

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

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Dunkirk looking to boost its rates

Council takes first step toward water, sewer hikes

By **RAY COONEY**

The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — The city is considering increases in its utility rates.

Dunkirk City Council on Monday voted to take the first step toward increasing its water and sewer rates by 2% each.

Mayor Jack Robbins presented information to council about the possible rate increases in accordance with the five-year utility plan the city developed in 2019. The plan calls for incremental annual increases to the rates in an effort to both build up funds for capital improvements and avoid the need for a large rate increase in the future.

The 2% increases would move base rates:

- to \$22.92 per month for water from the current \$22.48, an increase of 54 cents.

- to \$16.07 per month from the current \$15.76, an increase of 31 cents.

Council members and other local officials discussed the increases, with council president Jesse Bivens expressing support. He reiterated the reason for implementing the utility plan three years ago is to keep rates in line with costs and avoid the need for a large increase in a single year.

Council member Bryan Jessup spoke against the water rate increase, saying residents have been hit with repeated increases in recent years. He later said he did not have an issue with the sewer rate increase, because those rates have not been raised as significantly.

Council members ultimately voted to move forward with the process of both 2% raises.

See **Rates** page 5



Upgrades for radios?

Commissioners discuss need for new tower

By **JACK RONALD**

The Commercial Review

Another upgrade of public safety radio communications appears to be on the horizon, and it won't be cheap.

Representatives of ERS Wireless met Monday with Jay County Commissioners to continue a conversation that began in April 2021.

At issue are gaps in radio communications coverage in some parts of the county and from inside some of the county's schools. The best solution, ERS representatives said, was to add an 800-megahertz tower at the site of Portland's north watertower. That, in conjunction with the addition of bi-directional amplifiers in some buildings, should solve the problem for most of the county.

There is an existing 800-megahertz tower in Redkey, and one is apparently being planned in southern Adams County. Those are part of the

state's efforts to develop a consistent, reliable emergency radio communications system.

"It doesn't make sense to keep pumping money into all these disparate systems," an ERS spokesman said.

Construction of an 800-megahertz tower in Portland would cost in the neighborhood of \$730,000 to \$750,000. In addition, new portable radio units would be required for Jay County Sheriff's Office, Jay Emergency Medical Service and volunteer fire departments.

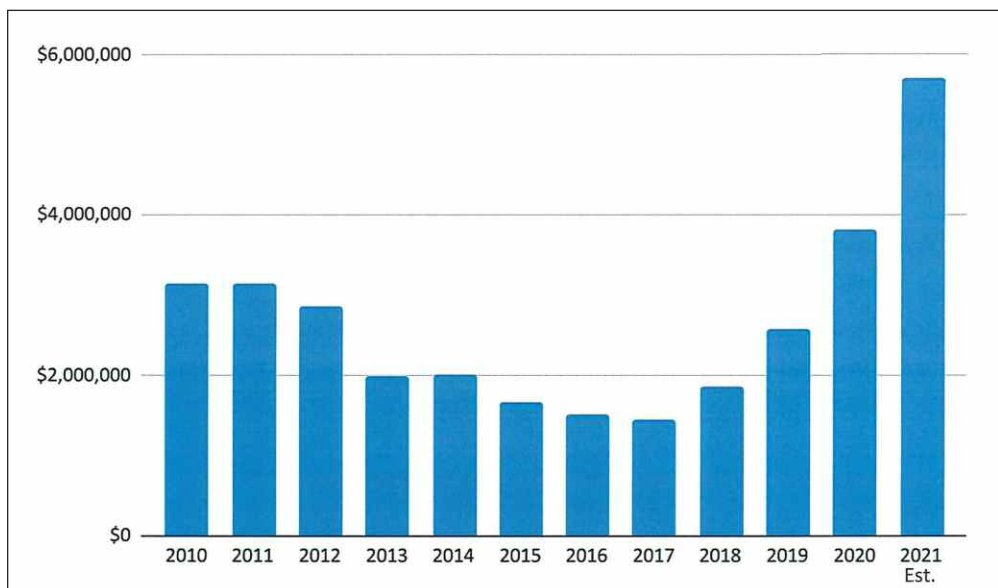
The City of Portland already has mobile radio units compatible with the 800-megahertz system and has tentatively agreed to split the cost of the new tower with the county.

"You're right at a million bucks," said commissioner Rex Journay. "So how long is this system going to be good? Ten years and we've got to do it again?"

See **Upgrades** page 5

Representatives from ERS Wireless on Monday proposed several upgrades to radio communications in Jay County, including the addition of a new 800-megahertz tower near Portland's north watertower (pictured). Upgrades would also include new radios for Jay County Sheriff's Office, Jay Emergency Medical Services and volunteer fire departments.

The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney



Graphic courtesy of Jay School Corporation

The above graph shows the balance in the Jay School Corporation's education fund (previously known as the general fund) over the last decade plus. It had dipped to less than \$1.5 million in 2017 and has increased since to an estimated \$5.7 million at the close of 2021. During the same period, enrollment has continued to decline at a rate of about 2% per year. The school corporation has closed four buildings — Pennville Elementary School, Judge Haynes Elementary School, Westlawn Elementary School and its former central office site — in recent years as part of a restructuring to help bring costs under control.

Fiscal outlook strong

By **RAY COONEY**

The Commercial Review

The school corporation's financial outlook is strong and getting stronger.

Jay School Board, acting as the school corporation's board of finance, received updates on its financial outlook during a meeting Monday that followed the regular board meeting.

Treasurer Shannon Current presented the board with various graphs and information about the corporation's fiscal status.

The school corporation had an estimated cash balance of \$5.7 million in its education fund — it was previously known as the general fund — at the end of 2021. The fund has been on a steady increase since dropping below \$1.5 million at the close of 2017. The balance had been steady around the \$3 million mark from 2005 through 2012 before a

Corporation balances have been increasing

steady decline over about a six-year period.

The operations fund, which includes what were previously known as the capital projects, transportation and bus replacement funds, came in at just over \$2.5 million. It has been below \$100,000 as recently as 2015 and has been on a steady climb as well.

"Jeremy became superintendent in 2017," said board member Phil Ford, who is a former president of Jay Classroom Teachers Asso-

ciation and Jay County High School principal. "And I think you can all see what has happened fiscally and the way that money's been handled in a conservative manner since that point in time. I appreciate what you've been able to do for us financially and still give out some decent raises."

The report also showed a significant increase in the food service fund to more than \$450,000, up from less than \$150,000 in 2019. Chartwells took over food service management that year.

Meanwhile, the enrollment count has continued to drop. The school corporation had about 6,000 students in 1974, with that number declining by 46% to 3,250 in fall 2017. It has dropped an additional 8.8% over the last four years to 2,963 as of January.

See **Fiscal** page 2

Deaths

- Emma Crouse**, 87, Portland
 - Jacqueline Schlechty**, 84, Portland
 - Chris Dugan**, 64, Portland
 - Larry Newland**, 61, Portland
 - Alberta Bowen**, 94, Dunkirk
- Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 27 Monday. The low was 14.

Tonight's low will be in the mid-20s with winds gusting to 30 miles per hour. Skies will be partly sunny Wednesday with the high climbing to near 40 and winds up to 25 mph.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

One new candidate filed Monday to run for election in Jay County. Emily Franks of Portland filed to run for the Republican nomination for county auditor. Current auditor Anna Culy is not eligible to run for re-election because she has served two consecutive terms.

Coming up

- Wednesday** — Results from the opening round of the ACAC basketball tournaments.
- Friday** — Jay County High School will host a show choir competition Saturday.



Capsule Reports

Trial canceled

The jury trial that was scheduled to begin Thursday in Jay Superior Court has been canceled.

Those who were scheduled for jury duty do not need to report.

Deer struck

Local police investigated several accidents involving deer over the past few days.

At 12:40 a.m. Monday, a 2010 Chrysler driven by Michael B. Conrad, 37, rural Bryant, struck a deer on Indiana 18 near county road 500 West, resulting in \$5,000 to \$10,000 in damage.

About 7:20 a.m. Monday, a 2010 Dodge Durango driven by Brenda L.

Reed, 54, rural Portland, hit a deer in the roadway on U.S. 27 near county road 800 South in Pike Township. Damage was estimated at less than \$1,000.

At 12:35 a.m. Saturday, a 2015 Nissan Altima driven by Rachel L. Bellis, 21, rural Winchester, collided with a deer on U.S. 27 near county road 200 South, resulting in \$5,000 to \$10,000 in damage.

Fogged up

A foggy windshield was blamed for a two-car accident about 10:20 p.m. Friday at Oakwood Mobile Home Park, north of Portland.

Jimmy Mack II, 34, Muncie, told police the windshield of the 2008 Ford

van he was driving had fogged up and he did not see a parked 2001 Saturn registered to Matthew A. Vore, Portland.

