osgood man was arrested Tuesday for violating his probation.
Zachary T. Bennett, 28, 5669 N. Baseline Road, has an original charge for dealing in a schedule II controlled substance, a Class A felony. He was released from Jay County Jail on \$10,000 bond.

Neglecting dependent
A Portland man and woman were arrested Monday for neglecting a dependent.
Korey L. Ellsworth, 34, 322 N. Pleasant St., and Misty D. Ellsworth, 33, 322 N. Pleasant St., were preliminarily charged two Level 6 felonies for maintaining a common nuisance and neglect of a dependent.
Korey Ellsworth was also charged a Class A misdemeanor for possession of marijuana. He was released from Jay County Jail on \$7,500 bond.
Misty Ellsworth was also

charged a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. She was released from Jay County Jail on a \$7,000 bond.

Corrections violation
A Bluffton woman was arrested today for a Jay County Community Corrections violation.
Angela L. Rowles, 23, 820 W. Market St., has an original charge for possession of methamphetamine, a Level 5 felony. She's being held in Jay County Jail on \$5,000 bond.

Obituaries

Leda Mock-Axe, Redkey, Dec. 7, 1946-May 24, 2021. Services were at 1 p.m. today at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

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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.

CR almanac

Thursday 5/27	Friday 5/28	Saturday 5/29	Sunday 5/30	Monday 5/31
78/55	65/46	64/43	70/48	75/55
There is a 90% chance of rain and thunderstorms. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.	More showers are in the forecast for Friday with a 80% chance of thunderstorms after 2 p.m.	Mostly sunny skies all day with highs in the lower 60s. Clear evening skies.	Sunny skies are expected Sunday with highs reaching the 70s.	Memorial day is expected to be mostly sunny all day with some clouds appearing at night.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$236 million	10-17-18-19-25-42-47-55-58-59-64-68-69-78-79 Cash 5: 3-18-19-30-42 Estimated jackpot: \$241,000
Mega Millions 14-21-31-34-54 Mega Ball: 11 Megaplier: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$22 million	Ohio Midday Pick 3: 9-1-1 Pick 4: 5-0-6-3 Pick 5: 9-8-5-3-5 Evening Pick 3: 0-4-8 Pick 4: 6-4-3-3 Pick 5: 3-3-3-6-3 Rolling Cash: 9-13-20-21-37 Estimated jackpot: \$150,000
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: 1-5-6-8-9	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....6.66 Wheat6.49	Central States Montpelier Corn.....6.54 June corn6.54 Beans15.57 Sept. beans13.06 Wheat6.40
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....6.87 June corn6.64	Sunrise St. Anthony Corn.....6.56 May corn.....6.59 Beans15.33 May beans15.35 Wheat6.06 July wheat.....6.06
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....6.57 June corn6.57 Beans15.56 June beans15.56 Wheat6.39 June wheat.....6.29	

Today in history

On May 26, 1940, Operation Dynamo, the evacuation of some 338,000 Allied troops from Dunkirk, France, began during World War II.

In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed a measure creating the Montana Territory.

In 1938, the House Un-American Activities Committee was established by Congress.

In 1954, explosions rocked the aircraft carrier USS Bennington off Rhode Island, killing 103 sailors. (The initial blast was blamed on leaking catapult fluid ignited by the flames of a jet.)

In 1971, the Pennville High School baseball team topped Norwell 5-2 in the sectional tournament at Bluffton. It marked the Bulldogs' first sectional win in five seasons.

In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev signed the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in Moscow. (The U.S. withdrew from the treaty in 2002.)

In 1977, George Willig scaled the outside of the South Tower of New York's World Trade Center; he was arrested at the top of the 110-story building.

In 1981, 14 people were killed when a Marine jet crashed onto the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz off Florida.

In 2004, nearly a decade after the Oklahoma City bombing, Terry Nichols was found guilty of 161 state murder charges for helping carry out the attack. (Nichols later received 161 consecutive life sentences.)

—AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today
5 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, Dunkirk City Park.

Tuesday, June 1
4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community St.

Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.
7 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.
7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St.

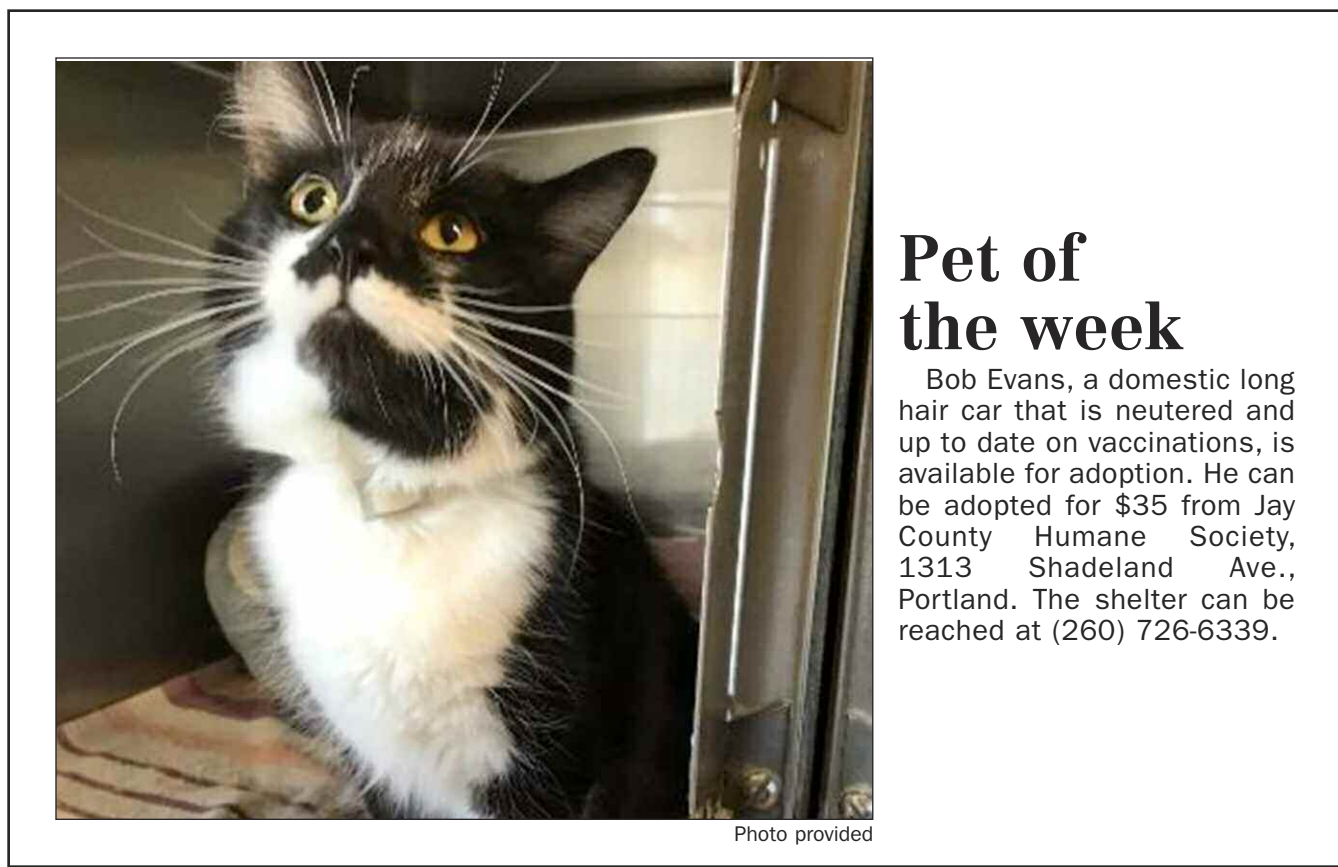


Photo provided

Pet of the week

Bob Evans, a domestic long hair cat that is neutered and up to date on vaccinations, is available for adoption. He can be adopted for \$35 from Jay County Humane Society, 1313 Shadeland Ave., Portland. The shelter can be reached at (260) 726-6339.

