

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Site for new shelter identified

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Jay County Humane Society has found its new building. Plans are to retrofit the location into a countywide facility for animal control.

Jay County Commissioners agreed Monday to give the humane society \$137,500, or about half of its previously allocated funding from the county, to purchase its new structure.

Jay County Humane Society has been fundraising since October. Its original plans were to construct a new facility at approximately 4,000 square feet and estimated to cost more than \$949,000.

Mindy Weaver, co-chair of the fundraising campaign and treasurer of Jay County Humane Society, explained the organiza-

Humane Society plans to purchase Fastenal building

tion has been searching for a new location for its shelter, and it looked into adapting the former Fastenal building in Portland several months ago. Purchasing and retrofitting the existing structure, Weaver said, was expected to cost more than the price of constructing a new facility.

"We kind of turned away from that and still couldn't find any land," she said.

Recently the owner of the building at 1376 W. Votaw St. agreed to donate part of the asking price, bringing the net cost to purchase it around \$225,000.

"It is at a price now that we can retrofit it for an animal shelter," Weaver said.

The former Fastenal building offers about 50% more square footage than original plans to construct a new structure, according to Weaver. Retro-

fitting the facility to the humane society's needs will cost around \$1 million, she added. Jay County Humane Society also will be purchasing about three acres behind the building for roughly \$66,000.

Original construction plans included space to house 26 dogs and 120 cats, as well as allow enclosed areas for a variety of stages, including rooms for intake, medical needs and adoption visits. (Currently cats are confined to small cages — the new facility would have cat colony rooms for free roaming.) With the space increase, those capacity limits are likely to increase as well.

The location near Portland Veterinary Clinic has no noise issues, she noted. It would also

be easy to find for those looking to adopt pets. Jay County Humane Society's plans are to close on the building March 28.

"We're very excited to make (this) announcement today," Weaver said. "We think that it's a win-win in many aspects."

So far, the humane society has raised nearly \$320,000, or just under half of its goal. That amount does not include pledges, such as the county's allocation of \$275,000 in economic development income tax (EDIT) funds.

Commissioner Brian McCalliard asked what the organization's plan is if it doesn't raise the necessary funds.

"We're going to raise it," said Weaver. "We will do this."

See Site page 5

Updates to city's garbage collection ordinance approved

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

The Toters are ready to roll.

After some additional discussion Monday, Portland City Council unanimously approved updates to its garbage collection ordinance to implement the use of Toters that were purchased in January and delivered this month.

Implementation of the new system had been the subject of a variety of questions over the last couple of council meetings, and there was more discussion at Monday's special meeting that was called to iron out the final details of the ordinance updates.

The new ordinance requires that for garbage to be picked up it must be placed in the Toters that have been provided by The City of Portland. Trash and recycling not placed in the Toters will not be picked up.

Residents will have a month grace period before any citations are written for not complying with the new ordinance.

Tom Leonhard, superintendent of Portland's street and parks department, had previously said use of other units compatible with Portland's trucks would be allowed.

Council members made changes to the new ordinance Monday to clarify what types of containers are allowed.

In the ordinance, the units to be used are referred to generically as "mobile garbage bins." Those that will be accepted by the city must meet with American National Standards Institute requirements for Z245.60 Type B, which are compatible with the city's trucks.

Other changes to the ordinance include:

- The city will accept large items at the street department building on set dates four times per year.

- Those who need to dispose of large items at other times can do so by visiting city hall and purchasing a permit. (For example, a permit for disposal of a mattress will cost \$15.)

See Garbage page 6



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Walking on sunshine

Seventh grader Kaylor Wendel performs a quick solo alongside eighth graders Zoe Dues, Olivia Knapke, Leah Wuebker and Cora Kremer during Fort Recovery Middle and High School's annual Cabaret concert Sunday. Wendel, Dues, Knapke, Wuebker and Kremer sang "Walking On Sunshine" with Aubrie Heitkamp, who is not pictured.

Dunkirk OKs new 'nuisance' rules

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — The city now has the option to clean up properties that are in violation of its ordinance regarding "nuisances."

Dunkirk City Council on Monday approved additions to the city ordinances regarding common law nuisances.

The new ordinance, which was presented to council members at their Feb. 28 meeting,

addressed trees that cause a safety issue, accumulation of rubbish, noxious odors or smoke, open wells, trees and shrubs that obstruct streets or sidewalks, animals, and storage of junk.

City attorney Wes Schemenaur, who worked on the ordinance along with police chief Dane Mumbower, said the major changes involve accumulation of rubbish and storage of junk.

The ordinance now indicates that any owner or occupant of a property in violation shall be notified by a police officer or the city's health and safety officer. Following that notification, they will be given seven days to address the problem. If it is not addressed at that time, the city may remove materials or take "all reasonable action" to bring the property under compliance with the ordinance.

The property owner or occupant will then be billed for the services provided by the city to clean up the property. Those bills must be paid within 10 days of being received.

