

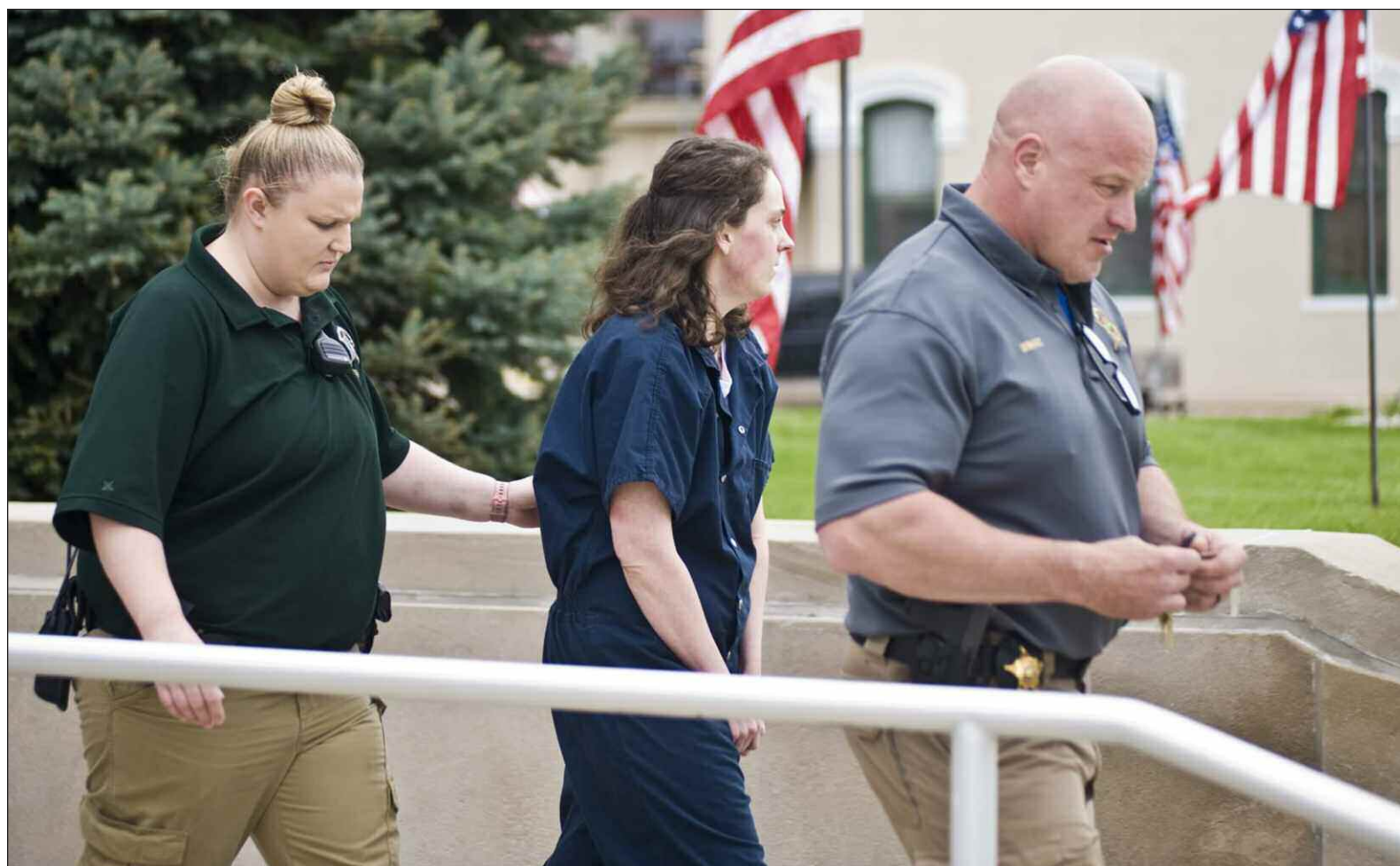
The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

55 years



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Esther J. Stephen (center), 30, is escorted out of Jay County Courthouse Tuesday afternoon after receiving a 55-year sentence for the Jan. 12, 2020, murder of 31-year-old Shea Briar. Stephen is the first of three women to be convicted after being charged with murder in the shooting death of Briar.

Portland's Stephen sentenced for January 2020 murder of Shea Briar

By CHRIS SCHANZ
The Commercial Review

A Portland woman convicted of murder will spend more than half a century behind bars.

Jay Circuit Court Judge Brian Hutchison sentenced Esther J. Stephen to 55 years in prison for the Jan. 12, 2020, murder of 31-year-old Shea Briar.

"I respect the judge's decision," said Jay County prosecutor Wes Schemenaur, who argued for the maximum 65-year penalty. "And I think the judge is ultimately correct. The aggravating factors that I argued, they were aggravating factors that

are listed in the statute but that's not the exclusive list, but it's the safest course, I think, probably for the court to stick with what's in the statute.

"He's probably correct, a 65-year sentence wouldn't withstand appeal."

Murder in Indiana carries a sentence of 45 to 65 years with an advisory sentence of 55 years.

Brandon Murphy, who represented Stephen after her initial defense attorney Jill Gonzalez died April 11, and Stephen will appeal the sentence.

Stephen, 30, with whom Briar shared a

child, is the first convicted of murder in connection with Briar's death. She was found guilty on March 19 after a five-day trial during which the jury of eight women and four men deliberated for nearly two and a half hours before coming to a unanimous verdict.

Shelby Hiestand, Portland, and Hannah Knapke, Fort Recovery, both 19, have also been charged with murder. Hiestand's trial is scheduled to start Aug. 9, while Knapke is set to stand trial beginning Nov. 15.

In arguing for the maximum sentence, Schemenaur said the

aggravating circumstances outweighed that of any potential mitigators. He said Briar's murder was not a spur-of-the-moment decision and had been plotted for several weeks; Stephen, as a former coach and mentor who lured Hiestand and Knapke into the plot that was to her benefit; and Briar's suffering was greater than necessary.

"I don't want to imagine what went through his mind as he lay there knowing he was going to die," he said.

Shortly before announcing the sentence, Hutchison said the fact Stephen had no prior contact with the

court system was a strong mitigating factor, and another was the fact she is unlikely to commit another crime because Stephen was to spend at least 45 years in prison. But he also referenced what he saw as a lack of contrition for her actions.

"I have not seen the first bit of remorse out of you from the initial hearing until now," he said. "The only emotion I've seen is fear."

"You planned this thing out. You recruited two young women to help. You lured Shea out ... You denied the child an opportunity to learn about its father."

See **Sentenced** page 2

Former Dunkirk mayor dies at age 77

Fager led city for two terms, also served on council

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Grant Fager, former mayor, council member and firefighter, died Monday.

He was 77.

Fager served two terms as mayor of Dunkirk.

A Republican, he was first elected mayor in 1987, defeating Democrat Charles DeCamp 436-297. He won all of the city's four precincts.

"I'm ready to put politics behind and get busy," he told The Commercial Review after his victory. "Basically, I'm satisfied. I'm optimistic with the bunch we've got."

He succeeded fellow Republican Jack Mink, who served two terms and chose not to seek a third.

Fager was uncontested in earning a second term in 1991. He chose not to seek a third term in 1995 and was succeeded by fellow Republican Robert Davenport. (No Dunkirk mayor has served more than a single term since Fager left office.)

The 1961 Dunkirk High School graduate also served two terms on Dunkirk City Council prior to being elected mayor. He was council president for four years.

As a councilman and mayor, Fager was an advocate for creating the city's industrial park. He emphasized the need for community involvement.

"The survival of Dunkirk or any other small community depends on the leadership we provide now," Fager said during his campaign for mayor.

See **Mayor** page 2



The Commercial Review/Nate Fields

Emma James keeps watch over the pool at Portland Water Park during summer 2018. The water park is currently short on lifeguards for the 2021 season, which may result in reduced hours. The facility is scheduled to open May 29.

Hours may be limited

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

The water park will open on Memorial Day weekend.

What the hours will be and when weekday hours will begin remains up in the air.

Portland Park Board on Tuesday confirmed that Portland Water Park will be ready to open May 29, but staffing shortages forced other details about the coming season to be left unanswered.

The board also discussed the ongoing process of developing the next five-year park plan and gave the OK for an aspiring Eagle Scout to add a feature at Hudson Family Park.

Portland Water Park manager Missy Bader reported at Tuesday's meeting that she has seven returning full-time lifeguards and two or three part-time. Seven potential new lifeguards have applied and started the training process.

Even if all seven are added,

though, it will still leave the staff well below the 25-plus lifeguards the facility had during the coronavirus-shortened 2020 season. If that is the case, hours may need to be reduced and rentals may not be possible.

"We can't be open all those hours with what I have right now," said Bader, noting that other pools in the area are facing similar issues. "People are just going to have to be flexible."

The facility's schedule for the year is also complicated by the

fact that Jay Schools will be in session through June 11 because the start of the school year was delayed in response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The board agreed to have the pool open Memorial Day weekend (May 29 through 31) and then revisit the schedule at its June 1 meeting.

Board members again discussed the 2022-2026 five-year park plan, which needs to be complete by the end of the year.

