

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

County council looking at 6% raises

Increases discussed for all employees as budgeting process starts

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

County employees may see a 6% pay increase next year.

Jay County Council decided Wednesday to give the OK to department heads to factor a 6% raise for employees into the 2023 budget.

Raises could vary for each department depending on pending job classification changes and budgets are not typically finalized until early fall.

Also Wednesday, council agreed to eliminate the previously set June 1 deadline for the community to present ideas on how to use the county's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Jay County Personnel Committee forwarded several recommendations May 4 on wage increases for various county employees, including positions at Jay County Sheriff's Office, Jay County Highway Department, Jay Emergency Medical Service, Jay County Health Department and Jay County Country Living. Consulting firm Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele & Associates advised pay increases and classification changes for some jobs in those departments, as well as switching to a matrix pay scale for the sheriff's office.

Consulting firm Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele & Associates is still working on other components for the county, such as creating an official position for chief deputy for Jay County Coroner's Office.

See Looking page 2

A time to honor



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Runners make their way south on Meridian Street, between Main and Water streets, toward Freedom Park at the conclusion of the first day of Indiana's Run for the Fallen on May 14, 2021. The run will make its way through Jay County again this year, with a stop scheduled at Freedom Park just after 5 p.m. Friday. It will include the presentation of an Honor and Remember Flag to Julie Swoveland in recognition of her son Andrew, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Run for the Fallen will come through Jay again, with flag to be presented for Swoveland on Friday

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

A run to remember Indiana veterans will again give Jay County the opportunity to honor one of its own.

The opening day of Indiana's Run for the Fallen on Friday will conclude at Freedom Park early Friday evening with an Honor and Remember flag being presented to Julie Swoveland in recognition of her son Andrew.

"It feels good that he's going to be honored," said Swoveland. "I think it's very important for us to support our veterans."

Andrew, who died Oct. 20, served in the United States Marine Corps from 2005 to '10, reaching the rank of corporal. He served tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

He attended boot camp at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego and went on to school

of infantry training at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms in California. He was first stationed in Manama, Bahrain.

Following his tour in Iraq, Andrew was stationed at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, North Carolina, when he was in the U.S.

A 2004 Jay County High School graduate, a career in the military had been his path since he was a child.

"He grew up wanting to serve his country because of stories his grandpa told him," said Julie, referencing her father Cleomis Walker, an army veteran who served in Germany during World War II. "So that was his dream."

Following his service, Andrew obtained a degree from Bethel University and went on to graduate from Indiana Law Enforcement

Academy. He served as a Portland police officer and was most recently a truck driver for TJs Express.

Following his death, Julie's friend Norma Whitacre contacted both her and Run for the Fallen organizer Donald Gillespie of Portland about the possibility of having an Honor and Remember flag presented. (Whitacre's stepson Andrew, a lance corporal in the Marine Corps, was killed in Afghanistan in 2008. Andrew Swoveland and Andrew Whitacre were friends, and Norma and Julie made a trip together in 2010 to place flags at Arlington National Cemetery for Veterans Day and visit patients at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.)

The Honor and Remember flag can go to any Indiana service member killed "as a result in serving" during the War on Ter-

ror including Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom (global war on terror) and Operation New Dawn (Afghanistan).

The presentation will continue a pattern of honoring local veterans at the conclusion of the first day of the run at Freedom Park, including Melissa Fifer-Campofiore in 2019 and Paul Prater last year.

"It's a special day every time," said Gillespie, who has been involved with the run since 2015. "Unfortunately, no one wants to have to be honored for the military service this way. But it's the least we can do for those families so they know their child did not die for no reason. ...

"I'm glad there's an organization that will recognize these individuals for the sacrifice they did make."

See Honor page 2



Tribune News Service/Los Angeles Times/Wally Skali

Fighting fire

Firefighters battle a brush fire Wednesday at Coronado Pointe in Laguna Niguel, California. The Coastal fire broke out Wednesday afternoon in a canyon near the Pacific Ocean in an upscale section of south Orange County. Hundreds of residents fled as the flames swept into a gated community of multimillion-dollar homes overlooking the ocean.

Finland endorses NATO bid

By LAURA KING and DAVID PIERSON

Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

LVIV, Ukraine — As Finland's leaders dealt him a blow by announcing their support for joining NATO, Russian President Vladimir Putin reaffirmed his determination to maintain Moscow's sway over eastern Ukraine as Russian forces pounded the area.

Putin, in a message released by the Kremlin today, offered his support to Leonid Pasechnik, the head of pro-Russia separatists in the self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic, part of Ukraine's eastern Donbas region.

"I am sure that through our joint efforts we will defend the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity" of the Luhansk republic, Putin said, as his war on Ukraine began its 12th week.

The Russian leader's message

Putin still standing firm on maintaining influence in eastern Ukraine

was backed by a torrent of Russian airstrikes and artillery barrages along the 300-mile-long eastern battlefield, including on a steel mill where the last pocket of Ukrainian military resistance remains in the strategic southeastern port city of Mariupol.

The fighting comes amid the dramatic announcement by Finland's president and prime minister of their support for joining NATO, paving the way for an expansion of the U.S.-led military alliance that Putin partially

blamed for his decision to invade Ukraine.