Council members Jesse Bivens, Bryan Jessup, Kevin Hamilton, Christy Curts and Tom Johnson unanimously approved the changes to the ordinance.

See Rules page 6

School corporation to set new goals

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

With many of its major goals from five years ago in the rearview, Jay School Board is getting ready to set new targets.

Jay School Corporation superintendent Jeremy Gulley explained Monday to the board the initial steps he has taken to give members a launching point for their discussions looking toward the future.

The board also discussed possible changes to the 2022-23 school calendar and approved updated pre-school fees.

"Historical changes have occurred over the past five years in our schools," Gulley said. "Consolidation is complete. Our fiscal position is strong. Our schools are safer. Wages have improved. Community partnerships are active.

New programs and services are being added or considered to serve kids. Now is the time to set new goals for the future."

He explained that a survey was sent to all Jay Schools employees and nearly 100 community leaders. That survey had just one, open-ended question:

"What ideas, programs, priorities or areas of exploration would you like

us to consider for new goals for Jay School Corporation?"

The survey system — a "thought exchange" — being used gives those participating the opportunity to offer their ideas and explanations for them. Those ideas are then visible to all others who are participating, and can be rated on a scale of one to five.

Gulley said as of the

meeting 57 community members had provided 42 ideas and there had been 817 ratings. The survey remains open until Wednesday.

"This tool I think is good to ensure that all voices have an equal chance to be heard," he said. "This process will provide a practical basis for future work sessions for the school board."

See Goals page 2

Deaths

Nancy Bourne, 74, Attica
Jordan Smith, 35, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 61 degrees Monday. The low was 37.

Tonight's low will be 41. Expect sunny skies Wednesday with the high climbing into the upper 60s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Junior-Senior High School will hold parent-teacher conferences from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday in the school commons.

Coming up

Wednesday — Show choirs, winter guard advance in competitions.

Friday — Coverage of Thursday's Redkey Town Council meeting.



Celebrate March holidays with a jig

By DIANA DOLECKI

Special to The Commercial Review

Beware of the Ides of March, also known as March 15. Most years the Ides of March is nothing but a date on a calendar and an excuse to warn people to beware. Exactly what they are to beware of is not stated.

I first heard of the Ides of March in a long ago English class. We were reading a play about Julius Caesar by that hard-to-read guy named Shakespeare. I know there are people out there who think Shakespeare is the ultimate author. I don't happen to be one of them.

As usual, there are

As I See It



plenty of things to beware of. War overseas, the loss of innocence and empathy in our own country, new diseases that seem to come out of nowhere, empty grocery shelves, gas prices that bounce around like a toddler with a sugar high — the list is endless. It seems like the whole world is mad about something.

When I am discouraged I look out the window and

see a pair of doves on a bare branch. They are huddled together. I assume they are discussing whether or not to build their nest in an adjacent tree like they have done for several years. A loud blue jay who apparently wanted to be friends landed on the same branch a few inches away. The doves chased him off and resumed their discussion. Later that day I saw the doves carrying twigs to the spruce tree, so I guess they made up their minds.

Watching the wildlife in the backyard reminds me that Mother Nature doesn't care about empty gro-

cery shelves or high-priced gas. She does care about all the pollution we create and does her best to clean up after us. It is not enough.

Two days after the perilous Ides is a holiday dedicated to leprechauns, rainbows and everything Irish. Supposedly green beer was invented in our country, not Ireland, but that doesn't bother anyone. Personally, I don't like beer so I don't care what color it is.

St. Patrick's Day often features corned beef sandwiches, green T-shirts with festive messages and, if you are really lucky, the memory of your parents dancing

their version of an Irish jig in the kitchen.

Baseball season has begun in Texas. There was a small parade to kick off the season. The kids rode on a flatbed trailer. They all had green T-shirts emblazoned with their team name, Pickles. Yeah, their team name is Pickles. At least it shouldn't offend anyone.

They all wore neon green mustaches. Grandson Jacob had on an oversized leprechaun hat and in one picture he wore a neon green tutu over his baseball uniform. I suppose that a pitcher wearing a green tutu was a message to any opposing team that there was a boy

secure enough to wear a tutu and they should beware of him.

The day after St. Patrick's Day is Jacob's birthday. He will be 13. How can that be? Yesterday he was just a little boy. Now he is a teenager. That can't be right. It wasn't that long ago that we were hiding from monsters that lurked outside of an oversized cardboard box. Time goes so fast anymore.

Maybe that is what we should beware of, not the monsters. Life seems to speed up with every passing year. We need to take the time to do what is important, like dancing in the kitchen.

Differing political views lead to silence

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I share a common driveway with our neighbors. These neighbors are keenly aware that my wife and I do not share their political views. After the election, one of them quit speaking to us or even acknowledging our presence.

