

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Death under investigation

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Police are investigating the death of a Portland man.

Gary Kelly, 71, was found dead at his Portland home early Friday afternoon. While a cause of death has not been finalized, an autopsy Sunday indicated Kelly had suffered blunt force trauma to the head, face and abdomen.

While no charges have been filed, 49-year-old Jeremy W. Kelly has been identified as a suspect in relation to Gary Kelly's death. Jeremy Kelly is Gary Kelly's son.

A Wayne County Sheriff's

Jeremy Kelly has been named as a suspect in the death of his father Gary

Office press release posted to Facebook on Monday indicated that Jeremy Kelly "is also a murder suspect in the death of his father." Jay County prosecutor Wes Schemenaur confirmed

police would like to speak with Kelly about his father's death.

Gary Kelly was found dead at his 912 S. Vine St. home about 1:12 p.m. Friday. Jay County deputy coroner Dustine Hilfik-

er said he observed Kelly had blunt force trauma to the head, face and some of his abdomen during Sunday's autopsy. Toxicology results and a final autopsy report are still pending and likely won't be finalized for at least a month, he added.

The Wayne County Sheriff's Office press release notes that deputies responded to a call Friday in the area of Washington Road and U.S. 40 in Milton. Kelly had allegedly arrived at a house, told the homeowner he was "the devil" and ordered her to get into the car he was driving. The homeowner called 911, and Kelly left the property driv-

ing east. He was later arrested on the west side of Richmond and is being held in Wayne County Jail on a \$50,000 bond.

Officers found a handgun and shotgun inside of Kelly's car, which was stolen, according to the release. His charges in Wayne County include a Level 4 felony for possession of a firearm by a serious, violent felon, a Class B misdemeanor for criminal mischief and a habitual offender enhancement.

Kelly has been charged in Jay County courts multiple times, with a criminal history dating back to 1995.

See Investigation page 2

Young dies at 88



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

John Young grins while celebrating his 88th birthday on June 3 during an Arts Place event to announce new names for its renovated and expanded facility in Portland. Young, who was former president at CEO of Jay Garment Company, a member of the Earlham College Board of Trustees for 18 years and a civic leader, died Friday at the age of 88.

Former Portland resident headed Jay Garment, served on Earlham board and was a civic leader

John G. Young, tireless advocate for his community, died Friday in Zionsville.

He was 88. Young had served as president and CEO of Jay Garment Company, spent 18 years on the Earlham College board of trustees and most recently, along with his wife Gretchen, was a major contributor to the Arts Place expansion and renovation project. (Gretchen Young died March 26, 2020.)

The Youngs committed more than \$260,000 toward the Arts Place expansion, including a \$200,000 matching gift that

helped push the capital campaign to the edge of its \$2.4 million goal. The project included various improvements to the existing building on what is now known as the Jay County Campus of Arts Place and the construction of a new visual arts building across the street.

John celebrated his 88th birthday last year at an Arts Place event that included the announcement that a section of the facility would be named the "Young Music Education Wing" in their honor.

"It just became a very meaningful way to remember my

wife," said Young, who was on the capital campaign cabinet.

"There are few places in the United States that can claim this," he added at an October event to celebrate the completion of the project. "It means reinforcement, the belief of me and my family, and a community that cannot be matched."

Young, who was born in Portland on June 3, 1933, graduated from Portland High School in 1952 and earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Earlham in 1955. He studied at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and

International Affairs and completed his master's degree at Trinity University. He and Gretchen were married in 1957 and moved to Texas, where John was stationed in the U.S. Army.

They returned to Jay County after completion of John's military service, and he followed his grandfather and father in working at Jay Garment Company in Portland. He later served as president and CEO of Jay Garment and was on the board of the American Apparel Manufacturers Association and its Technical Advisory Committee.

See Young page 5

Facility given time to improve finances

Commissioners plan to review Jay County Country Living in 6 months

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Jay County Country Living has six months to turn its finances around.

If it doesn't, the county may consider closing its doors.

Jay County Commissioners discussed the future of the facility formerly known as Jay County Retirement Center on Monday.

Commissioner Brian McGalliard noted he's been working alongside temporary director Melissa Blankley, who commissioners officially hired as temporary director of Jay County Country Living on Monday. She'll be working on a part-time or hourly basis until at least April 1, with plans to transition her into a full-time role. (The decision is subject to approval from Jay County Council and Jay County Personnel Committee, which will look into updating the full-time director's job description and compensation.)

McGalliard explained he learned since 2019 there had been no new applications made to the Indiana Residential Care Assistance program, despite reports made from former administration. (According to a document distributed during a joint commissioners and council meeting in February, Jay County Country Living had about \$203,600 in uncollected debt from previous or current residents.)

In the past few weeks, Blankley noted, the facility has submitted six applications to the program. Three new residents have also applied to live at the facility. If all applications are accepted, McGalliard continued, seven residents would be paying or have rent paid by the state for \$1,240 a month, or a projected difference in annual income of about \$104,160.

See Facility page 5

Dunkirk council OKs rate increases

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — Water and sewer bills will be going up.

Dunkirk City Council on Monday approved 2% increases to water and sewer rates, effective June 1.

The 2% increases mean base rates will go up 54 cents per month — to \$22.92 from the current \$22.48 — for water, and 31 cents per month — to \$16.07 from the current \$15.76 — for sewer.

Dunkirk Mayor Jack Robbins presented the proposed increases to council at its Jan. 10 meeting in accordance with the city's five-year utility plan that was developed in 2019. It calls for incremental

increases annually in order to avoid the need for a single, large increase in the future.

Monday's meeting included the public hearing on the proposed increases. No members of

the public commented on the proposal, which council members Jesse Bivens, Bryan Jessup, Kevin Hamilton and Christy Curts, absent Tom Johnson, then approved.

See Increases page 5

Deaths

John Young, 88, Portland
Gary Kelly, 71, Portland
Edward Davidson, 71, rural Portland
Barbara Mills, 77, Pennville
Kate Smith, 27, Pennville
Rhea Wood, 68, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 46 degrees Monday. The low was 27.
Tonight's low will be 33. Expect mostly sunny skies Wednesday with a high in the mid 50s.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

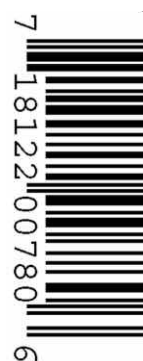
In review

United Way of Jay County and Second Harvest Food Bank will partner to hold a free food tailgate from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday at Jay County Fairgrounds.
Income verification is not required.

Coming up

Wednesday — Results from tonight's JCHS boys basketball sectional opener.

Friday — Coverage of Thursday's Portland Board of Works meeting.



Investigation ...

Continued from page 1
His past charges include domestic battery, strangulation, criminal confinement, operating a vehicle while intoxicated and resisting law enforcement. Schemenaur said Portland police have been actively working on the investigation with Indiana State Police. Port-

land Police Chief Mitch Sutton said his department may have more information to release by the end of today. Schemenaur also hopes to have a decision made by the end of today on any potential charges. In Indiana, murder carries a sentence of 45 to 65 years with an advisory sentence of 55 years.

Obituaries

John Young
June 3, 1933-Feb. 25, 2022
John Griffith Young, a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, community leader and philanthropist of Portland, Indiana, passed away in Zionsville on Feb. 25, 2022.

His parents were Mary Elizabeth (Easterday) and Roy Dwight Young of Portland. He was born on June 3, 1933, in Portland.

He is survived by daughters Rebecca Hilinda (Phil) Walsh, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, Melissa (Kevin) Schmidt, Zionsville, Indiana, Jennifer (Dave) Liles and Milford, Ohio; and son John David (Amy McClung) Young, Signal Mountain, Tennessee. He is also survived by 14 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren, as well as a sister, Rebecca (Lowell) Strohl, Naples, Florida, and brother, Thomas Hendrix (Joyce Hummel) Young, Biltmore Forest, North Carolina.

He was predeceased by his wife Gretchen Louise (Schultze) Young; and brother Philip Dwight Young. John attended Portland High School where he was the class of 1952 president and an active member in Future Farmers of America. Following graduation John attended Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, where he met the love of his life, Gretchen Louise Schultze Young. John graduated from Earlham in 1955 with a bachelor's degree in psychology and continued his education at the Princeton Woodrow Wilson School of Business. Following Gretchen's graduation from Earlham the couple was married on June 22, 1957 in Dayton, Ohio, and remained so for 62 years until she passed away in 2020. They first lived in San Antonio, Texas, where John was stationed with the U.S. Army.