Finland, a historically neutral country that shares an 830-mile land border with Russia, is expected to be joined soon by Sweden in seeking membership in the 30-member security pact.

"NATO membership would strengthen Finland's security," President Sauli Niinisto and Prime Minister Sanna Marin said in a joint statement today. "As a member of NATO, Finland would strengthen the entire defense alliance. Finland must apply for NATO membership without delay."

The addition of the two Nordic states to NATO would underscore how badly Putin has miscalculated the world's response to his incursion in Ukraine, which has failed to achieve its initial military objectives, prompted Europe to begin weaning itself off Russia's most valuable export — fossil fuels — and compelled non-aligned states to pick sides.

Deaths

Jerome Schwieterman,
83, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County's high temperature climbed to 88 degrees Wednesday. The low was 55.

Tonight's low will be in the low 60s. Expect sunny skies Friday with a high of 83. The high will be in the 80s again Saturday with rain and thunderstorms possible.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County is rated low risk for the spread of coronavirus for the 11th straight week, averaging less than one new case per day thus far this month. After recording 906 cases in January, there were just nine in March and 13 last month.

Over the course of the coronavirus pandemic — the first cases in Indiana were identified

in March 2020 — Jay County has had 4,862 cases and 71 deaths.

Jay County Health Department, 504 W. Arch St., is offering free COVID-19 test kits. They are also available at the city/town offices in Dunkirk, Pennville, Portland, Redkey and Salamonica. For more information, call (260) 726-8080.

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Obituaries

Jerome Schwieterman

Feb. 19, 1939-May 11, 2022
Jerome "Jerry" H. Schwieterman, 83, of Portland, Indiana, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at his home.

He was born on Feb. 19, 1939, in Jay County, Indiana, to the late Anthony and Anna (Braun) Schwieterman.

Jerry is survived by his wife of 62 years, Ilene (Gettinger) Schwieterman, whom he married on May 7, 1960; his children, Randy (Deb) Schwieter-

man of Melbourne, Florida, Mike (Karen) Schwieterman of Fort Recovery, Lisa (Steve) Wood of Portland, Joe (Angie) Schwieterman of Leo, Indiana, Tina (Dale) Easton of Fort Recovery, Steve (Jennifer) Schwieterman of Portland, and Paul (Andrea) Schwieterman of Bluffton, Indiana; his 36 grandchildren; and his 31 great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents,



Schwieterman

Jerry was preceded in death by his sister, Thelma King.

Jerry was a 1957 graduate of Fort Recovery High School. Shortly after he graduated, he joined the U.S. Army National Guard until he was honorably discharged in 1964 with the rank sergeant.

Jerry was a lifelong farmer in Jay County and enjoyed collecting a variety of religious photos. He was a member of Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church and the Fort Recovery Knights of Columbus.

A Mass of Christian Burial

will take place at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 14, 2022, at Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, Fort Recovery, with Fr. Mike Kapolka officiating. Burial, with military honors conducted by the Fort Recovery American Legion, will follow in St. Marys Cemetery in Fort Recovery.

Guests may visit with Jerry's family on Friday, May 13, 2022, from 3 to 7 p.m. and again on Saturday from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home in Fort Recovery. The Fort Recovery Knights of Columbus will lead a prayer

service at the funeral home beginning at 6:45 p.m. on Friday.

Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting brockmanboeckmanfh.com.

The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Friday 5/13	Saturday 5/14	Sunday 5/15	Monday 5/16	Tuesday 5/17
83/61	81/61	80/57	73/52	71/51
Skies should be sunny Friday with a high near 83 degrees.	There's a 60% chance of showers and a thunderstorm on Saturday. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.	More rain is in the forecast with a 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Another chance of showers, mostly in the morning. Partly sunny during the day.	Mostly sunny skies are on the horizon for Tuesday, with a high in the low 70s.

Lotteries

Powerball 5-7-61-63-69 Power Ball: 18 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$83 million	Hoosier Lotto: 3-17-28-40-45-46 Estimated jackpot: \$11.8 million
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$99 million	Ohio Midday Pick 3: 7-3-8 Pick 4: 0-8-6-8 Pick 5: 6-2-2-2-3 Evening Pick 3: 3-6-5 Pick 4: 2-5-2-9 Pick 5: 8-0-2-2-8 Rolling Cash: 13-20-27-30-33 Classic Lotto: 15-33-38-40-47-49 Kicker: 1-8-8-1-6-0 Estimated jackpot: \$27.4 million
Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 1-3-0 Daily Four: 8-8-6-8 Evening Daily Three: 4-4-7 Daily Four: 3-4-4-7 Quick Draw: 3-10-17-18-26-33-41-42-45-46-48-51-52-62-63-64-67-73-79-80 Cash 5: 9-17-21-23-24	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....7.98 June corn7.98 Wheat9.23	Wheat 10.25 June wheat..... 10.25
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....8.00 June corn8.03 July corn.....8.02	Central States Montpelier Corn.....7.81 Late May corn7.81 Beans16.01 Late May beans.....15.97 Wheat.....10.69
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....7.78 June corn7.88 Beans16.03 June beans16.08	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....7.55 June corn7.62 Beans15.89 June beans15.94 Wheat.....10.81

Today in history

In 1820, nurse Florence Nightingale, who founded trained nursing as a profession, was born in Florence, Italy.