The van was registered to Donald Young, rural Winchester.

Damage was estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

Dog hit

Between \$1,000 and \$2,500 in damage was reported when a car hit a dog about 7:30 a.m. Monday on county road 900 South near road 500 East.

Norman E. Ruth, 49, Portland, told police he was eastbound in his 2018 Toyota when the dog ran into the path of his vehicle. He was unable to avoid striking the animal.

Felony arrests

Arrested

Roy Glen Aspy, 41, 2676 Westwind Court, Hilliard, Ohio, is being held in Jay County Jail on \$15,000 bond following his arrest Saturday on two Level 6 felony charges, possession of methamphetamine and possession of a syringe.

Jailed

Richard L. Shirk, 63, 770 Montels Way, Sharlotte, Michigan, is being held in Jay Coun-

ty Jail on \$3,000 bond following his arrest Saturday on a Level 6 felony charge of operating a vehicle while intoxicated and having a prior conviction.

Nuisance

Ariel Stewart, 28, address unknown, is being held in Jay County Jail on a Level 6 felony charge of maintaining a common nuisance. Bond is set at \$4,000. She was arrested Sunday.

CR almanac

Wednesday 1/12	Thursday 1/13	Friday 1/14	Saturday 1/15	Sunday 1/16
40/27	36/23	32/18	26/12	25/20
Skies will be partly sunny with wind gusts as high as 20 mph possible.	Mostly cloudy skies are expected Thursday, with highs in the upper 30s.	There's a chance of snow in the afternoon and higher chance of snow (50%) at night.	Saturday has a 40% chance of snow during the day under mostly cloudy skies.	Mostly sunny skies are in the forecast for Sunday, with highs in the mid 20s.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 14-17-18-21-27 Powerball: 9 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$38 million	49-56-62-64-71-76 Cash 5: 7-23-32-33-34 Estimated jackpot: \$80,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$300 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 4-2-3 Pick 4: 3-5-5-5 Pick 5: 1-2-7-7-2 Evening Pick 3: 8-3-6 Pick 4: 2-3-9-1 Pick 5: 2-8-9-2-4 Rolling Cash 5: 11-15-25-27-38 Estimated jackpot: \$130,000 Classic Lotto: 2-17-35-39-42-47 Kicker: 4-2-0-6-9-2 Jackpot: \$20 million
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 8-7-9 Daily Four: 3-8-9-9 Quick Draw: 5-7-8-20-21-23-27-30-32-38-49-50-53-60-61-63-66-67-73-76 Evening Daily Three: 8-6-5 Daily Four: 3-4-3-3 Quick Draw: 1-2-4-7-9-13-14-19-20-30-38-39-44-46	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....6.04 Feb. corn.....6.09 Wheat.....7.51	Wheat.....7.56 Feb. wheat.....7.56
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....6.11 Feb. corn.....6.08 March corn.....6.10	Central States Montpelier Corn.....5.96 Late Jan. corn.....5.96 Beans.....13.72 Late Jan. beans.....13.72 Jan. wheat.....7.64
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....5.96 Feb. corn.....6.01 Beans.....13.70 Feb. beans.....13.70	Sunrise St. Anthony Corn.....5.96 Feb. corn.....5.96 Beans.....13.51 Feb. beans.....13.56 Wheat.....7.30

Today in history

On Jan. 11, 1908, Amelia Earhart began an 18-hour trip from Honolulu to Oakland, California, that made her the first person to fly solo across any part of the Pacific Ocean.

In 1861, Alabama became the fourth state to withdraw from the Union.

In 1913, the first enclosed sedan-type automobile, a Hudson, went on display at the 13th National Automobile Show in New York.

In 1927, the creation of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences was proposed during a dinner of Hollywood luminaries at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles.

In 1935, aviator

chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

Wednesday, Jan. 19
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.

—AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today
7 p.m. — Jay County Council, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

Monday
5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council

Obituaries

Emma Crouse

May 18, 1934-Jan. 8, 2022
Emma Jane Crouse, age 87, a resident of Portland, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022, at Persimmon Ridge in Portland.

Emma was born on May 18, 1934, in Greenville, Ohio, the daughter of Ira and Lenora (Stonerock) Dewey. She graduated from Jackson Township High School in Darke County in 1952. Emma retired from Fort Recovery Industries in Fort Recovery after 43 years of service. She married John Shaner on Sept. 22, 1966, and he passed away on March 22, 1976. She later married Donald Crouse on May 18, 1992, and he passed away on March 4, 2007.



Crouse

Survivors include:
Two children — Donna Pfeifer, Portland, Indiana, and Wayne Shaner (wife: Theresa), New Weston, Ohio

Step-daughter — Carolyn Paxson (husband: Kenneth), Pennville, Indiana
Two grandchildren — Alex and Chris Pfeifer

She was preceded in death by a son, Michael Dewey.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday from 4 to 7 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will be held on Thursday at 11 a.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Burial will follow at Mercer Memory Gardens in Celina, Ohio.

Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

Jacqueline Schlechty

May 5, 1937-Jan. 8, 2022
Jacqueline S. Schlechty, age 84, of Portland passed away Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022, at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie.

She was born in Jay County on May 5, 1937, the daughter of George and Ann (Zirkle) Swank. She was married on Feb. 15, 1957, to Lawrence "Larry" Schlechty and he passed away on Sept. 30, 1999.

Jacqueline was retired from Jay Products after 30 years. She was a member of Cornerstone Baptist

Church. She was a graduate of Ward Township High School, was an avid reader and enjoyed bowling belonging to Women's Indiana Bowling Association.

Surviving are three sons, Randy Schlechty (wife: Renee) of Portland, Rick Schlechty of Portland and Steve Schlechty (wife: Angie) of Portland; one daughter, Sandy Curtis (husband: Robert) of Mooresville, Indiana; one brother Dave Fritzing (wife: Barbara) of Winchester; one sister, Frances Duke of Warsaw; 13 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be Friday, Jan. 14, 2022, at 10 a.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Wayne Ward presiding. Burial will follow in the Green Park Cemetery. Visitation will be Thursday from 3 to 7 p.m. Memorials can be made to the Jay County Cancer Society.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Chris Dugan

March 20, 1957-Dec. 27, 2021
Chris Dugan, age 64, a resident of Portland, passed away on Monday, Dec. 27, 2021, at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie.

Chris was born on March 20, 1957, in Portland, the daughter of Ralph and Rosie (Schmidt) Grapner. She graduated from Jay County High School in Portland and Ball State University in Muncie. She worked as a bookkeeper and secretary at Vernon Schmidt Garage for 33 years. Chris enjoyed showing her Morgan Horses at horse shows for many years. She loved her dogs, Louie and Addie.

Survivors include:
Her mother — Rosie Grapner, Portland, Indiana
One daughter — Regina Young, Portland, Indiana

Two sons — Andrew Dugan, Dunkirk, Indiana, and Zeb Dugan, Portland, Indiana

Six grandchildren — Wiley Young (wife Emily), Andrea Dugan, Adam Young, Abigail Dugan, Nevaeh Brower and Traeh Brower.

Two great-grandchildren — London Dugan and Phoebe May

Fiscal ...

Continued from page 1
Each school corporation's state funding for schools is based on enrollment at about \$7,000 per student.

Jay Schools has reduced its employee count to 406 currently from the most recent peak of 540 in 2013. That has coincided with the closures of Pennville, General Shanks and Westlawn elementary schools.

Gulley noted that the bulk of the staffing cuts have come through attrition and that layoffs have been minimal.

The board also reviewed its investment policy and received an investment report noting that the corporation earned \$25,304.46 in interest in 2021.

During the regular board meeting, members Phil Ford, Ron Laux, Mike Shannon, Donna Geesaman, Chris Snow, Jason Phillips and Vickie Reitz elected Laux as president, Geesaman as vice president and Ford as secretary.

Members elected Ron Laux as president, Donna Geesaman as vice president and Phil Ford as secretary.

Ford had served as the board's president since 2018.

"I certainly want to thank Mr. Ford for his service as the president," said Gulley. "I appreciate his partnership, leadership

on the board. Certainly a couple of historic things have been very well managed in his role as leader on the board."

"Phil, thanks for all you've done for us as board president, the guidance, the leadership you've shown," added Laux

Laux and Ford were elected president and secretary, respectively, of the board of finance.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the following: Coldren, Frantz and Sprunger as the corporation's attorney with Church, Church, Hittle and Antrim as legal counsel, as needed; Current as treasurer and Irene Taylor as deputy treasurer; Trent Paxson, Current and Taylor as authorized users of the safe deposit box; and Current and Taylor as small claims court representatives; conflict of interest statements for board members.
- Appointed Laux, Geesaman and Ford to the corporation's negotiating committee and appointed all board members to the board of finance.
- Hired Gulley appoint Snow and Reitz to the board's insurance committee.
- Hired instructional assistants Shelby Clark, Connie Hiatt and Miriam Willis
- Hired Laux appoint Reitz as the board's legislative delegate.