After completing John's military service, they returned to Jay County where John followed in his father's and grandfather's footsteps and began employment at the Jay Garment Company in Portland. During his tenure at the Jay Garment, John was President and CEO for many years. He was active on the board of the American Apparel Manufacturers Association and served on the Technical Advisory Committee.

Serving the Portland and Jay County community was important to John. He was instrumental in the consolidation of five high schools into what is now known as Jay County High School. John was an active member of First Presbyterian Church of Portland, where he and Gretchen both served in many leadership roles and enjoyed singing in the choir. He served on numerous boards, including MainSource Bank (formerly The Peoples Bank), Jay County Hospital, Conner Prairie and Earlham College and was a member of Rotary International. John believed in giving back to the community and was very involved in The Portland

Foundation, Portland Pool and Portland Water Park, and Arts Place. John loved the outdoors and was an avid gardener. He was instrumental in establishing a community garden as well as contributing to the local Farmers Market. In addition, he enjoyed raising beef cattle and maintained a herd for many years while encouraging his children's involvement in 4-H.

There will be no calling at this time and a service to celebrate his life will be held at a later date. Memorials can be made to The Portland Foundation or Arts Place.

Gary Kelly
Aug. 28, 1950-Feb. 25, 2022
Gary W. Kelly, age 71, a resident of Portland, passed away on Friday, Feb. 25, 2022, at his home in Portland.

Gary was born on Aug. 28, 1950, in Portland, Indiana, the son of Malcolm and Patty Jo (Derringer) Kelly. He graduated from Portland High School in 1968 and retired from The Portland Forge in 1968 and retired from Portland Masonic Lodge, VFW in Fort Recovery, Portland Moose Lodge and H.A.M. Radio Club.

Gary enjoyed fishing, riding his Harley and mower and watching NASCAR. Gary loved his dogs Abby and Walter.

Survivors include: His father — Malcolm Kelly, Portland, Indiana
His children — Sherie Beck, Tucson, Arizona, Jeremy Kelly, Portland, Indiana, Sabrina McCammon, Centerville, Indiana, and Travis Kelly, Portland, Indiana
One brother — Ed Kelly (wife: Sheila), Ansonia, Ohio
Five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren
Visitation will be held on Friday from noon to 2 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will follow at 2 p.m. on Friday at the funeral home. Pastor Nanette Weesner will officiate the service and burial will follow at Green Park Cemetery in Portland.
Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

Edward Davidson
Sept. 10, 1950-Feb. 27, 2022
Edward W. Davidson, age 71, of rural Portland passed away Sunday, Feb. 27, 2022, at his residence.

He was born in Portland on Sept. 10, 1950, the son of Robert and Edna Maxine (Glassford) Davidson. He was married on Feb. 21, 1974, to Paula Hinson who survives.
Ed served in the National Guard during the Vietnam era, was a 1968 Bryant High School graduate and member of the NRA. He was a lifelong farmer and enjoyed horseback riding and hunting.
Surviving are his wife Paula; two

sons, Jason Davidson (wife: Sarah) of Bryant and Daniel Davidson of Portland; one daughter, Carey Brunswick (husband: Greg) of Bryant; one brother, Rob Davidson of Portland; three sisters, Cindy Piper (husband: Tom) of Celina, Sandra Sanders of Bryant and Tracy Johnson (husband: Curt) of Lynn; and eight grandchildren, Charlie, Mitchel, Ivan and Lizzy Brunswick, Kylie, Max, Andrew and Eli Davidson.

Funeral services will be Thursday, March 3, 2022, at 11 a.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Fr. Dan Layden presiding. Burial will follow in the Gravel Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be Wednesday from 4 to 7 p.m. and 10 to 11 a.m. on Thursday.
Memorials can be made to the Jay County Cancer Society.
Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Barbara Mills
May 15, 1944-Feb. 25, 2022

Barbara Mills, age 77, earned her angels wings and is resting in the arms of Jesus. She passed away on Feb. 25, 2022, at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie. She was a resident of Pennville.

Barbara was born on May 15, 1944, in Union City, Indiana, the daughter of Charles and Marie (Garringer) Burk. She graduated from Union City Wayne High School in 1962 and married Phillip Mills Sr. on Oct. 20, 1961. He passed away on July 5, 2013.

Barbara was a member of St Mary Catholic Church in Dunkirk and worked in the lab at Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie. She also worked in patient care at Jay County Hospital and retired from Walmart after 13 years.

Barbara enjoyed fishing, playing bingo, cookouts with family and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She loved her dog Annie.

Survivors include: Two sons — Brian Mills (wife: Chastity), Portland, and Todd Mills (wife: Missy), Portland
One sister — Cheryl Bruner (husband: Jim), Portland
Cousin/sister — Treva Dotson, Dunkirk
Twelve grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren
She was preceded in death by her husband, Philip Sr.; son Philip Jr.; sister Emma Joan Burk; and grandson, Jeffery Allen Mills.
Visitation will be held on Wednesday from noon to 2 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Services to celebrate Barbara's life will follow at 2 p.m. on Wednesday at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Lawndale Cemetery, east of Ridgeville.
See page 5

CR almanac

Wednesday 3/2	Thursday 3/3	Friday 3/4	Saturday 3/5	Sunday 3/6
55/28	36/26	45/37	62/52	65/44
Mostly sunny skies are expected Wednesday, with the high reaching up to 55 degrees.	Thursday will likely be partly sunny, with the low dipping to 26 degrees in the evening.	Friday's forecast also shows partly sunny skies, with a high near 45 degrees.	Saturday has a 30% chance of rain after 1 p.m. and a greater chance at night.	Rain may continue into Sunday with 40% chance of showers. The low may dip to 44 degrees.

Lotteries

Powerball 56-57-59-65-78-79
Monday
7-21-39-47-55
Powerball: 19
Power Play: 2
Estimated jackpot: \$73 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$102 million

Hoosier
Monday
Midday
Daily Three: 8-2-5
Daily Four: 8-0-9-5
Quick Draw: 2-5-12-13-14-15-19-20-21-23-25-32-38-49-50-60-68-69-73-74
Evening
Daily Three: 2-9-4
Daily Four: 0-5-7-2
Quick Draw: 2-4-7-13-14-15-25-26-32-38-40-49-50-55

Ohio
Monday
Midday
Pick 3: 4-5-8
Pick 4: 4-1-6-3
Pick 5: 3-2-9-7-5
Evening
Pick 3: 4-9-3
Pick 4: 3-5-2-0
Pick 5: 7-7-8-0-4
Rolling Cash 5: 13-16-25-31-39
Estimated jackpot: \$412,000
Classic Lotto: 1-6-27-33-37-44
Kicker: 6-0-1-5-3-8
Jackpot: \$23 million

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery
Wheat 9.66
April wheat 9.74
Corn 7.24
April corn 7.26
May corn 7.26

POET Biorefining Portland
Corn 7.26
April corn 7.31
May corn 7.31

The Andersons Richland Township
Corn 7.22
April corn 7.21
Beans 16.63
April beans 16.72

Central States Montpelier
Corn 7.21
Late March corn 7.21
Beans 16.73
Late March beans 16.74
June wheat 9.45

Sunrise St. Anthony
Corn 7.21
April corn 7.21
Beans 16.42
April beans 16.47
March wheat 9.44

Today in history

On March 1, 1974, seven people, including former Nixon White House aides H.R. Halde- man and John D. Ehrlichman, former Attorney General John Mitchell and former assistant Attorney General Robert Mardian, were indicted on charges of conspiring to obstruct justice in connection with the Watergate break-in. (These four defendants were convicted in January 1975, although Mardian's conviction was later reversed.)
In 1815, Napoleon, having escaped exile in Elba, arrived in Cannes, France, and headed for Paris to begin his "Hundred Days" rule.
In 1867, Nebraska became the 37th state as President Andrew Johnson signed a proclamation.
In 1893, inventor Nikola Tesla first publicly demonstrated radio during a meeting of the National Electric Light Association in St. Louis by transmitting electromagnetic energy without wires.
In 1932, Charles A. Lindbergh Jr., the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh, was kidnapped from the family home near Hopewell, New Jersey. (Remains identified as those of the child were found the following May.)
In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, back from the Yalta Conference, proclaimed the meeting a success as he addressed a joint session of Congress.
In 2007, heavy rain and melting snow led to flooding, with significant issues on Rick Drive in Dunkirk. Other serious flooding was in the area of county roads 800 North and 900 North.
—AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today
5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.
7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St.
7 p.m. — Salamonia Town Council, School-house Community Center.

