

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Jay looks to flip script

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

Jay County is trying to flip the script on some of its biggest challenges again.

The county participated recently in Indiana Bond Bank's Flipping Finance Challenge, an event designed to connect local government units with innovators from across the state in order to develop potential solutions to community challenges.

"This is a good thing for Jay County ... We can take our challenges ... and get a completely outside look at our problems and help us find new potential solutions, things we might have overlooked or not even really considered," said Jay County Development Corporation executive director Travis Richards, who headed up the Jay County team. (The county also participated in the 2020 Flipping Finance Challenge, which was held just a couple of weeks before coronavirus shut-downs began.) "But ... perhaps even better is the relationships and partnerships that we can form in all corners of the state from this experience."

This year's version of the event, themed "Civic Super Heroes," was designed as a "two-week design sprint." Jay County, the City of Jasper and the Town of Winfield presented their challenges during an in-person event April 9 at Indianapolis Arts Center, innovators worked on solutions April 10 through 15 and communities reviewed those solutions and participated in virtual workshops April 16 through 22.

See Flip page 2



Photo provided

## Recovery candidates

Fort Recovery High School will hold its prom, themed "Lost at Sea," beginning with promenade at 6 p.m. Friday at Fort Site Fieldhouse. Pictured, front row from left, are queen candidates Kaelin Overman, Whitley Rammel, Lilie Leuthold, Aubrey Knapke, Grace Guggenbiller and Jalyn Bruns. Back row are Owen Wenning, Isaac Knapke, Korbin Dues, Riley Hiser, Logan Homan and Owen Jutte.

## Gary schools near end of 'distress'

By ANNIE MATTEA  
The Times (Munster)  
Tribune News Service

MGT Consulting will manage the Gary Community School Corp. for a final two years, leading to the district exiting distressed unit status, according to a plan discussed Tuesday by the Distressed Unit Appeal Board.

"We are at the beginning of the end," DUAB Chairman Justin McAdam said.

The board will host a meeting next month in Gary during which MGT will present plans for the next two years and give residents an opportunity to discuss what they would like to see from them.

"We are at this position because of the progress students, families, staff and administrators have

### Corporation has been under outside management since 2017

made together in recent years. We have eliminated the school district's \$22 million deficit, invested in modernizing our school buildings, increased teachers' salaries, and extended the school day. This work is paying off," emergency manager Paige McNulty wrote in an email to parents and guardians.

GCSC was originally taken over in 2017 following severe financial

issues in the district. It was an unprecedented effort by the state to help save the schools.

Senate Bill 567 designated Gary as a distressed political subdivision, allowing DUAB to govern the schools. The district has been led by an emergency manager since the state takeover.

The school corporation will no longer be considered a distressed

political subdivision if it maintains financial solvency for the two-year period. It also must have a fiscal plan to maintain financial solvency for the next five years, meet all other conditions defined by DUAB and have the board determine that it is financially stable.

GCSC regained local control of its special education services in September after nearly a decade of oversight from the Indiana Department of Education.

The district saw higher enrollment in the 2020-21 academic year, bringing the total number of students to 4,445 as of February 2021. For the 10 years prior to state control, GCSC lost 699 students a year, on average.

## Offensive is moving

By INNA VARENYTSIA  
and DAVID KEYTON  
Associated Press

IRPIN, Ukraine — Russia's offensive in eastern Ukraine gathered momentum Thursday as the United Nations' chief surveyed the destruction in towns outside Kyiv that experienced some of the worst horrors of the first onslaught of the war.

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres condemned the atrocities visited on towns like Bucha where evidence of mass killings of civilians was found after Russia's retreated from the area in the face of stiffer than expected Ukrainian resistance.

Forced to regroup after failing to take the capital, Russia switched its focus to the vital eastern industrial heartland, where fighting is now picking up pace. Ukraine's military said several areas in the Donbas have come under intense fire in the past day, and satellite images showed new damage from bombardments on the last known pocket of Ukrainian resistance in Mariupol.

Ukrainian authorities warned that civilians who remain in the southeastern port city face dangerously unsanitary conditions, with water and sewer systems not working and bodies decomposing under rubble.