After a few months, I approached him in the shared driveway and said "Bob, it is obvious you are not speaking to me. If I have offended you, let me know and I will do my best to apologize." His response was, "I'll think about it." That was the last I heard for a while, but he still shunned me.

A few months later, he rang my doorbell and asked us to accept his apology, saying, "Only God can judge." I knew what he meant. Life is short, the neighborhood is small and neighbors need each other, so my wife and I accepted his "apology."

Now, months later, he is back to not acknowledging our existence. I see him several times a

Dear Abby



they are calmly discussed. Individuals who are not mature enough to discuss their differences are really not worth your time, so ignore what he's doing and go on with your life.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 54-year-old man, blessed with a good life, family, friends and a good job for 35 years. I was married for six years. The first four of them were very good. We were blessed with a sweet, beautiful daughter. Her mother and I have been divorced for more than 20 years now.

I'm a decent-looking guy. I'm kind, honest and fun, and I have good morals and a sense of humor. I have dated many women since the divorce, but most of those relationships were all about sex. I'm not complaining, but I'd like to find that one woman with whom I could share everything — travel, dinner, ballgames, concerts, etc. The few

of those I've encountered over the last 20 years have ended up getting married to someone else. Abby, can you help? I feel ... — CURSED IN ARKANSAS

DEAR CURSED: If I read your letter correctly, you have been jumping into bed with women before you find out what they are all about. Your chances of finding someone to share the rest of your life with might improve if you make the effort to form friendships first. Although you may not find someone who enjoys all of the activities you mentioned on your wish list, you might forge rewarding friendships along the way and enjoy some of them together.

DEAR ABBY: I am on hydrocodone for my back pain, and my wife keeps taking my medication because she says her back hurts. I have threatened to leave her, turn her in to the

police and tell our children. She quits stealing the meds for a while and then starts up again. What can I do? Should I turn her in to the police or what? — IN PAIN IN INDIANA

DEAR IN PAIN: Do not turn your wife in to the police. Take control of your medications and keep them somewhere she can't pilfer them until you no longer need them. Inform your doctor that your wife has been stealing your pain meds and appears to have developed an addiction. If she hasn't already, she should have a doctor diagnose and treat her back pain separately from yours.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeane 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.

Dunkirk library is open

Dunkirk Public Library is back to its regular hours.

The library at 127 W. Washington St. is open Mondays through Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.,

Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Free crafting for kids as well as adult color books are available through Thursday this week in celebration of St.

Patrick's Day. Visitors are welcome to partake of the free coffee bar as well as adult and children crafting "grab-and-go" bags. Adults may also sign up for the book-of-the-month club.

Community Calendar

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

Today
ALZHEIMER'S CARE-GIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 5:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at Jay County Public Library community room. For more information, call Deb Tipton at (260) 729-2806 or Elasha Lennartz at (765) 729-4567.

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.

FRIENDS OF JAY COUNTY LIBRARY — Will meet at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the library.

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.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

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 - 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, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

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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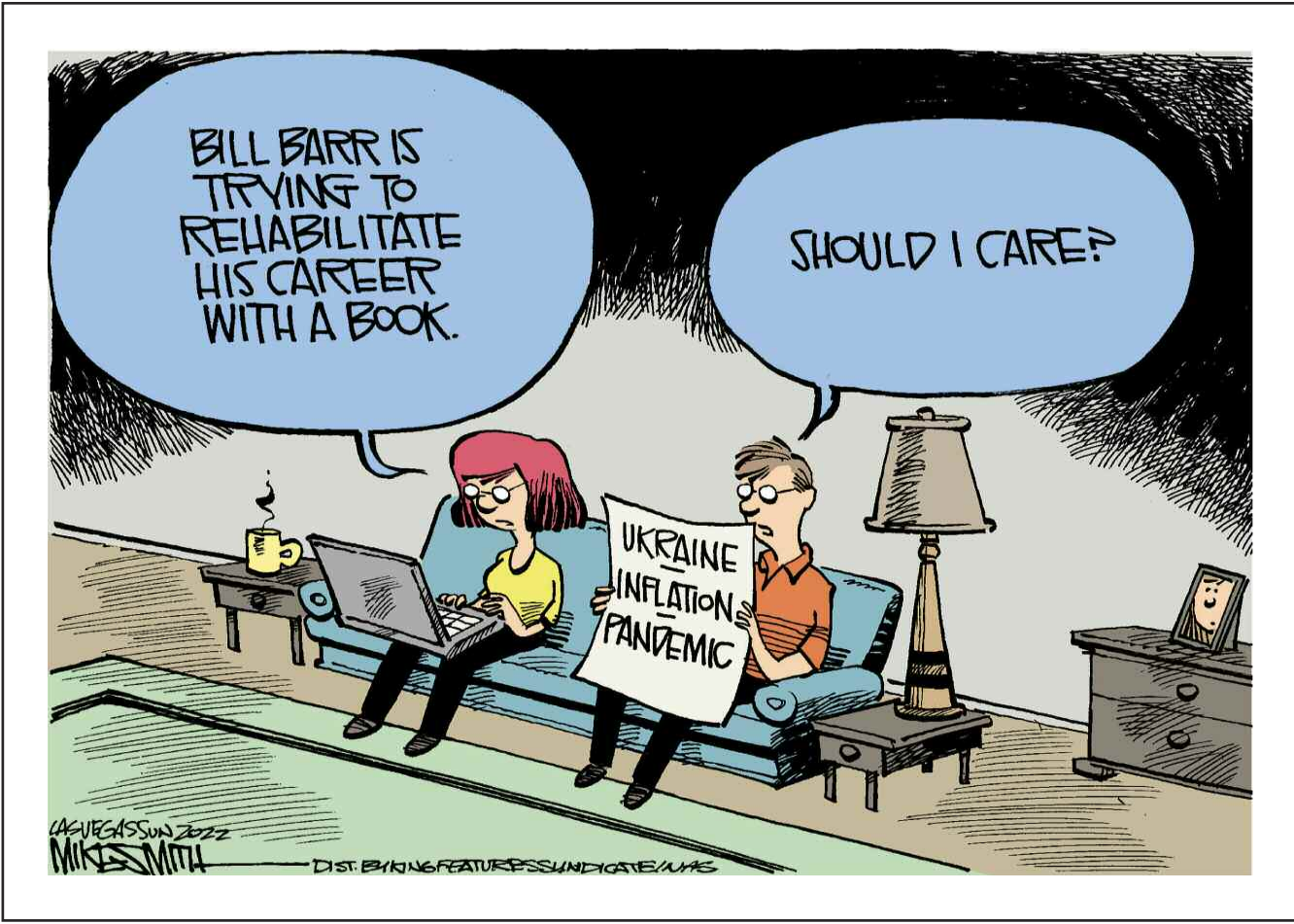
Equal Opportunity Employer