Thursday
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.

SERVICES

Wednesday
Mills, Barbara: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Thursday
Davidson, Edward: 11 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.
Smith, Kate: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Friday
Kelly, Gary: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Saturday
Monger, Phillip: Noon, First Baptist Church, 1601 South A St.

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

Swiss Village

CONTRACTED EVENING SWIMMING LESSON INSTRUCTOR

Contracted Swimming Lesson Instructor position opening at the Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion. Evening hours and flexible schedule. Previous teaching experience preferred; must enjoy teaching children; must be comfortable in water. Next available teaching opportunity would be May & June 2022.

Interested applicants may send resumes to:
Briana Eicher, Director
Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion
1201 Emmental Drive
Berne, IN 46711
briaanae@swissvillage.org
Application deadline: March 8th, 2022

Felony arrests

Failed to appear

A Portland man was arrested for failing to appear in court and violating his probation Saturday.

Brian M. Ferner, 32, 1085 N. 600 East, has three original Level 6 felony charges for operating a vehicle while intoxicated, resisting law enforcement by vehicle and unlawful possession of a syringe, along with a Class A misdemeanor for domestic battery and a Class C misdemeanor for reckless driving. He was also preliminarily charged Saturday with a Class A misdemeanor for resisting law enforcement and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. He's being held in Jay County Jail on a \$2,200 bond.

ESTATE SALE LOG HOMES

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50th anniversary



Rodney and LuAnn Fugiett -1972

Rodney and LuAnn Fugiett

The Fugietts are celebrating 50 years together Thursday.

LuAnn (Heston) and Rodney Fugiett were married March 3, 1972, at Christian Church Parsonage of Redkey by Reverend Larry Music. The lifelong Redkey residents are both retired. LuAnn retired after 28 years as a Jay Schools teacher, and Rodney retired as a family service counselor from Gardens of Memory.

They have two children, Brooks (Cassie) Fugiett and Adam (Cathy) Fugiett of Redkey. Their grandchildren are Daniel, Sophia, Luke, Carter and Paisley. The Fugietts plan to celebrate with a vow renewal and reception at 2:30 p.m. March 13 at Redkey Faith Ministries, 9811 Indiana 67.



Rodney and LuAnn Fugiett - 2022

Reunions are the best gift

By DIANA DOLECKI

Special to The Commercial Review

We celebrated my brother Michael's birthday on Sunday. We met up with Michael, his wife Diane, our brother David and his wife, Apryl. We went into the restaurant first and waited for the others. While we were waiting, a guy came in twice, looked around and left. Turns out he was one of their school chums. They had run into him earlier and invited him and his wife to join us.

We knew him as Wiggy. It seems that in school he had a huge, wavy blonde afro haircut that looked like a wig gone bad. Hence, the nickname. In the past several years his hair calmed down. When they referred to him by his given name of Brian, I had no idea who they were talking about.

Once everyone arrived, the conversation began. We learned David and Apryl's dog is in bad shape. He's old and has a tumor. He will be put to sleep humanely sometime this week. He was a really good dog.

While we were on the subject of pets, they asked if we were getting another cat. I said no. I like being able to get up in the middle of the night and not having

As I See It



to worry about stepping on a fresh hairball.

At some point the conversation turned to when Michael burned the barn down. At that time they were living at Grandma's house. (Grandma had a stroke and once Medicare quit paying for the nursing home, she was sent home.) Mom and her family moved in to take care of her as best they could.

Michael had commandeered the milk house as a peaceful place to work on his car. He found a potbelly stove in the barn. He and his friends loaded up the stove with wood and coal. The body of the stove was cherry red.

He left the stove burning while he took one of his friends home. By the time he returned the sparks had escaped from the exhaust pipe Michael had hung out of the barn window. The sparks made their way to the haymow. The barn was history. This was the first

time I had heard anything about hay. It seems that every time I hear the story a little tidbit of information is added.

The conversation turned to guns, jobs, the price of gas and Ukraine. I sat back and listened. Michael and his wife have found a church they like. There is a service in Spanish after the service in English. Neither of them speak Spanish but Michael did express admiration for the choir. Not being able to understand the words made the songs sound more beautiful than they did in English.

The preacher has offered Michael a position on the church board but Michael thinks it will take too much time and has turned it down. Diane helps clean the church after the services are over.

By the time the conversation slowed we were ready to leave. We said our good-byes and headed for home. The way we celebrate birthdays is different these days. A good meal at a restaurant takes the place of meeting at Mom's. Cake and presents are absent. But the best present of all is all of us getting together to remember the way we used to be.

Party costs add up

DEAR ABBY: I couldn't be happier for my friends who are embarking on the next chapter of their lives with their partners, but I'm becoming increasingly anxious about their bachelorette parties. When did the bachelorette party become such a big production? While I have attended my fair share, I think they are getting increasingly extravagant and pricey.

I'm trying to prioritize my own next step in life, which is buying a home, and it feels like I'm being "invited" to spend a significant chunk of my savings over the course of a few months.

The bachelorette party I'm most concerned about is for a wedding in which I have been asked to be a bridesmaid. For this reason, I feel obligated to attend. The cost associated with the weekend is \$2,500 per person and will total \$20,000 for three days. This equals three months of rent for me, and I'm finding it hard to justify this kind of expense. I get anxious thinking about the other expenses — flights, accommodations, gifts — and time-off requests from work.

My first instinct is to say "No," but it's hard to refuse a bride who is so important to me. I want to be supportive and involved during this exciting time for her. How much is too much?

Dear Abby



What is the proper etiquette for being in the wedding party and attending the bachelorette party? Should I have asked about this before accepting to be in the bridal party? — ANXIOUS ATTENDANT

DEAR ANXIOUS ATTENDANT: Yes, you should have asked the bride before accepting her invitation to join the wedding party. And it is not too late to speak up. Contrary to popular belief, bachelorette parties and weddings do NOT "go together like a horse and carriage." TALK with your friend. Explain that all of the costs (travel, outfit and wedding gift) are more than you can afford. If you do, she may tell you it's enough that you travel to and participate in the wedding. However, if she doesn't, back out so she can replace you.

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.

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'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.

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

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

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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Answer Ukraine's cry for freedom

By NATE LAMAR

By the time this is published, Kyiv may have fallen. But Ukraine's comedian turned president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, has admirably led his people by example, and refused evacuation out of the country.

The first Ukrainian-American I ever met was Lubomir ("Louie"). We started plebe year together at West Point. Thanks to Louie, I visited my first Eastern Orthodox church, which met in the basement of the Cadet Chapel. Unfortunately, he resigned shortly thereafter.

While Louie was true to his faith, it is sad that religion is being perverted by Russian President Vladimir Putin as partial justification for his invasion. In 2019, Eastern Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew in Constantinople (Istanbul) granted the Ukrainian Orthodox Church independence from the Russian Orthodox Church, led by Patriarch Kirill, who calls Putin's opponents in Ukraine, "evil forces." The world is now seeing Slavic Orthodox Christians killing each other.

Nate LaMar



Admittedly, I am no expert but have done some business with Ukraine. I have more experience in the Balkans, where religion was similarly used as an excuse for bloodshed. This included genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the mid 1990s, followed by warfare between Serbia and Kosovo a few years later. In both cases, nominal Christians and nominal Muslims were killing each other, using religion as a pretext.

Vladimir Putin was a good Communist. As such, according to Wikipedia, he served as a KGB foreign intelligence officer from 1975 to 1991. After the fall of Communism, he suddenly believed in democracy — and the Russian Orthodox Church. He began his political career

in Saint Petersburg in 1991. In 1996, he joined the administration of Russia's first democratically elected president, Boris Yeltsin. He served as director of the Federal Security Service (FSB) and secretary of the Security Council from 1998 to 1999. In 1999, he was appointed prime minister.

When Yeltsin resigned in 1999, Putin became acting president. He was elected to a full-term in 2000 and re-elected in 2004. Term-limited, in 2008 he became prime minister.