### Ukraine says Russian assault is gathering momentum

"Wherever there is a war, the highest price is paid by civilians," said Guterres as he visited the bombed out Kyiv suburb of Irpin.

He sought to drive home the devastation, saying he imagined his own family having to flee from bombs falling on their home, and he reiterated how important it was that the war crimes alleged in Bucha and elsewhere be investigated.

"But when we talk about war crimes, we cannot forget that the worst of crime is war itself," he added.

The revelation of mass killings around Kyiv helped to galvanize support for Ukraine in the West, which has slapped sanctions on Russia and sent arms to Ukraine. Bulgarian Prime Minister Kiril Petkov vowed his country would

join others in providing military assistance as he toured another scene of atrocities outside Kyiv, Borodyanka.

"We cannot be indifferent. We cannot say that this is a Ukrainian problem, we cannot say some people are dying but we are not interested in that," he said.

Bulgaria, under a new liberal government that took office last fall, has cut many of its old ties to Moscow and supported punitive measures against the Kremlin. It has also hosted Western fighter jets at a new NATO outpost on Bulgaria's Black Sea coast.

The visit by the Bulgarian leader comes a day after Russia suddenly cut off natural gas to his country and fellow NATO member Poland, in what was seen as a bid to punish and divide the West over its support for Ukraine ahead of the potentially pivotal battle in the eastern industrial region of the Donbas.

As Russia presses that offensive, civilians again bear the brunt.

"It's not just scary. It's when your stomach contracts from pain," Tatiana Pirogova, a resident of the northeastern city of Kharkiv, said. "When they shoot during the day, it's still OK, but when the evening comes, I can't describe how scary it is."



cleveland.com/John Kuntz

## Earth Day Alliance

The Alliance for the Great Lakes Adopt-a-Beach event Sunday at Wendy Park in Cleveland saw over 75 volunteers to help pick up litter along the shore of Lake Erie. The start of the beach clean-up season coincides with Earth Day weekend.

### Deaths

David Lothridge Sr., 66, Bellevue, Nebraska  
Nancy Hill, 71, Berne  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 54 degrees Wednesday. The low was 36.

Tonight's low will be in the 40s with a 20% chance of showers. Friday's high will be in the 60s with rain possible during the day and expected in the evening.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

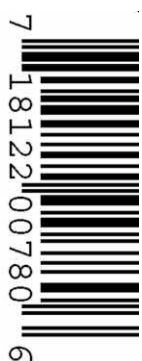
### In review

Jay County has had just two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the last 19 days, according to information from the Indiana State Department of Health. After averaging nearly 30 cases per day in February, the county has been at 0.35 per day since March 1. It is rated low risk for the spread of coronavirus, according to the CDC.

### Coming up

Friday — A new axe hall has opened in Redkey.

Tuesday — Coverage of Monday's Portland City Council meeting.



# Obituaries

## David Lothridge Sr.

Dec. 8, 1955-April 27, 2022  
David Lothridge Sr., age 66, a former resident of Portland, passed away Wednesday, April 27, 2022, at Bellevue Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska, after an extended illness.



Lothridge

David was born Dec. 8, 1955, in California, the son of Richard Lothridge Sr. and Margaret Gallets (Price). David worked for Courtyard by Marriott Omaha Bellevue in Nebraska. He was an avid NASCAR fan and an ordained minister.

Survivors include:  
His wife — Diane Lothridge, Bellevue, Nebraska  
Two sons — Tony Lothridge (wife: Patty), Geneva, Indiana, and Brad Lothridge, Geneva, Indiana  
One daughter — Clara

Lothridge, Geneva, Indiana  
Two brothers — Jim Lothridge (wife: Helen), Union City, Indiana, and Steven Lothridge (wife: Pam), Portland, Indiana

Six sisters — Debbie Denney, Portland, Indiana, Peggy Thomas, Muncie, Indiana, Patty Baker (husband: James), Harrodsburg, Kentucky, Tina Twigg (husband: Paul), Portland, Indiana, Maxine Gallets, Portland, Indiana, and Jennifer Gallets, Muncie, Indiana

Stepfather — Harold Gallets, Portland, Indiana  
Nine grandchildren  
One great-grandson

David was preceded in death by his mother, Margaret Gallets; a son, David Lothridge Jr.; and brothers Richard Lothridge Jr. and Russell Lothridge Sr.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on Sunday, May 1, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 2195 S. Boundary Pike in Portland, Indiana.