Slechty

Visitation will be held on Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Services to celebrate Chris's life will follow at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022, at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed towards the Jay County Humane Society.

Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

Larry Newland

March 12, 1960-Jan. 6, 2022
Larry Newland, age 61, of Portland passed away Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022, in Coldwater Community Hospital in Coldwater, Ohio.

Larry was born in Portland on March 12, 1960, the son of James and Maxine Mae (Strait) Newland. He was a truck driver and owned an archery business. He was a member of Celina Moose and was an avid hunter and fisherman.

Surviving are two brothers, Glenn Newland (wife: Julia) of Portland and Lester Newland of South Carolina; two sisters, Connie Newland of South Carolina and Elsie Cox of Muncie; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by brother Johnny Newland; and sister Betty Allred.

Memorial services will be held at a later date.

Baird-Freeman Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Memorials can be made to Jay County Humane Society.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Alberta Bowen, Dunkirk, May 13, 1927-Jan. 7, 2022. Services will be at noon Thursday at MJS Mortuaries - Redkey Chapel.

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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.

SERVICES

Thursday

Crouse, Emma: 11 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Bowen, Alberta: Noon, MJS Mortuaries, 109 S. Meridian St., Redkey.

Dugan, Chris: 7 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Friday

Slechty, Jacqueline: 10 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Franks, Joan: 7 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

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Happy 90th birthday
GEORGE HORN!
Come join us for a surprise celebration the afternoon of January 16 from 2-4pm at the Redkey Church of the Nazarene Family Center, located at 801 W. High.
In lieu of gifts, bring a card of good wishes

Learning to drive is rite of passage

By DIANA DOLECKI

Special to The Commercial Review
Watch out world, granddaughter Emma has begun driver's education classes. She confessed to her mom that she was a little apprehensive about the whole process.

As I See It



The first vehicle I ever drove was a tractor. My uncle Norman sat on one fender with his small son in his lap. I drove down the long lane to the neighbor's house. Norman reached out a correcting hand whenever I got too close to the edge of the lane. I remember kids sitting on the other fender but have forgotten who they were. That was my one and only time to drive a tractor. It was years later that I

took my driver's test. Uncle Norman had died several years before. The written test was easy. Then came the driving part. I knew I was in trouble when the instructor growled about the sweater lying on the passenger's seat and tossed it into the back.

I flunked because I missed a stop sign. Twice. I never did see it because it was obscured by shrubs. The next time I actually saw the hidden sign and passed the test.

When Emma's mom, Beth, took her driver's test, it was in our car. We had gone down to Texas for a visit. There was one excuse after the other as to why she couldn't bor-

row a car for her driving test.

Hubby put her behind the wheel of our car and the two of them took off. She got through the test and then at the very end she almost ran over the curb. Hubby cringed but the instructor let her pass.

We are hoping that Emma doesn't have those kinds of stories to tell once she gets through all the requirements for her license. So far nobody has warned her that the picture on her license will make her look like a deranged zombie. Sometimes it seems like the people taking the picture at the license branch take special classes in how to take the worst possible photograph.

Learning to drive is a rite of passage. The license means that one not only knows how to operate a motorized vehicle, but they realize that they have the responsibility to watch out for other drivers.

That license also means that she is free to drive all alone down a hilly back road with the sun in the sky and her hair blowing in the wind.

My grandmother learned to drive well before everyone was expected to have a driver's license.

She was born in 1906 in Ohio. Massachusetts and Missouri were the first states to require a license way back in 1903. It was several years afterwards

that other states began issuing a license. No test was required therefore the process of getting a license wasn't quite the same as it is today. Also, the practice of adding a photo for the license is a relatively new development.

Personally, I don't like driving. I am convinced that all the other drivers are both homicidal and suicidal. I try to limit my driving to staying in town. I don't have the courage or the will to go any further.

It won't be long before Emma completes all the prerequisites and has her own ticket to freedom, complete with an ugly picture. She is a smart girl and will do fine.

Wife's pandemic marriage is a nightmare

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I got married during the pandemic in a short ceremony. Our first year of marriage has been less a honeymoon than a nightmare. He tends to be hot-headed. He fights dirty with name-calling, which he had occasionally done previously, but since we've been living together, it happens more often.

We are trying marriage counseling, but all of his temper tantrums and antics have made me see him in a different, negative light. He's now talking about growing our family. He can be very sweet and thoughtful, but I don't even know if I still like him at this point.

I'm also wondering if I'm just better alone because I like my space and time to myself. Maybe I'm settling with the current situation when there could be someone better out there. I know the grass isn't always greener on the other side. Is this something I need to give some time to see how it plays out, or should I end it, the sooner the better? — HONEYMOON-LESS IN NEW JERSEY

Dear Abby



DEAR HONEYMOON-LESS: The pandemic has stressed many marriages, but with the quarantines relaxing there should be less pressure and confinement. Has it helped? Whether your hot-tempered husband is capable of changing his behavior is something that may be revealed during the counseling.

You didn't mention how long the two of you have been seeing a therapist, but if it has been more than six months with no improvement, it's fair to assume he isn't likely to change, and the marriage should end. In the meantime, use the most powerful form of birth control you possibly can so you don't

find yourself pregnant and trapped in a marriage from which you cannot escape.

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DEAR ABBY: My mom is in a home for dementia patients, and Dad was living in their big house by himself. He couldn't sell it until everything was settled with my mom. Because he was very lonely, I decided to let him move in with me. We agreed he would pay \$320 a month. I needed the money and thought it was fair. My roommate pays \$400 a month, but I was OK with Dad paying less.

When my sister found out, she was very upset that I was charging Dad. She had him move out that day, so now he sleeps at my brother's and spends most of the day at his house.

When I turned 18 and lived at home I paid rent, so I saw nothing wrong with it. Now I am an outcast. No one talks to me except my dad, by phone. I am very depressed about this and feel suicidal. I suffer from anxiety and depression. see a therapist and have been on meds for years. Am I wrong, and how do I

fix this? — GOOD SON IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR GOOD SON: If you haven't done so already, talk about this with your therapist. It is very important that he or she knows you are having suicidal thoughts and that they persist. You did NOTHING "wrong." Your father agreed to the arrangement, and he should have made that clear to your sister. She was wrong to interfere, and she seems to wield a disproportionate amount of power in your family. I can't fix that and neither can you, so you will have to find ways of coping not only with your depression but also with her. You have my sympathy.

.....

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 35 years and have a recurring problem with no solution in sight. My wife sets frozen meat on the counter to thaw. She says she can't count on thawing it in the fridge because it takes too long and interferes with her meal planning. Her mother has always done it this way, and no

one has ever gotten sick. I try talking to her but it only ends up in a fight. Any suggestions would be appreciated. — RISKY IN ILLINOIS

DEAR RISKY: The Food and Drug Administration has issued guidelines about food preparation because people have gotten VERY sick when it wasn't done properly. Over the last 10 or 15 years, conditions in some of our slaughterhouses and agricultural operations have deteriorated, and consumers have died because of it. Whether you can convince your wife to change her ways, I can't predict. But you might be doing her a favor if you visit fda.gov and print out some information for her and your mother-in-law. Better to be safe than sorry.

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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 www.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

THE LANDING — A 12-step program for those in sixth through 12th grade will meet at 5:55 p.m. each Tuesday at 2nd Chance at Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 703-0777 or (260) 726-5273.

JAY COUNTY CIVIC THEATRE — Holds its regular meeting at 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the Community Room at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland.

A BETTER LIFE - BRI-ANNA'S HOPE — A faith-

based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

Wednesday

WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are

invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

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

BRYANT/NEW CORYDON SENIOR CITIZENS — Will meet at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Bryant Community Center for a

carry-in dinner. Meat is provided.

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

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — For caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias, the group will meet at 6 p.m.

the second Wednesday of each month at Blackford Community Hospital conference room, 410 Pilgrim Boulevard in Hartford City. For more information, call Joni Slentz or Lisa Garrett at (765) 348-1072 or (800) 272-3900.

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.

A BETTER LIFE - BRI-ANNA'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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

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.

Brides Section

in The Commercial Review **Specials**

Full page color
(only one available)

\$525

1/2 page color - **\$425**

1/2 page black and white - **\$225**

Big business card
(3x3.5)

\$78

Deadline is Jan. 13



Contact

Lindsey Cochran

260-726-8141

L.cochran@thecr.com

Pray for healing for our community

To the editor:
Here it is 2022. We are starting into our third year of the coronavirus pandemic.

Not a lot has changed. We have worn masks, we have gotten shots, kept our distances, but not a lot has changed. It has helped some, but not totally.