In 2012, Putin was "elected" president again, and extended his term until 2018, when he was "re-elected." Following a 2021 referendum, Putin signed into law a constitutional amendment which could extend his presidency until 2036.

Clearly, Putin became an authoritarian dictator and fancies himself "czar" of a Russian empire he is trying to revive by force, even by using flamethrowers, which are banned by Protocol III of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, in Ukraine.

As Ukraine has the world's deepest topsoil (Rush County has second deepest), it was the breadbasket of the former Soviet Union. During the height of the Great Depression, a few years before the Holocaust, Soviet dictator Josef Stalin unleashed on Ukraine the "Holodomor," a genocide by man-made famine in 1932 and 1933.

Despite Soviet dictator Nikita Krushchev giving Crimea to Ukraine in 1954, it was invaded and taken by Russia after it hosted the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics. Shortly before the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics, Russia invaded Georgia, and still occupies Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Considering Russia's invasion of Ukraine following the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, we can only speculate where Putin might invade before or after the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics.

Oleg Gostomelsky was a year behind me at West Point. Born in Kyiv, he grew up in Syracuse, New York. He and I now serve together on the Indiana District

Export Council. Oleg is vice president of International Operations for Mursix in Yorktown. Over occasional lunches with Oleg, I have learned much about Ukraine. In fact, he told me that on the first day of the invasion, Russians briefly captured (and then Ukraine recaptured) the town of Gostomel, his ancestral hometown.

During this time of crisis, Indiana should be thankful for leaders such as U.S. Sen. Todd Young (R-Indiana), a Marine Corps veteran and fellow service academy graduate, on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Ukrainian-American Congresswoman Victoria Spartz.

We must not let our guard down during this time.

China may try to take advantage of a distracted world and invade Taiwan.

In the meantime, let's keep the valiant people of Ukraine in our prayers.

LaMar, an international manager; served as president of Henry County Council from 2009 to 2019.

Congress should not make job harder

Bloomberg Opinion

Judging U.S. fiscal policy just now is unusually difficult. As the pandemic appears to recede, the economic outlook is hard to assess, and President Joe Biden's priorities are still in flux. No hard and fast rules guide policymakers' choices in such circumstances. Still, a couple of general principles deserve more attention than they're getting.

The first is that, in the short run, Congress should pay attention to the Federal Reserve's options for discharging its mandate, and aim to support those efforts as best it can. The other is that longer-term fiscal pressures shouldn't be ignored. The sooner they're recognized and addressed, the less disruptive the remedies will be.

The immediate problem is an excess of demand relative to available supply. This has caused inflation to surge much more powerfully than most economists expected, confronting the Fed with an extremely delicate challenge — to tighten monetary policy adequately without tipping the economy back into a recession. A top priority for fiscal policy should be to avoid making this task more difficult.

You might ask, why worry? The budget deficit is falling as pandemic programs expire. The surge in inflation helps the arithmetic, as well, by boosting tax revenue. In January, thanks partly to timing effects, the government's budget was actually in surplus, to the tune of \$119 billion. In the first four months of the current fiscal year, the deficit was roughly \$250 billion — down from nearly \$750 billion in the first four months of fiscal 2021.

Tempting as it is to think otherwise, this doesn't mean there's space to deliver fresh stimulus. Regardless of any further fiscal action, the Fed is expecting to raise interest rates starting next month, and the only question is whether its intended gradual increase will be enough to get inflation back under control.

New tax cuts (such as a suspension of the gas tax, proposed by some Democ-

Guest Editorial

rats with the midterm elections in mind) or increases in short-term net spending (through a repackaged Build Back Better plan, subsidies contained in the America Competes Act recently passed by the House, additional Covid-response spending, and so forth) risk adding to the excess demand that the Fed will soon be struggling to suppress.

In some cases, to be sure, new spending really is necessary. It should be paid for — and genuinely, not by means of the accounting gimmicks the administration has favored up to now.

The longer-term outlook also advises restraint. Granted, the same inflation that's boosting revenues has also expanded the economy in nominal terms, helping to check the rise in public debt held by the public as a proportion of gross domestic product. Even so, this ratio now stands at close to 100%, the highest it's been since the 1940s.

Current policy points to ongoing deficits of more than \$1 trillion a year for the rest of this decade. The fiscal relief from faster inflation is likely to be temporary. Higher interest rates will increase the cost of servicing the government's debts. And looming demographic pressures on public spending are enormous, thanks to rapidly rising health-care costs and surging outlays for Social Security. In its most recent long-range forecast, the Congressional Budget Office projected that the ratio of debt to GDP would be roughly 200% by 2050.

A sudden severe tightening of fiscal policy would be unwise while the prospects for the recovery are still in doubt. But confusion over the short-term outlook and the strictly temporary healing powers of inflation don't make prudent fiscal control any less necessary. Just the opposite. It has never been more important to spend taxpayer dollars cautiously.



CDC gets guidance right

By LEANA S. WEN

Special To The Washington Post

The CDC finally got masking right. After months of pleading from governors, local officials, educators and health experts, their new recommendations make clear that masks are no longer required in much of the United States — including in most schools.

Previously, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's sole determining factor for whether a community needed to implement masking was case counts. This made sense in 2020 and early 2021, when surges in infections invariably led to overwhelmed hospitals and deaths. But vaccines have rendered COVID-19 far less severe. In areas with high levels of immunity from vaccination or prior infection, cases can be high, but hospitalizations remain low. The risk to society now correlates with severe infection, not positive tests, so it's reasonable to shift the threshold for government-imposed restrictions.

The CDC's new metrics are predominantly based on COVID-19 hospitalizations as well as hospital capacity. Because severe illness lags infection by one to two weeks, the CDC also takes into account community infection rates. For example, there is a lower threshold of hospitalizations needed to trigger masking if the overall infection rates are more than 200 cases per 100,000 people in the past seven days.

Importantly, the guidelines leave open the possibility that these metrics might need to change in the future should a new variant arise that escapes vaccine immunity. Instead of viewing masking as an on-off switch, the CDC makes the case that mitigation measures are more like a dial. Depending on changing circumstances, restrictions can be turned up or down.

Beyond the rationale for the revision, the CDC deserves recognition for its newfound clarity of messag-

ing. I appreciated the easily understood orange, yellow and green categorizations: When concern for severe illness is very high (orange), everyone should mask; when they are low (green), everyone could unmask; in between (yellow), people can decide whether to mask depending on their medical circumstances and risk tolerance.

I especially applaud the CDC for its bold — albeit overdue — stance on masking in schools. It was poor policy for some states to drop virtually all indoor mask mandates but continue imposing them in schools, when children are at far lower risk from the virus and, unlike adults, could experience harm from prolonged masking. The CDC isn't going so far as to say that schools should end masking, but is recommending that mask requirements in schools align with the rest of the communities they are in.

At current rates, about 70% of Americans live in green or yellow zones. That means about 70% of students are in schools that could end mandatory school masking now. This is a dramatic change from the CDC's prior guidance, which — when based only on case counts — would have required masking in more than 96% of the country and virtually all schools.

The revised guidance will surely anger people on both sides. Some will argue that the CDC should have ended mandatory masking altogether and that masks should be a matter of individual choice everywhere. I don't think this is a responsible stance,

because masks — especially high-quality N95, KN95 or KF94 masks — remain an important tool to prevent disease transmission and ensuring that hospitals are not overwhelmed. More dangerous variants might emerge, and federal health officials need to set the expectations that masks might be needed in the future.

Others will be upset that the changes go too far and leave behind the immunocompromised and children under 5. I understand the frustration; it is unfair that many will get to move on to reclaim normalcy while some cannot. But there is a cost to keeping blanket restrictions in place.

Plus, there are other ways to protect vulnerable populations. The Biden administration must commit to doing far more to make antiviral treatments and preventive antibodies available to them. The federal government should make N95s or their equivalent widely accessible and free of charge to all who want to keep masking. Businesses can also do their part, for example, by designating specific hours for shoppers during which everyone must don high-quality masks. No matter what guidance the CDC released, it would be accused of going too far or not far enough. This time, I think it has it about right. Of course, I wish this guidance arrived a few weeks earlier, before governors took it upon themselves to remove mandates in nearly all states. Still, it's better late than never, and I'm relieved that the CDC has finally signaled that we need to live with COVID-19 and remove restrictions while we can, with the understanding that they might need to return in the future.