## Nancy Hill

June 8, 1950-April 27, 2022  
Nancy K. Hill, 71, of Berne, Indiana, passed away on April 27, 2022, at her residence.

She was born on June 8, 1950, in Portland, Indiana, to the late Arnold Hayden and the late Grace (Borum) Hayden. Nancy was united in marriage to David N. Hill on July 26, 1969, in Bryant, Indiana.



Hill

Nancy graduated from Bryant High School in 1968. She was employed as a secretary at EP Graphics for 20 years. Following her employment at EP Graphics, Nancy retired from Moser Motors in Berne in 2016.

She attended the Apostolic Christian Country Church in Bluffton, Indiana.

Besides spending time with her family, Nancy found great

satisfaction in gardening. She enjoyed canning the harvest from her garden to use throughout the year.

Nancy was survived by her husband, David N. Hill of Berne, Indiana; son Charlie (Joanna "Jo") Hill of Berne, Indiana; son Doug (Laura) Hill of Berne, Indiana; brother Pete (Shirley) Hayden of Portland, Indiana; brother Les (Stella) Hayden of Saratoga, Indiana; brother Tom (Quanda) Hayden of Bryant, Indiana; sister Patty Noble (friend: Gary Hatzell) of Redkey, Indiana; sister-in-law June Thompson of Monroe, Indiana; sister-in-law Elaine Crankshaw of Searcy, Arkansas; sister-in-law Patsy (Tom) Ray of Cookeville, Tennessee; brother-in-law Gary (Ronda) Hill of Grantsville, Utah; two grandchildren, Adam Swygart and Aaron "AJ" (Deserae) Swygart; two great-grandchildren, Capri and Ridge Swygart; and numerous nieces and nephews.

her brother and sister-in-law Bob (Pat) Hayden; brother-in-law Dan Thompson; and sister-in-law Goldie Williams.

A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 30, 2022, at the Apostolic Christian Country Church, 1970 S. 800 E., Bluffton, Indiana, with Ron Kipfer and Lynn Fiechter officiating. Burial will follow in Gravel Hill Cemetery, Bryant, Indiana.

Family and friends will be received from 1 to 4 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 29, 2022, at the Zwick & Jahn Funeral Home, Yager-Kirchhofer Chapel, Berne, Indiana, and one hour prior to service at the church.

Preferred memorials can be made to the Apostolic Christian Country Church, Stillwater Hospice or Adams County Community Fund - Cancer.

Arrangements by Zwick & Jahn Funeral Home, Yager-Kirchhofer Chapel, Berne.

For complete obituary information and to sign the online guestbook, visit [zwickjahn.com](http://zwickjahn.com).

## CR almanac

Friday 4/29	Saturday 4/30	Sunday 5/1	Monday 5/2	Tuesday 5/3
<b>63/49</b>	<b>69/58</b>	<b>72/49</b>	<b>69/54</b>	<b>68/48</b>
There's a 30% chance of showers Friday after 2 p.m. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.	Thunderstorms are likely Saturday with a 60% chance of showers. Wind gusts may reach 20 mph.	Sunday's forecast shows a 60% chance of showers and an early thunderstorm.	Another chance of showers in the afternoon. Otherwise, mostly sunny.	More thunderstorms are on the horizon for Tuesday with a 70% chance of rain.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> 11-36-61-62-68 Power Ball: 4 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$20 million	Hoosier Lotto: 16-19-22-29-31-34 Estimated jackpot: \$11 million
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$43 million	<b>Ohio</b> Midday Pick 3: 7-9-6 Pick 4: 4-1-2-5 Pick 5: 0-2-1-7-0 Evening Pick 3: 7-1-1 Pick 4: 3-9-3-6 Pick 5: 9-9-0-6-6 Rolling Cash: 4-8-21-27-38 Classic Lotto: 6-7-36-42-46-48 Kicker: 7-6-8-6-1-9 Estimated jackpot: \$26.5 million
<b>Hoosier</b> Midday Daily Three: 0-1-0 Daily Four: 3-5-7-2 Evening Daily Three: 7-7-3 Daily Four: 5-9-5-5 Quick Draw: 8-16-23-31-34-42-45-47-51-53-55-58-60-61-64-66-70-73-75-80 Cash 5: 7-11-19-21-40	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....8.21 May corn.....8.21 Wheat .....8.95	Wheat ..... 9.99 May wheat ..... 9.99
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....8.18 May corn.....8.18 June corn .....8.24	<b>Central States Montpelier</b> Corn.....8.00 May corn.....8.02 Beans .....16.87 May beans .....16.87 Wheat.....10.23
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn.....8.02 May corn.....8.02 Beans .....16.91 May beans .....16.91	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....8.02 May corn.....8.02 Beans .....16.73 May beans .....16.73 Wheat.....10.47