Capsule Reports

Intersection collision
Damage is estimated between \$25,000 and \$50,000 after a Montpelier woman failed to yield to oncoming traffic at the intersection of county roads 250 West and 400 South about 5:15 p.m. Friday.
April L. Frasher, 50, Portland, was driving her 2018 Jeep Grand Cherokee south on county road 250 West and began to cross the intersection with county road 400 South. Chelsey M. Staver, 28, was driving her 2018 Ram 3500 west on county road 400 South. She failed to yield the right of way to Frasher, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report. Their vehicles collided. (There is a stop sign on 400 South but not on 250 West.)
Frasher was treated at the scene for her injuries, and Staver refused medical treatment for a minor leg wound. Both vehicles were towed.

Barn hit
A Redkey man drove through a barn on Indiana 67 in Redkey about 4:15 p.m. Saturday.
Jason M. Bunch, 48, was driving a 2017 Nissan

Versa on Indiana 67 near Spencer Street when he left the road. He entered a ditch and continued through the barn located at 8789 W. Indiana 67, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report. Bunch was intoxicated on a prescription medicine. He said he had been abusing his Xanax, the report said.
Bunch's vehicle was towed. Damage is estimated between \$25,000 and \$50,000.

Turning left
A Portland semi driver struck a Muncie teen's vehicle while turning onto Indiana 1 about 3:45 p.m. Monday.
Chelsea L. Lykins, 17, was stopped on Indiana 26 in a 2020 Toyota Camry when a 2007 International semi, driven by 67-year-old Bruce W. McLaughlin, began turning onto the highway from Indiana 1. The semi struck the car Lykins was driving.
McLaughlin told Jay County Sheriff's Office he thought he had enough room to turn.
McLaughlin's semi is

registered to KBL Transport of Berne. The vehicle Lykins was driving is registered to Jonathan P. Cave of Dunkirk, and it was towed from the scene. Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

Tree hit
A Pennville man drove off the road and into a tree about 3:30 p.m. Tuesday.
Brian A. Jobe, 53, was driving a 2007 Pontiac Torrent east on county road 200 South when he drove off the road and into the property at 081 W. 200 South, striking a tree.
His vehicle was towed, with damages estimated between \$1,000 to \$2,500.

Deer hit
A Portland man hit a deer with his vehicle about 11 p.m. Thursday.
David M. Grayson, 42, was driving his 2000 Dodge Ram 1500 east on county road 75 South near county road 300 West when he drove into the animal. Damage is estimated less than \$1,000.

Plead ...

Continued from page 1
Tyler is a Democrat who was mayor for eight years after serving in the Indiana House. He did not seek reelection in 2019.
Tyler's indictment came amid a federal investigation that resulted in Muncie's former building commissioner pleading guilty to money laundering and wire fraud. Craig Nichols was sentenced to two years in prison and ordered to pay nearly \$218,000 in restitution to the City of Muncie, the Muncie Sanitary District and developer Danner Construction.
Prosecutors alleged Nichols used sham bidding practices and submitted fake invoices to steer work to companies he owned.

SERVICES

Today
Walter, Georgia: 2:30 p.m., Center Cemetery, rural Portland.

Thursday
Minch, John: 10:30 a.m., Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 7321 Indiana 67, Bryant.

Friday
Moore, Todd: 6 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

Seventh ...

Continued from page 1
The highest unemployment rate in the state last month was in Lake County, which was by far the worst at 7.6%.
Howard County was next at 6.1%, LaPorte County came in at 6% and Marion County was next at 5.3%.
Area rates are as follows:
Adams County: 2.1%, down 0.9 percentage points, lowest.
Blackford County: 4.1%, down 0.7 percentage points, t-25th highest.
Delaware County: 4.5%, down 0.4 percentage point, t-15th highest.
Jay County: 2.7%, down 1.1 percentage points, seventh lowest
Randolph County: 3.7%, down 0.8 percentage points, t-38th highest.
Wells County: 2.8%, down 0.6 percentage points, t-eighth lowest.

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Man learns he fathered child as a teen

DEAR ABBY: When I was 16, my cousin "Mary" came from Georgia to New York to stay with us for the summer. After a short time we began experimenting with French kissing, which led to more things happening between us. Mary went home at the end of summer.

We are both 50 now, and I recently learned she became pregnant back then with a daughter and never married. The DNA indicates she is mine. My question is, how do I explain to my wife that I need to be

Dear Abby



there for my daughter? I never had any other kids, as my wife can't have children. Please help me. — PAST HISTORY IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR PAST HISTORY: Is your wife aware

of the short affair you had with your cousin? If not, start the conversation by telling her about your youthful "adventure." Once she has digested the information, explain that you intend to get to know your daughter. Do NOT tell her the reason is that she couldn't give you children, which would be cruel and unnecessary.

Understand, however, that your "child" is now a grown woman in her

mid-30s. She may have no interest in getting to know you because you have been absent all her life.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 32 years. My husband has been cheating on me for the past three of them. He's an international airline captain who has taken advantage of his "freedom." I recently learned that he paid \$91,000 on an apartment. (He has an inheritance from his

father that he has drawn from.)

My therapist suggests that he's a narcissistic personality with volatile ups and downs. My husband refuses to talk to me. He actually walks away from me when I bring up his girlfriend. He talks to her and texts her regularly. The monthly phone bills usually total over \$400. I need help in trying to get him to talk to me before it ends. — TURNING POINT IN MASSACHUSETTS

POINT: Your international airline captain appears to have parachuted out of your marriage. Clearly he isn't interested in trying to save what's left of it. Because he is unwilling to talk to you about it, it's important YOU talk to someone who will. Consult a lawyer about what your options are as a wife of more than three decades. You have my sympathy, and I'm glad you sought help from a therapist.

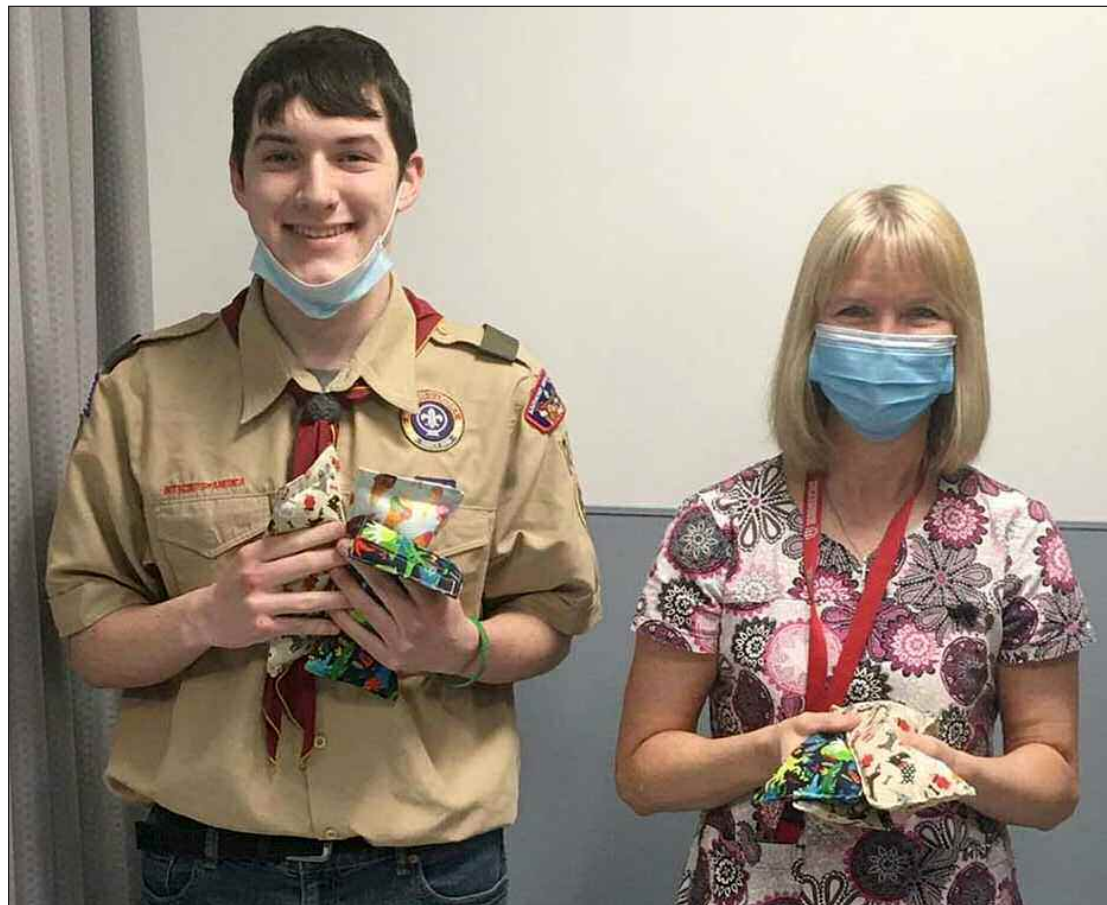


Photo provided

Eagle Scout

Mitchell Brown (left) of Boy Scout Troop 202 of Portland recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. He completed his Eagle Scout project by sewing 180 reusable cold/hot packs for East Elementary School. School nurse Cindy Hudson (right) was given the packs to be used as needed. Brown is a senior at Jay County High School and is active in band and the school's computer gaming program.

