

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Sheldon's Stylz



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Sheldon Ballinger's new grooming and daycare service, Doggy Stylz & Inn, is open to dogs of all breeds and sizes. In addition to the grooming station pictured above, she also has a garage for bathing and boarding dogs and a lobby complete with toys, treats and other items available for sale.

Coldwater, Ohio, resident has opened a new dog grooming and daycare business in Bryant

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Sheldon Ballinger loves being around animals.

Maybe it started with her mother's habit of fostering dogs. Or maybe it's because she showed her family's horses for years.

And she's always wanted to start her own business.

Now, with the opening of Doggy Stylz & Inn, a new grooming and daycare service in Bryant, she gets to do both.

Ballinger, 19, opened her doors in February to furry friends of all breeds and sizes. The business located at 105 E. Hendricks St. (U.S. 27) is fully equipped with a large bath,

grooming table, counters, cages and kennels for day-to-day use.

She currently plans to be at the building from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Walk-ins are welcome, although she encourages clients to call first.

A Coldwater High School graduate, Ballinger participated in the Tri Star Vet Tech program, a training class for high schoolers hoping to make careers in animal science or veterinary medicine fields. She was also working part-



Ballinger

time in high school at County Animal Clinic in Coldwater.

Alongside her business, Ballinger is taking evening classes in business management at Wright State University's Lake Campus in Celina. She worked part-time as a groomer and tech assistant at Maria Stein Vet Clinic in Maria Stein, Ohio, during her first year and a half at Wright State.

"I just figured that going to the clinic would be a better idea with college," Ballinger said. "And then I ended up working 12s and I'm like, 'You know what, I can do this on my own ...'"

For a basic groom, or a bath and brush out, the charge is

\$40. A touch-up, which includes a bath and trim, is \$45, and a full groom, or a bath and full trim, is \$50. She will also clean ears and trim nails of all dogs coming in for a groom.

"I'm accepting anything — any sizes, any breeds, any kind of grooms," she said. "I did a wide variety of dogs while I was at the clinic, so I can do any dog for the most part."

The garage can house up to five dogs at one time for grooming purposes. She also has six spots available for daycare, although that number may grow as she gets more kennels. Her daycare pricing is \$20 a day.

See Stylz page 2

Defense argues Trump did not incite

Vote could come as early as today

By ERIC TUCKER, LISA MASCARO and MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump's impeachment lawyers accused Democrats of waging a campaign of "hatred" against the former president as they sped through their defense of his actions and fiery words before the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, hurtling the Senate toward a final vote in his historic trial.

The defense team vigorously denied on Friday that Trump had incited the deadly riot and said his encouragement of followers to "fight like hell" at a rally that preceded it was routine political speech. They played dozens of out-of-context clips showing Democrats, some of them senators now serving as jurors, also telling supporters to "fight," aiming to establish a parallel with Trump's overheated rhetoric.

"This is ordinarily political rhetoric that is virtually indistinguishable from the language that has been used by people across the political spectrum for hundreds of years," declared Trump lawyer Michael van der Veen. "Countless politicians have spoken of fighting for our principles."

The case is speeding toward a vote and likely acquittal, perhaps as soon as Saturday, with the Senate evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans and a two-thirds majority required for conviction. Trump's lawyers made an abbreviated presentation that used less than three of their allotted 16 hours.

See Defense page 2

Retrospect

Surprising 3-pointer sent JC to regional final

Twenty-five years ago this week, the Jay County High School girls basketball team was celebrating a regional semifinal victory.

The Feb. 12, 1996, edition of The Commercial Review featured a story about the Patriots' 47-46 win over Yorktown that sent them to the regional championship game.

Jay County was in need of a hero as it trailed by two in the closing moments. Tara Miller was it.

Miller, who had never attempted a 3-pointer in her varsity career, buried a shot from long distance to give the Patriots (12-10) an upset win over the Tigers (18-12). The shot capped off a frenzied fourth quarter rally for JCHS, which trailed by six at halftime and was still down by five with just 44 seconds to play.

The 3-pointer capped off six

consecutive points for the Patriots as Miller hit her triple from 20 feet out on the left wing.

"We were passing it around on the perimeter and I got the ball from Kerri (Evans)," said Miller. "I looked inside and nobody was open and I just shot it. I didn't really know how much time was left. I knew it was getting down to a few seconds."

The clock went from 5 seconds to 4 as the ball went through the net, and Yorktown junior Shannon Layne's half-court effort at the buzzer bounced off the side of the rim.

Julie Marsh led the Patriots with 19 points and a dozen rebounds. Denae Denney had eight points, and Miller and Linda Cash each had seven.

JCHS went on to fall to the host Wildkats in the title game later in the day.



The Commercial Review/Tom Casey

Jay County High School girls basketball team's bench erupts with joy after senior Tara Miller hit a 3-pointer in the final seconds to give the Patriots a 47-46 victory over Yorktown in the regional semifinal game Feb. 10, 1996, at Kokomo.

Deaths

Linda Wysong, 80, Portland
Rene Harris, 49, Redkey
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County's high temperature climbed to 27 degrees Friday.

The National Weather Service forecast calls for a high of 24 today with a chance of snow in the afternoon. Sunday's high will be 19 with snow possible in the evening and continuing into Monday. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

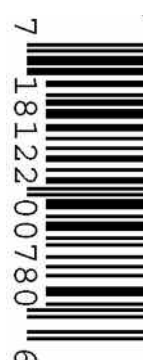
Arts Place announced this week that it will host local musician Ken Bantz for a livestream performance at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 25. Bantz will perform live from Arts Place with the concert available on its Facebook and YouTube pages.

For more information, visit artsland.org/virtual-performances.

Coming up

Tuesday — JCHS results from today's semi-state wrestling tournament.

Thursday — Coverage of Wednesday's Portland Board of Aviation meeting.



Obituaries

Linda Wysong

Oct. 3, 1940-Feb. 11, 2021
Linda J. Wysong, age 80, a resident of Portland, passed away on Thursday, Feb. 11, 2021, at her home in Portland.

Linda was born on Oct. 3, 1940, in Winchester, Indiana, the daughter of Fred and Esther (Cash) Reynolds. She worked at Anchor Hocking in Winchester for several years. Linda married Byron Wysong on Sept. 7, 1957.

Survivors include:
Her husband of 63 years — Byron Wysong, Portland, Indiana

One daughter — Zina Spahr (husband: Mike), Portland, Indiana

One sister — Hazel Riley, Winchester, Indiana

Grandchildren — Hannah Hughes (husband: Nathan), Kristen Gibson (husband: Josh) and Lauren Ferner (husband: Brent)

Four great-grandchildren
She was preceded in death by a daughter, Cindy Dull.