We have a shortage of health care workers, factory workers, truck drivers, etc. (So much stress.)

I believe — you may not agree with me, but that's OK — that the Lord is trying to get our attention, to get people to turn back to him and be the kind of person he has asked us to be — moral, kind and loving, to name a few.

A lot of people are dying without knowing the Lord. He's there if we will only call upon him.

The reason I'm writing this is to ask people who believe in God, or not, who believes his word his true,

Letters to the Editor

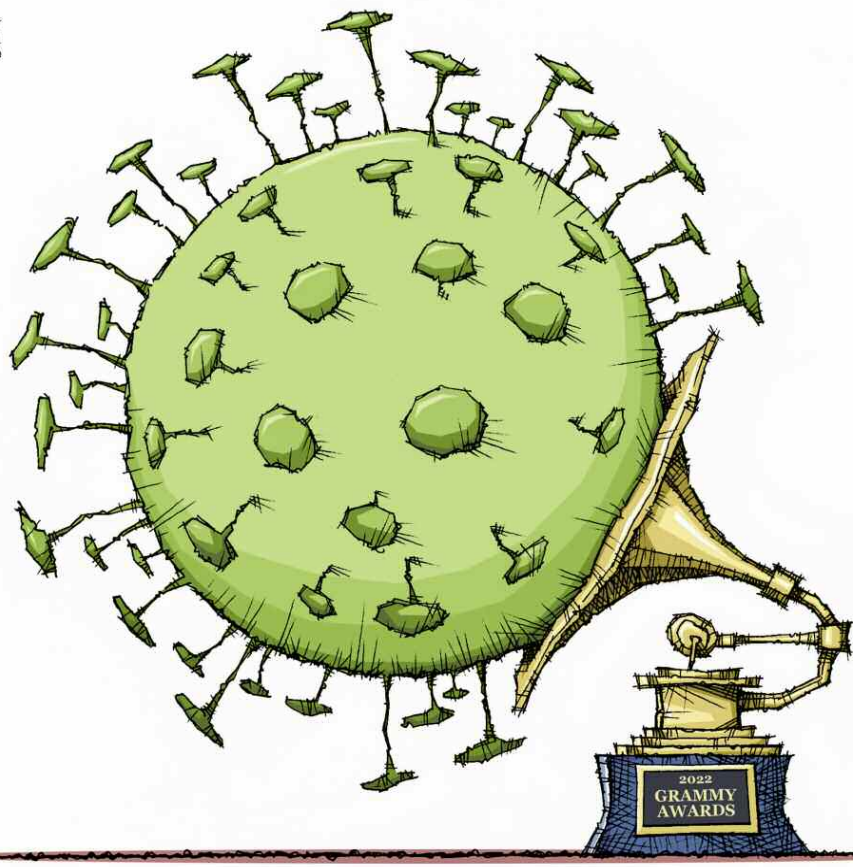
whom has had a relationship with our Lord, will pray that our heavenly father will remove this coronavirus from our land and restore it to good health.

II Chronicles 7:14 — If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Again, I'm asking each of you to pray for healing for our county.

If all else fails, pray.
Thank you.
Dreama Nichols
Portland

Tim Campbell
Distributed by Washington Post News Service & Syndicate



SILENCED

Media must make key shift

By MARGARET SULLIVAN
The Washington Post

In the year since the Jan. 6 insurrection, mainstream journalists have done a lot of things right. They've published major investigations, pointed out politicians' lies and, in many cases, finally learned how to clearly communicate the facts of what happened leading up to that horrendous riot at the U.S. Capitol — and what is happening now as pro-Trump Republicans steadily chip away at the very checks and balances that saved American democracy last year.

Much of this work has been impressive. And yet, something crucial is missing. For the most part, news organizations are not making democracy-under-siege a central focus of the work they present to the public.

"We are losing our democracy day by day, and journalists are individually aware of this, but media outlets are not centering this as the story it should be," said Ruth Ben-Ghiat, a scholar of autocracy and the author of "Strongmen: Mussolini to the Present."

That American democracy is teetering is unquestionable. Jan. 6 is every day now, in the words of a recent New York Times editorial that noted the growing evidence: election officials harassed by conspiracy theory addicts, death threats issued to politicians who vote their conscience, GOP lawmakers pushing measures to make it harder for citizens to vote and easier for partisans to overturn legitimate voting results.

"The reactionary counter-mobilization against democracy has accelerated," wrote historian Thomas Zimmer, a visiting professor at Georgetown. "It's happening on so many fronts simultaneously that it's easy to lose sight of how things are connected."

To be sure, even some of the most studiously neutral of news organizations are doing important journalism on this subject.

"Slow-motion insurrection": How GOP seizes election power," read the headline of an Associated Press news story last week. It detailed the ways in which Republicans aligned with former president Donald Trump, after the near-miss of last year's coup attempt, "have worked to clear the path for next time."

The story explained what's happening in the battleground states that could determine the next occupant of the White

Margaret Sullivan



House: "In Michigan, the Republican Party is restocking members of obscure local boards that could block approval of an election. In Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, the GOP-controlled legislatures are backing open-ended 'reviews' of the 2020 election, modeled on a deeply flawed look-back in Arizona." Writer Nicholas Riccardi stated his findings in his own equivocation-free words, without washing it through the voice of some academic or activist: "The efforts are poised to fuel disinformation and anger about the 2020 results for years to come."

Similarly, NPR recently ran a seven-minute segment on what it called "the clear and present danger of Trump's enduring 'Big Lie.'" As NYU's Jay Rosen noted, the piece was admirably direct in its language: "No dilution via 'both sides,' no 'critics say,' Just a straight-up warning." And on NBC's "Meet the Press" this weekend, moderator Chuck Todd — who has deservedly drawn criticism in recent months for too often allowing GOP talking points to go unchallenged — stepped up in a significant way to detail the "big lie" spread by Trump allies this past year to evoke the specter of a supposedly stolen presidential election.

More pointedly, the Atlantic magazine — which positions itself as centrist rather than left-leaning — published an entire issue in December devoted to the topic of democracy under threat. The cover headline's message was hard to miss: "January 6 was practice." The cover story by Barton Gellman began with this chilling paragraph:

"Technically, the next attempt to overthrow a national election may not qualify as a coup. It will rely on subversion more than violence, although each will have its place. If the plot succeeds, the ballots cast by American voters will not decide the presidency in 2024. Thousands of votes will be thrown away, or millions, to produce the required effect. The winner will be declared the loser. The loser will be certified president-

elect."

All of this is good, necessary and important. The Atlantic, particularly, seems to have taken on the challenge.

But, in general, this pro-democracy coverage is not being "centered" by the media writ large. It's occasional, not regular; it doesn't appear to be part of an overall editorial plan that fully recognizes just how much trouble we're in.

That must change. It's not merely that there needs to be more of this work. It also needs to be different. For example, it should include a new emphasis on those who are fighting to preserve voting rights and defend democratic norms.

"We focus on the enemies of democracy, the villains, but we also need to focus on democracy's heroes," including those working at the grass-roots level, Ben-Ghiat told me, such as voting rights advocates and public officials in communities across the country. An occasional feature story on Stacey Abrams, the celebrated activist and former Georgia state lawmaker, is not nearly enough.

This new pro-democracy emphasis should be articulated clearly — and fearlessly — to readers and viewers. That could be in statements from editors or publishers, in advertising campaigns, or in other ways, declaring, in essence, "we are devoting more resources to this crucial subject because it is at the heart of our mission." (As a reference point, think about how the heads of news organizations announced they were going to pay more attention to "the heartland" after the 2016 presidential election, or how some, at long last, are bearing down on climate change coverage.)

Then, news leaders, show that you really mean it. Put that pro-democracy coverage in front of your payroll, just as you've done with much of your COVID coverage. Put teams of reporters and editors on the subject. Label it in a defining and memorable way, as news organizations have done with "Spotlight" or "Watchdog" teams in the past.

Don't be afraid to stand for something as basic to our mission as voting rights, governmental checks and balances, and democratic standards.

In other words, shout it from the rooftops. Before it's too late.

.....
Sullivan is *The Washington Post's* media columnist.

Schneider pushes beyond prejudice

The Washington Post

Amy Schneider has won more than \$1 million on "Jeopardy!" in an incredible 28-game victory streak.

It's yet another milestone for "Jeopardy! Amy," who is undeniably one of the best players in the show's history and has become one of the most famous trans women in America.

She now holds the record for most consecutive games won by a female player (surpassing Julia Collins's 20-game win streak in 2014) and the most money ever won by a female contestant (surpassing Larissa Kelly's \$655,930 in prize money). She currently ranks fourth overall in "Jeopardy!" history for consecutive games won and highest winnings in regular-season play.

It's unfortunate that some people have fixated on Schneider's appearance rather than her amazing achievements. There should not be any controversy about Schneider being called the most winning woman ever on "Jeopardy!" She identifies as a woman and has been referred to with female pronouns for her entire run on the show.