Song of the moths captures spirit of love

By KWAME DAWES

Sometimes defining what we mean by love causes us to fumble around, until we find the right language, or, as in this case, the perfect lived image that captures it all.

Tyree Daye does this here in his poem, "Ode to the Common Clothes Moth," which is truly an elegant ode to his love for De Lissa.

Daye is from Youngsville, North Carolina, and an assistant professor at UNC-Chapel Hill. He is the author of two poetry collections — "River Hymns," the 2017 APR/Honick-

American Life in Poetry

man First Book Prize winner, and "Cardinal" (Copper Canyon, 2020). He won the 2019 Palm Beach Poetry Festival Langston Hughes Fellowship and was awarded a 2019 Diana and Simon Raab Writer-In-Residence at UC Santa Barbara and a 2019 Whiting Writers Award.

Ode to the Common Clothes Moth

In these days of less and less sun your love points and I follow like the blind moths you beg me not to kill half-asleep and the sun lesser than a minute before I'll let you go into the night and you say and I follow your love of winged things to the back door watch you empty your hands into the sky

In the morning you will wake before me and walk out into the yard the sun acts like a father as if it never left moths sing of you from wherever moths go to sing

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

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Community Calendar

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

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

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St.

Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

STRESS AND ANXIETY CLASS — Meets each Wednesday at 2nd Chance at Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (206) 726-9625 or (260) 703-0534.

EUCHRE CLUB — Will meet at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at Chalet Village Health and Rehabilitation in the North Lounge.

Thursday
CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Sec-

ond 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 - BRIANNA'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.

LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES — Free and confidential consultations with a lawyer are available from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics including divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant-landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating should sign up in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION MISSISSINEWA CHAPTER — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 27, at the Jay County Historical Society. Chapter treasurer Judy Crull will speak about Phillip Reiff, a Pennsylvania lieutenant. Any woman over the age of 18 years of age may join the National Society of the American Revolution if she has an ancestor who gave patriotic service during the American Revolution.

Saturday
PORTLAND FARMERS MARKET — Is open from 8 a.m. to noon each Saturday in the parking lot at The Rock Church.
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. upstairs at True Value Hardware, Meridian Street, Portland. For more information, call (260) 729-2532.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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

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Chamber and tourism should unite

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

Here's a modest proposal. It's something that has occurred to me before, but I found myself thinking about it about a week or so ago during the Jay County Chamber of Commerce Jay County Community Awards.

Like most organizations of its type, the chamber often finds itself in need of reliable revenue. Events like the community awards banquet are, at least in part, fundraisers.

The chamber could raise dues, but that would be counterproductive. After all, for the chamber to operate most effectively it needs to have as many business members as possible. Boost the dues, and you lose the little guys, the small, mom and pop businesses that the chamber most wants to help.

Back in the Saddle



Meanwhile, there's another organization doing chamber-like functions that has the most reliable revenue stream imaginable: tax dollars.

I'm talking about Jay County Visitors and Tourism Bureau. Its revenue stream comes from innkeeper's taxes paid by folks who spend nights in local hotels and motels.

You don't pay it. I don't pay it. Visitors pay it.

When the tourism bureau was launched, that made sense. It

was a countywide approach to countywide promotion of tourism.

Besides, at that point, there was no Jay County Chamber of Commerce.

There was the Portland Area Chamber of Commerce. There was the Dunkirk Chamber of Commerce. There was the Redkey Chamber of Commerce. And there were businesses that banded together now and then in Pennville and Bryant, usually around local festivals.

The late Vicki Tague's greatest accomplishment was to corral all those community boosters together into a single, county chamber of commerce.

From the outset, revenue to support the venture was a problem.

A huge gap existed between what Portland chamber mem-

bers paid in terms of dues and what businesses in Dunkirk and Redkey were prepared to pay.

Somehow, Vicki managed to pull it together.

But I'll always believe an opportunity was missed.

It was all a matter of timing.

The tourism bureau had been put in place before Vicki was able to bring all those communities together under one chamber umbrella.

So here's my modest proposal: Fold the tourism bureau's tent and have Jay County Chamber of Commerce contract with the county to provide tourism and promotion services.

Those services would be completely in line with the chamber's mission, and there would undoubtedly be economies of scale if the chamber simply added tourism to its other roles

as an advocate for business and a catalyst for retail promotion.

With the benefit of the innkeeper's tax revenue stream, the countywide chamber could make sure its dues structure was affordable to every enterprise in the county, widening its base while making chamber membership easy and attractive.

Freed of the emphasis on fundraising, the chamber would be able to focus on the work at hand, promoting businesses, boosting tourism, service as an advocate for business in the public sector and charting an agenda for the county's future.

OK, I know that like most "modest proposals" this one will find plenty of opponents.

But, just for the record, I think it makes a great deal of sense.

Vaccinations key to recovery

Tribune-Star (Terre Haute)

The horsepower of America's economy is a hot topic right now.

Critics of the federal government's COVID-19 relief efforts insist the generous benefits to Americans who lost jobs in the pandemic, or feared contracting the virus if they returned to their workplaces, are now causing a labor shortage. The policies "pay people not to work," said Mitch McConnell, leader of the Senate's Republican minority.

Skeptics of the \$300 weekly federal checks to the jobless also see those payouts, and the \$1.9-trillion overall pandemic relief package, as a match lighting an inflation fire. Employers say they have jobs available but cannot find anyone to fill them. Thus, Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb has joined other Republican-led states in turning away federal jobless relief funds, starting June 19.

But supporters of President Joe Biden's response to the economic catastrophe he inherited say his efforts have revived and sustained families and small businesses trying to start over after 15 rocky months. The turnaround is real. In Indiana, the unemployment rate in April 2020 stood at 16.9%. This April, the jobless rate among Hoosiers was 3.9%. Nationwide, the number of Americans applying for unemployment aid fell to 440,000 last week, the lowest since the pandemic began. The national jobless rate in April 2020 hit 14.8%, the highest since 1948, but stood at 6.1% this April.

As for employers being unable to find workers, such complaints existed long before the pandemic. Previously, shortages of workers were attributed to a lack of "soft skills" — like showing up on time, or passing a drug test — or technical skills. Today, the low wages of many newly open jobs, the health risks of working around unvaccinated coworkers, and the inability of many people to find or afford child care are influencing the number of Americans returning to the labor force.

Many economists also contend inflation is a natural byproduct of such a dramatic recovery, especially after production of materials for now-high-

Hoosier Editorial

demand goods had been idled for so long. Inflation should level off through the bedrock economic principle of supply and demand, those economists say. Unrelated causes also triggered some products' prices to climb. Gasoline prices surged after a cyberattack on the Colonial Pipeline, for example.

The arguments over which political side is right will go on ad nauseum. In the meantime, the most effective tactic to restore American jobs and workplaces, and to help the country vault past the crippling effects of the pandemic, is the COVID-19 vaccine.