County should lower tax rate

To the editor:
An article in The Commercial Review on Tuesday, March 10, headlined "We Need to Plan" discusses how Jay County will be receiving millions of dollars in the next several years and how the county needs to plan how the money should be spent. That includes money from The American Rescue Plan, the Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program, wind farm dollars and payments from three solar farms reaching into the millions.
Only 16 Indiana counties out of 92 have higher income tax rates than Jay County.
The highest tax rate in the state is .02864 (Jasper County) and the lowest is .005 (Porter County).

Letters to the Editor

Jay County's tax rate is .0245. Seventy-five counties have lower tax rates.
Here's a thought. How about Jay County lowering its tax rate?
Indiana legislators just voted to lower tax rates for the state, so why can't we? It seems like the logical thing to do.
With all of this money coming in, a lower tax rate would be a welcome relief for Jay County taxpayers.
Carol Johnston
Portland



Monarchies are hedging bets

By CINZIA BIANCO
Special To The Washington Post

When the United Arab Emirates abstained from the Feb. 25 U.N. Security Council vote to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine, there was much consternation, as many observers expected the United States' partners in the Middle East to unequivocally side with Washington and Europe.
Why did one of the United States' closest partners in the Middle East decline to vote against Russia? The UAE was probably hedging its bets, a path that seems popular elsewhere in the region, too.

Hedging to the extreme
Russia is not a strategic partner for the Persian Gulf monarchies. Given its production capabilities, Russia has become an important interlocutor for Saudi Arabia in the OPEC-plus oil bloc that controls close to 40 percent of global production, but Moscow also competes with gulf countries as an energy producer.

Russia has forged strategic partnerships or military cooperation agreements with Saudi Arabia and the UAE — but its capabilities remain incomparable to those of the United States. Russia's regional trade and investment volumes are dwarfed by those involving the United States and, especially, Europe. Despite recent attempts to take the nuclear deal with Iran hostage as leverage against Western sanctions, Russia has for years resisted Saudi and Emirati inputs to contain Iran geopolitically.

The gulf monarchies' ambiguity over Ukraine is more about their relations with the United States than their interests in Russia. As other global and regional powers seek to fill the vacuum left by American retrenching from the region, extreme hedging has become appealing. If two global powers are in conflict — in this case, the United States and Russia — aligning with neither of them, or with the third global power, China, may seem wise.

This idea is based on the assumption that multipolarity will open space for regional powers to maneuver and hedge, forgoing the costs of strategic alignment for the benefits of tactical, interests-driven and context-specific posturing. The invasion of Ukraine is providing a trial run for this strategy. It may also prove to regional leaders that this hypothetical hedging space is as narrow and as uncomfortable as it gets.

Cinzia Bianco



The UAE sat on the fence at the U.N.

The decision to abstain from voting on the U.S.-sponsored Security Council resolution condemning the Russian invasion brought the UAE's hedging strategy into sharp relief.