See **Hours** page 5

Deaths

E. Grant Fager, 77, Dunkirk
Stanley Peterson, 65, Beechgrove, Tennessee
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 64 degrees Tuesday. The low was 50.

The forecast calls for tonight's low to dip into the 30s. Rain is expected Thursday with thunderstorms possible in the afternoon. The high will be 61.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The Jay County treasurer's office will be open for extended hours for the next two days. It will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday. The office will return to regular hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday.

In review

Jay County Clerk's Office will be closed through at least May 12 because of a COVID-19 outbreak. No marriage licenses will be issued and child support payments will not be accepted. Child support payments can be made online at jaycountynet.

The office will be available via phone at (260) 726-4951.



Obituaries

E. Grant Fager

Aug. 24, 1943-May 3, 2021
E. Grant Fager, Jr. passed away peacefully on May 3, 2021, at the age of 77 years old.



Fager

Grant was born on Aug. 24, 1943, in Portland, Indiana, to parents E. Grant Sr. and Helen (Todd) Fager. He grew up in Dunkirk, and graduated a Speedcat from Dunkirk High School in 1961 where he managed the basketball team.

He met the love of his life, Martha "Lana" VanHorn, of Pennville, in March 1962 and they married on Sept. 7, 1963. He was a lifetime resident and ardent supporter of the Dunkirk community where he

served as mayor, on city council and on the Dunkirk Fire Department for 25 years. He worked for Stewart Brothers Furniture in downtown Dunkirk for 44 years, and West Jay Middle School for six years.

Those who know Grant knew him as a selfless, proud and loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, an avid fan of the Indiana Hoosiers, an infectious lover of dogs, a wandering outdoorsman and as a serial spreader of wisdom (and of ever-so-slightly tall tales). You couldn't spend more than a moment in his presence without leaving with a smile on your face.

Grant is survived by his wife of 57 years, Lana Fager; son Doug (Karen) Fager; daughter Jill (Mike) Wells; grandsons Tyler (Amanda) and Ethan

(Erin) Fager, and Spencer and Grant Wells; and great-grandson Clark Fager.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother Ralph Fager; and sister June Ellen Messersmith.

Arrangements have been made by Wilson Shook Funeral Home, Dunkirk Memorial Chapel, and private graveside services will be held at a later date.

Condolences may be sent to Lana Fager, and donations may be made in Grant's name to the Church of the Nazarene in Dunkirk.

Condolences may be expressed at wilsonshookfh.com.

Stanley Peterson

Sept. 6, 1955-April 29, 2021
Stanley Lee Peterson, age 65, of Beechgrove, Tennessee, left

his earthly home on Thursday, April 29, 2021.

He was an employee at Nissan Inc. in Smyrna, Tennessee and formerly worked at Whirlpool Inc. for 25 years.

He was born in Portland, Indiana, on Sept. 6, 1955, to the late Paul Gene and Betty Bowsler Peterson.

He is survived by his loving wife of 15½ years Sheila Peterson; children Rob (Andrea) Peterson, Jessica (Lee) Cox, Paul (Shanda) Peterson, Melissa Geasley, April (Phillip) Vinson and Lindsey (Jesse) Smith; grandchildren Spencer, McKenzie, Anne Marie, Emma, Cayden, Katelyn, Evelyn, Jacob and Eliza; great-grand-



Peterson

child Darrico; brother Alan (Becky) Peterson; sister Anita Childers; step-mother Camille Centers Peterson; and also by his #1 child Maggie.

Stanley loved woodworking and fishing.

Visitation and services were held Sunday at Murfreesboro Funeral Home.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Stanley Peterson, please visit murfreesborofuneralhome.com.

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

Table with 5 columns: Thursday 5/6, Friday 5/7, Saturday 5/8, Sunday 5/9, Monday 5/10. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges (e.g., 61/38, 59/36).

Lotteries

Table listing lottery results for Powerball, Mega Millions, Hoosier, and Ohio. Includes jackpot amounts and winning numbers.

Markets

Table listing market prices for Cooper Farms, POET Biorefining, The Andersons, and Central States. Includes prices for various crops like corn, wheat, and beans.

Today in history

On May 5, 1925, school-teacher John T. Scopes was charged in Tennessee with violating a state law that prohibited teaching the theory of evolution. (Scopes was found guilty, but his conviction was later set aside.)
In 1494, during his second voyage to the Western Hemisphere, Christopher Columbus landed in Jamaica.
In 1818, political philosopher Karl Marx, co-author of "The Communist Manifesto" and author of "Das Kapital," was born in Prussia.
In 1891, New York's Carnegie Hall (then named "Music Hall") had its official opening night, featuring Russian composer Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky as a guest conductor.
In 1942, wartime sugar rationing began in the United States.
In 1945, in the only fatal attack of its kind during World War II, a Japanese balloon bomb exploded on Gearhart Mountain in Oregon, killing the pregnant wife of a minister and five children.
In 1961, astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr. became America's first space traveler as he made a 15-minute suborbital flight aboard Mercury capsule Freedom 7.
In 1971, Pennville High School's boys track team closed its season with a 65-53 victory over Marion Bennett. Senior Ralph Frazee led the Bulldogs with wins the 100-yard dash and 220 dash.

Citizen's calendar

Thursday 5:30 p.m. — Portland Plan Commission, auditorium, Jay County office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.
5 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.

Sentenced ...

Continued from page 1

Murphy called four witnesses to argue for a lesser sentence. They included Beth Stephen, Esther's mother, and Murphy questioned each about Esther's involvement with the community and church in an effort for a reduced sentence.

"This is a small town," Hutchison said. "This has rocked the community ... All this talk about church, but 'Thou shall not kill.'

"You showed callous disregard for Shea Briar's life."

In the sentencing hearing that lasted nearly an hour, Schemenaur called four witnesses to the stand, including Briar's mother, grandmother and aunt. Each of them read from a prepared statement.

"The pain of losing Shea is something I'll never get over," said Tiffany

Additional trials scheduled for August and November

McLaughlin, Briar's aunt. "I'll never hear his goofy laugh. He was senselessly taken from us."

Sharon Taylor, Briar's grandmother who also testified during Stephen's trial, held back tears as she read her statement.

"I will never again prepare Shea's favorite meal," she said. "I want to erase Jan. 12, 2020, from my memory.

Jan. 12, 2020, will forever be my new reality."

According to court documents, the three women picked Briar up at his Portland home with plans to "hang out" and proceeded to drive in Knapke's vehicle to the county road 125 West bridge over Loblolly Creek, just south of county road 850 North. There, Stephen distracted Briar to allow Hiestand to retrieve a gun from the vehicle. Hiestand then shot Briar once in the back. Knapke was standing next to Hiestand at the time of the shooting.

Briar was found on the bridge about 2 a.m. Jan. 12 and died later the same day at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Hiestand and Knapke are being held in Jay County Jail pending their trials.

Jay Superior Court

Judge Gail Dues Fined and sentenced

Jimmie A. Cearo, 33, 4434 Holton St., Fort Wayne, pleaded guilty to driving with a suspended license, a Class A misdemeanor — She was sentenced to 90 days in Jay County Jail and given 76 days credit for 38 days served. She was fined \$25 and assessed court costs of \$185.50.

Andrea M. Bailey, 38, 321 N. Dalton Ave., Albany, pleaded guilty to driving

with a suspended license, a Class A misdemeanor — She was sentenced to 90 days in Jay County Jail and given 76 days credit for 38 days served. She was fined \$25 and assessed court costs of \$185.50.

Cases filed

Indiana v. Angela C. Dixon, Level 6 felony
TD Bank USA v. Sarah Lee, civil collection
Indiana v. Aaron C. Shawver, Level 6 felony

LVNV Funding LLC v. Pamela Jeffers, civil collection
Indiana v. Rodney W. Linder, Level 6 felony

Indiana v. Kayla N. Cloud, Level 6 felony
Indiana v. Debrandon M. Robinson, criminal misdemeanor

Indiana v. Melissa M. Buzzard, criminal misdemeanor

Indiana v. Shane L. Williams, Level 6 felony
Indiana v. Parker M.

Squier, criminal misdemeanor

LVNV Funding LLC v. Julie Cadwallader, civil collection

Indiana v. Daryl L. Cooper, criminal misdemeanor

Indiana v. Mark W. Kitchen, Level 6 felony

Indiana v. Dewayne G. Harrington, criminal misdemeanor

Indiana v. Rebecca N. Foy, Level 6 felony
Indiana v. Michael R. Coleman, Level 6 felony

Mayor ...

Continued from page 1

Fager was also involved with the formation of Jay County Development Corporation and served on Indiana Lt. Gov. John Mutz's task force that sought to keep Indiana Glass Co. in Dunkirk. He was a firefighter for the city for 25 years.

In addition to his government serv-

ice, Fager worked at Stewart Brothers Furniture in Dunkirk for 44 years and at West Jay Middle School for six years.

Fager was born on Aug. 24, 1943, in Portland to E. Grant Sr. and Helen (Todd) Fager. He grew up in Dunkirk and married Martha "Lana" VanHorn of Pennville on Sept. 7, 1963.