The "Jeopardy!" community has embraced Schneider. Kelly was quick to congratulate Schneider for surpassing her own record and "becoming the woman with the highest overall earnings in the show's history." Other top female players have also weighed in with praise and celebration that a woman has made it this far. The most winning player of all time — Ken Jennings — is currently hosting the show, and he and Schneider have bantered to the delight of the audience.

For her own part, Schneider is humble about her winnings. She talks frequently about her cat and her childhood in Dayton, Ohio. When she won her 20th game, she wore a mauve sweater in honor of Collins, who was famous for a stylish sweater collection. And when Schneider doesn't know an answer — which is rare — she shakes her head or gets a puzzled look, a feeling many viewers can relate to.

Guest Editorial

People on social media report that older relatives have become more open-minded about trans people after watching Schneider's historic wins.

Many of the show's fans are rooting for her. Ratings are up. People on social media report that older relatives have become more open-minded about trans people after watching Schneider's historic wins. It helps that "Jeopardy!" is a contest where men and women have always competed side by side. Gender doesn't matter.

Still, there has been some backlash, especially on social media, where it's easy to hide behind anonymity when criticizing someone else. In a New Year's Eve tweet, Schneider responded to her critics with a simple yet powerful retort:

"I'd like to thank all the people who have taken the time, during this busy holiday season, to reach out and explain to me that, actually, I'm a man. Every single one of you is the first person ever to make that very clever point, which had never once before crossed my mind," Schneider wrote.

It's time for America to move beyond prejudices about trans people. Schneider didn't ask to become a trans icon. She wants to be judged for her talents, just like everyone else.

The Commercial Review

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



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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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Teachers push back on curriculum bill

By CASEY SMITH
Associated Press
and Report for America

INDIANAPOLIS — A controversial Indiana bill that Republican lawmakers contend would increase transparency around school curricula has drawn opposition from dozens of teachers who testified Monday at the Statehouse that the legislation would censor classroom instruction and place unnecessary additional workloads on educators.

The bill is one of several moving through the Indiana Legislature that seek to require all school curricula to be vetted by parent review committees and posted publicly online, in addition to banning schools' ability to implement concepts like critical race theory.

Critical race theory is a way of thinking about America's history that centers on the idea that racism

Educators argue legislation would add unnecessary additional workloads

is systemic in the nation's institutions and that they function to maintain the dominance of white people in society.

Scott Miller, superintendent of the School City of Hammond, emphasized that addressing "sensitive topics" in the classroom is necessary to help young people learn how to evaluate the truth. Attempts to keep students from learning about dissenting ideologies, he continued, "will only end up driving our youth straight to those ideologies."

Miller said he believes

the legislation stems from "fear that diverse perspectives on our country's founding will lessen the strength and patriotism of our young people."

"Addressing that fear by attempting to chill classroom discussion and silencing certain worldviews will only further divide our children," he said.

Paul Farmer, a teacher in the Monroe County Community School Corporation, noted that the bill's language requiring educators to separately post all classroom curricula online for parents — including les-

son plans, worksheets, presentations and other materials — would be an additional workload for already stressed teachers.

"Is this really going to decrease the number of teachers that go into education? The answer is yes, it will, because it's going to scare them ... because you can't do it all," Farmer said.

Laura Falk, an educator and diversity initiative specialist with the West Lafayette Community School Corporation, said she questioned the bill's intentions amid recent

national discussions around "white fragility, and focus on the systemic racist policies that have been so deeply woven into our nation's fabric."

"When I look through my lens as a Black woman, I find many of these items are interesting, as I've experienced decades of discrimination and learned through my experience that there are certain groups that are still discriminated against today ...," Falk said. "Our students deserve an honest and accurate education that enables them to learn from our past mistakes to help create a better future possible. Instead of focusing on possible distress that students might experience."

Rep. Tony Cook, a former teacher and school superintendent who authored the House bill heard on Monday, echoed fellow Republi-

can lawmakers, saying the legislation only strives to ensure educators "remain impartial in teaching curriculum" and "ensure that students are free to express their own beliefs and viewpoints concerning curricular materials and educational activities without discrimination."

He noted, too, that at least two forthcoming amendments to the bill are expected to be discussed in the education committee on Wednesday, the same day lawmakers are slated to hear additional testimony and vote on advancing the bill to the full House.

A nearly identical proposal in the Senate, which Republican bill author Sen. Scott Baldwin maintained is intended to prevent certain "discriminatory concepts" from being taught in classrooms, sparked more than eight hours of testimony last week.

Upgrades ...

Continued from page 1

The state is expected to assume responsibility for the overall public safety radio system, but it's estimated that in about 10 years the portable radio units would be due for an upgrade.

Commissioners took no action Monday but urged ERS and Motorola, which is working with the state, to develop firm cost estimates and return for further discussion involving commissioners and Jay County Council.

"This is going to be a joint decision," said commissioner Chad Aker.

Meanwhile, the county continues to await a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court on the federal COVID-19 vaccine mandate for employers of 100 or more.

County attorney Bill Hinkle told commissioners the mandate does include county and municipal governments in Indiana.

"This has been appealed," said Hinkle. "But my advice is the county should be ready to

implement this if the Supreme Court upholds the order. ... You should be thinking about that decision. ... We need to be ready."

If the vaccine mandate is upheld, the county would have unique responsibilities when it comes to enforcement and record-keeping.

"My office will keep (medical information records) locked up," said county auditor Anna Culy.

There's also some question as to whether elected officials on the county payroll would count as "employees" in regard to the vaccine mandate.

"I don't know how this will all fall out," said Culy.

On a more urgent note, courthouse superintendent Bruce Sutton is concerned that a section of the stained glass that adorns the ceiling of the courthouse rotunda is in need of repair and might fall.

Sutton is gathering quotes for restoration work, and a special meeting of the commis-

sioners may be required to address the problem as quickly as possible.

"Bring us back some quotes, and we'll go from there," said Aker.

The stained glass is purely decorative and is protected from the elements by a glass dome above it, so leaks are not a factor.

Friction between Rescue 19 and Jay County Emergency Management was evident Monday, with EMA director Amy Blakely citing concerns about training and liability and Rescue 19 volunteer Rodney Miles expressing fears the unit would be shut down.

"My concern is the liability," said Blakely. "I don't want to shut down anything."

Rescue 19 is staffed by 14 volunteers, but attendance at training sessions required by the unit's manual of standard operation procedure has been spotty.

"We are a volunteer unit," said Miles. "But when the pager drops, we respond. ... It's a unique unit."

"It's an extra layer of protec-

tion," said commissioner Brian McGalliard.

Blakely was urged to work on the training and communications issues and return to the commissioners in six months to review the situation.

At the recommendation of highway superintendent Donnie Corn, commissioners agreed to purchase two dump bed assemblies from Lindco Equipment Sales Inc., Merrillville, for two trucks ordered last month.

Lindco's price of \$152,594 was not the lowest. But Corn said there had been delivery delays on previous purchases from W.A. Jones, which quoted a price of \$148,272.

Because those delays had stretched over several months, commissioners agreed to go with the Lindco purchase.

In other business, commissioners Aker, McGalliard, and Jour-

nay: •Agreed to write off debts linked to eight deceased residents of Jay County Retirement

Center, now known as Jay County Country Living. "We need to get on top of this thing (unpaid bills on the part of center residents), and I think we're doing that," said Journay.

•Heard Corn say he was applying for a \$1 million Community Crossings grant from the state which will require a match from the county of \$445,200 from the Local Road and Street Fund budget.

•Approved a telephone system maintenance contract with All-Star Communication at an annual cost of \$1,713.63.

•Heard update reports from Jay County Development Corporation executive director Travis Richards and community developer Christy Shauer.

•Re-elected Journay as president of Jay County Drainage Board.

•Heard Hinkle say he was developing a draft ordinance providing an exemption for the use of service dogs in the courthouse.

Rates ...

Continued from page 1

The water rate issue passed 3-1 with Christy Curts, Kevin Hamilton and Bivens in favor and Jessup dissenting. (Tom Johnson was absent from the meeting.) The sewer rate issue passed unanimously.

City attorney Wes Schemenaur will prepare updates to the city ordinance implementing the water increases and make them available for council's review at its Jan. 24 meeting. To increase rates — the changes would likely go into effect in June — council would then need to advertise the proposed increases and hold a public hearing.

Robbins also reminded residents that trash collection rates will go up to \$11.69 from the previous \$11.41 per month Feb. 1. The city is under a three-year contract with Best Way.