In 1846, the Donner party left Independence, Missouri, for California. The group would later become trapped in the Sierra Nevada Mountains with some members reportedly resorting to cannibalism when food ran out.

In 1926, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen, American scientist Lincoln Ellsworth and Italian engineer Umberto Nobile made the first undisputed flight over the North Pole.

In 1940, the Nazi blitzkrieg and conquest of France began with the crossing of the Muese River.

In 1949, the Soviet Union lifted its blockade of Berlin.

In 1967, the Jimi Hendrix Experience released its album "Are You Experienced."

In 1972, Pennville High School won the county meet at Dunkirk with 80 points, knocking off runner-up Redkey by nine. The Bulldogs' only winning an event came in a new record time in the 4x400 relay.

In 1982, Spanish priest Juan Maria Fernandez y Krohn attempted to assassinate Pope John Paul II.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St., Portland.	414 E. Floral Ave., Portland.
Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Redevelopment Commission, commissioners' room, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks,	5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St., Portland. 6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery School Board, conference room, high school, 400 E. Butler St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

Looking ...

Continued from page 1
(Coroner Michael Brewster noted the coroner's office has used the title of chief deputy for years, but it has never been added into county ordinance or on the pay scale. Chief deputy Brayden Fields is currently paid the same as other deputy coroners.)

Houchins advised council should take home the information and think about it before coming to a decision.

"(If) we are going to keep good, quality people, that's happy working here ... we've got to find a way to make (ourselves) competitive with other counties," said Champ.

"Like I said, I know it's a lot of money, we may have to make cuts some place else to do it, but at the end of the day, it's time we do this for our people, because without ... good, dependable, experienced employees staying, we'll never be the county that we should be," he continued.

Council member Ray Newton added that the county is also losing money as well when it trains employees who leave for another job soon after.

Also Wednesday, council agreed to remove the deadline previously set for American Rescue Plan Act ideas to be submitted. Travis Richards, executive director of Jay County Development Corporation, requested council rethink their decision made in April to require input from the community by June 1.

Jay County has about \$3.9 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act dollars. It's also been selected for the Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program, which makes it eligible for another \$1 million through the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA).

Richards presented a timeline of the Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program process. The first community forum is slated for June 13, he noted, with pathway committees meeting through September and the final plan due by the end of December.

"What makes the most sense to me is to really take the rest of this year and step through that planning process, figure out what are our top priorities, and then we can start to match those up with all the funding streams that are out there," he said.

Although the county will be removing the deadline, Parr said the county should continue looking into its proposed projects. (They include options for child care, housing, a new radio system for local responders and a new multifaceted facility for Jay Emergency Medical Service, Jay County Health Department and Jay County Coroner's Office.)

Richards said someone from his office could visit each council meeting to provide updates on the process. (Council members can also be involved in the pathway committees, although none volunteered at the meeting.)

He advised council go through a strategic planning process to figure out what to do with its incoming dollars. Other large funding streams available to the county in the near future include dollars from the East Central Indiana Regional Partnership — it is a group comprised of eight counties that was awarded \$15 million in December for projects across the region — remaining economic development dollars from Bitter Ridge Wind Farm and about \$5 million in economic development payments that will be coming from

planned solar facilities Skycrest Solar (Invenergy), Rose Gold Solar (Leeward Renewable Energy) and Sun Chief Solar (Scout Clean Energy).

"Let's just step back, take a deep breath and see what comes out of the public engagement process," he said.

Council agreed — Ted Champ and Harold Towell dissenting — to remove the June 1 deadline for input on how to use the funds.

In other business, council members Matt Minnich, Mike Rockwell, Houchins, Champ, Parr, Newton and Towell:

•OK'd Jay Circuit Court Judge Brian Hutchison to hire two more probation officers. (Because of an employee's retirement falling in June, the office would have one more probation officer than usual for about a month during training. It won't require an additional appropriation, Hutchison noted.)

•Made the following additional appropriations: \$15,000 to replace parts for an excavator used by Jay County Surveyor's Office; \$12,310 to install a new air conditioning unit at Purdue Extension Office of Jay County; \$12,250 to the surveyor's office to cover the increased price for a previously budgeted truck; \$5,000 in grant dollars from Indiana Arts Commission, which covered the cost of post cards distributed to homes in Jay County to gather input from the community during the HELP process; \$1,000 for refunds of adult probation fees; \$2,000 for doctors and psychiatrists hired for Jay Circuit Court; \$1,000 in grant funds for Jay County Health Department to purchase a fridge, a computer monitor and some laptop cases; \$800 for health insurance at Jay County Health Department.

Honor ...

Continued from page 1
The 140-mile, three-day run will begin a bit earlier this year at 7 a.m. Friday in Fort Wayne and partici-

pants are scheduled to stop at the north edge of Portland at the Meridian Street intersection with Industrial Park Drive at 4:51 p.m. Friday. They will then make their way through the city with plans to arrive shortly after 5 p.m. at Freedom Park, where the ceremony will be held to present the flag to Julie.

The event will resume at 7 a.m. Saturday, with runners leaving Freedom Park at 7 a.m. and going west on Tyson Road. They will then make their way southwest on Indiana 67, reaching Redkey about 9 a.m. and crossing into Delaware County just before 10 a.m. The second day will end about 5:30 p.m. at Anderson Memorial Cemetery.