## Today in history

On April 28, 1994, former CIA official Aldrich Ames, who had passed U.S. secrets to the Soviet Union and then Russia, pleaded guilty to espionage and tax evasion, and was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

In 1788, Maryland became the seventh state to ratify the Constitution of the United States.

In 1945, Italian dictator Benito Mussolini and his mistress, Clara Petacci, were executed by Italian partisans as they attempted to flee the country.

In 1947, a six-man expedition set out from Peru aboard a balsa wood raft named the Kon-Tiki on a 101-day journey across the Pacific Ocean to the Polynesian Islands.

In 1972, Cecil Ballard of Portland died following an accident while on the job at Haynes Milling Company.

—AP and The CR

## Citizen's calendar

<b>Friday</b> 2 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners, executive session, commissioners' room, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	Portland 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
<b>Monday</b> 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.,	<b>Wednesday</b> 2:30 p.m. — Jay County Personnel Committee, commissioners' room, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

## Flip ...

Continued from page 1  
Each community involved ranked submissions and selected their top two, which were then eligible for the inaugural Indiana Treasurer of State Award for Innovation in Public Finance.

Jay County submitted five challenges, which involved providing youth recreation and leadership opportunities, improving the health of residents, creating a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem and making the best use of federal coronavirus relief funds and local economic development funds. Eleven teams of innovators — a record in Flipping Finance's four-year history — worked on solutions for Jay County.

Both of the solutions the Jay County team — it also included Christy Shauver of Jay County Community Development, Portland City Council member Matt Goldsworthy and Reda Theurer-Miller of Portland Main Street Connect and Portland Redevelopment Commission, Jenae Blasdel of Main Street Connect, Doug Loy of JCDC, Aaron Loy of Jay County Fair Board and Mark Leavell of Redkey Festival Committee — selected as its favorites involved creating opportunities for youth.

The team of Kate Wampler, Ashley Martin, Monterius Hartz, Holly Serban and Sam James, all of whom work in the Indiana State Personnel Department, had the top-rated solution for Jay County and went on to win the Indiana Treasurer of State Award for Innovation in Public Finance as selected by state treasurer Kelly Mitchell. They suggested creating Jay County Youth Leadership Council, an effort that would involve community service, activities, involvement with local government units and other organizations, a leadership speaker series and summit, a book series at Jay County Public Library and a mentorship program.

"The creation process was exciting, and it was really rewarding to step back from it and then hear that it was something that somebody else's brain looked at received and thought, 'Hey, that's something we can run with,'" said Wampler. "It was engaging. From the first time that we had a conversation with Jay County, everybody was intent on giving and receiving understanding. ... It was really a very energetic experience to meet a bunch of people that want to do good things in their hometown ... It was very cool to make that connection."

Jay County's other top solution came from Apprentice University student Kendria Pratcher, who focused specifically on how to reduce vaping among the community's youth. She suggested building off of the existing Red Ribbon Week and expanding efforts at the junior high and high school levels with a variety of activities to raise awareness about the risks of vaping.

The Jay County Flipping Finance team plans to continue working with innovators on implementing their suggested solutions locally, including extending them an invitation to visit the community.