Survivors include his wife; son Doug (Karen) Fager; daughter Jill (Mike) Wells; four grandsons; and one great-grandson.

Wilson Shook Funeral Home is handling arrangements. A private graveside service will be held at a later date. His full obituary appears elsewhere on this page.

Capsule Reports

Bus accident

Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000 after a Jay School Corporation bus driver abruptly slowed before approaching a stop sign about 2:45 p.m. Tuesday, causing another vehicle to strike the bus.

Kristeena Beatrice, 31, Redkey, was driving a 2021 school bus with 18 students inside east on Indiana 26. John A. Lancaster, 51, Montpelier, was driving behind the bus and was unable to stop in time, hitting the rear of the bus with his 2015 Ford Transit.

Beatrice later told Jay County Sheriff's Office she slowed her vehicle before coming to the stop sign because of an oncom-

ing semi she thought might turn in front of her Lancaster's Ford was towed from the scene.

Tools stolen

Around \$8,000 in tools and materials were stolen from a trailer Monday in Dunkirk.

Terry Finnerty called Jay County Sheriff's Office to report several items — including battery operated hand tools, saws, sheet metal, wood, a generator and tool box — missing from a trailer sitting at the property of 10846 W. 150 South. The trailer belongs to Dave Franks, who was completing some contracted work at the address.

SERVICES Saturday
Stults, Florence: 10:30 a.m., Sugar Grove United Methodist Church, 11515 W. 600 South, Redkey.
Service listings provided by PROGRESSIVE OFFICE PRODUCTS 120 N. Meridian St. Portland, Indiana 47371 (260) 726-9201 progressiveofficeproducts.com

GENERAC Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator. REQUEST A FREE QUOTE! 866-953-2203. FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty* A \$695 Value! Offer valid February 15 - June 6, 2021. Special Financing Available. Subject to Credit Approval.

Wendelin Tavern Grill Holy Cow! Indiana Patrons Welcome!
Our NEW Thursday Specials 4-8pm
4pc. CHICKEN DINNER! only \$6.99
Our Tender & Juicy
14oz. NEW YORK STRIP! only \$9.99
SMOKED PORK CHOP only \$8.99
Hot or Bourbon BBQ
10pc. CHICKEN CHUNKS! only \$6.99
EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT 4-8pm!!!
ALL YOU CAN EAT ALASKAN POLLOCK FISH or POPCORN SHRIMP DINNER \$8.99 or FROG LEGS! \$18.99
Our Own Thick Cut 16oz. Marinated Chop! \$9.99
LET US COOK YOUR GRADUATION PARTY!!! Taking orders for all your GRADUATION PARTY needs!
Our world famous chicken is sure to be a huge hit!!
Chicken, Beef, Noodles, Taters, Wings, Dressing, Pork Chops, the whole nine yards. Order individual items or a full meal!!
419-375-2751 or 419-305-3014
Saturday 4-8pm & Sunday 11am-8pm
Sooooo Tender & Juicy
14OZ. NEW YORK STRIP DINNER!!! only \$12.99
Our Homestyle SALISBURY STEAK!!! only \$9.99
Our Delicious CREAMED CHIPPED BEEF!!! only \$9.99
Our Hot or Bourbon BBQ
10PC. CHICKEN CHUNKS!!! only \$6.99
EVERY SUNDAY 11am-8pm
CHICKEN FRY! Dine-in or carry-out
4pc. Dinner with all the fixins only \$6.99!
10pc. Chicken Bucket \$9.99
20pc. Chicken Bucket \$18.99

Library celebrating military service

May is a time to celebrate service.

Jay County Public Library will be celebrating military service members this month in honor of Armed Forces Day on May 15 and Memorial Day on May 31.

Until May 22, 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

Taking Note

active duty service members with a connection to Jay County. They will be mailed the week of May 24.

Indiana author Kayleen Reusser will also visit the library for three events.

She will speak May 20 about women who volunteered in the military during World War II, May 24 about the D-Day invasion and May 25 about her interviews with seven men who were captives of German and Japanese forces. All three events will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Cheerleaders named

Jay County High School has named its cheerleaders for the 2021-22 school year.

Making up the Patriots' varsity squad are Mattie Ardizzzone, Maddy Fraley, Marianna Lopez, Kaden Norris and Lilly Rodgers.

On the junior varsity squad are Coryn Blalock, Adriene Denney, Jocelyn Haggard, Karcie Hopkins, Sydney Huftel, Jordyn Hutzler, Emma Lemaster and Erin Ring.

Enrollment open

Throughout May, Ivy Tech Community College

is offering Virtual Express Enrollment.

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

Camps are open

Minnetrasta has opened registration for a series of summer camps for children ages 8 through 14.

The Muncie facility will host glass artist camps June 7 through 11 for 11 through 14 year olds and June 14 through 19 for 8 through 10 year olds.

Young cooks camps are scheduled for July 5 through 9 for 8 through 10 year olds and July 12 through 16 for 11 through 14 year olds.

Registration deadlines vary. For more information, visit minnetrista.net.

Short poems carry meaning

By KWAME DAWES

I have a memory of Lucille Clifton responding to a young poet who asked her how she managed to be a productive publishing poet despite having to raise six children, by saying, "I wrote shorter poems." Of Clifton's many brilliant truths, this stays with me.

And this pithy elegy, "5/23/67 R.I.P.," selected by Aracelis Girmay in a remarkable new gathering of Clifton's poetry, would have been written when her children were young,

5/23/67
R.I.P.

The house that is on fire pieces all across the sky make the moon look like a yellow man in a veil

watching the troubled people running and crying
Oh who gone remember now like it was,
Langston gone.

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 copyright ©2020 by Lucille

American Life in Poetry

and when America was burning with uprisings, and when Langston Hughes died. She accepted the heavy mandate passed on to her by Langston Hughes, to "remember now like/ it was," and we are the better for it.

Clifton, "5/23/67 R.I.P." from "How to Carry Water; Selected Poems of Lucille Clifton," (BOA, 2020). Poem reprinted by permission of Permissions Company, LLC and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2021 by The Poetry Foundation.

Wife discovers secret interest

DEAR ABBY: I just found out my husband has been looking at escorts in the local area. I know he has watched porn, but that never bothered me. When I confronted him about seeing his search for escorts, he said he just clicked on a link that popped up on a porn site. (I have seen them, so I know it can happen.)

However, I now know he created another email address and joined an escort review site. I can't say anything to him because I snooped on his phone. I'm heartbroken and want to believe him, but this is too much. Please help me. — NERVOUS IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR NERVOUS: First things first. Call your doctor and make an appointment to be checked for STDs. Next, because you know your husband hasn't been truthful, do more "snooping." Learn everything you can about your family finances (if you don't already know) — the debts and assets, credit card expenses, bank account numbers, etc.

Once you have that information and there will be no surprises, tell your husband you checked his phone AND WHY YOU FELT THE NEED TO DO IT. Do not allow him to make you feel guilty. Ask him what he is getting from escorts that he isn't getting from you, and if the only answer he can come

Dear Abby



if it will bring him peace of mind.

DEAR ABBY: I hosted a dinner party at my home and invited three longtime friends. They had been drinking before they came over and showed up drunk. My husband and I were highly offended and told them to leave. I'm extremely upset about this because I found it very disrespectful. How should I resolve the issue? — INCONSIDERATE IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR INCONSIDERATE: You and your husband were certainly within your rights to react as you did. Cross your fingers that your friends were able to return safely to their homes in the condition they were in.

How you should resolve the issue depends upon whether this is the only time it happened. If they aren't habitual problem drinkers and it was a one-time thing, be forgiving when they call to apologize. However, if you don't hear from them, there will be nothing to resolve.

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

Community Calendar

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

Today

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.

PENNVILLE FAIR BOARD — Will meet at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Pennville Community Center.

SINGLES AND SEPARATES SUPPORT GROUP — For anyone who's lost a loved one or has a spouse living in long-term care or suffering from an illness, the group will meet at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday

of each month in the Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion in Berne. For more information, call Sarah Conrad at (260) 589-4496.

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 - 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.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet the first Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

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.