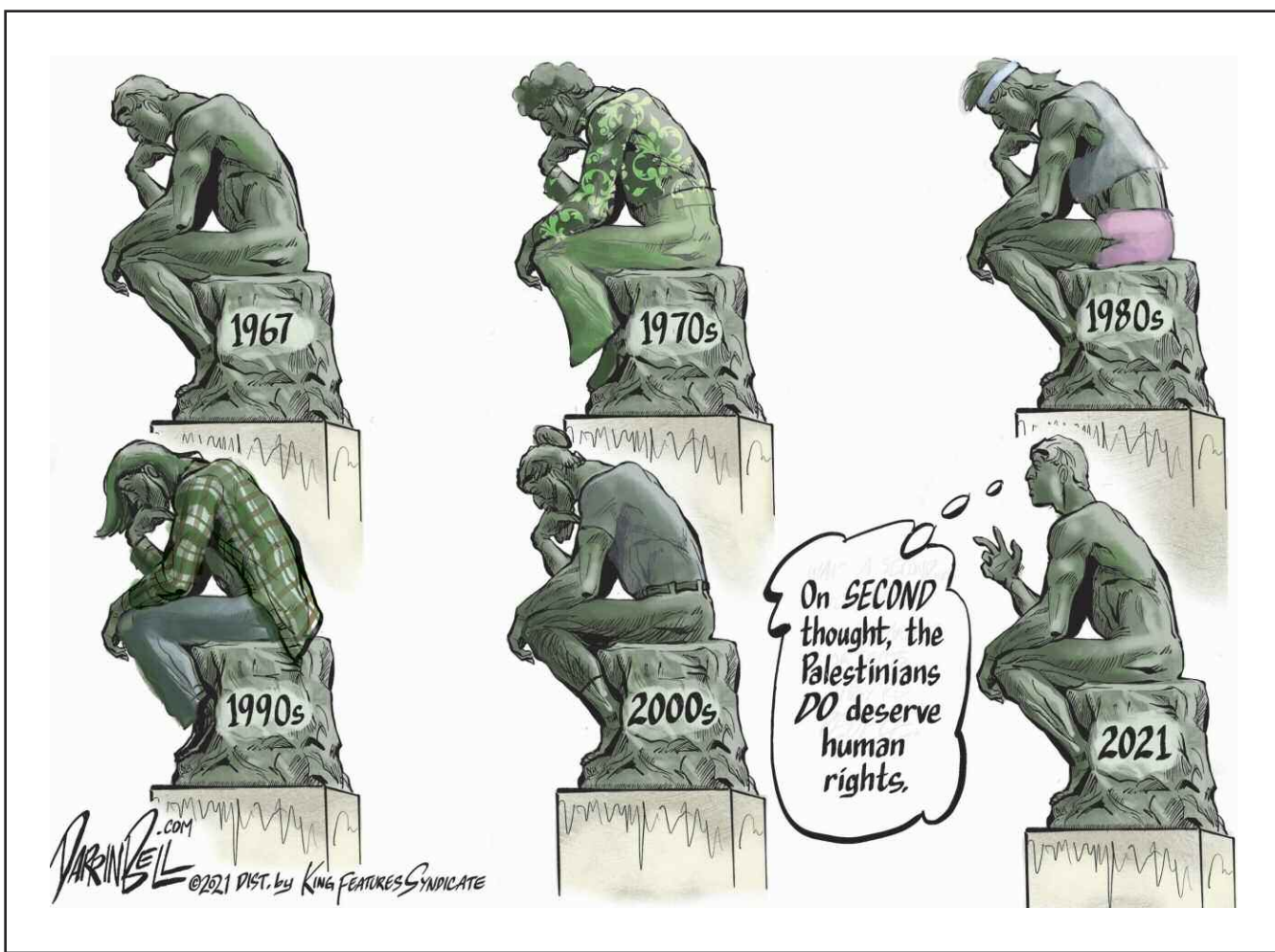
The presence of a vaccinated population has given restaurants and shops the confidence that they can safely reopen more fully. Vaccinated workers significantly reduce the risk of virus spreading through a staff, causing the disruptions that have plagued businesses since March 2020.

The latest weekly "Return to Normal" survey by Morning Consult, a market data research firm, showed "the upward shift among vaccinated Americans drove the overall level of consumer comfort to a record high of 49%." Forty-five percent of vaccinated adults now feel comfortable with a variety of leisure activities, fueling those industries, up 6 percentage points from last week. And, the percentage of vaccinated Americans comfortable enough to dine in restaurants or shop inside stores rose 11 and 9 points, respectively.

Other activities more appealing this week to vaccinated Americans are flying on an airliner, taking a cruise or watching a movie in theater, a benefit to those hard-hit industries.

COVID-19 vaccinations are safe, free and easy to get. Each new recipient bolsters the economic recovery.

Any debate over policies should begin with a question for each participant: Are you fully vaccinated yet?



Befriend someone you disagree with

By GARY ABERNATHY

Special To The Washington Post

I hear often from people on the left who swear they don't personally know anyone who supported Donald Trump for president. As a result, they cannot fathom such support, let alone comprehend a world in which Trump could win the White House. Similarly, many on the right are so insulated from people who think differently that they were convinced Trump could not possibly lose the 2020 election. Everyone they associate with was voting for Trump, so if he lost, well, the election must have been stolen.

When substantial numbers of citizens on the extreme ends of our political spectrum dismiss any successes enjoyed by their adversaries as evidence of wrongdoing, our polarization moves from the realm of merely regrettable to physically calamitous, as we have seen through various events over the past year or so, but especially on Jan. 6 in Washington.

While everyone acknowledges our division and the social and cultural isolation at its core, doing something about it takes effort. Be of good cheer. There are those dedicated to doing just that, including organizations such as Business for America, Crossing Party Lines, the National Institute for Civil Discourse, FixUS, Listen First Project and Unify America, to name a few. They and others are joining forces for an innovative project the weekend of June 12 and 13 called America Talks, which should be interesting.

Kicking off a National Week of Conversation, the goal of America Talks is to engage at least 10,000 "conversation participants" through the magic of video conferencing in one-on-one, face-to-face dialogues based on political differences. "Each conversation will provide a repairing stitch to America's frayed social fabric, as participants shift perspective

Gary Abernathy



from 'us and them' to 'you and me,'" according to the program description. Sign-ups are happening now.

Yes, it's a lofty undertaking, and a ripe target for cynics and naysayers. It's not designed for the denizens of most digital message boards, where snark and insolence flourish, abated by anonymity. It's for people who yearn to expand their universe, better understand each other and perhaps even make new friends through productive and respectful conversation.

There are always groups affiliated with "bipartisan" outreach efforts that give pause to people considering participation. This group is too far left, or this one leans too far right. But allowing the perfect to be the enemy of the good is how we remain stagnant.

Emerging from our comfortable bubbles isn't easy. We're encouraged by many of the most popular personalities on cable news to marginalize, demonize and even hate anyone who disagrees with us. We deliver that hate to the Internet, where social media welcomes us with open arms to share our vitriol with the world — and if we say something cleverly cutting enough, it might get amplified by our favorite cable host. Round and round we go.

With all the fun stuff to watch on Netflix and other services, I seldom watch cable news in the evenings. But if I do choose to focus on politics, I try to watch something other than Fox News to be presented a point of view I don't already share. I also enjoy

occasional lunchtime conversations with people who disagree with me. But in a society dedicated to separation, finding verbal sparring partners for amicable debates over club sandwiches or salads is challenging.

Our stubborn devotion to political tribalism deters us from opening ourselves to different ideas — some of which might actually turn out to be good — or making new acquaintances — some of whom might turn out to be interesting and intellectually stimulating.

One of my favorite activities is to visit schools where the faculty and the student population are overwhelmingly liberal. I'm usually there, ostensibly, to help them understand people and attitudes in Trump Country. At first, I usually feel like a specimen being studied prior to dissection. But after we dance around each other for a while, the mood lightens and constructive dialogues break out. Hopefully, they learn something from me, but I always learn from them.

After I wrote a column recently on supporting reparations for descendants of enslaved people, a faculty member from a very liberal school that has hosted me several times emailed me saying, "I smiled when I read your reparations piece. I thought maybe we had some influence." There is no doubt.