Wen, a Washington Post contributing columnist who writes the newsletter The Checkup with Dr. Wen, is a professor at George Washington University's Milken Institute School of Public Health. Previously, she served as Baltimore's health commissioner.

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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Obituaries

Continued from page 2
Memorials may be directed towards EverHeart Hospice. Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

Kate Smith

Dec. 11, 1994-Feb. 24, 2022
Kate Smith, age 27, a resident of Pennville, passed away on Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022, at her home.
Kate was born on Dec. 11, 1994, in Portland, the daughter of Eric Smith and Angie Smiley. She graduated from Jay County High School in 2012.
Kate loved animals and volunteered at the Jay County Humane Society.
She married Shelby Smith on Aug. 8, 2018.
Survivors include:
Her wife — Shelby Smith, Pennville, Indiana



Her father — Eric Smith, Honolulu, Hawaii
Her mother — Angie Smiley, Pennville, Indiana
Her grandmother — Peggy Smiley, Portland, Indiana
Two sisters — Kelsey Smith, Bluffton, Indiana, and Kristen Locke, Winchester, Indiana
One brother — Trevin Harrell, Portland, Indiana
Several nieces and nephews
Visitation will be held on Thursday from noon to 2 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod

Funeral Home in Portland. Services to celebrate Kate's life will follow at 2 p.m. on Thursday. Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

Rhea Wood

March 17, 1953-Dec. 14, 2021
Rhea Jo (Louck) Wood, age 68, passed away early Tuesday morning, Dec. 14, 2021, at the home of her daughter.
She was born March 17, 1953, to LaVaughn and Mary (Butcher) Louck at Jay County Hospital.
Rhea is survived by one son, Zeb (Neesha) Anderson; and one daughter, Molly (Evan) Twigg. She has five amazing grandkids that she loved, Levi Moyer, Davis Anderson, Kyanne Anderson, Wyatt Twigg and Austin Twigg. Also surviving are one brother, Larry (Carol) Louck; and one sister, Shelba (Max) Chenoweth. She

also had several nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews; and great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews.



Rhea attended Gray High School until it closed, then graduated from Redkey High School. She retired from Peyton's Northern in Bluffton after 32 years and she made many lasting and amazing friendships during those 32 years. She enjoyed crocheting and made many blankets which she gave to friends and family for wedding gifts, special occasions and baby shower gifts. She was an amazing cook and loved to cook for get togethers. She loved spending time with her family and watching her grandkids show

their animals at the Jay County Fair.
Family and friends may gather to share and remember at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 N. Washington St., Geneva, Indiana, on Saturday, March 5, 2022, from 2 to 5 p.m.
Memorials may be made to the family.
Arrangements have been entrusted to Downing & Glancy Funeral Home Geneva, Indiana.

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.

Increases ...

Continued from page 1
City attorney Wes Schemenaur also presented council with a draft of an ordinance update he has been working on with police chief Dane Mumbower. It addresses "nuisances," with a focus on the accumulation of trash and storage of junk. It provides provisions to allow the city to clean up properties that are in violation of the ordinance and bill the property owner for the work.
Council members plan to review the proposed changes and discuss them at their March 14 meeting.

Hamilton provided an update on potential plans for the former Westlawn Elementary School building, which closed at the end of the 2020-21 school year with students moving to the former West Jay Middle School building this year. He said a meeting with consultants is scheduled today to begin the process of getting not-for-profit status for what would be called "The Westlawn Family Education Center."

Plans call for the building to be used for art and music classes, a daycare and adult education classes. Hamilton said proponents are working to get commitments from individuals to provide those services, and has also reached out to Ivy Tech Community College and will reach out to Indiana Wesleyan University about making the building a satellite site for in-person or virtual classes.

He added that the organization plans to seek grant funding from The Dunkirk Foundation and The Portland Foundation.

Council members also heard a presentation from Ryan Hurt of All Circuit Electrical about the possibility of installing a new generator and solar panels at the combined Dunkirk and Fire Department and Jay Emergency Medical Service Facility on the east side of the city.

The generator that was in place had a problem with the engine, and All Circuit put in a temporary back-up generator. A new generator, with a new automatic transfer switch, would cost the just under \$16,000. (All expenses are split between the city and county for the shared facility.)

Hurt also presented two options for a solar array — one at \$38,974 and the other at \$70,490. He noted that the

arrays would pay for themselves over time and eventually save the city money by reducing energy costs.
Robbins told Hurt he will meet with county officials about the proposal.
In other business, council:

- Heard Robbins report that Norfolk Southern Railway is planning to replace railroad crossings in the city on Broad and Washington streets. He said he is meeting with officials from the company Thursday and that the work is expected to be completed within the next two months.

- Approved a payment plan for property owner Nathan Conatser, who incurred a water bill of more than \$8,000 over two months because of a broken pipe in an unoccupied rental property.

- Approved the following: The addition of five street lights in Quincy Place at a cost of \$3,412.49; payment of claims totaling \$161,603.88.

- Learned from Robbins that the city plans to apply for a \$600,000 grant through Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for proposed detention basins on the east side of the city. Basins are proposed just west of 3rd Street near the southern city limits and east of Broad Street near Moore Avenue.

- During the Dunkirk Board of Works meeting that preceded city council, board members Dan Watson, Bivens and Robbins:

- OK'd the following purchases and expenditures: \$505.93 to Maximum Overdrive to fix the air conditioning unit on a police vehicle; \$11,270 to Leary Construction for annual water tower maintenance; \$2,493.35 to Culy Construction for a water main repair; \$2,140.54 to Utility Supply for water department supplies; \$9,259.06 for backhoe repairs; and \$557.37 to Shield's Garage for new batteries for the fire department's tanker truck.

- During the board of works meeting, Robbins also noted that larger truck route signs have been ordered. They will be placed at the city limits. Existing truck route signs will be moved elsewhere in the city to help guide truck drivers.

- He also noted that new lifeguard stands have been ordered for Dunkirk City Pool and installation of a new liner is expected to begin this month.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline
Jay County Commissioners Chad Aker and Brian McGalliard (not pictured is commissioner Rex Journey) speak with Adam Ridenour and Melissa Blankley of Jay County Country Living on Monday. County officials have given the residential facility six months to improve its financial outlook.

Facility ...

Continued from page 1
McGalliard acknowledged the facility is an added expense to the county's budget, but he noted it is a service to the county. Bill Hinkle, county attorney, asked if it is a service the residents of Jay County are benefiting from. Commissioner Rex Journey added he's not sure the county can afford to continue operating the facility.

Commissioner Chad Aker suggested if Jay County Country Living could break even on its budget, the facility could continue to function.

County officials are monitoring the facility's activities and hope to see an improvement in its finances in coming months.

"I think we owe it an honest chance before we do anything," Aker said.

Also Monday, Jay County Council president Jeanne Houchins noted John Speidel Jr. of civil engineering firm Butler, Fairman and Seufert requested an extension of two to three weeks on its feasibility study of about 160 acres of land just south and east of Jay County Highway Department at the intersection of county roads 200 North and 100 East. Hopes for the area are to develop new infrastructure for housing using some of the county's nearly \$4 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds.

The \$14,500 study initiated in December was expected to take about 90 days, but sickness and other conflicts have delayed its progress, Houchins said. There will be no additional cost for the extension.

Houchins suggested council and commissioners meet in joint session to talk about American Rescue Plan Act funding options again sometime in April.

Commissioners also discussed the possibility of using the former Judge Haynes Elementary School in Portland as a new location for a child care facility.

The Portland Foundation approached county officials in November requesting \$975,000 to renovate the building into a daycare. Jay Schools offered to donate the building for the cause.

Aker and McGalliard both noted the building has a significant amount of asbestos. They referenced an asbestos report done by Tyler

Stubbs of Alliance Environmental Group in August 2021, a document they said neither Jay Schools or The Portland Foundation brought to light in past discussions. (Core Facilities president Matt Stechly also mentioned asbestos at the school at a February commissioner's meeting while sharing information on the state of various buildings — mostly county owned — in Jay County.)

The foundation's board of directors said in a letter to the editor published in The Commercial Review Feb. 26 although they support the repurposing of the former elementary, they're also open to other solutions to the need for child care.

McGalliard said Jay County would likely be the first county in Indiana to be involved in a countywide child care facility.

"We need to be leaders," said Journey, who previously served as president of The Portland Foundation board. He suggested the county leave the option of using the former elementary open but to also look into other options.