Runners will leave Anderson at 7:30 a.m. Sunday morning and are projected to arrive at Veterans Memorial Plaza in Indianapolis for the closing ceremony at 1:20 p.m.

SERVICES

Today
Staci, Williams: 6 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Saturday
Schwieterman, Jerome: 10 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery.
Anderson, Clark: noon, Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

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

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Must come to Jay County Highway Dept. to

- 1) Pick up flags to mark the area
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- 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

Grandpa's death comes as a shock

DEAR ABBY: My daughter-in-law, "Brooke," lost her grandfather five weeks ago. She has chosen not to tell her 4- and 10-year-old kids about it. She has ordered my husband, me and our son not to mention it. The kids see her grandmother at least once a week, and SHE is not supposed to tell them either.

Dear Abby



horrible mistake by offering the love and caring I thought they needed. How can I repair the perceived mistake I have made? — VEXED IN VERMONT

DEAR VEXED: If you were unaware that your DIL was trying to shield her kids from the reality of their great-grandfather's death when you spoke out, you did nothing wrong. However, you should have offered an apology to her privately. Back off and lie low until the funeral. Your DIL is not herself right now. She needs time to cool off and regain some perspective. It would be interesting to know how your son feels about the way she's handling this. With luck, he can smooth things over.

I didn't know the kids hadn't been told and I started to say something at a family dinner. The 10-year-old heard me, and I got shushed. I'm mad at the whole situation. Brooke refuses to tell them "until she's ready," and I couldn't disagree more. I understand her grief. I have lost grandparents and parents. The services won't be for several weeks. I understand she can't deal with the loss yet, but denying her kids the truth only delays her grieving process and also doesn't allow them their time to grieve and process.

Now Brooke is mad and screaming and crying about it. I'm trying to back off, but I'm angry that her needs are being put first and at being told I made a



Photo provided

\$\$\$ raised for Cancer Society

More than \$7000 dollars was raised at the Dueling Piano event for the Jay County Cancer Society. Tony Lennartz of Jay County Sheriff's Office sponsored the event. Pictured is Lennartz presenting the check to Jay County Cancer Society president Andrea Poore.

'Weekend of worship' starts Friday

A Portland church is hosting multiple days of worship this weekend.

Activities are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 6 p.m. Sunday in Evangelical Methodist Church, 930 W. Main St., Portland.

Mark and Marie McKinley will be leading the event.

For more information, call pastor Steve Arnold at (260) 251-0970.

Taking Note

Classes offered

Free adult education classes are available. John Jay Center for Learning is

offering free classes for adults to receive a High School Equivalency diploma. The state has also supplied funding to help students pay for their final High School Equivalency Test in 2022.

Classes are available from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

For more information, call (260) 729-5525.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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.

Community Calendar

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

Today

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY POST 211 — Will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 12, at the American Legion Post, 211 W. Walnut St., Portland.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

HEALTH JAY HOSPITAL OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of each month in Indiana University Health Jay Hospital Conference Room B. The group is for ostomy and intestinal diversion patients and their friends and family to offer mutual support and learn about the latest products and information.

A BETTER LIFE - BRINNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Thursday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

JAY COUNTY TRAILS CLUB — Will meet at 7

p.m. the second Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center.

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

Monday

PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

BRYANT AREA COMMUNITY CENTER — Walking from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon

each Monday at Jay Community Center.

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

Find Local Businesses & Services

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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:
jcdpcccontact@gmail.com

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

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260-997-8336
www.allcircuitelectrical.com

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419-375-4951
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

JCDC's focus is long-term success

To the editor:

The International Economic Development Council has declared May 9 to 13 as "Economic Development Week." This is a good opportunity to share information about your local economic development organization, Jay County Development Corporation (JCDC).

Our story reaches back to a global recession in the late 1970s and early '80s that left many communities in the Midwest suffering from a loss of manufacturing jobs. Locally, the closure of Sheller-Globe cost approximately 1,000 jobs. In response, JCDC was formed to lead the effort to attract new companies and jobs. The organization was, and continues to be, funded primarily through revenue from the economic development income tax (EDIT) — a tax authorized by the state specifically to fund organizations like ours and other economic development projects. In the early days, the organization's focus was centered on creating industrial parks and attracting new industries. These efforts

Letters to the Editor

helped lead to the opening of several new-to-us industries like Jaytec (FCC) and JCI (MSSL Wiring Systems). The intent was to encourage industrial investment and create jobs to drive up local tax revenues and provide residents with the means to support themselves.

As time passed it became apparent that there was a reciprocal relationship between industrial recruitment and many other pressing community needs. So, in 2000 the community development position was created with the goal of helping to build community resources and bringing state and federal funds into our community through grant work. The roles of economic and community development go hand-in-hand with each

serving the other. To put it directly — companies want to locate where they can find a workforce and people want to live where they can enjoy life and find reliable work.

This is where JCDC comes in. Our mission is "to enhance the quality of life in Jay County by assisting in the creation, retention, and reinvestment of wealth and increasing the number and quality of employment opportunities." In short, we are here to facilitate investment and job creation. We do this through several activities including industrial retention and recruitment; applying for and managing grants; assisting with the execution of EDIT spending; supporting long term community planning; connecting businesses with resources ranging from incentives and loans to training opportunities and business advisors; and advising local elected officials on a variety of topics. To sum it up, we do whatever is necessary to facilitate investment, job creation and long-term community viability.