Friday

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will meet at noon Friday, May 7, at Harmony Cafe in Portland. Members are encouraged to wear a face mask and practice social distancing.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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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Package A
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2x2 Ads
\$222⁰⁰ 32 inches per month

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4
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Package C
3
3x4 Ads
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Budget forecast offers optimism

The Republic (Columbus)

With one week remaining in the 2021 legislative session, the biennial budget plan opened up for legislators. On April 15, after four months of crafting the bill, lawmakers learned they would get an additional \$2 billion to spend over the next two years thanks to a favorable revenue forecast. The unprecedented increase was attributed to greater sales

Hoosier Editorial

tax receipts, but also an additional \$3 billion coming directly from the federal American Rescue Plan program. After receiving the news,

House Speaker Todd Hutson (R-Fishers) said legislators should focus on using the money to pay down debt, better fund schools, and make one-time investments that would pay off in the long term. Hutson's priorities were right, and lawmakers followed suit. Thanks to the increase, \$1.9 billion will now go towards K-12 schools over the next two years — more than double

what was originally proposed by the General Assembly. The increase will play a vital role in improving teacher pay, which has long lagged behind neighboring states. Other programs that will see increased funding include \$900 million in the infrastructure fund, \$500 million in regional development, and \$250 million in broadband expansion. In addition, more than \$1

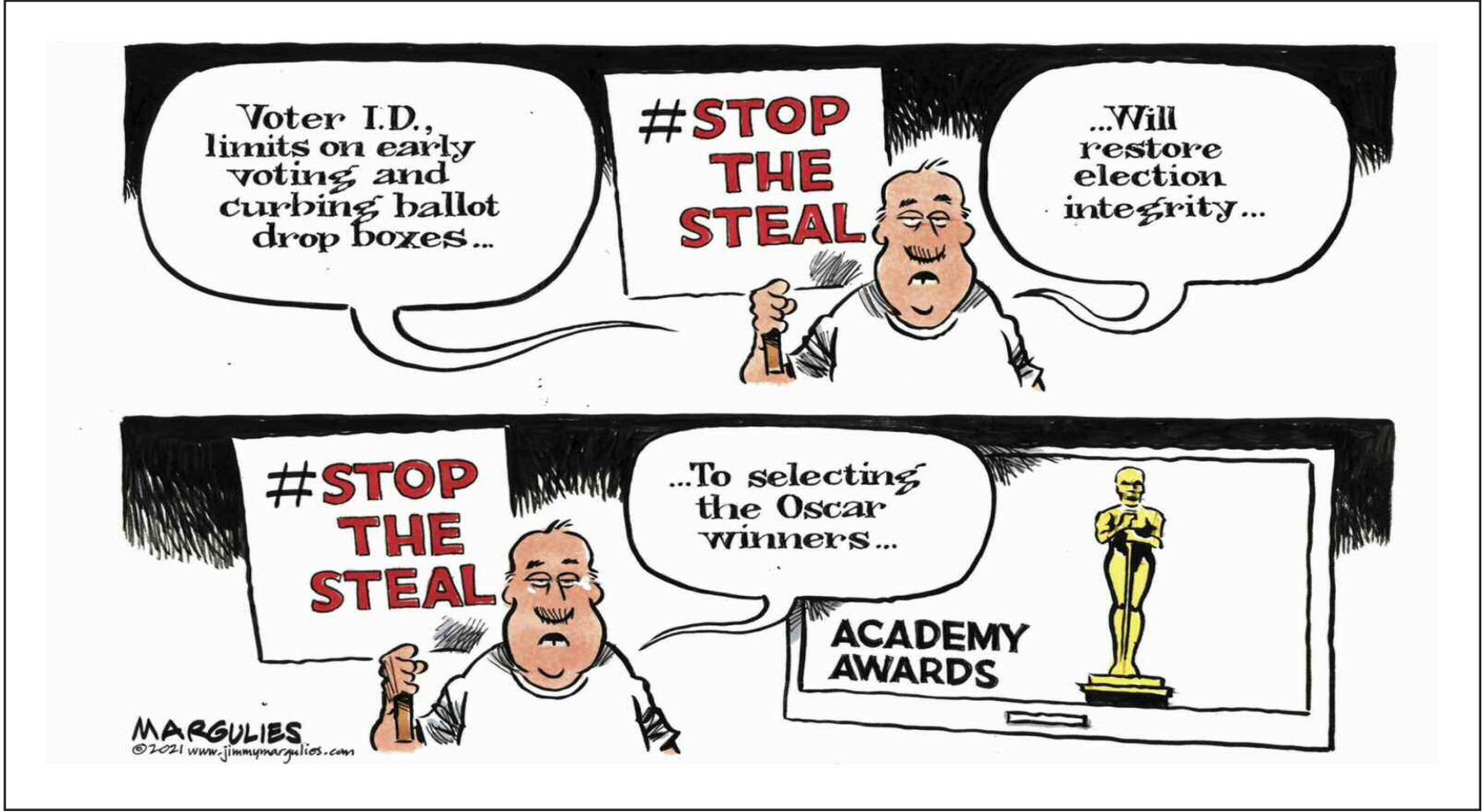
billion has also been set aside to pay down the state's debt. The new budget achieved historic bipartisan support, which is fitting given how usual the budget cycle proved. It passed 96-2 in the House — with two Republicans objecting — and 46-3 in the Senate, with three Democrats saying "nay." The budget isn't perfect, but there's plenty of reason to celebrate as growth continues to trend up in Indiana.

General assembly oversteps on power

Tribune-Star (Terre Haute)

The coronavirus pandemic cast a heavy shadow over policy debates during the 2021 legislative session. Public health, education, budgeting — all areas of Indiana government felt the urgency of dealing with an unpredictable crisis as well as preparing for what havoc it may wreak in the future. Hoosier lawmakers were largely relegated to the sidelines in the early months of the pandemic as Gov. Eric Holcomb and his administration wrestled with the initial social, cultural and economic impact of COVID-19 on health care systems, long-term care facilities, schools, businesses and other community institutions. The demands on executive leadership were unprecedented. Holcomb handled a difficult situation skillfully. He did so within the confines of Indiana law and used the health and safety of the Hoosier public as his guide. While Holcomb has been generally praised for his handling of the public health crisis, some conservatives have bellowed and blustered about their freedoms being infringed upon by such measures as mask mandates and other restrictions devised to slow the spread of the virus. A crisis of the magnitude presented by COVID-19 created a need for legislative review and oversight. In some areas, lawmakers met the challenge and made sensible adjustments in state law to help manage such a crisis in the future. In other areas, however, they overstepped the bounds of reason and set the state hurtling to what will likely be a constitutional battle in court. The Republican-dominated House and Senate passed a law that establishes a new process under which legislative leaders can call the General Assembly into an emergency session. Holcomb, also a Republican, vetoed the law, citing legal questions about the legislature's authority to call itself into a special session. The constitution gives the governor the sole power to do that. The governor's objections were ignored and the legislature voted to override his veto. That sets up the potential court fight, a costly confrontation that serves little purpose. This battle over executive power is unfortunate and unnecessary. It makes managing an emergency more difficult for a governor in the future and serves the interests of Hoosiers far less.

Hoosier Editorial



Bo knew how to make us smile

By **JACK RONALD**
The Commercial Review

Every once in awhile in the news business, you get to do a story that makes you smile forever.

The community lost Steve Gibson at age 68 a couple of weeks back, and I lost another friend. But his story, as told in this piece from November 2012, bears repeating. Sure, it's a re-run. But it's worth another read.

Here it is: Tell Steve Gibson that he makes people happy, and he's likely just to wave his hand and say, "That's what I'm here for." He may be right.

But there was a time no one expected him to be here at all, certainly not as an adult who has just celebrated a 60th birthday.

His older brother, Rick, recalls a time when their parents — Don and Delores Gibson of Portland — came home after a somber visit with the doctors. They'd been told that Steve would never live to start school.

"They diagnosed him with a hole in his heart," said Rick.

Don and Delores were excited to become the parents of twins; they ran in the family.

But one twin, Stanley, was strong and healthy. The other, Steve, born three minutes later, was smaller and weaker.

And though the family didn't know it immediately, Steve's mental development had been affected, probably because of a deficiency of oxygen at a critical time.

Still, when the Gibsons brought their twin sons home from the hospital in October of 1952, their real concern was making sure both boys grew up healthy and happy.

The family was living in Bellefountain at the time. Don worked at Portland Forge and would later serve as a Jay County Sheriff's Reserve. The Gibsons had two children already, Rick and his sister Vicky. They would later have a daughter, Donna, who died two years ago, and a son, Doug, who now works for a U.S. company in Qatar.

But when the twins came home, it was just mom, dad, Rick, Vicky,

Back in the Saddle



and the newly-arrived infants, one of them much weaker and smaller than the other.

At first, the focus was simply on Steve's physical health. There were multiple trips to Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, but eventually the hole in his heart mended.

New problems surfaced when he started attending Noble School.

"Everybody just thought he was a little slow," recalled twin brother Stan, now fire chief in Coos Bay, Ore.

"We just thought he was slow," agreed Rick. "We just kind of learned to deal with it."

When Steve started bringing home report cards in the first grade with F's on them, his father treated him the way he treated all his kids who misbehaved. He warmed his bottom.

"He was never favored," said Rick.

Then, in second grade, said Stan, "They did some testing and found out about the mental retardation. We probably didn't realize it."

In the middle of that year, Steve was moved from Noble to a small building west of what is now East Jay Middle School. Over the years, it would transform itself into what is now Jay-Randolph Developmental Center.

But back then, it had a simpler name: The Pink Alley School.

Many of downtown Portland's alleys have platted names. That one happens to be Pink Alley, and that's where a group of dedicated volunteers, including Fannie Gillespie and Florence Coldren, did their best to provide educational opportunities for kids who didn't fit into the usual one-size-fits-all nature of public schools in the 1950s.

"He went down to Pink Alley (school) and really loved it," said Rick.

"I liked everything," said Steve,

recalling those early classmates like Bob Gillespie, Judy Moore, and Marilyn Coldren.