Eva Kreps of the city's park board updated council on the five-year park plan. Priorities for the parks for 2022 through 2026 include completing and paving the walking trail at Dunkirk City Park, updating playground equipment, making pool upgrades, remodeling the enclosed shelter house at the park and adding restrooms, installing bathrooms at Webster-Depot Park, planting trees at all parks, adding a dog park, updating picnic areas and installing a disc golf course. Council members approved the park plan, which now must be submitted to Indiana Department of Natural Resources for its review.

Council also learned new police officer Erica Post, formerly of Portland Police Department, started work Monday. She brings the city's police force to five, one short of being fully staffed. Robbins said he is hopeful a sixth officer can be hired soon.

Council approved payment for part-time officers through Monday. They had been used to cover shifts when the department was understaffed.

Council members also voted to pay out more than 400 hours of vacation time to officers who were unable to use it because of staffing issues in 2021. Bivens suggested that with the department now close to having a full staff, officers be encouraged to take their vacation time each year.

Robbins informed council and board of works that he recently met with Touchstone Advisors to seek proposals for commercial development in the city, with a focus on the property at 102 to 108 N. Main St. where a collapsing building was removed in October and November.

In other business, council:

•Learned from Schemenaur that before the city sells a firetruck, volunteer departments in the county must first be given the option to purchase it. Notification will be sent

to the Redkey, Pennville, Bryant and Salamonina departments informing them of the availability of a truck.

•Heard Curts say she is working with Indiana Michigan Power regarding the addition of street lights at Quincy Place.

•Re-elected Bivens as council president.

Earlier in the evening, board of works members Dan Watson, Bivens and Robbins:

•Approved the purchase of new radios for police vehicles at a cost of \$3,170 from TNT Electronics.

•Learned Robbins would like to replace current street signs to Ardagh glass factory with larger signs in order to make them more visible to truck drivers. He will return to the board of works with quotes at a future meeting.

•Heard wastewater superintendent Larry Wright pass on a suggestion from the public that the new walking trails at Dunkirk City Park be named for Mike Kreps, the former street department superintendent who died Oct. 16 of COVID-19.



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Friday, March 19 (ad deadline Mar. 12)

Spring Sports
Wednesday, April 7 (ad deadline Mar. 31)

Ag Outlook
Friday, April 23 (ad deadline Apr. 16)

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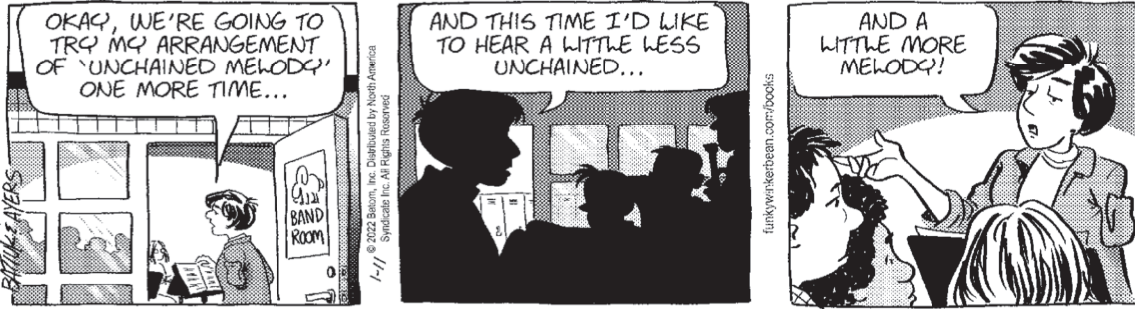
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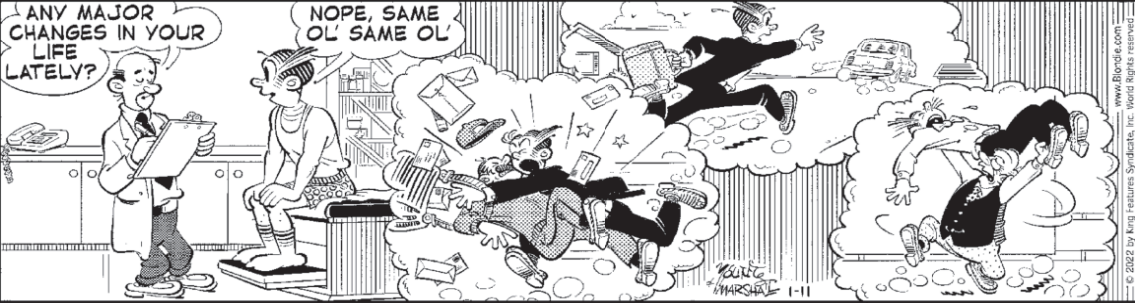
Hi and Lois



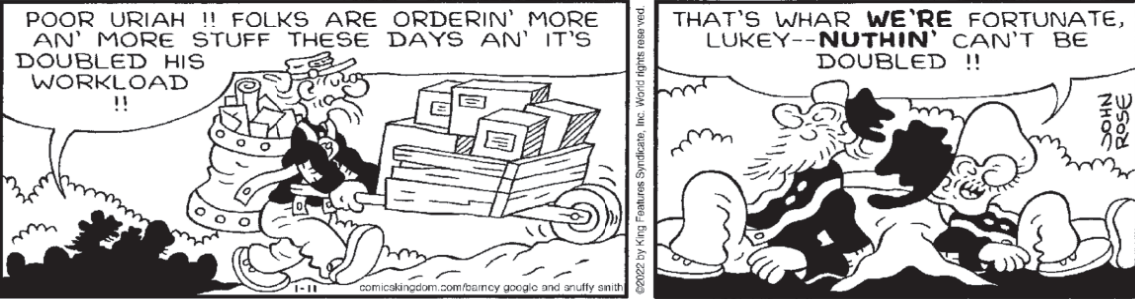
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90 SALE CALENDAR

LAND AUCTION
Saturday, January 29th, 2022
TIME 10:00 A.M.
AUCTION LOCATION:
Bryant Community Center
(107 South Malin Street, Bryant, IN)
REAL ESTATE
This auction consists of two land offerings; one offering in Adams County, and the other within Jay County. Both offerings are a part of the WRP Program and are excellent hunting and recreational areas! All land will be auctioned from the Bryant Community Building at the address above, but for inquiries or to see the land, contact the auctioneers!
JAY COUNTY OFFERING

This offering consists of 43 +/- acres, located within Section 3 of Wabash Township in Jay County, Indiana.
OWNER(S): William & Janet Knapke, and Martin Collins

ADAMS COUNTY OFFERING
128 total acreage located within Section 17 of Wabash Township in Adams County, Indiana. The land is non-tillable and will be offered as one of three tracts:
OWNER(S): William & Janet Knapke

SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE
AC3180004
AUCTIONEERS
Zane Shawver
Lic. #AU10500168
260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver
Lic. #AU19700040
260-726-5587

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

PUBLIC AUCTION
Saturday, January 22nd, 2022
TIME 10:00 A. M.
LOCATED: Sapphire's Reception Center – 1100 West Votaw Street, Portland, IN
ANTIQUES

Oak 12-ft bar-back from Cromer Brother's store in Portland, Oak double-drawer drop-front secretary, Large cherry double glass-door display cabinet, ornate Victorian love-seat & sofa, Oil lamps, Book collection. **HOUSEHOLD – MISCELLANEOUS** LG 50-in Flatscreen TV, Fishing poles & supplies, Several items not mentioned. ****NOTE:** The Joy's were avid antique collectors – This is a truly outstanding high-quality auction!

Check out the photos online at either Auctionsoft, or AuctionZip, to see this wonderful collection!
OWNER: Dick Joy (deceased) & Lola Joy (owner)

SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE
AC3180004
AUCTIONEERS
Zane Shawver
AU10500168
260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver
AU19700040
260-726-5587

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

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located at 333 Blaine pike (former DAV Building), Portland IN, Sunday Afternoon, **JANUARY 16, 2022** 12:30 P.M.

OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS-TOOLS
Oak rocker; child's horse rocker; Large assortment of rods and reels; Coke and Pepsi cases; whale copper weather vane top; knives; pocket knives; several oil cans including Gulf Pride and Texaco; large assortment of fishing lures; Advertising Thermometers to include Farmers Bank/Salamonia, Main Street Service Station/Portland, and Locker Oil/Portland; Rain Gauges to include Price Implement, Portland Lumber Supply and Laux Grocery; and many other items not listed.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Not so hot?
5 Dog tags, e.g.
8 Quick look
12 Anti-oxidant berry
13 French vineyard
14 Impetuous
15 Dungeon's quality
17 Actress Rae
18 Small batteries
19 Detroit hoopster
21 Like a neglected lawn
24 Coop group
25 Within (Pref.)
26 Foppish behavior
30 Caustic cleaner
31 Loud
32 Dean's list stat
33 Writer Steel

35 Three-
— sloth birds
37 Travesty
38 "Jane Eyre" author
41 Tofu source
42 Chicago's Mayor
43 Hanging Lightfoot
48 Location
49 Swiss canton
50 Roasting spot
51 Church song
52 Domino spot
53 Harvest

DOWN
21 Use a blowtorch
22 New Age singer
23 Genesis garden
24 Salutes
26 Prettified cake
27 Composer Stravinsky
28 Detail, briefly
29 Created
31 Sala-mander
34 Sea off Sicily
35 "Fearless" singer
37 Boating hazard
38 Humdrum
39 "Gilmore Girls" daughter
40 Utah city
41 Use scissors
44 "Exodus" hero
45 "— had it!"
46 Museum-funding org.
47 Econ. measure

Solution time: 22 mins.