Two of our big efforts this year are intertwined:

1) working towards a strategic planning effort through the Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program (HELP)

2) the launch of a new county-wide marketing effort called Jay Region (learn more at jayregion.com)

A postcard with a painting all about Jay on the cover went out to all county households in April. This was meant to inform everyone about the HELP initiative, but also directed them to the new website that has a page dedicated to HELP. From this page, residents can learn more about the program, volunteer to be on a pathway committee or suggest ideas and projects. Please check it out and while there subscribe for ongoing updates or follow the social media pages.

As indicated, the launch of the new site was coordinated with the HELP initiative, but they serve distinct purposes. The overall site is intended as a marketing tool that provides a "go-

to" source of information for residents, tourists, businesses and potential newcomers — essentially marketing Jay County to ourselves and the outside world. It serves as a landing page with links to many other Jay County websites. Visit the site if you're looking for a job, a place to volunteer, contact information for your local government or something to do on Friday night. The intent of this effort is to reach a broader audience than we have in the past. There can be no doubt that strong communities need a strong online presence in the 21st century.

In summary, JCDC's work is integral to the long-term success of Jay County. We appreciate the cooperation we get from across the county and intend to continue serving for many years to come.

Happy Economic Development Week.

Sincerely,
Travis Richards
Executive director
Jay County Development Corporation

Everyone can fight inflation

By MORTON J. MARCUS

Want to sign up to be an inflation fighter?

Don't think it's just something for the Fed, Congress and Big business to do?

It's like being a forest fire fighter. Inflation is a blaze that's hard to contain once it gets going. It can be started by careless people on the ground as well as by strikes of lightning from above.

Our current inflation is a result of two efforts by the Fed, the Administration and the Congress (including both parties) to avoid economic disasters in 2008 and 2020.

In 2008, Wall Street imploded, and the entire credit system of the U.S. was endangered. The credit system enables us to buy a car, a house and our daily groceries with our credit/debit cards. It enables the car dealer to have a selection of cars on the lot and the grocer to have a variety of goods on the shelves.

In 2020, COVID struck. As more and more people got sick, some businesses had to close because customers weren't buying as much, or even any, of the goods and services they had before COVID.

The response to both crisis situations was to prop up the economy with a flow of cash, giving the economy a transfusion of money that enabled businesses and households to function.

Those transfusions were made by the Fed buying and holding the bonds and other IOUs of businesses. The Administration suspended payments of consumer debt (mortgages, rents, student loans). The Congress authorized payments to firms, governments and households to sustain their purchasing power and hence employment.

Inflation starts with key prices, like petroleum, going up and others then follow. But we have seen it rise as well when consumers are willing and able to spend more to sustain their living standards. This time around, we had supply problems as well.

All of us, except the very poor, could hold back on spending, but we don't

Eye on the Pie



All of us, except the very poor, could hold back on spending, but we don't want to stop the escalation of our expectations.

want to stop the escalation of our expectations.

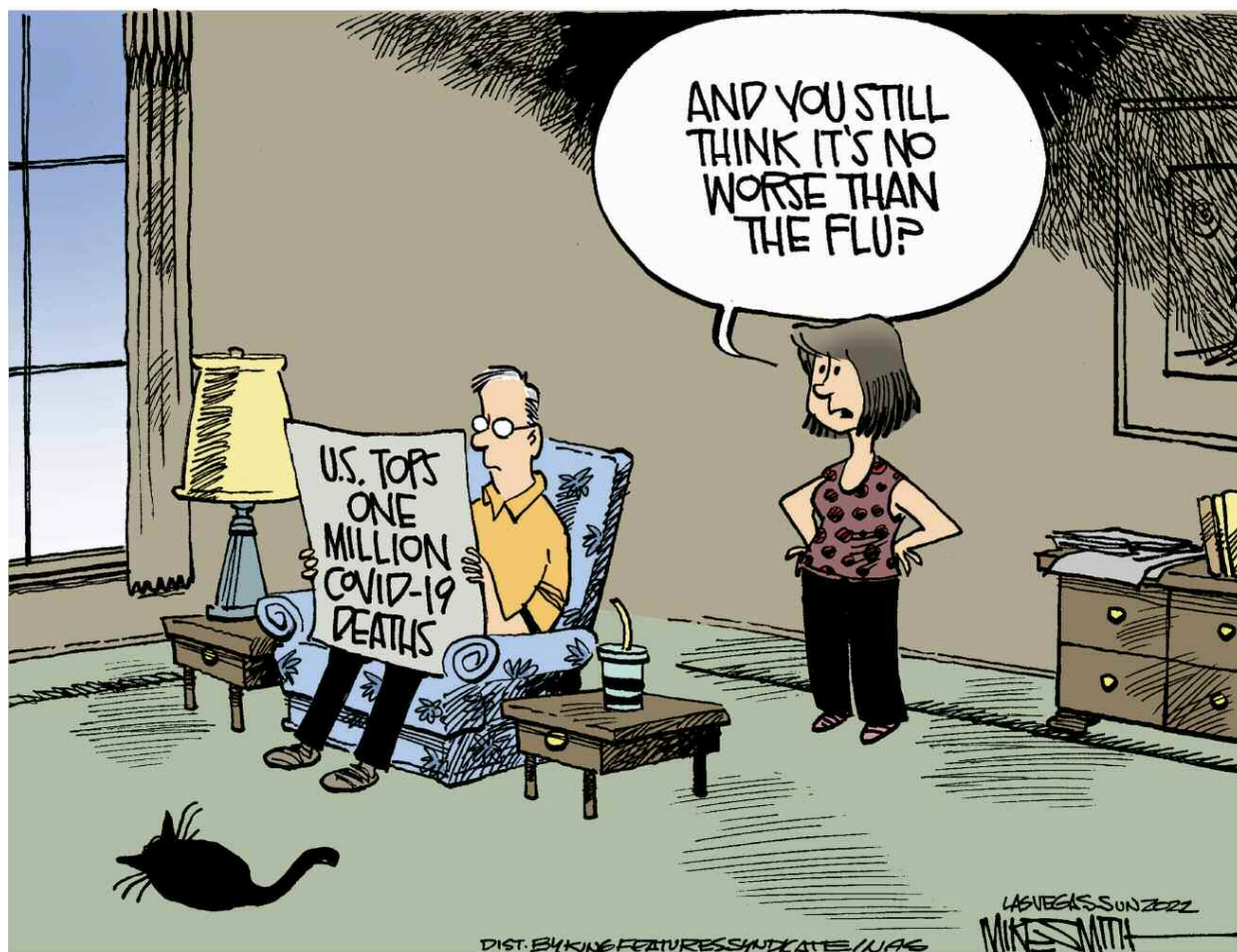
We're willing to pay those monthly fees for entertainment to Netflix and other streaming services. We "need" and "deserve" that premium ice cream. Eating out is part of our "lifestyle" and, after all, we're supporting the wait staff.