The resolution had 80 co-sponsors, highlighting the international consensus against Russia. The UAE claimed the resolution was doomed to fail in any event, given the Russian veto in the Security Council. And the UAE made an unconvincing statement about preserving neutrality to "support efforts towards a peaceful resolution."

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield declared that abstaining was akin to supporting Russia, but the UAE was also supporting China's position by abstaining, rather than taking a stance for Russia.

The Emiratis were no doubt pleased that Russia did not veto a Feb. 28 U.N. resolution renewing an arms embargo against Yemen's Houthi rebels, who recently began aiming attacks directly toward the UAE. But this resolution, while important, is not a game-changer for the Yemen war or Abu Dhabi's security from Houthi attacks.

On the same day, the UAE's minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan, was scheduled to meet his counterpart Sergei Lavrov in Moscow — but canceled.

Pressed by the United States to pump more oil in order to help drive down skyrocketing energy prices — a consequence of the Russian invasion — the Emirati ambassador to Washington, Yousef al-Otaiba, hinted that Abu Dhabi would be available to do so, only to be contradicted by Energy Minister Suhail al-Mazrouei shortly afterward.

This strategic ambiguity is the essence of the new hedging course, and it is clearer than ever in the energy geopolitics of the crisis.

Oiling the crisis
Alongside the UAE, Saudi Arabia is even more prominently involved in the oil dimension of the crisis, as Russia's ability

to finance military operations relies heavily on export revenue.

The energy market outlook appears dire. Before the Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine, oil and gas prices were rising, as demand from post-covid economies grew faster than available supply — and producers remained cautious about returning too quickly to pre-pandemic output levels. A U.S. ban on Russian oil and potential disruptions to Moscow's export capabilities pushed prices even higher, to around \$130 a barrel last week.

Higher prices are welcome news for Saudi Arabia after the all-time lows in 2020 — but far less welcome for Saudi Arabia's Western partners.

Thus far, Saudi Arabia has resisted strong calls by Washington and Paris to increase output to help push oil prices down. Saudi claims that they don't want to politicize oil or disrupt OPEC-plus cooperation are, at best, a sign of myopia over the depth of the Ukraine crisis and the inevitability of its implications.

Western leaders also remember that in March 2020, Saudi Arabia crushed Russia in an oil price war, even directly targeting Russia's market shares in Eastern Europe. Having this kind of capability means Saudi Arabia cannot escape pressures to take a stance.

Saudi Arabia may believe this is a good opportunity to show its support should not be taken for granted, when it sees the United States less interested in preserving the partnership. But this could trigger a new push for further decoupling between Washington and Riyadh.

Can gulf monarchies continue to hedge their bets?

The gulf monarchies so far failed to see that the Russian invasion of Ukraine is not a regional European war, but an event of global significance. In their first attempt at navigating a multipolar world order, they claimed they shouldn't be forced to take sides and chose extreme hedging. Hedging might be a way to thrive in a multipolar world, but it is also a risky, delicate approach. In the face of Russia's violent attempts to redraw the international rules-based order, hedging may have already reached its limits.

.....
Bianco is the Gulf Research Fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations and a non-resident scholar at the Middle East Institute.

It was just like old times

By RYAN TRARES
Daily Journal of Johnson County

After more than 20 years, it was like nothing had changed. Fifteen 40-ish-year-old guys stood out in the sun, catching up, teasing each other and laughing until it hurt. We all had a little less hair and a few more pounds on us. But the friendship remained strong.

I have maintained friendships with a fairly stable group of guys from high school, people who I played baseball with, who were on the school newspaper with me and who were in the same classes as me.

Many of us all went to the same college together after graduation. Along the way, we added more friends to our core group.

The result has been friendships that have survived despite life changes, distance and time.

For years, we've all picked a time to gather for a "guy's weekend." Usually, we would find a house to rent within driving distance for everyone living in Indiana, Ohio and Michigan. Some would fly in from Atlanta or Dallas to take part.

Those weekends followed a time-tested script. There is lots of savory, unhealthy food, from pounds of pulled pork and brisket to thick slabs of steak. We sit around and play video games, creating an elaborate tournament while lobbing insults and quips like we were still in the dorms.

A beer or two may get consumed.

The tradition had gone on uninterrupted for a decade. But like so much, the pandemic prevented the group from getting together. Over that time, we lost a close friend, someone I had known since high school and who had been a regular at our annual weekends.

So when the emails started flying earlier this year about bringing the weekend back, there was a flurry of excitement.

Almost all of us are married, and most of us have children ranging in age from teenagers to just a few months old. The opportunity to act a bit juvenile is fleeting, and nearly everyone in our group committed right away.

Ryan Trares



... when the emails started flying earlier this year about bringing the weekend back, there was a flurry of excitement.

And despite the eye-rolling teasing from my wife, and the pleas from Anthony to come along, I set off last weekend for the first weekend with my friends in more than two years.