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Ugly ...

Continued from page 8
 The offensive struggles throughout the game came with both teams locked in zones — Adams Central played a 2-3 while Jay County used a 3-2. Trying to shoot over the zones, they combined to go 1-of-20 (5%) from 3-point range in the first half. (Dirksen's triple for the first points of the game was the only make.) The second half wasn't much better as the teams combined to go 4-of-42 (9.5%) for the game.

"We've been struggling just a little bit with our shooting here early," said Jets coach Aaron McClure, whose team's season started a couple of weeks late because Adams Central's football team advanced to the Class 1A state champi-

onship game. "We figured with their defense they're going to give up some perimeter shots ... We knew we'd probably end up taking somewhere between 15 and 20 threes. ... We did feel like we needed to shoot the ball well from the perimeter. ... We just didn't get those shots to go."

Jay County and Adams Central will reprise the game Tuesday when they meet in the opening round of the ACAC tournament. The girls game between the schools will begin at 6 p.m., with the boys to follow.

The semifinal round of the tournaments will be Friday, with the winner of the boys game to host.

Junior varsity

After a strong start, Jay

County struggled in the second and third quarters and then had a comeback effort fall short in a 39-34 loss to the Jets.

The Patriots were outscored 27-14 in the middle quarters after posting a 14-6 advantage in the first. They pulled to within 34-34 with less than three minutes to go in the game but were unable to score again.

Hudson Conkling scored 11 points to lead Adams Central to the victory. Kam Brown joined him in double figures with 10.

Abraham Dirksen had seven of his team-high 11 points for JCHS in the first half. Owen Ransom and Wesley Bihn chipped in six points apiece.

Box score

Jay County Patriots at Adams Central Jets

Boys varsity summary

Jay County (8-2, 2-0 ACAC)	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Davis	1-4	0-0	3
Dowlen	1-3	0-0	2
Muhenkamp	3-8	2-2	8
Alexander	0-0	0-0	0
Dirksen	2-9	4-6	9
Bogenschutz	0-7	0-0	0
Pearson	4-8	1-1	9
Weitzel	2-5	0-4	4
Totals	13-44	7-13	35
	.295	.538	

Def. rebound percentage: .758

Adams Central (3-4, 1-1 ACAC)

Jay County (8-2, 2-0 ACAC)	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
McClure	1-3	0-0	3
yergler	3-8	0-0	6
Nnschwdr	0-4	2-2	2
Tester	1-5	0-0	2
EBrown	2-4	0-1	4
KBrown	0-1	0-0	0
Schultz	0-2	1-2	1
Poling	3-14	0-0	7
Totals	10-41	3-5	25
	.244	.600	

Def. rebound percentage: .719

Score by quarters:
 Jay Co. 5 10 8 12—35
 A. Central 4 5 5 11—25

3-point shooting: Jay County 2-23 (Davis 1-3, Dirksen 1-7, Bogenschutz 0-6, Dowlen 0-2, Pearson 0-1, Weitzel 0-1), Adams Central 2-19 (McClure 1-3, Poling 1-4, Tester 0-4, Yergler 0-3, Neuenchwander 0-3, EBrown 0-1, KBrown 0-1).

Rebounds: Jay County 34 (Pearson 9, Weitzel 7, Muhenkamp 6, Dirksen 5, Bogenschutz 4, Alexander 2, Dowlen), Adams Central 31 (EBrown 6, Schultz 6, Poling 6, McClure 5, Neuenchwander 3, Yergler 2, team 2, Tester).

Assists: Jay County 8 (Dirksen 3, Muhenkamp 2, Pearson 2, Weitzel 1), Adams Central 5 (Neuenchwander 2, McClure, Yergler, Schultz).

Blocks: Jay County 4 (Pearson 2, Weitzel 2), Adams Central 0.

Personal fouls: Jay County 5 (Dirksen 2, Alexander, Bogenschutz, Weitzel), Adams Central 12 (Neuenchwander 3, McClure 2, Yergler 2, Poling 2, Tester, EBrown, Schultz).

Turnovers: Jay County 8, Adams Central 15.

On tap

Local schedule

Today
 Jay County — Girls basketball ACAC tournament quarterfinal at Adams Central — 6 p.m.; Swimming vs. Yorktown — 6 p.m.; Boys basketball ACAC tournament quarterfinal at Adams Central — 7:30 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball at Muncie Northside — 5 p.m.
 Fort Recovery — Junior high girls basketball at Marion Local — 5 p.m.

Thursday
 Jay County — Wrestling at Homestead — 6:30 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball at Blackford — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball vs. heritage — 6 p.m.
 Fort Recovery — Girls basketball vs. Marion Local — 6 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball vs. Marion Local — 5 p.m.

Friday
 Jay County — Boys and girls basketball ACAC tournament semifinal TBA; Girls wrestling state finals — 7:30 p.m.
 Fort Recovery — Girls basketball vs. Ansonia — noon; Boys basketball at Marion Local — 6 p.m.

TV schedule

Today
 6:30 p.m. — College Basketball: Rutgers at Penn State (BTN)
 7 p.m. — College Basketball: DePaul at Marquette (FS1)
 8:30 p.m. — College Basketball: Illinois at Nebraska (BTN)
 9 p.m. — College Basketball: Providence at Creighton (FS1)

Wednesday
 6:30 p.m. — College Basketball: Xavier at Villanova (FS1)
 7 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Boston Celtics at Indiana Pacers (BALLY)
 7:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Dallas Mavericks at New York Knicks (ESPN)
 10 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Brooklyn Nets at Chicago Bulls (ESPN)
 10 p.m. — NHL Hockey: Toronto Maple Leafs at Arizona Coyotes (TNT)

Thursday
 7 p.m. — NHL Hockey: Philadelphia Flyers at Boston Bruins (ESPN)
 10 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Portland Trail Blazers at Denver Nuggets (TNT)

Indians second in three-team meet

The Indians were in the middle. Fort Recovery High School's swim teams each finished second Monday night in a three-team meet against New Bremen and St. Henry at South Adams.

The FRHS girls scored 69 points to trail New Bremen (87). St. Henry was third with 18. In the boys meet, New Bremen

won with 90 points, well ahead Fort Recovery (20) and St. Henry (13).

Teigen Fortkamp and Sage Wendel each won a pair of events for the Indians.

Fortkamp, a 2021 state qualifier in the 50-yard freestyle, shifted to other events for the Tribe Monday, first winning the 100

butterfly in 1 minute, 5.23 seconds. She then took the 100 backstroke in 1:02.29.

Wendel, a sophomore, handled the long distance races for the Fort Recovery boys. He posted big wins, taking the 200 freestyle by 22 seconds in 2:07.66 and the 500 freestyle by 12 seconds in 5:51.06.

Audra Bulp fought off New Bremen's Caroline Whitlatch in a tight race in the 100 breaststroke to win by just 0.19 seconds with her time of 1:15.77.

Adding victories for the FRHS girls were Joelle Kaup with a time of 27.94 in the 50 freestyle and Melissa Laux with 122.15 points in diving.

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
 Located in the Bubp Exhibition Hall at Jay County Fairgrounds, Portland, IN
 Saturday Morning
 January 15, 2022
 10:00 a.m.

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90 SALE CALENDAR

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Online Only Auction - First item will be closing @ 7:00 PM
 BIG collection of Coca-Cola memorabilia, garage items, Hot Wheels cars, furniture, Life Magazines, assorted vintage items, and much more!
 Jan. 22nd - Cunningham Auction

Online Only Auction - First Item will be closing @ 7:00 PM
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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

Pennville Town Ordinance Number 2022-01
ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING GENERAL PENAL TIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF TOWN ORDINANCES
 WHEREAS, the Indiana Code § 36-1-3-8-(a)(10) permits the Town of Pennville, Indiana to impose a fine for a violation of any ordinance not exceeding two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00).