## SERVICES

**Friday**  
**Hardy**, Mary: 3 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

**Saturday**  
**Hill**, Nancy: 10 a.m., Apostolic Christian Country Church, 1970 S. 800 East, Bluffton.

**Sunday**  
**Lothridge**, David: 11 a.m., 2195 S. Boundary Pike, Portland.

Service listings provided by  
**PROGRESSIVE OFFICE PRODUCTS**  
120 N. Meridian St.  
Portland, Indiana 47371  
(260) 726-9201  
[progressiveofficeproducts.com](http://progressiveofficeproducts.com)

# Wendelin 2.0

## Food & Spirits

2981 Fort Recovery Minster Rd  
St Henry, OH · 419-375-2751

\* Dine In and Carry Out  
\* Open 7 days a week at 10:30 am  
\* Daily Lunch Specials  
\* Happy Hour Every Day 1pm-4pm  
\* Accepts Reservations  
\* Band/DJ-Karaoke Every Friday and Saturday 10 pm-2am

Birthplace of the  
**Charlie Burger**  
Home of the  
**Pineapple Bowl**

Mention this ad on your next visit. Get **\$2 OFF**  
Alcohol not included

# NEWTON

## FOR SHERIFF

More information at  
Larry "RAY" Newton, Jr. for Sheriff  
on Facebook

(Pd. Pol. Adv.)

Two Sided Quality Mattresses... Affordably Priced!

Mattress Sets starting  
**at \$399**  
Affordably priced everyday!

Making quality mattresses for over 69 years

1815 N Granville Ave, Muncie  
**765-747-8103**  
Open M-F 9:00a-5:30p;  
Saturdays 10:00a-3:00p  
[www.holderbedding.net](http://www.holderbedding.net)

# DONATION DINNER

**Includes:**

- Baked Steak from Fisher's - Prepared by Ike's
- Turkey Scapula
- Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans, Dinner Roll & Butter and Drink (dine-in only)

**At the Bryant Community Center**  
**April 30, 2022**  
**4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

## FREEWILL DONATION

## JAY COUNTY DUST CONTROL PROGRAM

(400 Ft. Minimum)  
Cost. .. \$1.00 per foot

Must come to Jay County Highway Dept. to

- 1) Pick up flags to mark the area
- 2) Specify dust control location & specify footage
- 3) Make payment to the Jay County Highway Dept.

ONE APPLICATION ONLY  
DEADLINE: May 27, 2022  
LAST DAY FOR PAYMENT  
PAYMENT MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE  
Check or Money Orders Only

**Jay County Highway Department**  
1035 E 200N  
PORTLAND, INDIANA 47371

**For More Information,**  
call **726-8701**



# Perhaps coup is already complete

To the editor:  
As I walk the streets of our fair city, I have taken notice of the "Trump" flags on display.

There are the old 2020 versions that extoll "Make America Great Again." The 2024 updated version warns rather ominously (depending, of course, on your perspective) "He'll Be Back," and yet another that admonishes his supporters to, presumably, vote for Donald Trump in order to "Take America Back."

While whom America should be taken back from is completely subjective, I am sure Trump's

## Letters to the Editor

supporters know full well who the whom is. I am equally sure my friend Stephen Erwin would be more than happy to enlighten those of us who have been led astray by the "Left" leaning Supreme Court.

I have contemplated what is

meant and involved in "Taking America Back." Is it the urging by a sore loser former president to his minions, who bought his "Hitleresque" lie about a stolen election that caused them to riot and storm the very seat of our government? Again, perspective.

I have, coincidentally, just finished Jane Mayer's book, "Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right." I will not prejudice anyone's opinion with my own, but simply urge you to read her book. I can

almost promise if you read with an open and receptive mind, you will learn something new. You might even be shocked to learn that America more closely resembles a plutocracy rather than a democratic republic.

Russian president Vladimir Putin's oligarchs have one thing in common with America's oligarchs: they all have insane, and almost unimaginable, wealth and influence.

About six months ago someone posted on social media: "What if the coup has already

happened and we just don't know it?"

As I read Mayer's book, that sentiment, for me, became manifestly possible and scary at the same time.

Former Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis said: "We must make our choice. We may have democracy, or we may have wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we can't have both."

My fear is the choice has already been made for us. We just don't realize it. Yet.