He flourished in that new environment, and he's been flourishing ever since.

"It was amazing as we were growing up," said Stan. "He belonged to the community. The entire community helped raise him."

It helped to have a strong family. While protective of Stan with the outside world, his parents treated him just like the rest of their children. If he got in trouble, discipline followed.

Neither Rick nor Stan could ever recall an instance when their smaller, slower brother was bullied. If he had been, there were plenty of other kids to come to his defense.

He started tagging along with older brother Rick and picked up a nickname that stays with him to this day.

"I was playing (Junior League baseball) for the Elks," said Rick. And for some reason another player started calling Rick, Bobo.

When his little brother showed up, that was quickly shortened to its current form: Bo.

Steve has been Bo ever since.

Growing up in a sports-oriented family, young Bo wanted to compete. But the delays in his physical development made that complicated.

When Bo wanted to play Junior League baseball, he wasn't physically able to compete with kids in the same age range.

While Stan played B-league baseball with other kids in the 10 to 12 bracket, Bo was too small. And when he physically matured enough to be able to compete, he was out of the age bracket.

According to the rules, he shouldn't have been allowed to play.

But something happened. The board of directors of Portland Junior League met and, thanks to the leadership of Frank Inman and others, decided to make an exception.

Bo could play. Chronological age was set aside, so that developmental age could take its place.

"That's just exceptional for the community," said twin brother

Stan. "It just shows how much the community cared for him."

And once Bo started playing sports, he never seemed to stop.

He kept playing in local softball leagues longer than he should have, hitting the outfield fence in pursuit of a fly ball more than once.

He was an active participant in Special Olympics and proved to be a great shot on the basketball floor.

Today, at 60, his athletic endeavors are behind him.

But he's still working, and he's still deeply engaged in the community that helped raise him.

"This man knows everyone," said Diane Smith at JRDS, where Bo is a client, working a regular schedule. "I don't think he knows a stranger. He's accepted everywhere."

"He's probably the most likeable guy in Portland in so many ways," said Dave Hull at Ponderosa, where Bo worked until a fall at home required surgery on both legs. "He's like everybody's best friend." Bo's nephew agrees.

"Bo has been able to live that happy-go-lucky lifestyle," said Josh Gibson, who is Rick's son. "He's always looked on the positive side of things, and he wants very little. He just loves everybody."

Now living with Dennis Mikel, the husband of his late sister Donna, Bo has a regular Saturday walk, checking in on people he cares about. There are at least 15 stops.

"He's got a lot of favorite people," said Rick.

His twin brother Stan has reflected more than once that while he has lived a rewarding life himself, Steve's has been even richer.

On paper, that may not make sense.

After all, Stan was a firefighter for nine years with the Union City Fire Department, worked for the Indiana State Fire Marshal for five years, served eight years with Perry Township Fire Department in Indianapolis, and has been chief at Coos Bay since 1997.

It has been an impressive career. But the way Stan does the math, reflecting in the community's love and affection, it's no contest. His brother is the winner.

"I'm lucky too," said Bo.

The Commercial Review

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



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

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

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Bill to limit health orders is vetoed

By TOM DAVIES
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana's governor vetoed a bill on Tuesday that would limit the authority of county or city health departments by allowing local elected officials to block public health orders issued during emergencies.

Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb wrote in a veto message that the ability of local health officials to act quickly has been critical to the state's COVID-19 response. The governor said he believed it was "prudent to avoid any unnecessary disruption or wholesale changes to our existing local public health authorities."

"Right now it is critical that we maintain our local health expertise, flexibility and all the tools needed to respond," Holcomb said. "We must not do anything that jeopardizes this as our heroic local health officials remain critical in the months to come as we accelerate our recovery and work to vaccinate many more Hoosiers."

Legislative Republican sup-

'We must not do anything that jeopardizes this as our heroic local health officials remain critical in the months to come as we accelerate our recovery and work to vaccinate many more Hoosiers.'

—Eric Holcomb, Indiana governor

porters said the bill was meant to provide a "check and balance" protecting the rights of business owners following complaints about COVID-19 orders closing or limiting businesses.

The bill would require any local public health orders more stringent than one issued by the governor go before elected county commissioners or city councils for approval. Holcomb's coronavirus-related executive orders over the past year have allowed local officials to establish tougher regu-

lations — an authority he frequently cited in defending his decisions lifting various statewide travel, crowd size and business restrictions.

The state Senate voted 37-12 and House members voted 65-29 in favor of the bill two weeks ago. Indiana legislators can override Holcomb's veto by a simple majority vote in both chambers, with that action potentially taking place during a one-day meeting next week.

Republican Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray said in a statement that he believed the

bill "created another productive check and balance on our government." Bray said he would discuss the veto with fellow Republican senators for before deciding what to do next.

Legislative Republicans voted last month to override Holcomb's veto of another bill giving themselves more authority to intervene during statewide emergencies declared by the governor. Holcomb has filed a lawsuit against the Legislature, arguing that new law violates the state constitution.

Some medical and health organizations opposed the county health authority bill, arguing against shifting authority away from public health professionals to local elected officials who largely don't have such experience.

Democratic state Rep. Rita Fleming of Jeffersonville, an obstetrician and gynecologist, called the bill "dangerous" during debate in the House. She compared allowing local elected officials to block county health orders to those officials allowing a dangerous bridge to remain open over the objec-

tions of engineers because of complaints from businesses.

"They may be virtuous people but they're not epidemiologists," Fleming said of elected officials. "They don't understand vectors and incubation periods."

The bill would also give local elected officials hiring authority over local health officers and create a procedure allowing the public to appeal enforcement actions such as citations, fines or an order to close a business to an elected county or city board.

Holcomb said there were "only rare instances" of local health officials and elected leaders not working closely together during the coronavirus outbreak. The governor's letter said that while the current focus was on COVID-19, other illnesses such as rabies, HIV, Legionnaires' disease and meningitis could demand immediate public health action.

"One reason Indiana has weathered the storm so well is due to coordination with local health experts and the flexibility in law to be fast, nimble and targeted," Holcomb said.

Hours ...

Continued from page 1

Goals of the plan — including increasing public awareness, promoting programs and identifying priorities — will likely remain much the same as in the current plan. Rural Portland resident John Moore, who is helping develop the plan, said goals will also be shaped by the public's responses to an upcoming survey.

The board discussed questions for that survey. Some potential questions include:

- What do you usually do at the park?
- What parks do you visit?
- Do you participate in park activities?
- What would you like to see added to the parks?

The board's timeline calls for the survey to be launched in June. Information about the survey will be distributed with water bills, posted on the city's website and announced via local media.

Board members Giles Laux, Brian Ison, Chris Compton, Glen Bryant and Shawna Runkle also approved Ares Hambrock's request to install a bicycle repair station in Hudson Family Park.

Hambrock, 14, of Boy Scout Troop 206 of Portland, said he came up with the idea to install the repair station while seeing the equipment on a trip in Michigan. The stations provide equipment to fill tires, repair chains and handle other bicycle maintenance.

The new equipment will come at no cost to the city — Hambrock will raise funds and handle the installation — and street and parks department staff will help select the location.

Matt Shauver of the city's parks department also noted that vandalism continues to be a problem at the parks, especially Hudson Family Park. For that reason, the restrooms at the park amphitheater

will be closed except during scheduled events. Some of the vandalism has been caught on video, and Shauver said violators will be prosecuted.

He asked for the public's help in preventing vandalism.

"If the public's there, just call," said Shauver. "Call the police and maybe that will stop this stuff."

Shauver also reported the following: work has begun on new roofs on shelter houses at Haynes, Portland Memorial and Milton Miller parks; new shuffleboard stencils are in and work will begin on the courts at Portland Memorial Park as weather allows; tennis courts have been removed from Milton Miller Park and the area will be filled and seeded in the coming months; a group of local residents raised money and purchased break-away rims to be installed at the basketball court at Weiler-Wilson Park.

Birth rate is lowest since 1960s

By MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK — The U.S. birth rate fell 4% last year, the largest single-year decrease in nearly 50 years, according to a government report being released Wednesday.

The rate dropped for moms of every major race and ethnicity, and in nearly every age group, falling to the lowest point since federal health officials started tracking it more than a century ago.

Births have been declining in younger women for years, as many postponed motherhood and had smaller families.

Birth rates for women in their late 30s and in their 40s have been inching up. But not last year.

"The fact that you saw declines in births even for older moms is quite striking," said Brady Hamilton, of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the lead author of the new report.

The CDC report is based on a review of more than 99% of birth certificates issued last year. The findings echo a recent analysis of 2020 data from 25 states showing that births had fallen during the coronavirus outbreak.

CDC researchers are working on a follow-up report to better parse out how the decline unfolded, Hamilton said.

State fair is set to return

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indiana State Fair will return with some changes this summer, a year after the coronavirus pandemic forced its cancellation, fair officials announced on Tuesday.

This year's fair will run from July 30 through Aug. 22 and be focused on the theme of "celebrating all things Indiana and the resiliency of the Hoosier Spirit," fair officials said in a news release.