We'll use about five gallons of gas a week, but we'll keep a full tank because the price is going up. But if we didn't keep an inventory of gas, the demand for gas would go down and prices could fall.

Want to fight inflation? It's just like voting; your actions are but one of many, but important. "The silent majority" is ultimately a minority.

Higher interest rates have a braking effect on the economy, discouraging borrowing. They are but a signal, a warning flag, urging caution in consumption. Aggressive consumer resistance to buying everything we feel entitled to have, is a responsible way to fight inflation.

Marcus is an economist. Email him at mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com.



Experiences were vastly different

By JOAN STEINAU LESTER

Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

There is a huge difference between illegal and legal abortions. I know. I had one of each.

In 1960 when I was 19 and living with my boyfriend, a medical resident at Yale University hospital, I got pregnant. Thirteen years before Roe v. Wade, in Connecticut the only grounds for abortion was if the mother's life were endangered. My boyfriend knew a doctor in his hometown of Philadelphia who agreed to perform a midnight abortion, and so he drove me through darkened streets late one evening. He dropped me at the door of the shuttered office. The doctor was alone, brusque, clearly uncomfortable. This was not a procedure he did regularly but was performing as a favor.

"Lie down," he instructed. I opened my legs and he began scraping my uterus with a curette. The pain was so excruciating and the sound so terrible I moaned, then screamed. The doctor clamped his hand over my mouth and admonished: "Shut up!"

When my boyfriend picked me up for the drive home, I was bleeding, wrapped in towels. For days I continued to hemorrhage, losing big red chunks of tissue. Finally it stopped and, since we were breaking up anyway, I soon left for a Catskills summer camp job. For the next few weeks cramps kept me awake each night, until finally the pain was so strong I hitched a ride to the nearest hospital

Joan Steinau Lester



and staggered into the emergency room. When I told the attending doctor about the abortion, he thundered, "Your pain is God's punishment. And you will never have children! Your tubes are sealed."

It turned out I had severe pelvic infection, with high fever, because the aborting doctor had not ensured a sterile environment. For many miserable days I lay recovering in the hospital, where the admitting doctor took every opportunity to scold me for my sin.

Five years later, married by then, I became pregnant again. This time the news was a joyful occasion, especially since I'd been told I would never be able to conceive. Thrilled with our baby daughter, in two years my husband and I welcomed another child, a son.

In 1974, when these children were in elementary school, I became pregnant again despite using a diaphragm for birth control. Knowing I could not care for a third child while teaching full time and taking night classes, and with my marriage growing rocky, I made an abortion appointment at a Planned Parenthood clinic in New York, where we

lived. Arriving in daylight, I encountered pleasant nurses in a clean, well-lit space. After the torture of my first abortion, the brief, painless vacuum aspiration process, and the kindness of my providers, astonished me.

My abortions were difficult and frightening decisions to make. Like all medical procedures, abortion carries some risk, though it is considerably less risky than childbirth. But no matter what the law says, women who often bear the sole responsibility for children will continue to seek and find abortions. When they are legal it's an easy, safe procedure. When women are driven — as I was — to find practitioners in the shadows who may lack specific training or sterile conditions, or when we try to self-abort without medical support, the risk increases. And like people forced into any underground activity, we are vulnerable.

A 16-year-old babysitter I occasionally employed in 1966 had an abortion pre-Roe v. Wade. It was expensive, as well as dangerous, and she had to borrow the \$400 from family, friends and me. The so-called doctor she drove 500 miles to see raped her. But she had no recourse, since the medical procedure she needed was considered illegal.