"I think we're all in consensus that we know this is an issue as far as child care, and we just need to look into a 'Plan B,'" said Aker. "This may not be the answer for what we want to do, but we still need to keep forging forward to try to resolve this issue."

Aker announced Emergency Management Agency director Amy Blakeley is resigning. She plans to stay in her position until the county finds a replacement.

Commissioners also acknowledged Monday was Anna Culy's last commissioner's meeting as county auditor, thanking her for her help throughout her seven-plus years in office and wishing her luck in her new position. She starts March 7 at Indiana Department of Local Government Finance.

In other news, commissioners:
•Held off paying a \$275,000 claim from Jay County Humane Society for its new building, which is expected to cost roughly \$949,000. Commissioners requested the organization approach them at their next meeting to share developments regarding its search for a location and fundraising campaign.

- Took no action on a request from McGalliard to rescind his vote on a \$102,225 purchase for two boilers from Harrell-Fish Incorporated of Bloomington for Jay County Sheriff's Office. (His motion to rescind the funding died for lack of a second.) He said the information presented by Core Facilities president Matt Stechly was not fully transparent, and he shared copies of the warranty and a boiler review done by James F Giannini and Associates of Griffith. (Commissioners agreed to downsize from 2,000 MBH boilers to 1,500 MBH boilers.) Aker noted the boilers have already been ordered, and Hinkle added it would be a "detriment" to the county to rescind a decision that has already been acted upon.

- Signed a three-year agreement with MedBill for its billing services. The company will work with Jay Emergency Medical Service starting April 1.

- Allotted \$50,000 in Bitter Ridge Wind Farm economic development funds to Bryant for a new park.

- Held a public hearing for and officially approved a rezoning petition from Kim Gabbard for 1.89 acres of his property at 7540 S. U.S. 27, Portland, to be rezoned from commercial to residential. (Gabbard needed the area to be rezoned as residential before he could sell the house on that property.)

- OK'd Arch Bridge Kroozers to use Jay County Courthouse restrooms from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. May 21 during the group's "Kroozen at the Courthouse" car show.

- Approved a \$273,000 quarterly claim for Lifestream Services.

- Assigned McGalliard to and removed former director Hope Confer from Jay County Country Living's checking account.

- OK'd Jay County Recorder's Office employees to attend a three-day conference.

- Assigned JEMS director Larry Nuckols to the department's checking account.

- Paid a total of \$25,720.83 to Johnson Oil for oil used by Jay County Highway Department.

- Sold an outdated computer in Jay County Surveyor's Office to surveyor Brad Daniels for \$50.

Young ...

Continued from page 1
In addition to his contributions to the Arts Place capital campaign, he teamed up with Rob Weaver to head the fundraising effort for Portland Water Park. He was also a past president of Portland Rotary Club, served on the Jay County Hospital Board and was one of the leaders of Jay County farmer's market. He was involved in the consolidation of Portland, Dunkirk, Redkey, Pennville and Bryant high schools into Jay County High School in 1975.

In addition to his service as an Earlham trustee, he also chaired the Earlham

Foundation, spending 10 years on its board. In 2018, he received the college's distinguished service award.

He was also a member of the board of directors of Conner Prairie Museum.

He and Gretchen were also active in First Presbyterian Church in Portland, serving in various leadership roles.

John and Gretchen moved to a retirement community in Zionsville in 2018.

Services to celebrate Young's life will be held at a later date. For his full obituary, see page 2.

Education bill stalls in Senate

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — An Indiana education proposal that drew criticism for originally aiming to place broad restrictions on teaching about racism and political topics took a major blow Monday when Republican state senators did not advance the bill.

The proposal faced a Monday deadline in the Senate for the debate of proposed amendments, but the bill sponsor did not call it for debate before the Senate adjourned for the day.

The Republican-dominated House in January approved the bill that supporters said was aimed at increasing transparency about what was being taught in classrooms.

Some provisions from the proposal could be revived before the March 14 deadline for ending this year's legislative session, but Republican Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray told reporters the full bill did not have enough support among

GOP senators to advance. Democratic legislators were unified in opposition.

"We had some members of our caucus who felt like it didn't go far enough," Bray said. "We had some members of our caucus that felt like it was too much of a burden on education and just not good policy that we wanted to move forward."

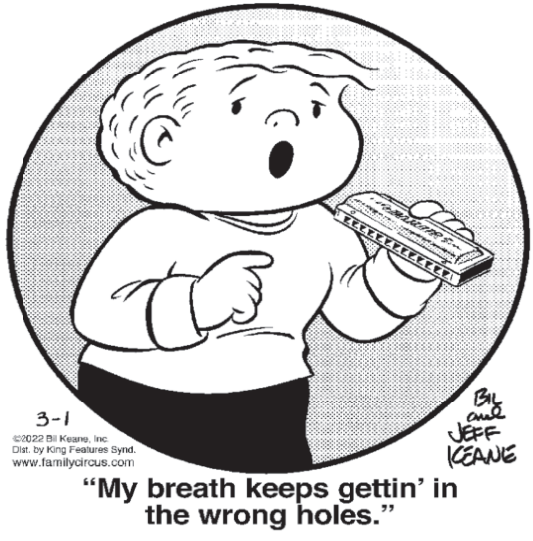
The bill's language had been rolled back several times in response to an

outcry from teachers and other critics who have maintained that the bill would amount to "censorship" of classroom instruction and curriculum. The leader of the state's largest teachers union said educators, parents and others had made no place in Indiana" and warned that some of the bill's provisions could be inserted into other legislation.

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



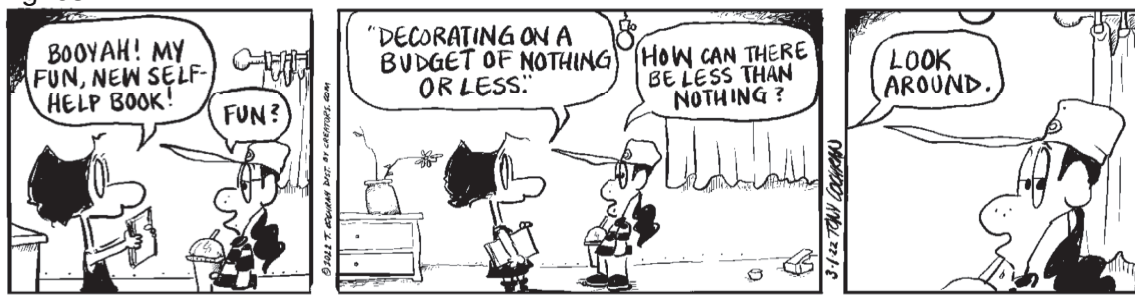
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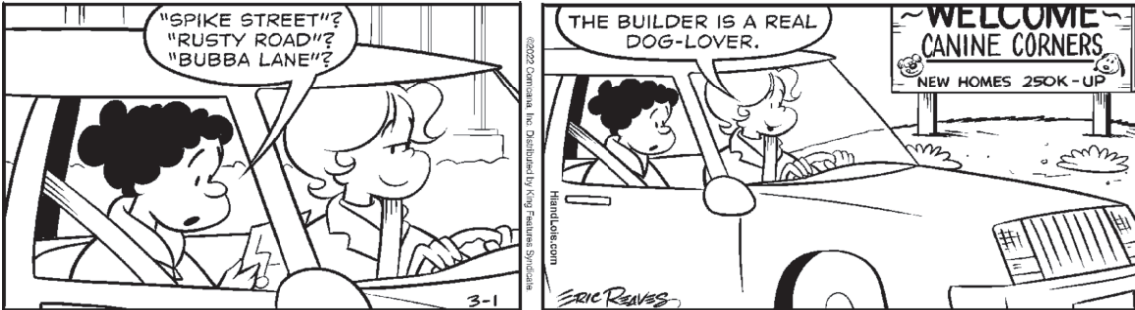
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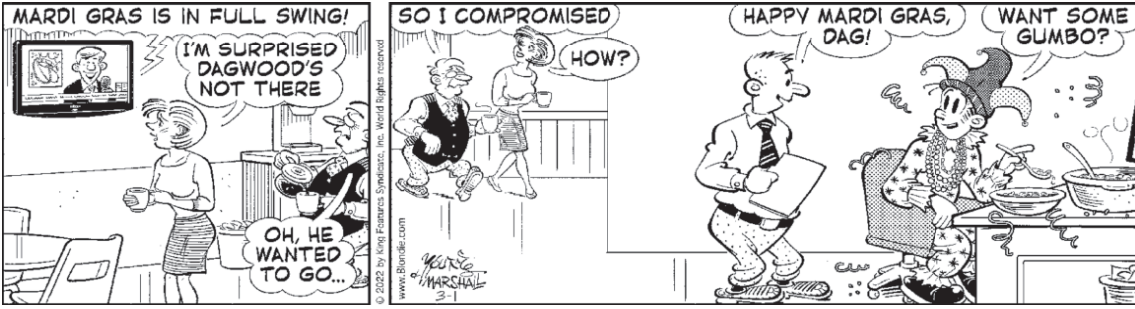
Hi and Lois