Private services will be held at the convenience of the family. Burial will follow at a later date in Claycomb Cemetery, west of Portland.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

Condolences may be expressed at williamson-spencer.com.

Rene Harris

April 19, 1971-Feb. 10, 2021

Rene Harris, a resident of Redkey, passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2021, at Ascension St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis.

Rene was born April 19, 1971, in Jay County Hospital. She had a rough start in life being a pre-

emie. She had a measure of learning disabilities, but fought hard to make the best of her situation.

She was a daughter, sister, aunt, granddaughter and great-aunt. She was a kind gentle soul, and animals were drawn to her sensing she meant them no harm. She enjoyed being around older persons, even volunteering to play the piano at nursing homes. She was a self-taught pianist and never could read music, but came up with different melodies and could play different songs with both hands at the same time and blend the music. She loved to write with a flair, making many cards and sending letters to all her friends. She



Harris

was continually making friends.

Her niece Megan said she admired Rene for not being afraid to be herself, wearing bright colors and lots of bling. She loved to dance at weddings and receptions, even if it was by herself.

She was a faithful witness of Jehovah God to the end, always working on strengthening her faith. She loved to laugh with friends and tell corny jokes. She had written many poems on a variety of topics. She adored camping in all its aspects and looked forward to it every time. It brought us closer as a family.

She is survived by her mother and father — Carole and Neal Harris, Redkey, Indiana

Sisters — Tonja Lynne McDonald (husband: Jim), Celina, Ohio, Rachel Stephens (husband: Charles), Marion, Indi-

ana, and Elizabeth Newman Stump (companion: Lawrence Teeters), Portland, Indiana

Nieces — Meghan, Sable and Sierra, and great-niece Aurora Nephew: Joel

Private services will be held from the family and friends.

Arrangements are entrusted to Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home.

Condolences may be expressed at williamson-spencer.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

Sunday 2/14	Monday 2/15	Tuesday 2/16	Wednesday 2/17	Thursday 2/18
19/10	15/8	16/2	20/12	25/12
Mostly cloudy with a 50% chance of snow in the late evening. Otherwise still cool.	President's Day will be cooler with a 40% chance of snow during the day. Cloudy.	Warmer during the day under mostly cloudy skies with no snow currently projected.	Temperatures will peak in the 20s during the day with a 30% chance of snow late.	Warmer during the day with a 30% chance of snow. Otherwise mostly cloudy. Cool at night.

Lotteries

Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 5-2-00 Daily Four: 3-2-5-8 Quick Draw: 1-4-8-10-16-36-40-48-51-54-58-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-73-79	Pick 4: 9-6-6-5 Pick 5: 6-7-2-9-8
Ohio Midday Pick 3: 2-0-6	Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$56 million
	Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$82 million

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....5.47 Wheat6.02	Central States Montpelier Corn.....5.31 March corn5.34 Beans13.72 March beans13.72 Wheat 6.22 March wheat 6.24
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....5.50 March corn5.48	Sunrise St. Anthony Corn.....5.16 March corn5.19 Beans13.57 March beans13.63 Wheat6.12 July wheat.....6.12
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....5.39 March corn5.44 Beans13.79 March beans13.79 Wheat 6.37 March wheat 6.37	

Today in history

On Feb. 13, 2016, Justice Antonin Scalia, the influential conservative and most provocative member of the U.S. Supreme Court, was found dead at a private residence in the Big Bend area of West Texas; he was 79. During a Republican presidential debate that evening in South Carolina, the candidates, with the exception of Jeb Bush, insisted that President Barack Obama should let his successor nominate Scalia's replacement. (Obama nominated Merrick Garland; Senate Republicans refused to advance the nomination, which expired the following January.)

In 1633, Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei arrived in Rome for trial before the Inquisition, accused of defending Copernican

theory that the Earth revolved around the sun instead of the other way around.

In 1861, Abraham Lincoln was officially declared winner of the 1860 presidential election as electors cast their ballots.

In 1960, France exploded its first atomic bomb in the Sahara Desert.

In 1965, during the Vietnam War, President Lyndon B. Johnson authorized Operation Rolling Thunder, an extended bombing campaign against the North Vietnamese.

In 1971, state legislator Don Hanlin (D-Portland) was the lone speaker at a chamber of commerce meeting in Dunkirk as snow and ice prevented two others from attending.

—AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., 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.	Tuesday 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.
	Wednesday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100th North.

Stylz ...

Continued from page 1

Jamie Westgerdes is a Fort Recovery client of Ballinger's. Westgerdes said she's done well grooming her four-year-old golden doodle, Bexley, and she looks forward to seeing how she grooms her puppy, a three-month-old doodle named Olive.

"She was very easy on Bexley and very understanding of her being antsy," Westgerdes said, adding that she "feel(s) like doodles are very hard groom."

She also complimented the building, which Shel-

don Ballinger is leasing from her father, Don Ballinger.

A registered communications distribution designer and owner of the Coldwater-based NuWave Technology, Don Ballinger purchased a property in Bryant and installed a wireless internet service tower there last year. When his daughter expressed an interest in starting her own business, he suggested the Bryant site. When she agreed, they began work on renovating the interior.

"(It was) pretty much just what I would call a

major facelift on the inside," Don Ballinger said.

They installed new flooring, walls, electric wiring, cabinets, plumbing, a water heater and a furnace. Renovations took four to five months, and they're still not finished with the exterior. Sheldon Ballinger hopes to add a fenced area on the north side of the building for dogs to run around, along with a few other projects.

At present, clients walk in the front door to a lobby with seating and a front desk. In the next room is

Ballinger's grooming table and counters. The attached garage is equipped with a large bath, a washer and dryer and several cages.

Grooming for each dog takes about two hours, and she is accepting clients who may need to drop their pets off before work and pick them up after work. Appointments can be made by phone at (260) 997-9010, email at doggystylz20@gmail.com or on Facebook at Doggy Stylz & Inn.

"I have a pretty open book for anyone interested," Ballinger said.

Defense ...

Continued from page 1

Trump's lawyers contended he was merely telling his rally crowd to support primary challenges against his adversaries and to press for sweeping election reform.

After a two-day effort by Democrats to sync up Trump's words to the violence that followed, including through raw and emotive video footage, defense lawyers suggested that Democrats have typically engaged in the same overheated rhetoric as Trump.

The defenders minimized Trump's months-long efforts to undermine the election results and his urging of followers to do the same. Democrats say that long campaign, rooted in a "big lie," laid the groundwork for the mob that assembled outside the Capitol and stormed inside. Five people died.

"And so they came, draped in Trump's flag, and used our flag, the American flag, to batter and to bludgeon," Rep. Madeleine Dean, one of the impeachment managers, said Thursday as she choked back emotion.