Michael Kinser  
Portland

## On inflation, look in mirror

By MORTON J. MARCUS

The March Consumer Price Index (CPI) convinced many an economic cosmic cataclysm is about to occur. Yes, an 8.5% increase over the same period last year is startling. That's why inflation led off the evening news and dominated newspaper headlines.

Yet, when the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) announced its March CPI figure, it also reported the March 2022 CPI figure exceeded the February 2022 number by 1.3%.

This 1.3%, this short-term number, was the one often headlined in the past. If prices sustained that monthly growth rate, they would be 16.8% higher by the end of 12 months.

Clearly, a 16.8% prospective inflation rate is scarier than an 8.5 retrospective rate. Both rates are technically correct, but many CPI components are highly variable, and the purpose of the Index is to tell us where we have been, not to forecast the future.

Forecasting the CPI is perilous. Consumers and suppliers change behaviors in response to non-economic factors like Ukraine. Often these are short-term changes. Offsetting these transitory variations are the less volatile weights assigned to each of the 300 or so items in the CPI. They are based on the Census Bureau's Consumer Expenditures Survey.

Thus, the CPI has two distinct elements: the prices we face and our expenditures, which become weights applied to those price changes. If the price of pizza goes up, most of us will try to offset that increase by ordering a medium pepperoni instead of that large meat lovers' delight.

These weights reflect well-established patterns. Between 2010 and pre-COVID 2019, the item with the greatest change was medical care which rose from a weight of 6.6% to 8.8% of consumer spending. In sum, during this period, 37% of items in the CPI gained importance while the remaining 63%

### Eye on the Pie



**Prices and purchases are interdependent. You can't just shift full responsibility for inflation casually to people you don't like.**

decline in relative importance.

Issuing the CPI each month is a massive task requiring the collection of price data at a very detailed level.

In May 2021, a pound of sliced bacon for breakfast was \$6.35, up 18.7% from a year earlier. Eggs were selling at 1.62/dozen down 2¢ (-0.9%) from a year ago. Coffee was 2.2% more expensive per pound. The electricity used prepare breakfast cost 14 cents per kilowatt hours, up 4.5%

Not all prices had such moderate changes. What we heard about was the gasoline for your car cost you 58.2% more in 2021 than in 2020, before Ukraine became our concern. Now we have data showing the gasoline increase for March '21 to March '22 was 70.1%. That's called runaway inflation, but remember, it applies to only one, albeit important, item.

You can blame whomever you will for inflation, but you better be looking in the mirror when you do. Prices and purchases are interdependent. You can't just shift full responsibility for inflation casually to people you don't like.

.....  
MARCUS is an economist. Email him at [mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com](mailto:mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com).



## Information literacy is needed

By VICTOR SHI

Chicago Tribune  
Tribune News Service

Fifty years ago, the national networks CBS, ABC and NBC dominated television screens in America and were the primary way voters obtained information: Each network, along with newspapers and radio, told its audience facts first, and all agreed on what the facts were. That meant Americans had a shared understanding of the truth — which is what led to the erosion of both Democratic and Republican public support for then-President Richard Nixon during the Watergate investigation.

But the time of Democrats and Republicans agreeing on facts is no more. In the early 1980s, cable news networks emerged. The late '80s and early '90s brought the internet, and Six Degrees became the first social media platform later in the '90s. With each development, avenues for information grew more abundant. People weren't confined to newspapers and the three news stations for information. Instead, we gained the ability to access information anywhere — and with less and less scrutiny.

As access to information without oversight expanded, misinformation skyrocketed. Readers, viewers and listeners became increasingly vulnerable to believing falsehoods. Consider the aftermath of the 2020 election: Donald Trump took to social media and, with the help of far-right platforms and news networks, at one point persuaded nearly 70% of Republicans to believe that Joe Biden was not duly elected president, a poll by Suffolk University and USA Today found. But there is hope for the truth to prevail — and our effort begins by providing students the tools necessary to effectively navigate the information ecosystem and discern fact from fiction.

I am a member of Generation Z, and we are more plugged in than any previous generation. Born

### Victor Shi



between 1997 and 2012, members of Gen Z do not know of a world without social media and the internet. From the day we were born, we instantly became connected with each other virtually. With 97% of those ages 13 to 17 using at least one of seven social media platforms, according to a 2018 Pew Research Center Survey, Gen Zers are defined by social media because it is deeply embedded into our identity.