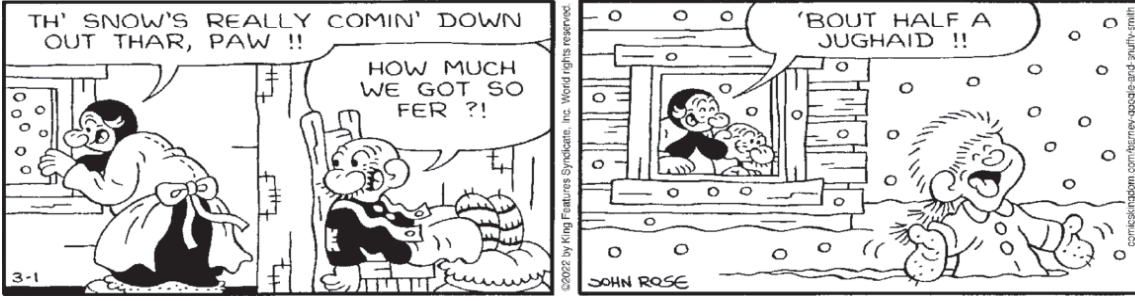
Funky Winkerbean



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

The best way to skin a cat

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A Q 9 5
♥ A 8 4
♦ J 10
♣ Q 7 4 3

EAST
♠ 6 4
♥ 9 6 3 2
♦ K 7 4 3
♣ A 8 6

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

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠

Opening lead — two of diamonds.
On many hands, declarer cannot overcome a bad lie of the adverse cards and so can only hope that they will be divided favorably. But there are also times when he can succeed despite an unlucky distribution, and these are the times that test his mettle.
Consider this deal where West leads a diamond against four spades, declarer winning East's king with the ace. South sees four potential losers — three clubs and a heart — and immediately starts looking for a way to eliminate one of them.
One possibility, after drawing trump, is to lead a low heart from dummy toward his queen. If East has the king and takes it, South will eventually get rid of a club loser on the ace; if East does not take his king, he loses it.
Another possibility is to attack clubs by leading a low one toward dummy's queen. If the queen loses to East's king or ace, South will still have the J-9 left and can later lead a club from dummy toward his hand and perhaps score a club trick.
As the cards lie, neither of these approaches succeeds against best defense, and South would go down one. However, declarer can assure the contract if he plays correctly. After drawing trump, he cashes the Q-9 of diamonds, discarding a heart from dummy, and then plays the ace and another heart.
This leaves South firmly in the driver's seat. The defender who wins the second heart with the king will have to yield a ruff-and-discard or else lead a club, establishing a club trick for declarer.
The suggested method of play totally eliminates the luck factor that appears to exist when dummy first comes down.

Tomorrow: The sure way is the best way.
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3-1 CRYPTOQUIP

CD XUN YZFT'H EFJUMCHCTI
HOF DNTEM CTHU XUNZ
YKKUNTH, XUN KYT'H IFH
ZCKO. TU JYX-CT, TU IYCT.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OLD SONG ABOUT THE MANAGER OF A GROUP THAT CONTRIBUTES CAMPAIGN FUNDS: "LEADER OF THE PAC."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals Y

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Body powder
5 Stare stupidly
9 Cyndi Lauper's "Bop"
12 Petri dish
13 Actor Epps
14 Asian holiday
15 Politician's supporters
17 Remote batteries, often
18 Blog entry
19 Cheerful
21 Stitched
24 High-five sound
25 Mark Harmon TV series
26 Ontario neighbor
30 Web address
31 Quinn of "Elementary"
32 Triumphed
33 Jumping croaker

DOWN
11 Online crafts site
16 Scepter
20 Dig in
21 Rebuff
22 Off-white
23 Self-control
24 Unforeseen problem
26 Swampy terrain
27 Hubbub
28 Pear type
29 Con
31 Miriam Makeba's music
34 Parcel of land
35 Pizza slices
37 Ruin the veneer
38 Model Heidi
39 Oxen's burden
40 Broadway's Verdon
41 Boxer
44 Metal source
45 Paris street
46 Coach Par-seghian
47 Droid

Solution time: 22 mins.

F	R	A	T	F	B	I	J	E	E	R
R	E	P	U	B	L	I	C	O	G	R
O	V	E	R	R	A	T	E	R	A	I
B	A	G	S	Y	D	N	E	I	E	
P	A	G	A	N	I	K	E	A		
T	R	A	N	S	P	A	W	N	E	D
C	A	R	S	T	A	T	S	D	O	C
B	R	O	C	A	D	E	A	G	R	A
N	A	G	S	G	L	E	A	N		
A	U	T	U	M	N	Y	O			
A	L	A	S	A	H	O	Y	M	A	T
R	E	N	E	T	U	R	A	N	D	O
P	E	G	S	E	T	E	A	S	E	A

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Effective 07/01/2018:
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3 insertions.....96¢/word
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Sports

Season ends at sectional

Jay County places 9th in 12-team field

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

FORT WAYNE — The third-ranked team in the state dominated the meet.

The Patriots saw their season come to an end.

Jay County High School's gymnastics team capped its year Saturday by scoring 67.875 points for ninth place out of 12 participating schools in the sectional meet at Concordia.

"The girls performed well," said JCHS coach Melynda James. "Although their scores did not reflect their personal bests, they performed their best routines of the season. They all gave 110%."

No. 3 Homestead cruised to the sectional title with 110.625 points, led by all-around champion Gianna Zirille (38.35). Bishop Dwenger (105.9) and Carroll (105.375) placed second and third to also advance to the regional meet Saturday at Huntington North.

Wayne was ahead of JCHS in eighth place with 73.9 points while Mississinewa, which had just two gymnasts, was 10th with 56.225.

The top three teams and

top six individuals in each event at the sectional meet earned regional berths.

Sophomore Karci Hopkins turned in the top result for the Patriots, placing 28th out of 38 competitors on the vault. She recorded an 8.2 for her half-half. (Homestead's Ashley Carr was the sixth-place finisher at 9.025.)

Hopkins also turned in a no-fall balance beam routine to lead the Patriots on that event with a 6.575 for 30th place.

"Karci did an outstanding job on the beam," said James. "She connected her cartwheel-cartwheel, which she hadn't done all season. She hit all her connections. Each practice, she became more confident in her skills and it showed."

Adriene Denney paced Jay County on the floor exercise with a 7.35 to place 31st, and Erin Ring was the school's lone competitor on the uneven parallel bars with a 5.075 to finish 30th.

Ring was also the only Patriot to compete on all four events. She placed 31st on vault with an 8.05, 36th on floor with a 6.75 and 40th on beam with a 4.8.

"Erin performed well on each event," said James. "We added her on the bars. She has made huge strides on bars and the best is yet to come. She is always willing to try new skills. Her difficulty level increased from last year."