The defense team did not dispute the horror of the violence, painstakingly reconstructed by impeachment managers earlier in the week, but said it had been carried out by people who had "hijacked" what was supposed to be a peaceful event and had planned violence before Trump had spoken.

"You can't incite what was going

to happen," he said.

Acknowledging the reality of the January day is meant to blunt the visceral impact of the House Democrats' case and pivot to what Trump's defenders see as the core — and more winnable — issue of the trial: Whether Trump actually incited the riot.

Anticipating defense efforts to disentangle Trump's rhetoric from the rioters' actions, the impeachment managers spent days trying to fuse them together through a reconstruction of never-been-seen video footage alongside clips of the president's months of urging his supporters to undo the election results.

On Thursday, they described in stark, personal terms the terror they faced that January day — some of it in the very Senate chamber where senators now are sitting as jurors. They used security video of rioters searching menacingly for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Vice President Mike Pence, smashing into the building and engaging in bloody, hand-to-hand combat with police.

Though defense lawyers sought to boil down the case to a single Trump speech, Democrats displayed the many public and explicit instructions he gave his supporters well before the White House rally that unleashed the deadly Capitol attack as Congress was certifying Democrat Joe Biden's victory. And they used the rioters' own videos

and words from Jan. 6 to try to pin responsibility on Trump. "We were invited here," said one Capitol invader. "Trump sent us," said another. "He'll be happy. We're fighting for Trump."

The prosecutors' goal was to cast Trump not as a bystander but rather as the "inciter in chief" who spread election falsehoods, then encouraged supporters to come challenge the results in Washington.

Trump's lawyers say that goal only underscores the "hatred" Democrats feel for Trump. Throughout the trial, they showed clips from Democrats questioning the legitimacy of his presidency and suggesting as early as 2017 that he should be impeached.

"Hatred is at the heart of the house managers' fruitless attempts to blame Donald Trump for the criminal acts of the rioters — based on double hearsay statements of fringe right-wing groups, based on no real evidence other than rank speculation," van der Veen said.

Trump's lawyers noted that in the same Jan. 6 speech he encouraged the crowd to behave "peacefully," and they contend that his remarks — and his general distrust of the election results — are all protected under the First Amendment. Democrats strenuously resist that assertion, saying his words weren't political speech but rather amounted to direct incitement of violence.

SERVICES

Today

Wheeler, Oneida: 11 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.
Ryan, Ashlee: 2 p.m., All Season's Banquet Facility, 141 W. State St., Albany.

Monday

Bailey, Jeffrey S.: 7 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Service listings provided by

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Photos provided

FFA degrees

Jay County FFA members received their degrees during a ceremony this week at Jay County High School. Pictured above are members who earned their Chapter Degrees. Front row from left are Raven Dale, Kaylee Zimmerman, Kelsey Frantz, Kelsey Braun, Chelsea Frantz and Melana Zimmerman. Back row are Tyler Manor, Austin Dirksen, Alan Dues, Joseph Kunk, Nate Paxson, Ryler Johnson and Dominic Newsome. Pictured below are members who earned their Greenhand Degrees. Front row from left are Makinsey Murphy, Zion Beiswanger and Madison Reier. Back row from left are Regina Muhlenkamp, Molly Muhlenkamp, Nick Lyons, Kylie Davidson and Danielle May.



Student struggles for homework help

DEAR ABBY: My mom is mad at me. I have been a little bad, but I always do the dishes, sweep, clear the table and take out the trash. Every day when school is finished, I wait for Mom to get off work so she can help me with my homework, but when I do, she gets upset, mad and frustrated and stops talking to me. She tells me to do it myself, but I don't know how to do some. She says I'm smart, but I don't know if I am. Please help me because I want my mom happy. — STUCK STUDENT IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR STUDENT: Of course you do. When your mother becomes frustrated while trying to assist with your homework, the reason may be she is stressed about something else after a hard day at work, or she doesn't know the solution. Please take that into consideration, because I have no doubt you are smart and want to please her.

When you get stuck, ask your teacher for help if he or she is available. If that isn't workable, another solution to your problem may be as simple as your mom finding someone who can tutor you in areas you are weak in. High school and college students do this (online for now) for extra money. You may also find help online with Khan Academy or other nonprofit educational organizations.

DEAR ABBY: A couple of our family members habitually come late to gatherings, making the grand entrance. They attended a wedding shower several years ago. They arrived late, ate the food and socialized minimally. Just as the gifts were being opened, the two of them got

Dear Abby



up, smiled at everyone and walked out. The rest of us were shocked.

Fifteen months later, the two attended a baby shower for the same relative. Again, they arrived late and barely interacted with anyone. When the meal was served, they ate and, just as the presents were about to be opened, they got up and left. Several attendees commented on their rudeness.

How do you deal with relatives who feel this is acceptable behavior? We were brought up to believe that if you attend an event, you stay for the event, rather than eat and run. If you can't stay, don't come.

Older family members are having a hard time accepting their behavior. Are we older folk out of step with today's society? — HATES RUDENESS IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR HATES RUDENESS: The way to deal with this kind of rudeness is to point out to the offenders that what they are doing is disrespectful. And if it happens after the warning, omit them from the guest list.

DEAR ABBY: I clipped and saved a quote you published years ago. Given today's challenges, I thought it might be a good time to reprint it: "Things turn out for the best for those who make the best of the way things turn out." — BOB IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR BOB: Amen to that. And it applies to so many different situations.

Community Calendar

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

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. upstairs at True Value Hardware, Meridian Street, Portland. For more information, call (260) 729-2532.

Monday

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

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

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

each Monday at Jay Community Center.

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.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 5:30 p.m., with the meeting at 6 p.m., in the fellowship hall

at Evangelical Methodist Church, 930 W. Main St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5312.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6 p.m. each Monday 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.

PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.

JAY COUNTY DRUG PREVENTION COALITION — Will meet at 3:30 p.m. the third Monday of each month in room 106 at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

Tuesday

FRIENDS OF THE OPERA HOUSE — The Friends of Fort Recovery Opera House committee will have an open meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16 in the community room at Fort Recovery High School about revitalizing the opera house above Brockman Appliance. The public is welcome.

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday.

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

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

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

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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Former Jay teacher offers thanks

To the editor:

As my husband Ed and I prepare to move to North Manchester, Indiana, I would like to take a moment to thank Jay County for the love and support of live theatre.

For 11 years, I was responsible for raising funds to support the financial needs of Thespian Troupe #574 of Jay County High School. Businesses and non-profit organizations including Psi Iota Xi and the Optimist Clubs of Jay County

Letters to the Editor

gave donations generously. Thank you.