Gen Zers do not merely use social media to connect with others — we use it to create change. Take, for example, the Black Lives Matter movement during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Social media became an essential tool for young people to organize and promote information about racial justice and equality. Using features such as Instagram's story or posting short, digestible videos on TikTok, young people recognized that social media platforms are one of the most effective ways of getting information to others quickly and easily.

However, as savvy as Gen Zers are with social media, we are not immune to the effects of misinformation. While there are plenty of young people using social media to promote facts, there are just as many employing social media to promote lies. In fact, researchers have found that anti-science and anti-vaccine videos on TikTok have reportedly been viewed by people as young as 9 years old. Coming upon misinformation while scrolling through social media is dangerous — no matter the age.

Misinformation will never be

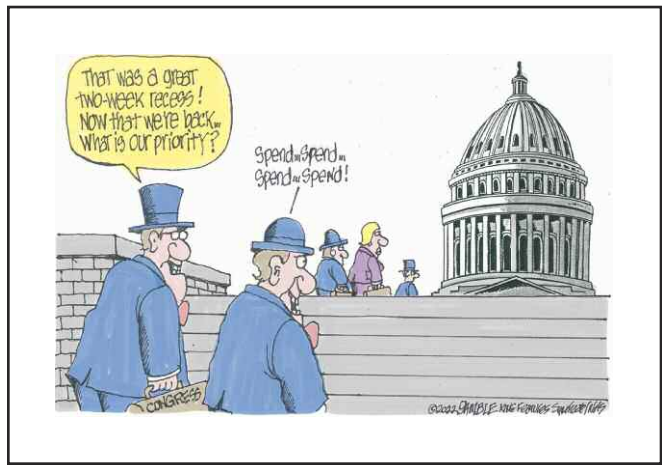
extinguished — especially in the free-for-all of undermoderated social media platforms and channels such as Fox News whose bottom line depends on retaining an audience that believes its extreme statements. To counter this, we should look to the classroom. For students like me and members of future generations who will spend a lot of time online — and therefore will be particularly susceptible to seeing misinformation — information literacy classes could be exactly what is needed to help young people become better stewards of information.

At its core, information literacy classes would be designed to give students critical thinking skills for analyzing information on the internet: In other words, knowing how to evaluate information, distinguish between a lie and a fact, and conduct a fact-check. And fortunately, this is a concept that is underway across the country. Illinois became the first state in the country to require an information literacy class for high schoolers starting with the 2022-23 school year. Better yet, eight states including Massachusetts and Florida are considering bills that would require media literacy education. One antidote to misinformation is understanding what it is and how to combat it.

Reaching consensus on basic facts is becoming increasingly more difficult — to the point in which democracy has become precarious. It will take all hands on deck to reverse course, and the best place to start may just be in the classroom — endowing young people with the skills to identify lies whenever they encounter them.

Information literacy classes for students may well be our nation's best hope of returning to an era of mutually agreed upon truths.

.....  
Shi is a sophomore at the University of California at Los Angeles. He co-hosts the "iGen Politics" podcast.



# The Commercial Review



US PS 125820

HUGH N. RONALD (1911-1983), Publisher Emeritus  
JOHN C. "JACK" RONALD (1948-2022), Publisher Emeritus

RAY COONEY  
Editor and publisher

TONIA HARDY  
Business manager

BRIAN DODD  
Production manager

VOLUME 149-NUMBER 255  
THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 28, 2022

[www.thecr.com](http://www.thecr.com)

"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

Subscription rates: City delivery and Internet-only pay at the office rates: 13 weeks - \$32; six months - \$60; one year - \$108. Motor route pay at the office rates: 13 weeks - \$39; six months - \$68; one year - \$125; Mail: 13 weeks - \$47; six months - \$77; one year - \$135.

Home delivery problems:  
Call (260) 251-9588

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







# Sports



Photos provided

## Haines, Hayden lead the Titans

A pair of former Patriots led the Titans as they closed out their season.

Collin Haines and Nick Hayden posted the top two scores for the Indiana University South Bend Collegiate men's golf team as it placed sixth Monday and Tuesday in the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference Championships.