Senior Mattie Ardizzone finished between Hopkins and Ring on vault with an 8.075 for 30th place. She was



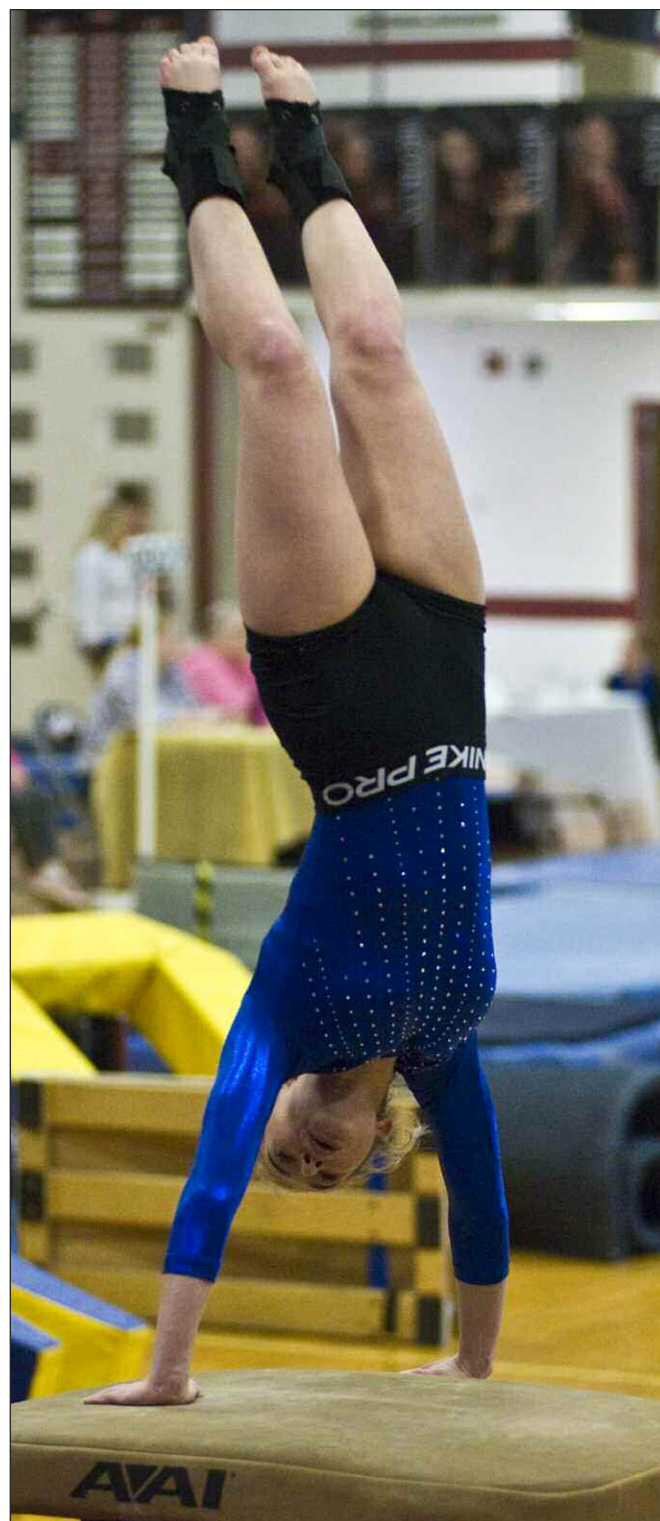
The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Erin Ring of Jay County competes on the balance beam Saturday. She was the lone Patriots to compete on all four events, recording an all-around score of 24.675.

also the No. 2 Patriot on the floor, placing 32nd with a 7.3, and recorded a 4.875 on the beam for 39th place.


Freshman Grace Yowell, who like Hopkins had a no-fall routine on the beam, was second for the Patriots and 38th overall on the event with a 5.25. Fellow freshman Coryn Blalock scored a 7.125 for 34th on the floor.

Zirille swept the individual event championships for Homestead with a 9.675 on floor, a 9.65 on vault, a 9.55 on bars and a 9.475 on beam. Her winning all-around score was 1.4 points higher than runner-up Isabella Hoogland of Carroll while her Spartan teammate Jillian Wohlwend (36.225) finished third.




The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School sophomore Karci Hopkins flips over the vault Saturday during the sectional meet at Concordia. Hopkins posted the top finish for the Patriots in 28th place on the vault with an 8.2.



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Wenk earns title

INDIANAPOLIS — Bryce Wenk stood atop the podium.

Wenk, a Jay County High School sophomore, won the 182-pound division this weekend at the Indiana Frosh-Soph State Championships at Southport.

After narrowly missing an IHSAA Wrestling State Finals berth with a one-point loss in the ticket round at the semi-state tournament two weeks earlier, Wenk cruised through the bulk of the tournament before meeting up with Brilyn Smith of Warren Wrestling in the championship bout. He was able to fight off Smith for a 3-2 victory.

Wenk dominated his first-round match for an 18-2 technical fall over Dominick Mercer of Martinsville, then pinned Warren Wrestling's David Shelton in 1 minute, 41 seconds, in the second round. He scored a 6-1 decision over Brock Finney of McCutcheon in the quarterfinals before topping Carson Sommers of Franklin Wrestling 7-2 in the semifinal round.

Jay County's Jayla Huelkamp, Dakota Chowning and Lina Lingo also competed in girls 116-pound bracket, with Huelkamp posting the high finish of third place. She pinned Alexes Spaulding of Columbia City in her final match of the day.

Chowning and Lingo faced each other in the

Wrestling roundup

fifth-place match, with Chowning scoring a 7-2 victory. Both had won quarterfinal matches, with Chowning pinning Elkhart's Mardi Waits in 1:33 while Lingo pinned Castle's Jaden Collier in 3:22.

Patriots take invite

The host Patriots scored 374 points Saturday to win the Jay County Junior High Invitational and then rolled to a 72-21 victory over Blackford in a dual Monday.

Delta scored 343.5 points for second place in the 14-team invitational while Yorktown was third with 342.

Jay County racked up eight championships: Syllas Wenk (95), Jacob Robinson (9138), Leighton Brown (145), Garrett Bennett (160), Malachi Hernandez (170), Rhysin Blowers (195), Joaquin Johnson (220) and Alan Ortiz (275).

Brice Coy added a runner-up finish at 182 pounds. Maddox Byrum (75) and Grant Linville (85) each finished third.

Picking up victories for the Patriots (13-2) on Monday were Brenna Ruble (90), Syllas Wenk (95), Hayden Richman (102), Hayden Ison

(110), Gavin Thomas (117), Cole Carpenter (132), Jacob Robinson (140), Leighton Brown (150), Garrett Bennett (160), Malachi Hernandez (175), Joaquin Johnson (195), Rhysin Blowers (220) and Alan Ortiz (275).

Ortiz wins

Alan Ortiz led the long list of Jay County High School Wrestling Club competitors over the weekend as he won his weight class in a tournament Sunday at Delta High School.

Ortiz took first place in the 16-and-younger, 220-pound division. Malachi Hernandez (16-and-younger, 170 pounds) and Jacob Robinson (16-and-younger, 138 pounds) each finished second at Delta, and Grant Linville (14-and-younger, 92 pounds) was fourth.

Jay County had runner-up efforts at three other tournaments with Parker Huntsman placing second in the 8-and-younger, 63-pound division Saturday at Adams Central, Jackson Bonifas taking second in the 12-and-younger, 86-pound division Sunday and Belmont and Blake Wood finishing second in the 8-and-younger, 49-pound division Sunday at Paulding (Ohio).

Max Myers and Parker Huntsman were each third at Paulding, and Alex Huntsman finished fifth. Wood took third at Adams Central, and Eli Shannon was third at Belmont.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys basketball sectional opener vs. New Castle at New Castle — 6 p.m.

TV schedule

Today
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Providence at Villanova (FS1)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Ole Miss at Kentucky (ESPN); Nebraska at Ohio State (BTN)
7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Atlanta Hawks at Boston Celtics (TNT)
8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Michigan State at Michigan (FS1)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Purdue at Wisconsin (ESPN)

10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Dallas Mavericks at Los Angeles Lakers (TNT)

Wednesday
2 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Big Ten Tournament (BTN)

4:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Big Ten Tournament (BTN)

6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Xavier at St. John's (FS1)

7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Rutgers at Indiana (BTN)

7 p.m. — NBA basketball: New York Knicks at Philadelphia 76ers (ESPN); Indiana Pacers at Orlando Magic (Bally Indiana)

7:30 p.m. — NHL hockey: St. Louis Blues at New York Rangers (TNT)

8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Connecticut at Creighton (FS1)

9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Minnesota at Maryland (BTN)

10 p.m. — Portland Trail Blazers at Phoenix Suns (ESPN)

10:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Wyoming at UNLV (FS1)

Local notes

Registration dates upcoming
Portland Junior League will have two upcoming registrations for its 2022 season.

They will be from 9 a.m. to noon March 5 and 12 at Jay Community Center.

Forms can be picked up at JCC, or online registration is available at the Portland Junior League's Facebook page.

PJL is open to boys and girls ages 5 through 15.