The Thespians were state ranked three years out of 10 and an Indiana State Gold Level Troupe four years running. We

could not have created the caliber of theatre we did without your support and attendance.

Choosing to retire early was based upon many factors, mainly exhaustion. Accepting a position with Marion School Corporation just days prior to the students' arrival was because of the fear of COVID-19 and the lack of health insurance. Moving to North Manchester is simply a need to be home and closer to our families.

However, Ed and I feel as if we

are leaving a family here in Jay County. Eleven years of students and their parents, community theatre and churches has created a bond unlike what I have felt in other communities during my teaching career.

While we hosted exchange students, this community poured into them and us, causing us all to feel so loved and supported. I am proud of this community and your willingness to love those of us who are "outsiders." You are welcoming and kind.

Whether I was working at a booth at the fairgrounds, producing a play, fundraising or running the Miss Jay County Fair Queen Pageant, you were there to support the youth of Jay County. I counted on you and you never disappointed.

Thank you for a wonderful 11 years, Jay County. I agree, Mr. Ford, it is a good day to be a Patriot.

Sincerely,
Carol (Knarr) Gebert
Portland

Bill out of step with Hoosiers

Tribune-Star (Terre Haute)

A few years ago, the Bowen Center for Public Affairs' annual Hoosier Survey asked Indiana residents about taxpayers funding vouchers for students to attend private and charter schools.

Fifty-eight percent of Hoosiers favored tax dollars going directly to Indiana's public schools in that 2015 survey by the Bowen Center at Ball State University. Only 39 percent supported using state funds for private and charter school vouchers.

The leadership of the Indiana General Assembly's ruling party has different education priorities, more aligned with the national education reform movement.

Controversy over House Bill 1005 epitomizes the contrast between the dominant Republican Party's top legislators and average Hoosiers.

Indiana is struggling to attract and keep its public school teachers. A 2019 Rockefeller Institute study showed Indiana ranked last in the nation in teacher salary increases since 2000. Hoosier teachers and supporters demonstrated. Gov. Eric Holcomb appointed a commission to find specific ways to bolster educators' pay, and after two years, the panel released its findings, outlining 37 recommendations to lift the average teacher salary to \$60,000. It would require an investment of \$600 million annually.

Though Holcomb's 2019 and 2021 agendas have not included direct pay increases for teachers, his budget strategies have contained funds to pay down pensions and allow local school districts to boost pay scales.

The 2020 Hoosier Survey showed 55 percent of residents believed teacher pay should be increased and that the General Assembly should be responsible for providing the funds.

And, the disruptive coronavirus pandemic has stressed the finances of Indiana public schools, as districts work to equip staff and families with remote learning tools.

The introduction of House Bill 1005 seems to shrug off all of those pressing matters.

Instead, the Republican bill, as introduced, would have invested \$202 million of the two-year education budget to expand the state's voucher program and create education savings accounts. Those accounts would provide state funding to parents of special needs children, kids in foster care, and children of some military members and veterans to be used at their discretion for private school, home schooling, tutoring and other services.

Hoosier Editorial

The Legislature should instead put those funds toward public schools, so they can fully deliver the services and programs that any Hoosier kid would need and retain their teachers.

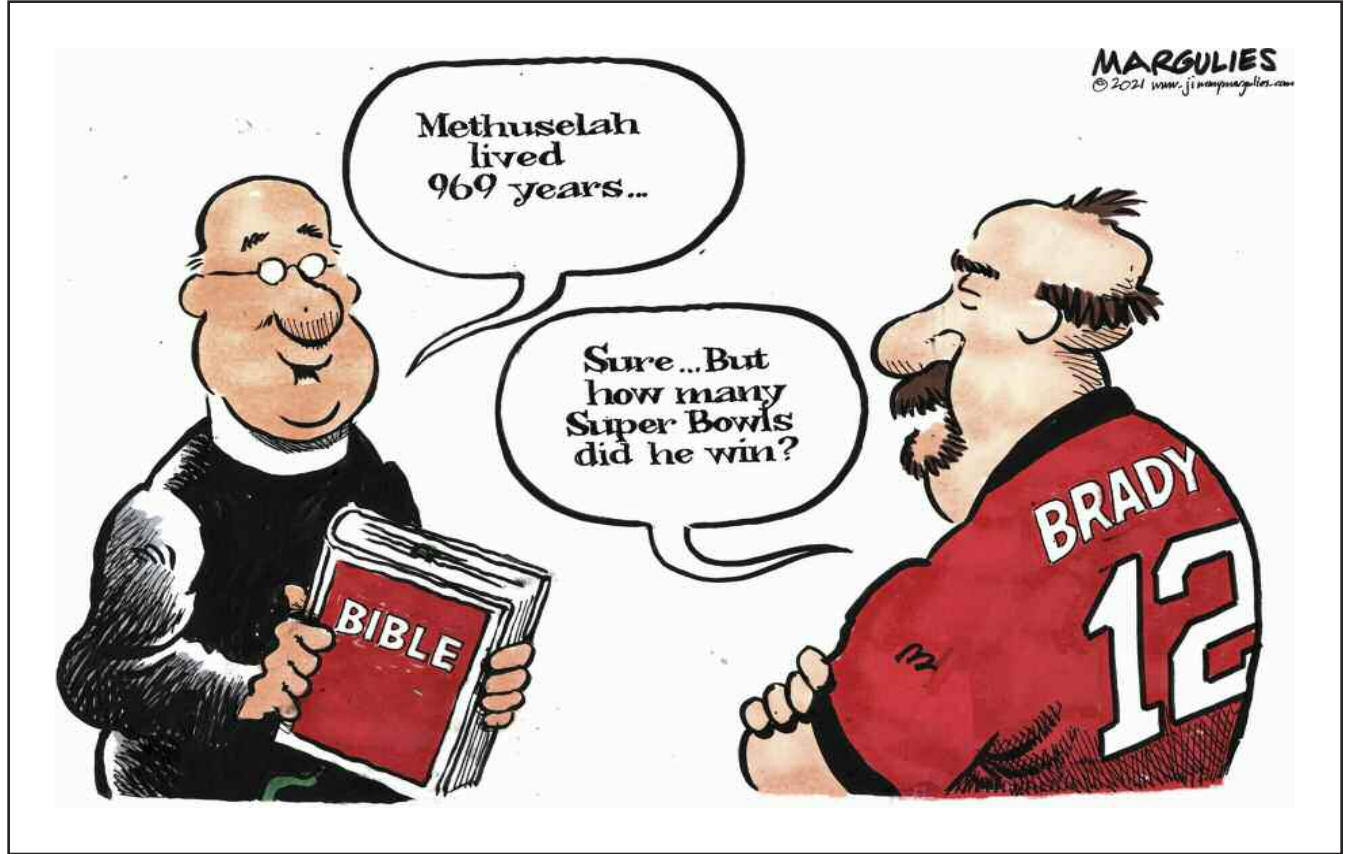
The expansion would also open up vouchers to a higher-income tier — families of four earning \$145,000 a year, or families of five earning \$170,000, according to the Indiana School Boards Association.