Those who haven't tried it should know that it can be fun to make friends with people who disagree with you politically. Not only can you expand your horizons, you can also discover the many nonpolitical things there are to like about each other once you start talking. Americans used to know that, and nourish it, before social media and cable news started driving us apart.

Abernathy, a contributing columnist for The Post, is a freelance writer based in southwestern Ohio.

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Rokita argues governor overstepped

By TOM DAVIES
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana's attorney general argues in new legal filings that the governor is wrongly trying to use the courts to expand his powers with a lawsuit challenging the authority state legislators have given themselves to intervene during public emergencies.

Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb asked a judge last month to block the new law passed by the GOP-dominated Legislature following criticism from many conservatives over the statewide mask mandate and other COVID-19 restrictions that Holcomb imposed by executive orders.

Attorney General Todd Rokita,

also a Republican and past Holcomb rival, claims in court documents filed late Monday that he is within his legal authority to turn down Holcomb's request to take the dispute to court after the Legislature overrode the governor's veto of the new law. His office's court filing repeatedly calls the governor's lawyers "unauthorized counsel" in asking for them to be removed from the case.

"A lawsuit by the Governor against legislators to invalidate a law enacted over the Governor's veto amounts to a demand for a 'super' veto via the judiciary," the attorney general's court filing said. "It is no small thing for one branch of government to drag another branch of government to

account before the third branch of government. No constitutional provision secures to officials of any branch such extraordinary power."

Holcomb's lawyers argued last week that Rokita was making "absurd" arguments that he alone has the legal authority to represent the state in court and can decide whether the new law is constitutional.

John Trimble, Holcomb's lead lawyer with the Indianapolis firm Lewis Wagner, referred questions Tuesday to the governor's office, which didn't immediately reply to a request for comment.

The governor and some legal experts maintain the state constitution doesn't allow the new

process under which legislative leaders could call the General Assembly into what it calls an "emergency session." The governor's lawsuit argues that the Legislature is "usurping a power given exclusively to the governor" under the state constitution to call lawmakers into a special session.

The Marion County judge handling the case hasn't yet set any hearings or indicated when a ruling might be issued.

Rokita sought the Republican nomination to run for governor in 2016 but lost to Holcomb and is widely seen as wanting to succeed the term-limited governor after the 2024 election. He said during last year's election cam-

aign that he supported curtailing the governor's emergency powers and he didn't defend Holcomb from criticism of his coronavirus restrictions.

The attorney general's latest filing renewed the argument that Holcomb's against legislators isn't allowed to proceed now under state law because the General Assembly technically is still in session despite concluding its regular business for the year on April 22. That's because lawmakers extended the deadline for this year's legislative session from April 29 until Nov. 15 because of delays in receiving census data so they can approve new congressional and legislative election districts.

Fly ...

Continued from page 1

It is also the JCHS directorial debut for Bilbrey, who took over leadership of the drama program following Carol Gebert's retirement at the end of the 2019-20 school year.

Bilbrey is a 1989 JCHS graduate who went on to Ball State University. He did his equity actor apprenticeship at The Barn Theatre in Michigan, toured with Ballet Internationale of Indianapolis and has worked as a technical director at various stops including Raleigh, North Carolina, and Muncie Civic Theatre.

His recent on-stage roles include Gandalf in 768 Players' production of "Fellowship!" and Shrek in Jay County Civic Theatre's production of "Shrek the Musical."

"I just can't get away from theatre," he joked.

"We're going to do everything we can to keep live theatre alive in Jay County," he added. "I want our program working with other programs in the community."

"That's important."

Bilbrey noted that one of the biggest challenges for young performers is portraying characters and feelings they may have never experienced. For instance, Logan Zimmerman and Ruth Maitlen play elderly couple Ethel and Ernest Edinberg. Samuel Harding and Ozlynn Detro are married as Paul and Pauline Pingleton.

"They're growing," Bilbrey said. "They take their notes. We've went leaps and bounds."

The cast also includes Joce-



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

From left, Hannah Boggs (Gabby Gooper), Gabriela Bilbrey (Brutus Badour), McKenna Vore (Sally Scarsdale) and Sky Renner (Marjorie Margarine) react on stage during Monday's rehearsal of the Jay County High School Thespian Troupe 574 production of "Offed at the Bake-Off." Shows are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday as well as 2:30 p.m. Sunday.

lyn Nelson as Thelma Pittlefish, Hannah Littler as Hagerly, McKenna Vore as Sally Scarsdale, Ralyn Chaffins as Carolyn Chesterfield, Talon Harvey as Sister Mary Martha, Thomas Charles as Wally Wallford, Gabriela Bilbrey as Bru-

tus Badour, Marisa Gallegos Vargas as the mysterious woman, Sammie Sager as Velma Pittlefish, Cassandra Coffin as Blanche Pittlefish and Hannah Boggs as Gabby Gooper.

Performances are scheduled

for 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday as well as 2:30 p.m. Sunday in the JCHS auditorium. Tickets are \$5 and will be available at the door.

"It's a really, really fun show," said Weaver. "You're going to have trouble finding

just 30 seconds of space where you're not going to be laughing. It's really great because it's a show where you kind of get to laugh with the people on stage."

Added Renner: "It's going to be hilarious."

Senate GOP prepares counter

By LISA MASCARO
and JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans revived negotiations over President Joe Biden's sweeping investment plan, preparing a \$1 trillion infrastructure proposal that would be funded with COVID-19 relief money as a counteroffer to the White House ahead of a Memorial Day deadline toward a bipartisan deal.

The Republicans said Tuesday they would disclose details of the new offer by Thursday, sounding upbeat after both sides had panned other offers.

At the White House, press secretary Jen Psaki declined to address the

new plan but said: "We expect this week to be a week of progress."

Talks over the infrastructure investment are at a crossroads as Biden reaches for a top legislative priority. The White House is assessing whether the president can strike a bipartisan deal with Republicans on his American Jobs Plan or whether he will try to go it alone with Democrats if no progress is made in the days ahead.

Yet the administration and the GOP senators remain far apart over the size and scope of the investment needed to reboot the nation's roads, bridges and broadband — but also, as Biden sees it,

the child care centers and green energy investments needed for a 21st-century economy. They also can't agree on how to pay for it.

Biden had dropped his \$2.3 trillion opening bid to \$1.7 trillion, and Republicans had nudged their initial \$568 billion offer up by about \$50 billion late last week, but talks teetered as both sides complained the movement was insufficient.

The Republicans have uniformly rejected Biden's plan to pay for the investments by raising the corporate tax rate, from 21% to 28%. Instead, the GOP senators want to shift unspent COVID-19 relief funds to infrastructure, which may be a non-

starter for Democrats. Republicans also want to rely on gas taxes, tolls and other fees charged to drivers to pay for the highways and other infrastructure.

The Republicans said their new proposal would be aligned with what they discussed with Biden.