This year's state fair will add a weekend to the front end of the fair's schedule, while the fairgrounds will be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays each week of its run.

"We know this year's State Fair may look a little different, and we are prepared for that. By

adding an additional weekend, it allows us to spread Fair attendance across a new weekend," Cindy Hoye, executive director of the Indiana State Fair Commission, said in a news release.

Fair officials said they have been actively working with the Indiana Department of Health on planning the fair's return a year after it was called off during the pandemic.

Hoye said fair organizers "are confident that with our 250+ acre, mostly outdoor campus we will be able to host our Fair late this summer."

She said the fair plans to bring back the fairgoers' favorite attractions, including carnival rides, unusual fair food, 4-H competitions and free entertainment.

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90 SALE CALENDAR

CONSIGNMENT ONLINE AUCTION

Online Bidding:
Monday, May 10, 2021 @ 6PM
Soft Close Starts- Sunday, May 16, 2021 @ 6PM
2019 Country Clipper; 72” Boss EL; Simplicity Riding Mower; Craftsman Push Mower; Concrete Tools; Drywall Tools; Sockets/wrenches/hand tools; Wood Smoker; School Bells; Coins.
Bern Developers, LLC & Others, Owners. Rob Green 260-589-8474 See www.soldongreen.com for details, photos, and flyers.
Rob Green AU19500011
Bill Liechty AU10148441

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10th Annual Consignment Auction Saturday, June 5, 2021 8:30 a.m.
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Thursday, June 3rd/Friday, June 4th from 7am-8pm.
Auctioneers
John P. Troyer AU10900141
Lonnie Miller AU10300135
Also with J. S. Auctions AU10700049

90 SALE CALENDAR

LAND AUCTION
Monday, May 17th, 2021 Time 6:00 P. M.
Located: Take US Highway 27 to County Road 100N on the North edge of Portland, head West 1 ¼ miles to the farm (south side of road)
2 LAND AUCTIONS HELD ON SAME SITE – SAME DAY & TIME FARM ONE
45 Acres located in Section 18 of Wayne Twp in Jay County with 42 acres of tillable land; the balance consisting of open ditch and road frontage. Road frontage is along County Road 100 N.
Owners: Dave & Susan Schrock
FARM TWO
18.2 Acres with 8 acres of tillable and 10 acres of wooded land. Property access is via an easement off of County Road 100 N, and can also be accessed by the property listed in Farm One above.
Owners: Howard & Martha Ontrop
Terms on Real Estate: Cash With 10% Non-Refundable Deposit Day of Auction. Balance due at closing. Sale is not subject to buyer obtaining financing. Arrange financing if needed prior to Auction. Land sold subject to owner confirmation.
Statements made sale day take precedence over written ad.
Shawver Auctioneering & Real Estate AC31800004
Pete D. Shawver AU19700040
260-726-5587
Zane Shawver AU10500168
260-729-2229
More photos available at www.auctionzip.com & www.auctionsoft.com

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 333 Blaine pike, Portland IN
May 6, at 4:30 P.M.
HOUSEHOLD GOODS-OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS
Frigidaire washer and dryer, 3 pc bedroom suit, King size bed, 8 drawer dresser, Haier small freezer, Versus slot machine, Sanyo flatscreen TV, Lazy Boy recliner, 2pc lighted hutch, Lift chairs, Wood rocker, Kitchen table with 6 chairs and 2 leaves, 3 glider rockers, Cast iron pot, Milk cans, Small kitchen appliances, Barbies, Cookware, Clocks, Lamps, Heaters, Sets of dishes, Glassware, Games and many other items not listed.
TRUCKS-GUNS-TOOLS
2003 Chevrolet 3500 Dura Max Diesel Crew cab 4x4 dually truck with automatic transmission and 180,000 miles, 2000 Chevrolet S-10 Extended cab 4x4 pickup with automatic transmission and 140,000 miles, Winchster Model 1890 pump .22 caliber rifle, Stevens Model 73 bolt action .22 caliber rifle, Stevens Model 41P bolt action .22 caliber rifle, Stevens Model 83 bolt action .22 caliber rifle, Stevens 12 gauge single shot shotgun, Winchester, Huskee 28”-8 hp electric start snow blower, Murray push mower, and many more items not listed.
EVERETT CROWE
Loy Auction AC#31600027
260-726-2700
Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Ben Lyons AU10700085
Travis Theurer AU11200131
Troy Foust AU19800068

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Saturday, May 15, 2021 TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: Sapphires Reception Center (1100 W Votaw St, Portland IN)
ANTIQUES-FURNITURE-APPLIANCES
Metal carousel horse, Ornate oak dresser, Victorian loveseat, Oval marble top stand, Ornate easel, 5 gallon milk can, Antique pictures and frames, Antique hand painted pictures, Cane chest, Vollmond cuckoo clock, Ice cream set with four chairs, Small cast iron bell, Oil lamps, Large cedar blanket chest, Shadow box with mirror, Antique and globe style collectible lamps, Galvanized and porcelain tubs, Wooden rocking chair, Lincoln and JFK busts, Large set of amber sandwich glassware, Large lot of Indiana glass, Pottery, Glass jugs and jardinieres, Large lot of carousels, 4 piece wicker full size bedroom set, Wicker dresser, Wicker daybed with trundle, 55 inch flat screen TV, Element 32 inch flat screen TV, Amana double door refrigerator, much more not listed. **VEHICLE-TRAILER_COINS TOOLS_MISC**.
1998 Buick Park Avenue, 1987 14-foot Wells Cargo trailer, 1941 Walking Liberty half dollar, Old pennies, Eisenhower dollars, Kennedy half dollars, Old stamps, Large lot of hand and power tools and many more items.
COVID-19 Information: To protect both our customers and employees, please remember to social distance. Limited supply of masks and sanitizer is available.
Terms on personal property: Cash – Good Check – Credit Card
OWNER: Jerry and Sarah Miller Estate
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Zane Shawver Lic# AU10500168
260-729-2229
More Photos available at www.auctionzip.com & www.auctionsoft.com.

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Saturday, May 8, 2021 TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 2344 E 900 N Ridgeville, IN.
ANTIQUES-FURNITURE-APPLIANCES
Porcelain top cabinet, Duncan Phyfe table, Aunt Rhody glassware, Steel wheel, Galvanized tubs, Old headlights and hub caps, Wooden ladders, Estey spinet piano, Collectible dishware, Figurines and miniatures, Square dining room table with four chairs, Tempus Fugit grandfather clock, Guitar, 3 piece queen size bedroom suite, Pioneer stereo, glass door display cabinet, LP heater, Handicap accessories, GE smooth top stove, GE and Magic Chef refrigerators, GE upright freezer, Kenmore washer and dryer, 2 GE window air conditioners, Bissell sweeper, Small kitchen appliances, 550 gallon LP tank, Sears battery charger, Sears portable air compressor, Log chains, Large lot of shop and hand tools as well as lawn and garden tools.
COVID-19 Information: To protect both our customers and employees, please remember to social distance. Limited supply of masks and sanitizer is available.
Terms on personal property: Cash – Good Check – Credit Card
OWNER: Vicky Fellers
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90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Thursday, May 6th, 2021 TIME 5:00 P.M.
LOCATED: 107 Bittersweet Lane, Portland, IN 47371
CAR-RIDING MOWER-TOOLS
2005 Buick Le Sabre loaded with 3800 engine and 72,300 miles, Simplicity Broadmower 14hp 38in. cut riding mower, Cub Cadet 42” Lawn sweeper, Contractor 3000w Generator, Craftsman 12 gal Air Compressor, Craftsman Roll-away tool box, Variety of tools.
ANTIQUES-APPLIANCES-HOUSEHOLD
Oak Wall Phone, Oak Round Dining Room Table with chairs, Cuckoo Clock, Lane Cedar Chest, Portland Forge Anvils, Wicker Furniture, GE Profile Washer and Dryer, GE Refrigerator, 4-cushion Sofa, Patio set, Corning ware, Tupperware, Picnic Tables, Lawn chairs.
Note: Owner is a 90 year old who has kept things very well maintained.
Terms : Cash – Good Check – Credit Card
OWNER: Wanetta F. Millett
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Water Office City of Portland
Additional part-time help is needed at The City of Portland Water Office. Hours and days will vary.
Duties will include accepting payments and making change at our drive-thru and inside counter, answering phone calls and assisting with new customers. Applicant must be able to work in a fast-paced atmosphere while providing excellent customer service.
Applications are Available at the Portland Water Office in City Hall, 321 North Meridian Street, Portland, Indiana 47371, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM thru May, 14, 2021. Application deadline is May 14 at 4:30 PM.
No applications will be accepted after this time. The City of Portland is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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City of Portland
The Portland Water Park is looking to hire CERTIFIED lifeguards on a full time and part time basis for the 2021 season. There is a potential need for admission and concession employees as well.
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There are courses being offered in the surrounding area if you would like to become certified. The starting pay is \$9 per hour.
The Water Park is open 7 days per week and employees will be expected to work weekends.
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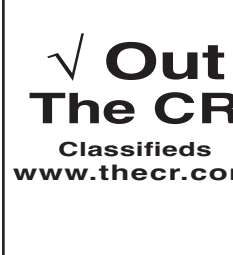
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Online bidding:
Monday, May 10, 2021