Indiana has already become a petri dish for the national reform movement, diverting funds from public schools to its voucher program, where accountability is less stringent. The Legislature should instead put those funds toward public schools, so they can fully deliver the services and programs that any Hoosier kid would need and retain their teachers. Those public schools accept all students, as the Indiana Constitution requires. Ninety percent of Indiana students attend those public schools.

Amid pushback, the bill's authors have amended it and reduced its overall cost to an estimated \$60.7 million, according to the Legislative Services Agency. Still, its core intent clashes with the priorities of most Hoosiers.

"Lawmakers should reject education savings accounts and voucher expansion, and instead build on the good budget supporting public education passed in 2019 by continuing to address the teacher pay gap and funding a tuition support increase that keeps pace with, or exceeds, inflation," said Terry Spradlin, executive director of the Indiana School Boards Association.

Legislative leaders should roll up their sleeves and commit to bettering public schools, which are the cornerstone of Indiana communities' future.



Educational attainment lags

By MICHAEL J. HICKS

A common belief I hear repeated often is that too many young people go to college, and that more should go into the trades where they can avoid the wasteful debt of college and still earn a good living. The problem with this argument is that the few parts that are true are largely benign, and the parts that are demonstrably false guide much of Indiana's education policy.

It is clearly true that a young person can earn a decent living in the trades or other careers that do not require a college degree. There are plenty of anecdotal examples of clever, industrious people enjoying a successful and financially secure life without a college degree.

But, that is far from the typical experience.

From 1992 to the end of 2019, the U.S. was a job creation engine. Among workers older than 25, we saw a cumulative growth of 39.8 million jobs. Of those, 31.7 million jobs went to workers with a bachelor's degree or higher, and a further 11.4 million of those workers had been to college without earning a bachelor's degree. That means the economy lost over a half-million jobs for workers with only a high school diploma, while shedding a full 2.8 million for those without a high school diploma.

Since 1992, a full 108 percent of new jobs went to those workers who'd been to college. That's right, over the past 28 years, more than all the net new jobs created in America went to workers who had been to college. Of course, that is pre-COVID. As of summer 2020, so many jobs were destroyed that college graduates alone accounted for 124 percent of job growth since 1992.

The percentages of jobs by educational attainment tell the same story. In 1992, 27 percent of jobs were held by college graduates, and today it is 42 percent, while only 33.3 percent of adults hold a college degree. The share of workers who'd been to college without receiving a bachelor's degree barely rose from 25.1 to 26.2 percent. Workers with only a high school diploma crashed from 35.6 percent of the workforce to just 25 percent, while those who didn't graduate from high school dropped from 12.2 to 6.7 percent.

Now, a thoughtful reader might ask whether the disproportionate share of college jobs meant that many

graduates were underemployed. That's a good question. If an increasing share of college grads are underemployed, then wages for college grads must be in relative decline as more of them take over jobs formerly held by non-graduates. This would also cause the wage premium between college graduates and non-graduates to shrink.

As it turns out, average wages have risen substantially more for college grads than for any other category. More to the point, since 1992, the college wage premium actually grew. This is clear evidence that the employment growth among college graduates is not driven by underemployment of college educated workers. It is driven by higher demand for better-educated workers.

These facts debunk the notion that too many people are attending college. In fact, labor markets across America are screaming loudly for more college graduates. Moreover, despite what many businesses say in public, as evidenced by wage growth, there is an excess supply of workers who have not been to college.

This broad, unambiguous, multi-decade trend in American labor markets seems to have had no influence on Indiana policy or budgets. Over the past decade, Indiana has substantially cut per student funding at both the K-12 and college level. In inflation-adjusted dollars, we now spend less per K-12 or college student than we did in 2010. Yet, these figures understate the magnitude of the budget situation. Were Indiana to spend the same share of GDP on education in 2019 as we did in 2010, Indiana's schools would have 15 percent higher budgets, or \$1.28 billion extra per year. And, if we did the same for our colleges, spending would be 29.4 percent higher, with another \$583 million per year.

Another way to frame this is that Indiana's longest economic expansion was accompanied by its most systematic and largest reduction in educational funding in state history.

Michael J. Hicks



The effects of that are now being felt across the economy. From 2018 to 2019, the United States saw its share of college graduates rise a tad bit over 1.0 percent to 33.3 percent. In shocking contrast, Indiana's actually declined by 0.2 percent to 26.9 percent of adults with a college degree. Today, Indiana ranks 43rd among the states and territories for college educational attainment, sandwiched between Tennessee and Puerto Rico.

The effects of this disinvestment in human capital weighed heavily on Indiana's economy. During the nation's longest economic expansion, from 2010 to the end of 2019, our state grew employment at a rate 30 percent lower than the nation as a whole. Over the same time, our relative per capita income saw its biggest decline in history. To top it off, Indiana's Gross Domestic Product grew at just over half the rate of the United States, and slower than every Midwestern state. So, despite what you are likely to hear from politicians touting our state's economy, even the Illinois economy outperformed Indiana's over the past decade.

Some readers might suppose a college professor's focus on education is an elitist position. It is not. It is true that places with better-educated workers are more prosperous, but the best place for a high school graduate to work is a place surrounded by lots of better-educated workers. After all, the best way to boost wages for less-educated workers is for them to be a smaller share of the labor force.

Finally, it may well be that Hoosiers prefer lower taxes to higher educational spending. That is the type of choice that must be made by voters, not economists. But, it is important that everyone understand that choice has caused, and will continue to cause, Indiana's economy to perform poorly. In order for the Hoosier economy to create more jobs and prosperity, it will take a substantial and sustained focus on educational attainment. That focus will have to be guided by research and will require substantially more funding.

If voters are content with an economy in which Indiana continues to become relatively poorer, with fewer and less-productive workers, there's no need to change our educational policies or budgets. The status quo virtually guarantees that outcome.

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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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Corn variety finds new use as cattle feed

By JUSTINA VASQUEZ
Bloomberg

A type of corn on its way to becoming obsolete is getting a lifeline: It could be a key to making the beef industry greener.

Swiss-based Syngenta Group's Enogen seeds is a brand of corn used for ethanol production that seemed to be on its way out as biofuels demand took a dive during the pandemic. But a recent study discovered that when fed to cattle, the corn improved efficiency in beef output by 5%.

For a thousand cattle, that means a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions equal to removing 35 cars from roads for a year, or sparing 50 football fields of

feed crops in a year, the company said.