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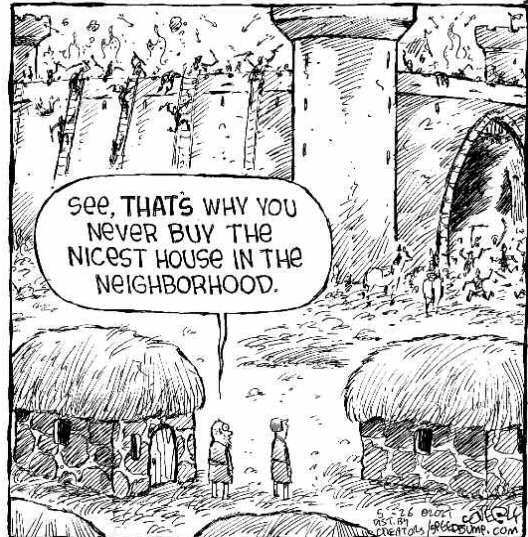
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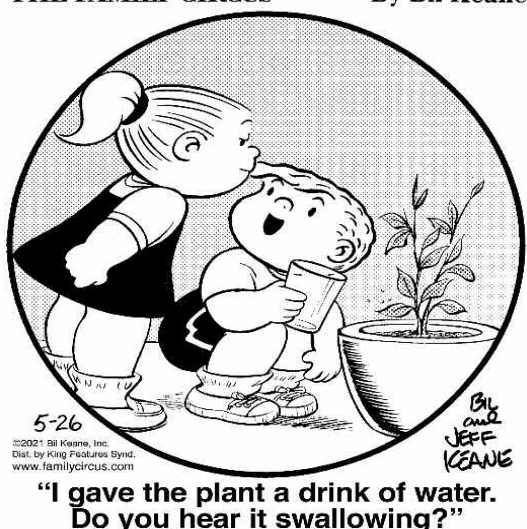
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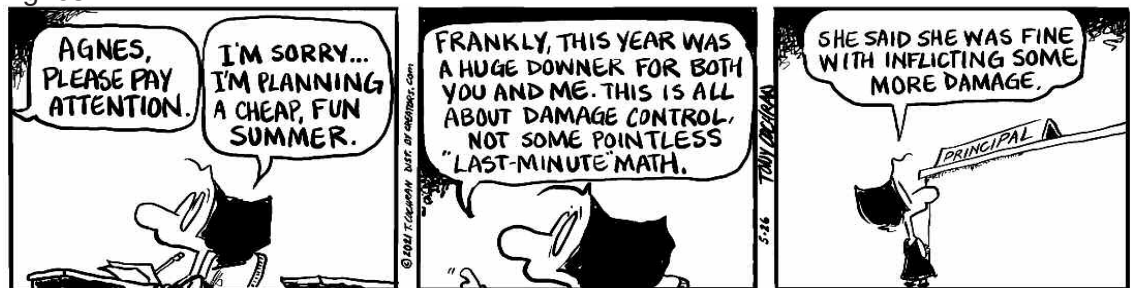
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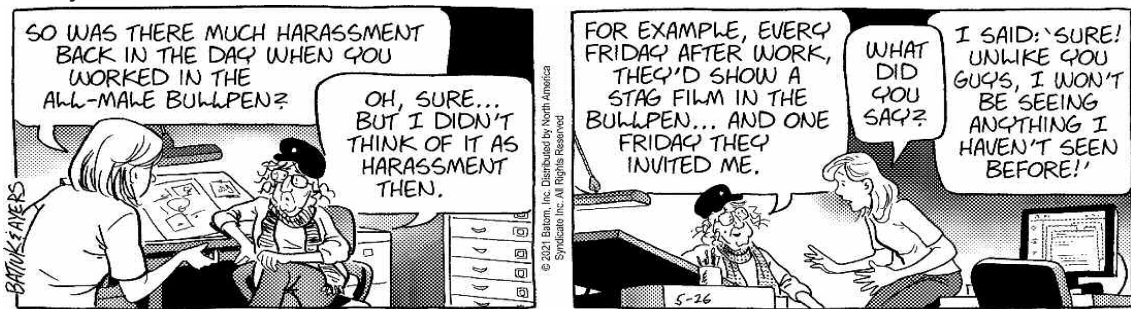
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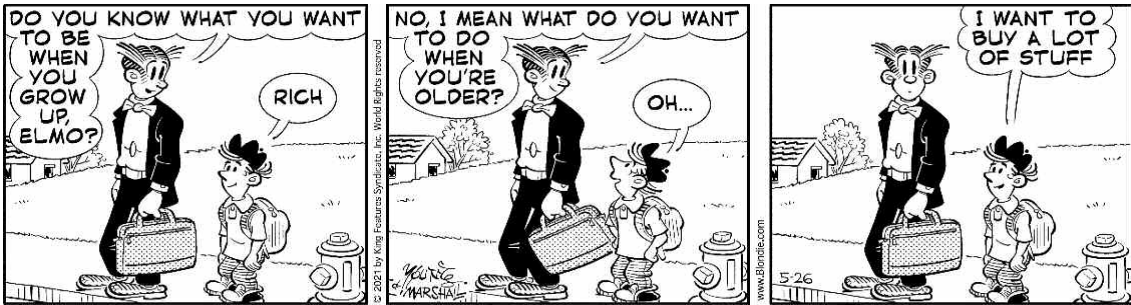
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- 1 Hardly any
 - 4 Emporium
 - 8 School session
 - 12 Actress Longoria
 - 13 Sci-fi race
 - 14 First-rate
 - 15 Can material
 - 16 Cuddly stuffed animal
 - 18 Aquarium buildup
 - 20 Moray, for one
 - 21 May honorees
 - 24 Brash
 - 28 Frequent campaign promise
 - 32 Abound
 - 33 Belief
 - 34 Fills up
 - 36 Chest muscle
 - 37 Actor Hems-worth
 - 39 Mountainous area of Afghanistan
 - 41 Painter's stand
 - 43 Egyptian river
- DOWN**
- 1 Greek salad
 - 2 Satan's forte
 - 3 Designer Vera
 - 4 Celestial streakers
 - 5 Hearty brew
 - 6 Scepter
 - 7 Ocean motion
 - 8 iPad, e.g.
 - 9 Fair hirer, in ads
 - 10 Genetic letters
 - 11 Debussey's "La—"
 - 17 Longing
 - 19 Embassy VIP
 - 22 Potatoes partner
 - 23 Squelched
 - 25 Seized vehicle
 - 26 Swerve
 - 27 Village People hit
 - 28 Scrabble piece
 - 29 Europe's neighbor
 - 30 Present day?
 - 31 "Felicity" star
 - 35 Russell
 - 37 Tony-winning actress
 - 38 Dues payer
 - 40 Wager
 - 42 Lucy of "Kill Bill"
 - 45 Bleak
 - 47 "Toodledo!"
 - 48 List-ending abbr.
 - 49 Monthly payment
 - 50 Eastern "way"
 - 51 Neither Rep. nor Dem.
 - 52 6 on a phone
 - 53 TV schedule abbr.
 - 54 Not 'neath

Solution time: 23 mins.



Yesterday's answer 5-26

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STATE ...

Continued from page 8
“I really didn’t think I had to because those two girls were kicking it in,” said an out-of-breath Shannon to her teammates after the race.

She trailed only defending state champion Ramiah Elliott (55.72) of North Central and Kacyra Simmons (58.93) of the host Giants with her career-best time of 59.47. “I just kept going,” added Shannon. “I was dead on the last stretch but I was like, ‘Just finish.’ ... And, I don’t know. I just did it. It was a killer. ...

“It’s a shock, finally, as a senior going to state. It’s amazing. I did not think I was ever going to get past regional.”

As shocked as Shannon was, it’s difficult to imagine anyone having had a more surprising seven days than Benter.

The Patriot senior placed fourth in the 100-meter high hurdles at

the Delta sectional. Only the top three are guaranteed to move on to the regional meet.

But her time proved good enough to earn her a spot filling out the regional field. It was so good, she entered the meet seeded ninth of 16 runners.

Then she ran the seventh-fastest time — her career-best mark of 16.24 — in the preliminaries to earn a spot in the finals. She couldn’t quite match that time in the last race of her career, but still climbed two more spots for a fifth-place regional finish. (She was just one hundredth of a second behind fourth-place finisher Ella Garvin of New Castle in 16.35 while each of the top three broke the 16-second mark.)

“I was just surprised,” said Benter, who was also 12th in the 300 hurdles in 49.91. “I was lucky if I could get ninth. That’s how I felt.”

Bilbrey also climbed the ladder

‘It’s a shock, finally, as a senior going to state. It’s amazing. I did not think I was ever going to get past regional.’

—Kinsey Shannon, Jay County senior

in the closing weeks of her sophomore season.

After knocking on the door to triple digits for most of the year, she finally broke through last week with her runner-up sectional toss of 100 feet, 3.5 inches. That distance made her the No. 11 seed, just on the outside of the top nine required to make finals.

Like her teammates, she delivered when the pressure was on. Bilbrey qualified for the finals and improved her career-best distance with a throw of 102 feet, 1 inch, to place seventh.

“Gabi has been all year between

95 and 98 feet in the discus,” said Imel. “I knew — we all knew — that she could throw 100 or over 100. She’s just a really hard worker.”

Kylie Klopfenstein, the only other individual Patriot competing Tuesday, had a toss of 35 feet, 0.5 inches, for 11th in the shot put.