I am 81 years old now, with no personal stake in abortions. But I know the disastrous consequences for younger women — including, potentially, my 22-year-old granddaughter — if we outlaw them again.

We must keep abortion safe. And to do that, it must be legal.

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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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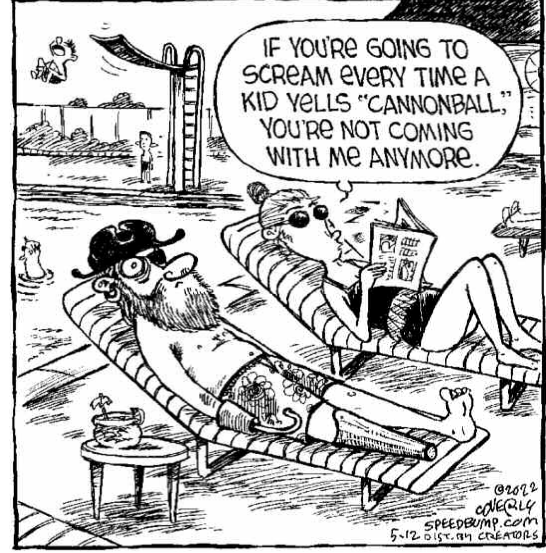
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Like his father, 7-year-old Billy draws his cartoons from real life.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Standard procedure

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: ♠ K Q 6, ♥ 9 5 4 2, ♦ A K 8 7 4, ♣ J. EAST: ♠ 3, ♥ 10 7 6, ♦ Q J 9 3, ♣ A 10 9 6 4. SOUTH: ♠ A J 10 9 7, ♥ A, ♦ 5 2, ♣ Q 8 5 3 2. The bidding: North 1♠, East Pass, South 1♠, West 2♠, Opening lead — king of hearts.

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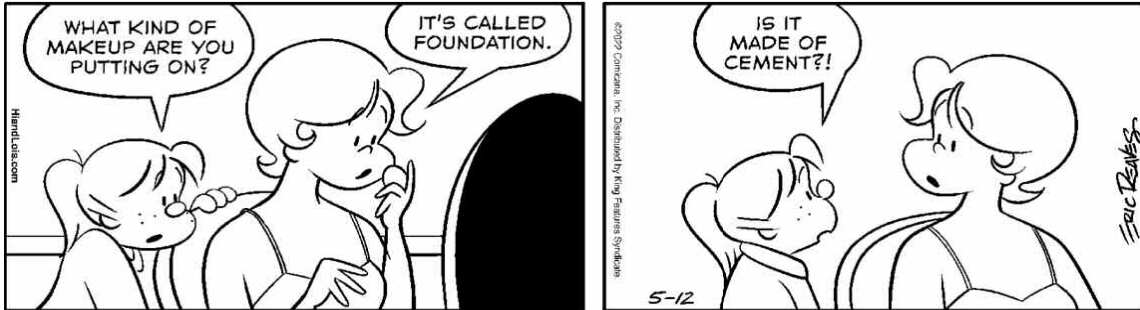
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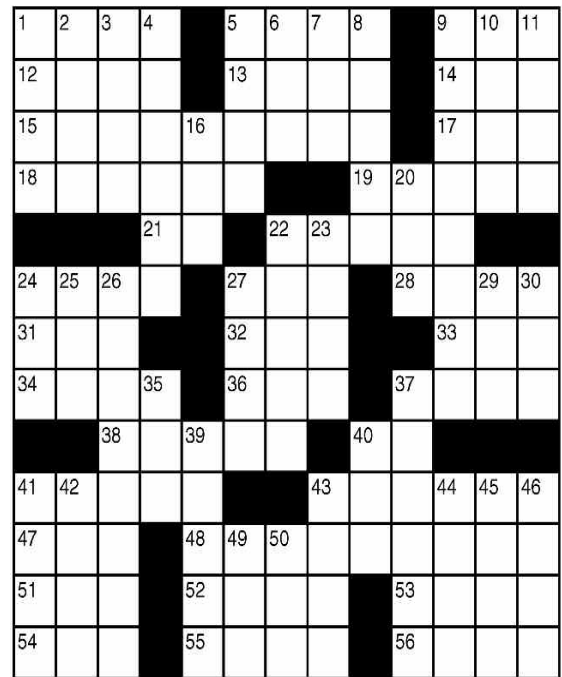


5-12 CRYPTOQUIP

MPD XZH ZAMDV OHZMDK. ENOHY BNOLRDA ZH JDKRNB I. HNHAMNL FRR JDDI RNHY. ZM JFA F XEVE-FMPNH. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU WATER A PRICKLY-STEMMED PLANT IN YOUR BACKYARD, YOU MIGHT BE WETTING YOUR THISTLE. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals I