Enogen seeds may have soon phased out if it wasn't for the unintentional find, Justin Wolfe, Syngenta's regional director of North America seeds, said in an interview. The sustainability of ethanol "over time, I think, is a question."

Syngenta sees farmers pivoting away from ethanol production. Biofuels and gasoline have seen demand setbacks as stay-at-home orders due to the COVID-19 pandemic kept cars off roads. Longer term, improving battery technologies are boosting the outlook for electric vehicles.

Meanwhile, the beef

industry has been battling criticism over its environmental footprint, especially because cattle emit methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Alternative meat companies like Beyond Meat Inc. and Impossible Foods Inc. have achieved stunning growth in recent years, partly won by demonizing beef as unsustainable.

Last year, half of Enogen seeds produced corn for the biofuels sector and the other half went into feed. This year closer to two-thirds will be used for feed, and that could "easily" reach 90% in several years, Chris Cook, head of Enogen, said in an interview.



Bloomberg/Paul Frangipane

A pile of corn during a harvest at a farm in Union Springs, N.Y., on Nov. 7, 2020.

Eubanks leaving CR for job in Indy

The Commercial Review's city reporter is headed back home.

Editor and publisher Ray Cooney announced this week that reporter Riley Eubanks will be leaving his post next week for a public relations internship with the Indiana Donor Network.

"Portland has treated me well, and I've enjoyed my time here," Eubanks said, "but it's time for me to go home."

Eubanks, an Indianapolis native, began at The Commercial Review in December 2019, two days after graduating from Ball State University with a bachelor's degree in journalism.

In his time in Portland, he wrote stories about the city's transition to a new mayor and police chief in addition to regular reporting duties regarding the state legislature and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

He also recently graduated from Arizona State University with a master's degree and celebrated by adopting two dogs, Reggie and Cheryl.

Celebrating this year

In addition to electing officers and honoring local businesses that celebrated anniversaries in 2020, Jay County Chamber of Commerce recently recognized businesses that will be celebrating milestone anniversaries this year.

They are as follows:

- 90 years — Barnum-Braun Insurance
- 70 years — The Portland Foundation and WPGW
- 60 years — Indiana Michigan Power
- 50 years — J&P Custom Plating
- 40 years — Edward Jones Financial (advisor Drew Houck), Jim Byrd Income Taxes and Bookkeeping and State of the Heart Care
- 30 years — Key Palace Theatre and Payless Pizza
- 20 years — Crown Pointe of Portland, Harvest Land Co-op, Jay County Visitor & Tourism Bureau, John Jay Center for

Business roundup

Learning and West Jay Community Center

- 15 years — Advanced America, Murphy USA, Patriot Fitness, Performance Tool, Remember When and The Rock
- 10 years — Great Deals

Nelson named

Dr. Cameron Nelson and Dr. Nicholas Nussbaum have been promoted to director of medical affairs for hospital services and director of medical affairs for community services, respectively, at Adams Memorial Hospital.

Nelson, a graduate of Wright State University, will oversee clinical provider services at the hospital in acute care settings. He has been with Adams Memorial Hospital since 1996 and has also served as team physician for Bellmont High School.

Nussbaum, who graduated from South Adams High School in 1997 and went on to Wabash College and then Indiana University School of Medicine, will be responsible for physician and advanced practice provider leadership. He has been with Adams Memorial since 2008, starting at the office in Monroe.

BSU ends contract

Ball State University is ending its contract with Jamba Juice, the Ball State Daily News reported Thursday.

Jamba Juice is currently located in the university's atrium. It will be replaced by the Atrium Cafe & Convenience Store, which will open Monday.

"The five-year agreement between Ball State University and Jamba Juice was due for renewal," Karen Adkins, senior director of auxiliary services, told the DN in an email. "Based on declining customer counts

and sales, University Dining recommended a non-renewal of the agreement."

Scout applies

Scout Clean Energy on Monday filed an application with Washington State Energy and Facility Site Evaluation Council for its proposed renewable energy facility.

Scout, which owns and operates Bitter Ridge Wind Farm in Jay County, hopes to construct a facility that would combine wind, solar and battery energy storage in a single location. It first announced the Benton County, Washington, project in early 2020.

"We are excited to formally submit our application, bringing the project one step closer to becoming a reality and helping Washington and the Pacific Northwest reach their clean energy goals," said Scout CEO Michael Rucker in a press release.

Ardagh to release

Ardagh Group has announced plans to release its fourth-quarter and full-year earnings results Tuesday.

Ardagh, which operates glass manufacturing plants in Dunkirk and Winchester, will release its results on its website — ardaghgroup.com — at 7 a.m. Feb. 16. An investor webcast and conference call will be held at 10 a.m. the same day.

CFO resigns

Eli Lilly senior vice president and chief financial officer Josh Smiley resigned recently after "allegations of an inappropriate personal relationship" with an employee, the Associated Press reported this week.

The Indianapolis-based company named Lilly Research Laboratories CFO Anat Ashkenazi to replace Smiley. Ashkenazi has been with Eli Lilly since 2001.

Eli Lilly has replaced its chief financial officer who resigned following an investigation into a

personal relationship that violated company policy.

An independent investigation found "consensual though inappropriate personal communications" between Smiley and some employees and behavior that demonstrated poor judgment, the company told the AP.

Shamrocks are back

McDonald's is bringing back its Shamrock treats.

The fast food restaurant chain announced this week that Shamrock shakes and OREO Shamrock McFlurry's will return Monday.

"For more than 50 years, fans have eagerly awaited the annual return of the Shamrock Shake, counting on the arrival of Shamrock Shake Season to mark the unofficial start to spring," said McDonald's senior director of culinary Chad Schafer in a press release. "And we heard they especially enjoyed getting a taste of the ... Shamrock flavor in a new way last year with the OREO® Shamrock McFlurry."

McDonald's also announced this week that it is bringing back Hi-C Orange Lavaburst, which has been off of the menu since 2017. It is expected to be available nationwide by the summer.

Advance teaming

Advance Auto Parts announced this week that it is partnering with NASCAR's Team Penske for the No. 12 Ford Mustang driven by Ryan Blaney in the Cup Series.

Advance plans to showcase NASCAR-sanctioned local short tracks across the United States and Canada as part of the NASCAR Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series. Each week, two different tracks will be featured on Blaney's car.

"We are delighted to partner with Team Penske to advance local racing through this activation," said Jason McDonell, Advance's chief marketing officer, in a press release. "We believe this program will create a sense of pride with each of

NASCAR's local tracks while drawing more attention to the vital role these tracks play in their communities."

Comcast awarding

Comcast announced Tuesday that its RISE Investment Fund will provide \$5 million in grants to minority-owned small businesses.