6:00 PM Soft close starts

Sunday, May 16, 2021

Tools: 2019 Country Clipper 72” Boss XL; Simplicity Mower-New Battery-Serviced-50” Deck-756 Hrs.; Craftsman Push Mower with bagger; Graco Sprayer; NAPA Air Compressor; Concrete Vibrator; Concrete Tools; John Deere T55 Heater; Homelite Power Washer; Drywall Stilts; Drywall Lift; Drywall Trowels; Shop-Vac; Nut & Bolt Storage; Napa Toolbox; Step Ladders; C-clamps; Vise; DeWalt Chop Saw; DeWalt Drill; Senco Nailers; Hitachi Nailer; Milwaukee Saws; Extension Cords; Tarps; Pipe Wrench; Sockets; Drill Bits; Shovels; Rakes; Pitch Forks; Scoop Shovels; Snow Shovels; Smoke Hollow Wood Smoker
Collectibles: Coins; No. 35 Planer; Penn Scale; Craftsman Hammer; International Harvester Co. Oil Can; Galvanized tubs; Oak drop leaf table; Sports Cards (Basketball; Football; Baseball); Steam Whistle; Harley Davidson
Pick up Monday, May 17, 2021 3-6PM

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South dealer.
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NORTH
♦A9
♥73
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♥62
♦Q92
♣QJ104
EAST
♦10872
♥A84
♦J64
♣K62
SOUTH
♦Q64
♥KQJ1095
♦A73
♣5
The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 2♣ Pass
2♥ Pass 2NT Pass
Opening lead — queen of clubs.

But if West has the king, he would take South’s queen at trick three and presumably shift to a trump. The defense would then remove both of dummy’s trumps, and declarer would ultimately go down one, losing two spades, a diamond and a heart.
Instead of subjecting himself to this possibility, declarer is better advised to play the nine of spades from dummy at trick two rather than the ace. If East has the king, the contract is virtually assured, while if West has the king, an entirely different way of making the contract presents itself.
In the latter case, East-West must play two rounds of trump to stop South from ruffing a spade in dummy. But the trouble with this defense is that it gives declarer an opportunity to establish an extra diamond trick in dummy.
Thus, in the actual case, after drawing a third round of trump, South next plays the ace and another diamond. When West produces the nine, declarer plays dummy’s ten and later makes the contract when the diamonds break 3-3.
It is surely better for declarer to retain the spade ace in dummy at trick two rather than relinquish control of the suit by playing the ace first. This gives him two ways to make four hearts instead of just one, and that’s the edge declarer should always try to give himself.

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OXZDCO XN VN ZUZI? D’W
ANKDCV ZCL OKTZIDCV.
Yesterday’s Cryptoquip: IF YOU HAD ABOUT AS MUCH SYMPATHY FOR PEOPLE AS A CLUMP OF DIRT, YOU’D BE CLOD-HEARTED.
Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: A equals H

Sports

Rinker's RBI lifts softball past Starfires

BERNE — The Patriots had their two-run lead slip away in the bottom of the third inning.

They went ahead for good a half inning later.

Maddy Rinker drove in the eventual game-winning run and the Patriots added a pair of insurance runs in the sixth inning to get a 5-2 victory against the South Adams Starfires on Tuesday in Allen County Athletic Conference play.

Jay County improves to 8-4 (1-1 ACAC), while South Adams dips to 7-7 (1-2 ACAC).

Olivia Bright singled to begin the fourth inning and reached second on an infield single from Riah Champ. After stealing third, Bright scored when Rinker bounced out to second base.

Bright doubled home a run in the sixth inning, and Haleigh Clayton knocked in another run on a double later in the frame.

Mady Fraley led the Patriot offense with three hits, including a home run, and a walk. Bright

Jay County roundup

also finished with three hits and an RBI.

Clayton picked up the win, allowing two unearned runs on four hits. She struck out nine and issued one walk in the complete-game effort.

Best not enough

NEW HAVEN — The Jay County boys golf team had its best round of the season but it wasn't enough as it finished second in a three-team match Monday at Whispering Creek Golf Club.

Heritage shot 156 to take first, with Jay County two strokes behind. Woodlan shot 193 for third.

Griffin Mann led the Patriots,

shooting a 2-over-par 38, and Caleb DeRome was one stroke behind. Kyle Sanders shot 40, and Brock DeHoff completed the team score with his round of 41.

Simon Pryor also competed, but his 45 did not factor into the team total.

Rally comes up short

Seven runs over the last three innings wasn't enough as the Jay County junior varsity softball team lost to South Adams on Monday, 14-12.

South Adams scored two or more runs in each of the first four innings for a 13-5 lead over the Patriots, before the home team staked its rally that eventually came up short.

Tricia Ison hit a three-run home run for the JCHS offense. Veronique Coppock ended her day 3-for-3 with a triple, while Makayla Brainerd hit a double, singled and knocked in three runs. Angel Clairday collected four RBIs on three hits.

Late runs sink Jay

Jay County's junior varsity baseball team allowed two runs in the seventh inning and only got one back in a 5-4 loss to the South Adams Starfires on Tuesday.

Jay County (4-5) led 3-0 after the first inning before South Adams tied the game with three runs in the top of the fourth.

The Starfires broke the tie with two runs in the top of the seventh, and the Patriots had their rally come up short.

Ryne Goldwsorthy doubled on his way to a three-hit night for Jay County. He also knocked in a run. Kenny Carducci had two RBIs on one hit, while Christian Runkle, Jackson Edwards and Cody Rowles all had singles.

Boys third

PONETO — Jay County Junior High School's boys track team took third Monday in the Southern Wells Relays.

Adam Alig had the best individual finish for the Patriots, placing second in shot put.

Gabe Pinkerton was third in both the 100- and 200-meter dash races. Joseph Boggs (1,600-meter run), Creed Beiswanger (800 run) and Alig (high jump) were also third in their respective events.

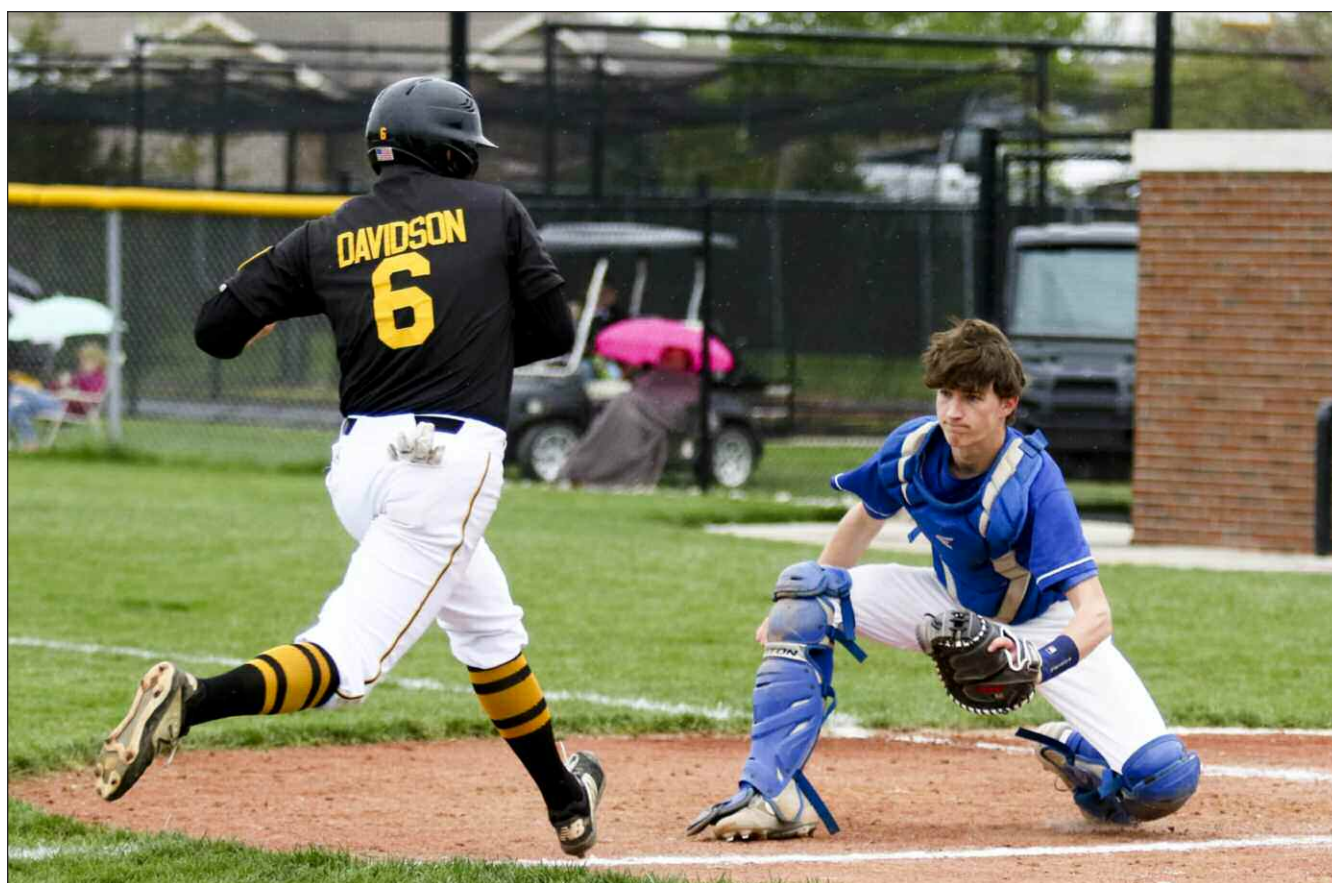
Chris Compton placed fourth in shot put and Joquin Johnson took fifth in discus.