Sophia Fugiett, Lindy Wood, Molly Muhlenkamp and Willow Hardy posted a time of 11 minutes, 0.56 seconds, for 13th in the 4x800 relay. Shea Bailey, Makinsey Murphy, Shannon and Benter were 14th in the 4x400 relay in 4 minutes, 24.75 seconds.

On tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Baseball sectional semifinal vs. Guerin Catholic at Yorktown — 7:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Track regional at Troy — 4:30 p.m.
Fort Wayne TinCaps at South Bend Cubs — 7:05 p.m.

Thursday
Jay County — Boys track regional at Lawrence Central — 5:30 p.m.; Boys golf at Adams Central — 4:30 p.m.; Softball sectional semifinal vs. TBA at Hamilton Heights — 5 p.m.
Fort Wayne TinCaps at South Bend Cubs — 7:05 p.m.

Friday
Jay County — Boys golf vs. Wes-Del — 4:30 p.m.; Baseball sectional semifinal vs. TBA at Yorktown — 5:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Track regional at Troy — 4:30 p.m.
Fort Wayne TinCaps at South Bend Cubs — 7:05 p.m.

Saturday
Portland Rockets doubleheader vs. Midland Tribe — 1 p.m.
Fort Wayne TinCaps at South Bend Cubs — 7:05 p.m.

Sunday
Portland Rockets doubleheader vs. Midland Tribe — 1 p.m.

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Accepting consignments every evening that week from 4pm-8pm and all day
Thursday, June 3rd/Friday, June 4th from 7am-8pm.
Auctioneers
John P. Troyer AU10900141
Lonnie Miller AU10300135
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Saturday, June 5th, 2021
Time 10:00 A. M.
Located 17101 State Route 167, Dunkirk, IN ANTIQUES
Metal toy trucks, Die-cast cars,
Porcelain/Metal/Card-board/Canvas signs, Old gas cans, Old bicycles, Camel-back and other trunks, Crocks and jugs, Round cherry dining room table with extensions/6 chairs/Matching hutch, Large lot of primitive tools, Commemorative coins, Old stamps, Comic books POWER EQUIPMENT-SHOP TOOL John Deere LT133 Riding mower with 32' cut, Craftsman radial arm saw, Forney easy-weld 20p Plasma cutter, Generator with Wisconsin Engine, Salamanders, Pepsi machine.
SKID-LOADER ATTACHMENTS-LOGS-MISCELLANEOUS Pro-tech 10' Snow Box, 1998 Buick Century (for parts), Chrome rims and tires, Small utility trailer, and much more items not listed. OWNER: Eric Bowler
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JAY COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE is looking to hire a part time employee. Records scanning is the majority of the responsibilities. 21-28 Hours, Hours are 8:30am -4:30pm (1 Hour Lunch), Any 3-4 days (except week-ends), Start date approximately June7, 2021, Hourly rate of \$13.54 Call Jon Eads at the Clerk's Office (260-726-6915) by June 1,2021 to set up an interview time

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♦7
♣Q 10 8 7 5 4
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♠A J 8 5
♥K 8 7 3
♦4 3
♣K 9 3
SOUTH
♦6
♥9 4 2
♠AK Q J 9 8 6 5 2
♣—
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Tomorrow: Proper technique.
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Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals L

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

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PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION
Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of the City of Portland, Jay County, Indiana that the proper legal officers of the City of Portland at their meeting place at the City of Portland Council Chambers, 1616 Franklin Street, Portland, Indiana 47371, on June 7, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. will consider the following additional appropriation in excess of the budget for the current year.
249-001-472.100 LOIT Police Equipment \$26,556.00
Taxpayers appearing at the meeting shall have a right to be heard. The additional appropriation as finally made will be referred to the Department of Local Government and Finance. THE DLGF will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a certified copy of action taken.
Lori Phillips
Clerk Treasurer
City of Portland
CR 5-26-2021-HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF PROPOSED
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of Jay County, Indiana that the proper legal officers of Jay County Council at the Jay County Court House, at 7:00 o'clock p.m., on the 9th day of June 2021 will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the budget for the current year.
COUNTY GENERAL
1000-232-30-0021 Postage \$750.00
DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES
1148-001-30-0126 Jay County Organization \$20,141.42
COURT INTERPRETER
4018-001-30-0158 Court Translation Service \$1,482.13
INFRASTRUCTURE
4908-001-30-0215 Jay County Fairgrounds \$70,000.00
4908-001-30-0145 Courthouse Project \$80,000.00
Total \$172,373.55
Taxpayers appearing at the meeting shall have a right to be heard. The additional appropriation as finally made will be referred to the Department of Local Government Finance. The DLGF will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a certified copy of the action time.
Anna Culy
Jay County Auditor
CR/NS 5-26-2021-HSPAXLP

The Commercial Review

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

NOTICE TO BIDDERS FOR

THE JAY SCHOOL CORPORATION

"Roof Project"

Location: Jay County Jr-Sr High School
2072 WSR67
Portland, IN 47371

Notice is hereby given, that the Board of School Trustees of the Jay School Corporation (the Owner) will receive sealed bids for the replacement of two roof sections at the Jay County Jr-Sr High School in 2021.

Bids will be accepted at the Jay School Corporation, Administration Office, 414 Floral Avenue, Portland, IN until 1:00 pm on Wednesday, June 16, 2021.

The roof specifications and subsequent inspection of the roof sections may be obtained by contacting Mark Myers, Maintenance/Facility Director, Jay School Corporation, (260) 251-0097.

The roof sections scheduled for replacement are the following:

Bid Item 4A - Roof Section # 1, Approximately 36,193 sq. ft.

Bid Item 4B - Roof Section# 2, Approximately 6,720 sq. ft.

The contract will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, complying with the conditions for bidding, provided the bid is reasonable and it is the best interest of the Owner to accept it. The Owner reserves the right to reject the bid of any or all bidders in accordance with Indiana Code 36-1-12.

Bids not reaching said office by 1:00 pm, June 16, 2021 will not be opened and will be returned unopened to the original bidder.

Dated this 19th day of May 2021

Board of School Trustees
The Jay School Corporation
CR/NS 5-19-26-2021 HSPAXLP

TWO TO STATE

Patriots have two qualifiers for first time in team history

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

INDIANAPOLIS — Elisa Parazzi missed on her first attempt at three heights in a row.

Kinsey Shannon was slower out of the blocks than she would have liked.

At the regional level, misses and milliseconds can be season-ending. For the pair of Patriots, they served simply as motivation to make sure they would see another week.

Parazzi earned the first regional championship in a decade for Jay County High School's girls track team and Shannon joined her in securing a state berth at Tuesday's meet at Ben Davis. It marks the first time in school history that the Patriots have sent multiple athletes to the girls track state finals.

Abby Benter and Gabi Bilbrey also added top-eight finishes as JCHS scored 22 points to place 11th out of 28 scoring teams. North Central won the title with 79, followed by Cathedral (64) and Bishop Chatard (61.75).

"I couldn't be prouder of the girls," said Jay County coach Joe Imel, whose team posted the program's best regional finish since placing ninth in 2011. "This is the time where you run the best that you can and run the best times that you've ran all year, and they answered that."

"And two to state is absolutely amazing."

Parazzi was the favorite entering the regional after recording a career-best leap of 5 feet, 6 inches,



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School's Elisa Parazzi arches her body over the bar Tuesday evening during the high jump competition in the regional meet at Ben Davis. Parazzi was the only competitor to clear 5 feet, 4 inches, winning the Patriots' first regional championship in 10 years.

es, to win the sectional title last week at Delta. But after clearing the bar easily at each of the first two heights and then passing at 5 feet, 1 inch, she missed her first attempt at 5 feet, 2 inches, before making it over on her second try.

Again at 5 feet, 3 inches, the bar came tumbling down for the Patriot on try No. 1 while Victoria Hardnett of Muncie Central sailed over on her first attempt. Parazzi again came through on her second opportunity, but the previous miss put Hardnett in the driver's seat to win the regional. (Misses are the tiebreaker in high jump.)