Haines, a 2018 Jay County High School graduate, best round in the 54-hole tournament was his second as he shot a 2-over-par 73 at Tournament Players Club Deere Run in Silvis, Illinois. He also shot rounds of 78 and 76 for his total of 227.

Collin Todora of Holy Cross was the medalist at 216.

Hayden, who graduated from JCHS in 2017, was consistent across his three rounds, opening with a 79. He followed with rounds of 81 and 80 to finish at 240.

Haines also made IU South Bend history this year as its first golfer to be named the conference player of the week. He earned that honor for shooting 12-over-par for the 36-hole Lawrence Tech Spring Break Invite at RTJ Grand National in Opelika, Alabama.

### Max Moser Jay County – 2018

Was part of a big offensive day for the Huntington University baseball team Saturday in its 18-3 victory over Goshen.

Moser started as the designated hitter and finished 1-for-3 with a pair of walks. He scored twice and drove in a run.

He also had a hit in his only at bat Friday as the Foresters beat Goshen 15-12.

### Noah Arbuckle Jay County – 2020

Started for the Huntington baseball team in Saturday's 16-12 win over Goshen as part of a doubleheader.

Arbuckle had a tough day on the hill, giving up eight runs on eight hits and two walks in 3 1/3 innings while striking out six batters.

See Collegiate page 7

## Two sign

Jay County High School senior Sam Dunlavy (above) and graduate Rieley Brewster (below) recently signed to continue their athletic careers in college. Dunlavy, pictured with his parents Jim and Regina and brother Adam Foster, plans to play baseball for the Ivy Tech Community College – Fort Wayne Titans. Brewster, currently a freshman at Ball State University, signed to play softball next season at Huntington University. She is pictured with her parents Denice Work and Michael Brewster and grandparents Jim and Denise Brewster.



**Fortkamp Foam**  
3226 Wabash Road  
Ft. Recovery, OH  
419-852-1390  
[Fortkampfoam.com](http://Fortkampfoam.com)

**Hopkins Repair, LLC**  
Auto & light truck repair  
Mon-Fri. + 7am-4pm  
Call Scott Hopkins  
260-251-0459

**Adair Processing**  
190 N. Union St.  
Pennville, IN  
260-731-3221

**All Weather Heating and Air Conditioning**  
(260)726-4822  
24 hr Emergency Service  
Serving Portland & Surrounding Areas

**Dr. Thomas Banta**  
1413 W. Votaw St.,  
Portland  
260-726-7822

**Display Craft Signs**  
630 E. Votaw St.  
Portland, IN  
260-726-4535

**Baird Freeman Funeral Home**  
221 N. Meridian St.  
Portland, IN  
260-726-7171

**Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition**  
  
100 N. Meridian St.,  
Portland, IN 47371  
Email:  
[jcdpcontact@gmail.com](mailto:jcdpcontact@gmail.com)

**Dunn Family Dental Care**  
110 W. North St.  
Portland, IN 47371  
260-726-8007

**All Circuit Electrical, LLC**  
5510 N. US 27, Bryant, IN  
260-997-8336  
[www.allcircuitelectrical.com](http://www.allcircuitelectrical.com)

**Williams Auto Parts, Inc.**  
  
1127 Detroit Ave.  
Portland, IN  
8-5:30 Mon-Fri,  
Closed Sat & Sun.  
Used auto parts  
since 1951  
(260) 726-8001  
[www.williamsautoparts.com](http://www.williamsautoparts.com)

**Ohio Valley Gas**  
129 E. Main St.,  
Portland  
260-726-8114  
[www.ovgc.com](http://www.ovgc.com)

**Fuqua Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep & Ram**  
127 E. Commerce St., Dunkirk  
Garage is open!  
765-768-6224  
[www.fuquachrysler.com](http://www.fuquachrysler.com)

**Home Idea Center**  
901 Industrial Dr.  
Ft. Recovery, OH  
419-375-4951  
[www.ehomeidea.com](http://www.ehomeidea.com)

This local business listing runs 4 times a month with packages of either \$25, or \$50.  
Give us a call at 260-726-8141 to be included