The first round of grants will be open for applications March 1 for eligible businesses in Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia, Houston and Atlanta. The company plans to award 100 grants per city in May.

The grants are part of Comcast RISE's effort launched last year.

Roark to raise

Roark Capital, a private-equity firm that owns Arby's, has established a new fund and plans to raise \$5 billion, QSR magazine reported this week.

The new fund would be the same size as a previous Roark effort that closed in October 2018. The firm's affiliates have acquired 90 franchises and brands that cover more than 60,000 locations, including Buffalo Wild Wings and Jimmy John's in addition to Arby's.

O'Reilly increases

O'Reilly Auto Parts announced Tuesday that its earnings for the fourth quarter of 2020 were up 11.2% over the same period last year. The company also announced a 10.9% increase in 2020 over 2019.

Sales for the fourth quarter increased \$346 million to \$2.83 billion. For the year, sales came in at \$11.6 billion, up \$1.45 billion from 2019.

"We are extremely pleased to report another record-breaking quarter to finish out 2020, with the incredible performance by Team O'Reilly in the fourth quarter capping the best full-year financial results in our company's history," said O'Reilly CEO and co-president Greg Johnson in a press release.

Business leaders criticize bills

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — More than 60 Indianapolis business and civic group leaders have signed a letter criticizing the Republican-dominated Legislature over bills that would strip authority from the city officials.

Bills advancing in the Legislature would take steps such as block the city's regulations on rental properties, demand changes to the city bus system, shift control of Indianapolis police to a governor-appointed board and strip much of the authority from a citywide zoning board.

The letter released Thursday warns that "imposing

heavy-handed limits on local authority would stall our ability to drive Indiana forward."

Republican legislators have faced criticism for targeting actions supported by Democratic Mayor Joe Hogsett and the Democratic-controlled city council.

Republican Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray of Martinsville said he didn't expect all the proposals would win approval but that the economic impact of Indianapolis on the state merited attention.

"We want Indianapolis to be successful, there are differences of opin-

ion on some issues, but we need to be and want to be a good partner," he said.

Those signing the letter included executives of Eli Lilly, Cummins, Allison Transmission, Anthem and Salesforce and leaders such as former Republican Lt. Gov. John Mutz.

"Efforts at the Statehouse to stifle local priorities — in public safety, transit, housing and more — will stall growth by diminishing the contributions of residents who feel isolated from jobs, unsafe in their neighborhoods, limited by housing and transportation options," the letter said.

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WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

For Jay County Schools February 15-19

Monday: Main Entrees: Walking beef taco **Alternate Entrees:** PB&J fun lunch, Ham and cheese chef salad, saltine crackers, light ranch dressing **Sides for all meals:** Mexican style refried beans

Tuesday: Main entrees: Chicken nuggets **Alternate entrees:** strawberry parfait with granola, ham and cheese chef salad, saltine crackers, light ranch dressing, **Sides for all meals:** Baked crinkle fries

Wednesday: Main Entrees: Crispy fish filet sandwich **Alternate Entrees:** PB&J fun lunch, Ham and cheese chef salad, saltine crackers, light ranch dressing **Sides for all meals:** Tater tots

Thursday: Main Entrees: Beef nachos **Alternate entrees:** strawberry parfait with granola, ham and cheese chef salad, saltine crackers, light ranch dressing, **Sides for all meals:** Seasoned corn

Friday: Main entrees: Classic cheese pizza **Alternate Entrees:** PB&J fun lunch, Ham and cheese chef salad, saltine crackers, light ranch dressing **Sides for all meals:** Savory green beans

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2-13 CRYPTOQUIP

VLM - ORZSZV KLML ERLQZ
XSGMZ GKEGCQ GUUZGAQ LY
WZAOGXY WGFZ SXH ILHZQ:
IZOOC WALWFZA QUGYXZK.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT HAPPENED WHEN A CERTAIN VERY POPULAR ADVICE COLUMNIST CLIMBED ABOARD THE BUS? ABBY RODE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals G

Trivial Review
(Answers are printed below, upside down.)
Valentine's Day
1) Who are the Roman and Greek goddesses of love?
2) From what previous product were "conversation hearts" created?
Answers: (2) Necco wafers, Venus and Aphrodite

2-15 CRYPTOQUIP
RFEEZMTJ LKHQXKXJS NLFZ
SOLS'Q MLFBXMT VHJUXU RT
SOX NEN QAJBXF VFLJGAQ:
GEJJAX AQMLJU.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: DOG-THEMED LOGO WHOSE IMAGE ALWAYS APPEARS ON CERTAIN CAKE MIX BOXES: BETTY CROCKER SPANIEL.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals O

CRYPTO FUN
Determine the code to reveal the answer!
Solve the code to discover words related to slow cooking. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 25 = E)
A. 8 9 3 8 19
B. 22 25 26 20 25 9 6 22 1 9 25
C. 21 24 26 26 25 9
D. 4 24 2 2 25 9

WORD SCRAMBLE
Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to slow cooking.
IKCNEHC
Answer: Chicken

Guess Who?
I am an actor born in California on February 12, 1968. I grew up on a ranch with my actor father. I have had prominent movie roles, including a jock on a 1980s cult hit and a larger-than-life villain in a mega Marvel series.
Answer: Josh Brolin



HEALTH FACT!
THIS TERM MEANS 'OF OR RELATING TO THE HEART!'
ANSWER: CARDIAC



THIS DAY IN... HISTORY
8 FEB
1693: THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY IN VIRGINIA RECEIVES ITS CHARTER...
1879: THE ENGLISH CRICKET TEAM IS ATTACKED DURING A MATCH IN SYDNEY...
1963: PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY DECLARES VARIOUS INTERACTIONS WITH CUBA BY U.S. CITIZENS ILLEGAL.