The barbs were just as jagged as they'd always been. No one missed an opportunity to bring up embarrassing stories from school, each one causing the room to erupt in laughter. We raised a glass to our friend who could no longer join us.

And while I hated to be away from my family, it gave Anthony and my wife some one-on-one bonding time. They took advantage of the springlike weather to go to the Indianapolis Zoo, had a mother-son dinner date and watched movies on the couch. They got to make their own memories together.

By the time Sunday morning rolled around, I was tired and ready for home. The drive was a slog, and arriving back in Indiana was a relief. Anthony regaled me with everything he had done while I was away, and begged me to show him the video games we had played.

I was exhausted and ecstatic to be home. But I'm already counting down until our friends' next weekend together.

Just give me a year to recover.

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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Felony arrests

Domestic battery

A Portland woman was arrested Sunday for domestic battery.

Cassandra R. Miller, 30, 692 Katelynn Drive, Portland, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony.

She was released from Jay County Jail on a \$3,000 bond.

Bond violation

A Portland woman was arrested Monday for violating her bond.

Brooke A. Bennett, 21, 812 E. Walnut St., has two original Level 6 felony charges for maintaining a common nuisance and unlawful possession of a narcotic drug.

Bennett is being held without bond in Jay County Jail.

Battery

A Portland woman was arrested Monday for battery.

Bobbi L. Watson, 29, 607 E. Race St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony.

She's being held in Jay County Jail on a \$3,000 bond.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Fiber festival

Bobbie Aspacher of Pemberville, Ohio, laughs along with Linda Daniel, a native of Fort Recovery, Ohio, during the Jay County Fiber Arts Festival on Saturday. Residents from Indiana and Ohio gathered at Jay Community Center over the weekend to sell a variety of crafts and fiber goods.

Site ...

Continued from page 1

The organization has not yet sought other grants. It will be resubmitting a grant application to The Portland Foundation soon.

Julie Forcum, co-chair of the fundraising campaign, noted they're asking those who have committed funds toward the project to complete their donations. She also asked those in the public who have not to consider donating.

"I do not want to start this until we know we have that money in the bank," Forcum said.

Commissioners agreed to give the organization half of its previously allocated funds in order to purchase the new building.

Jay County Sheriff Dwane Ford — he arrived at the meeting after humane society representatives had left — noted his department and Portland Police have had issues with the humane society picking up animals, specifically aggressive dogs. He suggested all three entities along with commissioners set up a special meeting to figure out a solution.

Bridge replacements planned for county roads 350 West and 1110 West

Also Monday, commissioners learned the county has received two federal grants totaling just under \$4 million to help pay for the bulk of two bridge replacements in 2027.

The replacements include a bridge on county road 350 West, just under a mile north of Indiana 26, and a bridge on county road 1100 West, south of Indiana 26. Grant funding will cover the majority of expected costs, leaving the county to pay for about \$899,400.

Corn also noted the department's salt storage building is collapsing.

He plans to bring quotes to fix the structure to the next meeting.

In other business, commis-

sioners Rex Journay, Chad Aker and McGalliard:

•Agreed to give \$50,000 in previously allocated monies to Pennville, Bryant and Salamina for community projects. Bryant is developing a new park. Pennville will use the money to pave the alley leading from Indiana 1 to Pennville Library's parking lot, repair the concrete floor at Pennville Fire Department and replace and install panic hardware on the door to the chlorine room at the water treatment facility. Salamina plans to make repairs to its Schoolhouse Community Center and Park.

•Heard from Dunkirk Mayor Jack Robbins, who explained there was a problem with the generator at the Dunkirk

Emergency Medical Service and Dunkirk Fire Department building. McGalliard requested Robbins return next meeting with multiple quotes to fix the issue. Commissioners also agreed they are not interested in investing into solar panels for the facility at this time.

•Hired Melissa Blankley as full-time director of Jay County Country Living starting March 27. Blankley is currently serving as part-time director.

•Agreed to pay a change order of \$14,410 to purchase boilers operating at 2 million BTU for Jay County Sheriff's Office. Commissioners previously purchased boilers operating at 1.5 million BTU. McGalliard shared concerns Feb. 28 about the equipment not being

able to handle the facility's needs.

•OK'd a request from Kathy Lawrence of Jayland Partners to use Jay County Courthouse for special needs prom photos from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. May 21.

•Accepted a \$6,498.96 bid for a lawn mower from Hull Brothers of Fort Recovery, Ohio. (Although it was about \$21 more than the lowest bid, the company has the mowers in stock, whereas shipping with Raffels Engine Service of Coldwater was expected to take anywhere from 60 to 180 days.)

•Heard from McGalliard that Jay County Country Living is looking for furniture donations, including couches, chairs, recliners, twin beds and bed sheets, and light beige and light gray paint. The facility is also in need of volunteers to help with renovations.

•Learned from Ford he will likely be budgeting for the construction of a metal canopy over vehicles at the sheriff's department next year. Ford's second term in office will be finished in December.