JH golfers win

The Jay County junior high golf team opened its home schedule with a 133-158 victory against Winchester Driver on Monday in a six-hole match at Portland Golf Club.

Cody DeHoff led the Patriots with his round of 32, while Jacob Monroe was second with 33. Isaac Homan and Luke Fugiet each shot 34 to complete the team score.

Maddy Snow shot 38, but did not factor into the team total.



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Gavin Myers, a Jay County High School senior, prepares to place a tag on Tim Davidson of South Adams during a game Tuesday at Harry F. Anderson Field at SAHS. The Patriots lost, 7-2.

Pearson sets school record

COLDWATER, Ohio — Mara Pearson is the best jumper in school history.

Pearson, a Fort Recovery High School freshman, broke the meet school record for the Tribe girls track and field team as it competed in the first day of the Mercer County Knights of Columbus meet Tuesday at Coldwater.

Pearson had a leap of 17 feet, 1 inch, breaking Jackie Kaup's 23-year-old record of 16 feet, 6.5 inches. Pearson won the event by more than a foot.

She is also seeded third in the 200-meter dash when the meet concludes on Thursday.

Owen Moorman will be the top seed in the same event, running a time of 23.92 seconds in Tuesday's preliminaries.

In other completed events, Gavin Thobe was third in high jump, with Ross Pearson placing sixth in the same event. Whitley Rammel finished fifth in discus.

Evers shines for FR

VERSAILLES, Ohio — Evers limited the Versailles Tigers to just two hits and was at the plate when Brock Dues scored the eventual game-winning run in the fourth inning as the Fort Recovery High School baseball team picked up a 3-0 win Tuesday.

It marked back-to-back wins for the Indians (6-12, 3-4 Midwest Athletic Conference), who topped Arcanum 5-2 on Monday to snap an eight-game losing skid.

Evers was efficient on the mound, allowing a two-out single in the first inning and not giving up

Fort Rec. roundup

another hit until the fifth. In that inning, he allowed a leadoff triple but kept the shutout intact. He didn't issue a walk and struck out three in seven innings. He threw 87 pitches, 63 of them for strikes.

Dues was 2-for-3 to lead the FRHS offense. Riggs Tobe had a hit and drove in the team's only run. Ryne Post, Cobe Wendel, Landon Post and Derek Lochtefeld all singled as well.

Grisez lifts Tribe

FORT RECOVERY — Chloey Grisez hit a walk-off single in leading the Fort Recovery softball team to a 4-3 victory over the Versailles Tigers on Tuesday.

The Indians move to 13-9 and 2-2 in Midwest Athletic Conference play with the victory.

Cali Wendel drew a one-out walk to start the home half of the seventh inning, and Brenna Homan doubled to put runners on second and third. Grisez then singled to left to bring home Wendel for the win.

Homan tripled and singled to lead the FRHS offense, which led 3-0 after the fourth inning. Grisez finished with two hits, and Sophie Pearson singled as well. Kensey Gaerke and Abby Knapke both had RBIs.

Jackie Homan earned the win, allowing three unearned runs on eight hits. She struck out four and walked one.

Thwaits makes Storm debut

VISALIA, Calif. — Nick Thwaits is finally part of a full-season professional team.

He made his debut during the first game of the season.

Thwaits, a 2018 Fort Recovery High School graduate, came out of the bullpen for the Lake Elsinore Storm and threw three innings in an 8-7 victory over the Visalia Rawhide on Tuesday at Valley Strong Ballpark.

The 15th-round draft pick and two-time Midwest Athletic Conference Player of the Year started the fourth inning while the Storm, the San Diego Padres' Low-A affiliate, had a 4-2 lead.

Thwaits surrendered a three-run home run to the fourth batter he faced. One out later, he gave up an infield single to Jorge Barrosa, who was later caught stealing.

In the fifth inning, Sheng-Ping Chen singled with one out to score Wilderd Patino, who was hit by a pitch to begin the inning. Thwaits ended his outing with back-to-back strikeouts to start the sixth inning and got an inning-ending grounder to short.

When he exited the game after the sixth inning, Lake Elsinore (1-0) and Visalia (0-1), the Low-A affiliate of the Arizona Diamondbacks, were tied 6-6.

The Rawhide scored once in the bottom of the seventh inning but Lake Elsinore scored twice in the top of the eighth for the win.

In three innings of work, Thwaits allowed four earned runs on three hits. He struck out three and didn't issue a walk to any of the 14 batters he faced. Of the 56 pitches he threw, 36 of them went for strikes.

Patriots fall at SA

By CHRIS SCHANZ

The Commercial Review

BERNE — The Patriots managed to get hits off the Starfires' ace.

They just weren't able to string them together to consistently score runs.

And the defense didn't do them many favors, either.

Jay County High School's baseball team didn't quite capitalize on chances offensively and committed four errors in a 7-2 loss to the South Adams Starfires on Tuesday at Harry F. Anderson Field.

"They answered everything we did which is the mark of a good team," said JCHS coach Lea Selvey, whose team dips to 5-4 (1-1 Allen County Athletic Conference). "First inning we left them off the hook, then they came and put a run up."

"I don't want to use young as an excuse, but you're looking at a (Starfire) group that is pretty good. They took advantage of us."

Jay County, which hosts Shenandoah tonight, had runners on the corners with one out in the top of the first inning, but they were both

thrown out on a botched double steal.

Then the Starfire offense got the game's first run on an RBI single from Adam Besser, who also got the win on the mound.

South Adams went ahead 2-0 in the bottom of the third before the Patriots ended the shutout with a run in the top of the next inning. And in the fourth, the Starfires added a pair of two-out RBI singles to go on top, 4-1.

Down 5-1 in the sixth, Jay County started the frame with three consecutive singles but only managed to push across one run. Then a pair of errors in the bottom of the inning gifted the Starfires the final runs of the game.

"There were stretches where we didn't stay within our approach of what we wanted to do," Selvey said. "We were our own demise, I felt like."

The aforementioned Besser kept the Patriots off balance most of the night, working in his curveball to keep hitters guessing. Although he scattered six hits, he gave up two earned runs with seven strikeouts and two walks in 6 2/3 innings.

"For one, he's a guy that knows how to pitch and he knows how to pitch in a big game," South Adams coach Brad Buckingham said. "That can't be underestimated. We have some guys that have some good arms but they don't have the same game experience, they don't have the same — I guess you could say moxie — that he has on the mound."

"For our team when he's on the mound everybody can breathe a little bit easier."

Blake Caldwell led the JCHS offense with a double and two singles. Crosby Heniser, who suffered the loss on the hill for the Patriots, also had two singles. Austin Curts recorded the team's only RBIs.

Offensively, Besser led the Starfires with a double, two singles and two RBIs. Aidan Wanner, AJ Dull and James Arnold each had hits as well.

"We've had games this year where we've had mistakes by the other team and we haven't been able to capitalize," Buckingham said. "Tonight we could. That's big when you can scratch a run across. It puts a little breathing room."

On tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Baseball vs. Shenandoah — 5 p.m.; Junior high girls track at Adams Central Relays — 5 p.m.; Fort Wayne TinCaps vs. West Michigan Whitecaps — 7:05 p.m.

Thursday
Jay County — Boys golf vs. Bellmont and Bluffton — 4:30 p.m.; Softball vs. Bluffton — 5 p.m.; Baseball vs. Bluffton — 5 p.m.; Girls tennis vs. Adams Central — 5 p.m.; JV baseball at Bluffton — 5 p.m.; JV softball at Bluffton — 5 p.m.; Junior high golf vs. Monroe Central — 4:30 p.m.; Junior high track at Adams Central Relays — 5:30 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Track in Mercer County Meet at Coldwater — 4 p.m.; Baseball vs. New Bremen — 5 p.m.; Softball at New Bremen — 5 p.m.; JV baseball at New Bremen — 5 p.m.

Fort Wayne TinCaps vs. West Michigan Whitecaps — 7:05 p.m.

Friday
Jay County — Softball vs. Adams Central — 5 p.m.; Baseball vs. Adams Central — 5 p.m.; JV baseball at Adams Central — 5 p.m.; JV softball at Adams Central — 5 p.m.; Track at Hagerstown — 5:15 p.m.

Fort Recovery — JV baseball vs. Wapakoneta — 5 p.m.

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