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Charitable gift, 5 "That was close!", 9 Church seat, 12 53, in Ancient Rome, 13 Competent, 14 Past, 15 Space particle, 17 Squabble, 18 Loath (to), 19 Tumbler, 21 Concerning, 22 Pristine, 24 "Funny!", 27 Winter ailment, 28 McEnroe rival, 31 "Aladdin" monkey, 32 Triathlon segment, 33 — tizzy, 34 Audition CD, 36 Conditions, 37 First person, 38 Skilled, 40 Exist, 41 Dressed to the —. DOWN 43 Italian brandy, 47 Blood-group letters, 48 Duller's shape, 51 JFK Library architect, 52 — St. Vincent Millay, 53 Sandwich cookie, 54 Time-table abbr., 55 Diner sign, 56 Trawler gear, 1 Actor Schreiber, 22 Chin dimple, 23 Galoots, 24 Owned, 25 Lincoln chain name, 26 Like certain sci-fi races, 27 Coin toss, 29 Genetic letters, 30 Leg, in slang, 35 Praise in verse, 10 Hollywood clasher, 11 Amazes, 16 Sugar suffix, 20 Science room, 43 Transcript stats, 44 Skin opening, 45 Painter Mondrian, 46 Big fusses, 49 Vitamin stat, 50 Crumb carrier.



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Former Patriots help HU to Crossroads final, see story below

Jay County baseball visits Tigers on Friday, see Sports on tap

Sports

JCHS blasts Tigers

BLUFFTON — The Patriots had made a habit of playing close games early in the season.

The last two nights have been blowouts.

Jay County High School's softball team followed up its 19-7 beating of Southern Wells on Tuesday with a 13-2, five-inning victory Wednesday over the Bluffton Tigers.

The win gives the Patriots (9-6, 4-1 Allen County Athletic Conference) a chance to earn the league championship when they play at Heritage at 5 p.m. Friday. Heritage (17-2, 5-0 ACAC) finished 11th in this week's Indiana High School Softball Coaches Association class 3A poll voting.

JCHS, which has won three straight and seven of its last nine, jumped ahead Wednesday with a five-run first inning. It was up 11-1 after three frames en route to the big win.

Mallory Winner had a big day overall, going 3-for-4 with a home run, a double, four RBIs and four runs. The freshman also earned the win, allowing one run on four hits in four innings.

Riah Champ had a single and three RBIs while Mady Fraley doubled and scored three times.

Wings wins

Wings and Rings knocked off Portland Optimist 5-4 in Portland Junior League Rookie softball Wednesday.

See **Roundup** page 7

Showdown set



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Kaylee Zimmerman of Jay County High School hits a volley at the net as her twin sister and No. 2 doubles partner Melana watches from the baseline. In the foreground is Bluffton's Olivia Funk. The Zimmermans were able to fight off Cadence Engle and Funk for a 6-4, 6-4 win as the Patriots beat the visiting Tigers 4-1.

Win over Bluffton leaves Patriots and Jets to decide Allen County Athletic Conference title Friday

By **RAY COONEY**

The Commercial Review

Inclement weather kept interfering with the Patriots' conference schedule.

Finally playing Bluffton on the hottest day of the year thus far Wednesday, they gave themselves a chance at the conference championship.

With the temperature hitting 88 degrees, the Jay Coun-

ty High School girls tennis team topped the Tigers 4-1 to set up an Allen County Athletic Conference championship showdown with the Adams Central Jets.

The Patriots will be looking for their first ACAC title when they host Adams Central at 5 p.m. Friday.

"That's a tough one," said JCHS coach Dave Cramer.

"We've got to play smart, slow down, get our serves in, keep the ball in play. They're very, very well-coached."

Jay County (7-1) and Adams Central (9-3) both bring 2-0 conference records into Friday's match. Both beat South Adams 3-2, while Adams Central topped Bluffton 5-0.

The Patriots' conference schedule has been altered four

times because of weather issues, with the first attempt against Bluffton postponed because of high winds April 14. It was rescheduled for Friday, but was then called off again because of rain. (Rain also postponed matches April 25 against South Adams and May 5 against Adams Central.)

See **Showdown** page 7

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Moser, Arbuckle key in tourney run

A pair of Jay County High School graduates helped the fourth-seeded Huntington University baseball team make a strong tournament run.

Max Moser and Noah Arbuckle each played key roles for the Foresters as they advanced to the Crossroads League Tournament championship game, falling 12-9 Wednesday to No. 2 seed Taylor.

Moser's biggest game for Huntington (27-23) in the double-elimination tournament came in a 15-8 win over St. Francis in the semifinal round of the winners' bracket when he reached base four times, including three in the first four innings. The 2018 JCHS graduate walked and scored on an error in the second inning and then singled and scored on a hit-by-pitch in the third. He also had a single in the fourth inning as he finished 2-for-3 with a walk, two runs and two RBIs.

Arbuckle, a 2020 graduate of JCHS, shifted to a relief pitching role for the tournament, tossing two scoreless innings in the

Collegiate Check-up

Foresters' 8-0 opening-round win over Bethel. He walked two batters while not allowing a hit. He also tossed 3 2/3 innings of relief in the win over St. Francis, giving up two unearned runs on four hits and three walks.

In Wednesday's tournament championship game, Arbuckle suffered the loss out of the bullpen as he gave up six runs on seven hits in two innings.

Moser had a pinch-hit single and scored during the Foresters' five-run ninth inning Wednesday, though the late rally came up a few runs short. He also recorded two walks and a run in Tuesday's 11-8 loss to Taylor in the finals of the winners' bracket and walked and scored a run in the victory over Bethel in the opening round.

See **Collegiate** page 7

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