•Signed the titles of two new highway department dump trucks.

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Garbage ...

Continued from page 1
 •Additional Toters may be obtained from the street department at a fee of \$5.50 per month.
 •Toters should be placed within 5 feet of the street/alley. They are to be placed no earlier than 6 p.m. the day before collection and no later than 6 a.m. the day of collection.
 Council members Kent McClung, Janet Powers, Don Gillespie, Michele Brewster, Matt Goldsworthy, Mike Aker and Dave Golden voted to approve the new ordinance.
 They also approved the payment of \$236,429.50 to Best Equipment for the purchase of the Toters.
 Council members also had some discussion about the process of purchasing the Toters and proposing the ordinance updates. They

Restrictive covenants lifted on lot being considered for Wendy's

expressed concern that they were not approached about the changes before Portland Board of Works purchased the Toters in January. They indicated that they felt the process could have moved along more smoothly had city council been brought into conversations earlier.
 Also Monday, council approved releasing "restrictive covenants" on the former Ken Kunkle Chevro-

let lot — it was previously the site of a scrap yard — at 514 N. Meridian St., Portland.
 Portland Mayor John Boggs explained Monday that the restrictive covenants, which limit how the property can be used, were put in place by then-mayor Maxine Lewis in 1998. At that time, an environmental study was not completed, he said.
 He added that Kunkle has since

had a Limited Phase II Environmental Site Assessment done. It showed that restrictive covenants are not necessary. Boggs added that the assessment was accepted by Indiana Department of Environmental Management.
 The mayor explained further that the lifting of the restrictive covenants is needed to allow Kunkle to pursue the sale of the property to a firm that is considering constructing a Wendy's restaurant in the city.
 The covenants were lifted on a 5-2 vote, with McClung, Brewster, Goldsworthy, Aker and Golden in favor, and Powers and Gillespie against. Powers said she was not comfortable voting to lift the covenants without seeing the paperwork regarding the environmental assessments.

Bills show \$2,300 charge for trip

By TOM DAVIES
 Associated Press
 INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita's office spent at least \$2,300 for his trip to the U.S.-Mexican border in January that included a stop at a Donald Trump rally along the way, state records show.
 The costs include flight, gas, rental car and hotel expenses for Rokita and two staffers for the trip during which Rokita joined several other Republican state attorneys general for a "border security briefing" with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott.
 That trip included Rokita among participants interviewed by a Fox Business program host. He then traveled north for Trump's Jan. 29 rally near Houston, during which the former president mentioned Rokita as "another man who has done a fantastic job."
 Rokita's trip included briefings with law enforcement and visits to the border wall and crossing sites along the Rio Grande, attorney general office's spokeswoman Molly Craft said.
 "Attorney General Rokita will continue to look for opportunities to expose the lawlessness at the border," Craft said.
 Rokita's office said in early February that the state was paying trip expenses, but no details were provided until the release of documentation late Friday in response to open records requests filed by The Associated Press and other news outlets.

Rules ...

Continued from page 1
 Council also heard an update from Mayor Jack Robbins regarding proposals from All Circuit Electrical for the Dunkirk Fire Department and Jay Emergency Medical Service facility the city shares with the county. Ryan Hurt of All Circuit, which had installed a temporary generator after there was a problem with the permanent generator's engine, had provided quotes for both a new generator for the facility and to install solar panels to

help provide electricity to the facility.
 Robbins said he met with Jay County Commissioners earlier Monday and they are not interested in installing solar panels at this time.
 He added that they asked that multiple quotes be obtained for the new generator. Robbins and commissioner Chad Aker are working on getting additional quotes for the equipment and plan to revisit the issue at the March 28 commissioners meeting.

Council also gave Robbins authority to hire part-time police officers on an as-needed basis. The department has been short-staffed following a police-involved shooting March 3 that resulted in the death of Kevin P. Zimmerman, 36, Dunkirk. Following that incident, Mumbower and police officer Erica Post are on administrative leave until an Indiana State Police investigation is complete.
 In other business, council:
 •Heard a presentation

from Dunkirk resident Kris Courtney, who moved to the city last fall. An artist, author and filmmaker, he expressed an interest in working with the city on forming a co-op for local artists.
 •Was reminded by Bivens that Robbins' State of the City address is scheduled for 6 p.m. March 22 at West Jay Community Center.
 •Approved the fire department holding a boot drive April 22.
 •Donated \$300 to Dunkirk Park Celebra-

tion Committee for its Spring Festival and Easter Egg Hunt from noon to 4 p.m. April 9. Council also approved the committee to hold a festival and fireworks on July 2.
 •Heard Bivens ask about who is in charge of maintaining the Little Free Library and food pantry in the downtown green space adjacent to the mural. He said he just wants to make sure the area is kept looking nice.
 •Approved a water bill payment plan for Harold Nichols.