Needing to clear the bar at 5

feet, 4 inches, for a chance at the regional title, Parazzi again missed on her first attempt. But so did the other four remaining jumpers.

Just over three minutes later, she soared.

Parazzi slipped over the bar on her second try at 5 feet, 4 inches, clapped as she popped out of the pit and jogged an eighth of a lap clockwise around the outside of the track to hug her exchange student sister Stefanie Dietrich in celebration.

No one else was able to match her, making Parazzi the Patriots' first regional champion since Maria Murphy in discus in 2011.

"You have three attempts, and if you fail the first one, it doesn't matter, you have other attempts," said Parazzi, an exchange student from Italy, who will return to Ben Davis June 5 to compete in the IHSAA Girls Track and Field State Finals. "That's what helped me because I failed all first attempts I had. But I was sure I wanted to do it. I wanted to win. And I won."

Shannon was the No. 3 seed for the 400-meter dash Tuesday — the top three athletes in each event earn a state berth — but her odds of advancing quickly diminished.

The JCHS senior didn't get out

of the blocks as quickly as she would have liked. At the midpoint of the race, she was near the back of the field. As the runners made the turn for the home stretch, it appeared her career in her best event was over.

Then, suddenly, with 10 meters left, she was in it.

A week after rallying the Patriots' 4x400 relay team for a regional berth, Shannon fought for a personal comeback. She surged through the final steps, edging ahead of Heritage Christian's Carsyn Burdine at the finish line to claim third place by just 12 hundredths of a second.

See STATE page 7

Tigers' Jones shuts down Patriot offense

By CHRIS SCHANZ

The Commercial Review

ARCADIA — Alanah Jones was virtually unhit-

table. Through four innings, the Patriots made contact with just six of her pitches, but they all went foul.

After five innings, she still hadn't allowed a hit, and struck out all but one of the possible 15 outs.

When the Patriots finally put the ball in play it was far too late.

Jay County High School's softball team had a tough time against Jones and the top-ranked Yorktown Tigers on Tuesday in an 8-0, season-ending loss in the Class 3A Sectional 24 quarterfinal game at Hamilton Heights.

"That's the best pitcher we've faced all year," said first-year JCHS coach Trisha Green, whose team ends its season 17-8. "She was good. She was quick. When you go from slow pitchers to fast pitchers it's hard to adjust."

"We came out at the end of the game and we were starting to hit her but you

can't come back from eight runs at the end of the game."

Aside from a six-pitch walk to Rielew Brewster in the top of the first inning, Jones struck out 13 of the first 14 batters she faced, all but three of them were swinging.

With one out in the top of the fourth inning, Haley Gillette reached on an error as Jay County's first baserunner of the game. But a fly out to center and Jones' 14th punchout left Gillette standing at first base.

After Jones' 15th strikeout to start sixth inning, Mady Fraley and Aubrie Schwieterman broke up her no-hit bid with consecutive singles.

Brewster battled with Jones, getting down 0-2 but fighting back to a 2-2 count. She fouled off four pitches, including one over the outfield fence but about 15 feet foul, but bounced into a fielder's choice, and Renna Schwieterman struck out to end the Patriots' only real threat of the night.

"We knew she was quick



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Jay County High School senior third baseman Reiley Brewster reaches to place a tag on Yorktown's Alanah Jones on a steal attempt during the second inning of the Class 3A Sectional 24 quarterfinal on Tuesday at Hamilton Heights. Top-ranked Yorktown beat Jay County, 8-0.

but we weren't quite sure what we were coming into," Green said. Jones finished with 18 strikeouts, allowed two hits and one walk. "We had a couple that were trying to bunt, but bunting on a fast pitcher is not easy to do when you're not used to it any-ways."

Yorktown (23-5), the 2019 state runner-up which meets Hamilton Heights in the sectional semifinal, did just about everything to score runs; doubles to the outfield fence, bunts, groundouts and sacrifice flies.

The Tigers played one run in the second on a

Jenna Sylvester RBI groundout, and added two in the third on a sacrifice fly and a wild pitch. In the fourth, an error kicked off a stretch of three straight scoring plays as Yorktown led 6-0 after the fourth inning.

Another error and a bunt single brought home two

more runs in the fifth for Yorktown.

"They're a good, solid team," Green said. Ainsley Phillips, Lexi Morris, Katelyn Knott and Jones each had two hits. "They were able to get some bunts down and throw us off."

"We got a little rattled, but we know how to handle the bunts. I think they just placed them well or hit them a little further than some of the girls were expecting."

Tuesday marked the end of the JCHS career for four starters: Maddy Rinker, Aubrie Schwieterman, Gillette and Brewster.

Brewster, Schwieterman and Gillette ended the season first, second and fourth in batting, and Brewster smashed a team-best 12 home runs. She also had 37 runs, 35 RBIs, 11 doubles, all of which led the team.

Schwieterman, however, will continue to play softball at Indiana Wesleyan.

"They're all leaders," Green said. "They're great players. They're the glue to the team right now. I'm proud of them."

Jay County boys golf tops Indians, Rebels

WINCHESTER — Kyle Sanders and Caleb DeRome each birdied twice in helping the Jay County High School boys golf team finish first on Tuesday in a match at Winchester Golf Course.

The Patriots had a team total of 178, with Union City Indians (186) runner-up and Randolph Southern Rebels (237) third.

Sanders birdied both the par-5 sixth and par-5 seventh holes while DeRome was 1-under on the seventh and par-4 eighth.

Griffin Mann also birdied the sixth hole on his way to a team-best round of 42, earning match medalist honors over Union City's Brayden Hoggett by one stroke.

Sanders and DeRome both shot 44, and Simon Pryor completed the team score with his round of 48.

Local roundup

Brock DeHoff also competed, but his 51 did not factor into the team total.

Season ends in semifinal

MARION — The Jay County girls tennis team had its season end in the regional semifinal on Tuesday with a 4-1 loss to the host Marion Giants.

Madison Dirksen and Rachel Muhlenkamp had the Patriots' only win, getting a 6-3, 6-4 victory at No. 1 doubles.

Lilly Hedges and Holly Hemmelgarn dropped their No. 2

doubles match, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2.

At No. 1 single, Grace Brewster fell to Jaden Sebastian by a 6-0, 6-1 margin, and Lyric Garinger ended her career with a 6-1, 6-0 defeat to Anna Wuertley. Kierston Blunk fell at No. 3 singles, 6-2, 6-0.

Jay walks off

Jay County's junior varsity baseball team scored three runs in the bottom of the seventh inning on Tuesday for a 11-10 walk-off win against the Bishop Dwenger Saints.

Ryne Goldsworthy hit two doubles, a single and knocked in three runs to lead the Patriots (8-11). Jackson Edwards and Peyton James both had two singles and two RBIs, while Conner Specht hit two singles and had an RBI as well. Kenny Carducci finished

with two singles, and Tavin Wasson also singled.

Edwards was credited with the win. He allowed one hit and struck out one in 1 1/3 innings of relief.

Matt's outlasts Barnett's

Matt's Garage outlasted Barnett's Auto Parts in a high-scoring affair, 23-21, on Tuesday in Portland Junior League's Rookie baseball division.

Blake Jellison hit a triple, two doubles, a single and recorded seven RBIs for Matt's which also got a double and three singles from Easton Steed, Liam Ridenour and Lexton Dakin. Ridenour and Dakin both had three RBIs, while Steed finished with two RBIs.

Sawyer Hemmelgarn homered twice, tripled, singled and collected five RBIs for Bar-

nett's. Tuck Hemmelgarn also hit a home run, doubled and tallied three singles and four RBIs.

Big win

Pak-A-Sak picked up a big win, 23-1, against Williams Auto Parts on Tuesday in PJJ's Rookie baseball action.

Cash Reynolds and Colton Garringer each had two doubles, three singles and four runs for Pak-A-Sak. Darby Cruz, Henry Teeter and Sawyer Young all doubled, with Cruz adding four singles, Young singling three times and Teeter contributing two singles.

Liam Schreiber led Williams with two singles. Parker Huntsman singled and scored a run, while LJ Carter, Ethan Wilson and Leo Page all singled in the loss.