WHEREAS, the Council for the Town of Pennville, Indiana wish to adopt this general ordinance regulating fines and penalties for ordinance violations within the Town of Pennville, Indiana. WHEREAS, the Council for the Town of Pennville, Indiana do not hereby vacate, revoke, amend or repeal any ordinance which sets forth a penalty greater than or equal to that set forth herein, or any penalty which requires specific performance of the individual or entity in violation of the ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PENNVILLE INDIANA AS FOLLOWS: Any person, firm or corporation who violates any ordinance of the Town of Pennville for which another penalty is not specifically provided shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine not exceeding Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00). In the event that the Town shall be required to enforce this or any Ordinance by seeking to redress in Court, the person, firm or entity at which the enforcement action is directed shall pay all costs associated with the enforcement action, including but not limited to reasonable attorney fees, court costs, witness fees or other costs. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage by the Town Council and publication, as required by law. PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Council of the Town of Pennville this 4th day of January, 2022.

Josh Miller
 Alicia Corwin
 Millie J Ellis
 Attested: Krista M. Scholer,
 Clerk-Treasurer
 CR 1-11-2022 - HSPAXLP

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 ♥ A J 6
 ♦ Q 10 9 5 4
 ♣ K 7

WEST EAST
 ♥ 7 4 3 2 ♠ K 9 8
 ♠ Q 8 3 ♥ A 4
 ♦ A 6 ♦ 8 7 2
 ♣ 10 9 5 3 ♣ A Q J 6 4 2

SOUTH
 ♠ Q J 6
 ♥ K 10 9 7 5 2
 ♦ K J 3
 ♣ 8

The bidding:
 North East South West
 1♦ 2♣ 2♥ 3♣
 3♥ Pass 4♥

Opening lead — ten of clubs.
 Declarer can very easily go down one in four hearts if he approaches the play of this hand too casually. But if he takes care to protect himself against the built-in dangers the deal presents, he is virtually certain to come out on top.
 As play begins, South can see two unavoidable losers — a diamond and a club. He also sees that he is in danger of losing a trump trick to the queen (if he misguesses how to play the suit) and a trick to the king of spades if East has that card. But because he can eventually discard

two spades on dummy's diamonds, South should take steps to make sure he gets that opportunity.

First, let's see what happens if declarer approaches the play carelessly. East wins the club lead and continues with a club, trumped by South.

If declarer now cashes the A-K of hearts, hoping the queen will fall, he can no longer make the contract. Thus, if he next leads a diamond, West wins and shifts to a spade. If South attempts the spade finesse, he goes down immediately, while if he puts up the ace and tries to run the diamonds, West ruffs the third diamond and leads a spade to East's king for down one.

Observe the difference if declarer cashes the trump king at trick three and then leads a heart to the jack. He doesn't know whether the finesse will succeed, but the key point is that he doesn't care one iota if it loses. If East is able to win with the queen, he cannot lead a spade through dummy, and South then has time to establish the diamonds.

As it happens, the trump finesse wins, and declarer winds up making five. But even if the finesse were to fail, declarer's willingness to lose a trump trick to East greatly improves his chances of making the contract.

Tomorrow: High-class defense.
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 RYYQQRW XLAJWLO FWDNXLJA
 ODJIW NWNIVDR VXC WGWDK
 CXK? OBQ OQLJAR.

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 Today's Cryptiquip Clue: I equals B

Ugly W

Jay tops AC despite shooting woes

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

It was ugly. After two weeks off, though, the Patriots were happy to at least come out on the positive side of an offensive quagmire.

The Jay County High School boys basketball team managed a short spurt of transition offense in the second quarter and senior Adam Dirksen delivered from the free-throw line at the end for a 35-25 victory Saturday over Adams Central in which the teams combined to miss 64 of their 85 field-goal attempts.

"They found a way to win," said JCHS coach Jerry Bomholt. "Everything that they talked about trying to accomplish at the beginning of the season is still intact — winning the conference championship, winning the tournament, all that. Nobody really worries about how it looks. Find a way to win. Tonight was one of those nights. ...

"You have a 16-day lay-off. Obviously, when you have that length of time off, it always seems to affect offensively more than it does defensively."

The Patriots last played Dec. 23 in a 59-31 loss to Indianapolis Tech in the Jefferson County Invitational Tourna-

ment. Its game scheduled for Dec. 30 at Muncie Central was postponed because of illnesses within in the JCHS program.

Jay County (8-2, 2-0 Allen County Athletic Conference) and the Jets (3-4, 1-1 ACAC) combined for just nine points on 4-of-20 shooting in the first quarter. And the Patriots fell behind 6-5 after a pair of free throws by AC's Nick Neuenschwander early in the second. But Gavin Muhlenkamp came up with a steal and layup, and then Dirksen immediately followed with another steal that he fed forward to Muhlenkamp for a second easy hoop. The couple of transition buckets started an 8-0 run that put the Patriots ahead for good.

"(Muhlenkamp) made some big plays for us, really big plays, in the first half, and got us that 15-9 lead (at halftime)," said Bomholt, who got nine points apiece from Dirksen and Pearson along with eight from Muhlenkamp.

Adams Central was never able to muster enough offense to make a real threat at taking the lead. And after Brayson Yergler's 3-pointer with 1:15 to go made it 31-22, Dirksen bounced back from a couple of earlier misses to hit four free throws to seal the game.

See Ugly page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Ethan Dirksen, a Jay County High School senior, launches a 3-pointer during the first half of the Patriots' 35-25 victory Saturday over host Adams Central.

JCHS 2nd at state duals

FRANKLIN — The Patriots went to the state duals ranked third.

They left with only one team ahead of them.

Jay County High School's wrestling team cruised past No. 9 Wawasee and No. 5 Monrovia before falling to top-ranked Belmont on Saturday at the Indiana High School Wrestling Coaches Association Team State Duals at Franklin Community.

The Patriots rolled to victories of 51-21 over Monrovia in the quarterfinal round and 48-15 over Wawasee in the semifinals before falling to the Braves 56-15 in the championship match.

Cody Rowles, ranked 16th in the state at 113 pounds, was undefeated on the day as he topped Monrovia's Isaac Ash 5-2, pinned Wawasee's Noah Wolf in 54 seconds and pinned Belmont's Tate Krueckeberg in 2 minutes, 58 seconds. Bryce Wenk (182) also posted a perfect 3-0 record by pinning Monrovia's Zack Strong in 39 seconds, scoring a 20-4 technical fall over Wawasee's Tim Shortt and topping Belmont's Austin Christner 9-4.

Adding 2-1 marks for JCHS (16-2) were Taye Curtis, Tony Wood, Cameron Clark, Camron Gage, Ramon Bravo and Conner Specht.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School freshman Aubrey Millspaugh swims to an eighth-place finish in the 200-yard freestyle during Saturday's Jay County Invitational. Millspaugh was also fourth in the 500 freestyle.

Patriots second

In the first of their three end-of-season, tournament-style meets, event wins were difficult to achieve. But the Patriots finished near the top of the standings.

Jay County High School's girls swim team was the runner-up Saturday as it hosted the Jay County Invitational while the boys placed fifth in a 15-team field.

The Patriot girls scored 309.5 points as they finished a distant second to Oak Hill (448). New Bremen was third with 248. Fort Recovery finished sixth with 178.

The JCHS boys team finished with 200 points, 17 behind fourth-place Centerville. Oak Hill (519) fought off Bluffton (481) for first place, and St. Marys (230) was third. Fort Recovery placed 11th with 14 points.

Kyle Sanders and Mara Bader were the lone individual event winners for the Patriots, who will host the Allen County Athletic Conference Championships in two weeks followed by the sectional meet two weeks later.

Sanders proved himself to be the top sprinter at the meet Saturday, earning a couple of solid wins. He was first by nearly a half-second in the 50-yard freestyle in 23.06 seconds and took the 100 freestyle by more than two seconds with a time of 50.4.

Bader had the only victory for the Patriot girls as she won the 100 breaststroke by just under a second over Oak Hill's Emma Bledsoe in 1 minute, 10.24 seconds. She added a third-place finish in the 100 butterfly.

Sanders, Bader post lone wins during invitational

Fort Recovery's girls also had one win on the day. Teigen Fortkamp posted a time of 56.06 in the 100 freestyle to win by 1.53 seconds over Coldwater's Carlee Goodwin.

Sage Wendel turned in the top effort for the FRHS boys by placing fifth in the 100 butterfly in 1:03.96.

Josh Monroe had the only other top-five finish individually for the JCHS boys as he was fourth in the 100 breaststroke in 1:08.8. Their top relay finish came from Nick Lyons, Wyatt Kunkler, Sanders and Monroe, who were fifth in the 200 freestyle event.

Joining Bader in the top five for the Patriot girls were Zion Beiswanger (fourth - 100 freestyle) and Aubrey Millspaugh (fourth - 500 freestyle). Morgan DeHoff, Emily Dues, Elayna Paro and Bader were third in the 400 freestyle relay.

Audra Bubb added a fourth-place finish for the Fort Recovery girls in the 100 breaststroke. Joelle Kaup, Melissa Laux, Fortkamp and Bubb teamed for fourth in the 200 medley relay.

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