Capsule Reports

Continued from page 2
 She refused any further treatment. Her vehicle was towed, causing between \$5,000 and \$10,000 in estimated damage.
 Courtney S. Taylor, 28, Portland, was driving west on county road 800 South near the intersection with county road 1150 West about 8 a.m. Friday when a deer ran in front of her 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan. She wasn't able to avoid hitting the animal, caus-

ing between \$2,500 and \$5,000 in estimated damage.
 Owen G. Apple, 17, Hartford City, was driving east on Indiana 26 near the intersection with county road 600 West about 9:10 p.m. Friday when the 2012 Buick Enclave he was driving crashed into a deer. The vehicle was towed, with damage estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.
 Abigail N. Jutte, 26, Fort Recovery, Ohio, was driving south on

the Indiana-Ohio state line road near the intersection of county road 600 South about 7:10 a.m. Monday when a deer ran into her 2017 Dodge Durango, striking the front driver's side. Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.
Struck pole
 Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000 after a Warsaw woman drove off county road 200

South and into a utility pole about 4:05 p.m. Sunday.
 Mindy S. Ditton, 45, was driving a 2013 Lincoln MKZ west on the road just east of county road 600 West when she dropped her cellphone, which she was using for its GPS. She leaned over to grab the device, causing her to drive off the road and into a pole.
 The vehicle Ditton was driving is registered to Lella M. Holbrook of Warsaw, and it was towed.

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FIRST FOUR			
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ELITE 8	MARCH 28 & 29		
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ELITE 8

SWEET 16

SECOND ROUND

FIRST ROUND



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Sports

Wehrly leads a record day for Patriots

ANDERSON — It was a record-setting day for the Patriots.

Natalie Wehrly set a pair of school records and three other athletes each broke one as the Jay County High School track teams competed at the indoor Golden Eagle Invitational hosted by Oak Hill at Anderson University.

The bulk of the new Patriot records came in the sprints, with Wehrly winning the 400-meter dash for a new school indoor record with her time of 1 minute, 7.49 seconds. She was also the runner-up in the 60 dash in 8.2 seconds for another school record.

JCHS senior Shea Bailey added a record time of 28.34 while winning the 200 dash. Lindy Wood, also a senior, set the other indoor record for the Patriot girls as she placed second in the 800 run in 2:48.68.

Isaac Kunkler was the record setter for the Jay County boys. He posted a time of 9.34 in the 60 hurdles.

Brayden Collins added a first-place finish for the boys team in the 800 run with a career-best time of 2:23.12.

Patriots led the way in the girls shot put, with Kylie Klopfenstein winning at 35 feet, 3 inches.

See Record page 8



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Lincoln Clamme of the Jay County Junior High School swim team competes in the breaststroke leg of the 200-yard medley relay during Friday's Allen County Athletic Conference Championships. On Monday, Clamme was one of 11 swimmers to win an event for the Patriots as they closed their season with a couple of victories over the host Blackford Bruins.

Tankers close with wins

HARTFORD CITY — After finishing in second place in the conference Friday, the Patriot closed their season with a double win.

Jay County Junior High School's swim teams, which both placed second behind Bluffton in the Allen County Athletic Conference Championships, returned to the water for their season finales Monday and both scored victories over the Blackford Bruins.

The Patriot boys nearly doubled up on Blackford with a 113-57 victory. The girls team won, 100-78.

Jay County spread the wealth Monday, with 11 swimmers picking up at least one individual victory. Three members of the boys team — Matthew Fisher, Rockland Beiswanger and Raif Beiswanger — each had two individual wins, with Matthew Fisher starting the dominant run with a 17-second victory in the 200-yard freestyle in 2 minutes, 29.03 seconds. He held off teammate Cooper Glentzer for his second win, posting a time of 1:19 even in the 100 backstroke.

Raif Beiswanger's victories

came with times of 1:13.44 in the 100 individual medley and 5:18.94 in the 400 freestyle. Rockland Beiswanger reached the wall in 30.73 to win the 50 freestyle, and he added a winning time of 1:08.38 in the 100 freestyle.

Sophia Hoevel and Lauren Fisher were the double winners for the girls team. Hoevel, who won two ACAC titles Friday, took the top spot in the 50 butterfly in 37.05 and the 400 freestyle in 5:23.85. Fisher's victories came as she posted times of 1:122.13 in

the 100 backstroke and 1:04.51 in the 100 freestyle.

Adding first-place finishes for the boys team were Lincoln Clamme in the 100 breaststroke in 1:27.68 and Brasen Glassford in diving with 74.75 points.

Other individual victories for the girls team came from Maisey Kellyer with a time of 1:24.2 in the 100 individual medley, Avery Wentz with a time of 32.73 in the 50 freestyle, Kaitlyn Fisher in 2:51.15 in the 200 freestyle and Mikalah Shawver in 1:36.53 in the 100 breaststroke.

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