New Word
AEROBIC
exercise that intends to improve the cardiovascular system

GET COOKING WORD SEARCH
S F P B G L H E D A N H M A O C W N H X
J C H P A C J T T U K H B A X Y J S M H
R D O L A L A E E G B S E D D U A G R E H F
I T P R E S E N T A T I O N A A T K O T
S Y H T X A G X U B A J W P R I I O T Y
G X G R H R G H D G W S D P I B D O W E
N W M R G P C X K Y A O W Y J A L G O H
I D M L G Y S P P C A R L I U K L O N B
N I Y R A N I L U C A D N S D F U B T R
O N T R E S S E D J S N I I D X N H R E
S N L C R P E U Y N M W S L S B C J M A
A E D N W A E K X M J D B J O H H M T K
E R I S I N G R E D I E N T S H S S C F
S P L A N N I N G O C C O N K U C U X B A
F B F E X U X B S E M S X E O J G H N S
R E N E H C T I K F L U L O D T N A R T
P R E C I P E K Y L L M K A A A I D X D
N M E D E P P O H C K I B S E P X D Y H
A I X D D P X G W M N S T Y C M I C B B
E R U S A E M I T G K E A G D I M M L G

- WORDS
ADJUST
BREAKFAST
CHOPPED
COOKING
CULINARY
DESSERT
DINNER
FOOD
GARNISH
HOLIDAY
INGREDIENTS
KITCHEN
LUNCH
MEALS
MEASURE
MIXING
PLANNING
POT
PRESENTATION
RECIPE
SEASONINGS
SLOW
SNACK
TASTE

Did You Know?
PEOPLE WHO SUFFER FROM ANEMIA EXPERIENCE A REDUCTION OF OXYGEN AVAILABLE TO THEIR BODIES. THEY MAY SHOW SYMPTOMS OF BEING TIRED.

GET THE PICTURE?
Can you guess what the bigger picture is?
ANSWER: STETHOSCOPE

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 40 Lean- (sheds)
1 Strike, old-style
6 Ranch crew
11 Ocean breeze
12 Monastery heads
14 Leather worker
15 Send to a starship
16 Tolkien creature
17 Ledger entry
19 Holly-wood's Lupino
20 Off-white
22 Speck
23 Peevish fit
24 Oyster's prize
26 Bits of body art
28 Ball club?
30 - chi
31 Rapping sound
35 Sailing vessel
39 Mideast gulf
DOWN 21 City-based
23 Moon-shine maker
25 Long. crosser
27 Prof's helpers
29 Was a snitch
31 Sitar tunes
32 Conforms
33 Plant-based protein source
34 Youngster
36 NHL team
37 Infant's outfit
38 longer in
41 Biblical realm
44 "Would to you?"
45 Pre-diploma hurdle
48 Bird (Pref.)
50 French vineyard

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers 1-50.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand
South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH: 9874, 6532, AK53, 2
WEST: KJ532, AK9, J76, 83
EAST: AQ, QJ10874, 1098, 75
SOUTH: 106, Q42, AKQJ10964
The bidding: South 4(!), West Pass, North 5, East Pass; South 6, West Pass, North 6, East Pass; South 7, West Pass, North 7, East Pass.
Opening lead - king of hearts.
It is unlikely that the bidding shown would ever be approved by the FBI (Faultless Bidding Institute). But believe it or not, that's exactly how it went when the hand was played!
The deal was reported by a Texan named Travis White in a book he wrote back in 1934 called "Odd Tricks" (republished in 1978). It featured a collection of interesting hands, and White chose this particular illustration for his closing chapter - partly because he was a participant in the deal (he was East), and partly because he was the victim of one of the oddest occurrences ever recorded in a rubber-bridge game.
Apparently, South was so excited by his gorgeous club suit that instead of opening with four clubs, which he intended to do, he inadvertently bid four diamonds.
It is hard to blame North for raising to five diamonds - he was only doing what came naturally. South now tried to correct his miscue by running to six clubs, but the intended meaning of this bid sailed right over North's head. Instead, he retreated to six diamonds, as probably most other Northerners would have done.
This contract still didn't appeal to South, who tried seven clubs, hoping his partner would finally catch on. However, North blithely bid seven diamonds, which became the final contract.
West could have led a spade, a diamond or a club and defeated the grand slam, but he quite naturally led the king of hearts. After that, there was nothing much to the rest of the play. Declarer ruffed, cashed the Q-K-A-5 of trump, discarding his 10-6 of spades, and then took eight club tricks to score 2,140 points for bidding and making the grand slam!
Ironically, seven clubs could not have been made against any lead, but after the heart lead, seven diamonds turned out to be cold!
Tomorrow: A shift in time saves the day.
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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

The sure road to success
South dealer. East-West vulnerable.
NORTH: 10, A7, 109652, KQ84
WEST: AKQ872, J854, 73, 6
EAST: J53, K10962, 4, J1073
SOUTH: 964, Q3, AKJ8, A952
The bidding: South 1, West 1, North 2, East Pass; South 3, West Pass, North 4, East Pass; South 5.
Opening lead - king of spades.
Assume you're declarer with the South hand at five diamonds. West leads the king of spades and shifts to the four of hearts. How would you continue?
In situations of this sort, it is important not to separate your decision on which card to play at trick two from your overall plan of play. Here it is tempting to play low from dummy in hopes that West has led from the king.
Before doing so, however, you should first ask yourself whether West would lead a heart if he had the king. Also, you should ask yourself whether the contract might be in danger if you played low from dummy and East won with the king. (In the actual case, you'd go down one if you followed low from dummy, as you would later lose a club trick.)
Along about this time, you should come to the realization that the contract is ice-cold if you go up with the ace of hearts! So you take the ace, lead a diamond to your king, ruff a spade in dummy, lead a diamond to the ace and ruff your last spade in dummy.
You next cash dummy's king of clubs, exit with a heart and relax in the comfortable assurance that the contract is now certain regardless of where the king of hearts is located or how the clubs are divided.
Observe what happens in the actual deal: East wins the heart with the king but is stymied. He must concede a ruff-and-discard or else return a club. Either way, you avoid a club loser. (If East returns the jack or ten of clubs, you simply win with dummy's queen and finesse against East's remaining honor.)
Note that the same result would accrue if West had the king of hearts and one or four clubs. He would also find himself without recourse. Going up with the ace of hearts at trick two guarantees the contract 100%.
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Here, in Dijon
4 Sturdy tree
7 Ogler's look
11 Calico's call
13 Shapiro of NPR
14 Pet food brand
15 Utah ski resort
16 Distant
17 Crazy
18 Purse fastener
20 Pear choice
22 Chapeau
24 Bluish-purple
28 Where earth meets sky
32 Feather in one's cap
33 Persia, today
34 Sched. placeholder
36 Hammer target
37 Roo's mother
39 Use a calculator
41 Upper crust
43 Three, in Rome
44 Sea predator
46 Salon sounds
50 Author Uris
53 Ms. Gardner
55 March Madness gp.
56 Eager
57 "Berlin Game" author
58 Egg part
59 Body powder
60 Parched
61 Formerly known as
DOWN 21 Apple desktop
23 Nanny's charge
25 Maui meal
26 Send forth
27 Prefix with conference
28 Scouting outing
29 Exam format
30 Hindu royal
31 "This Is Us" network
35 Speck
38 - Lingus
40 Doubtful or Dalloway
42 Burn with steam
45 Say it's so
47 PC picture
48 Ale variety
49 Rice wine
50 Long. crosser
51 Actress Longoria
52 Texas tea
54 Whatever

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers 1-61.

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



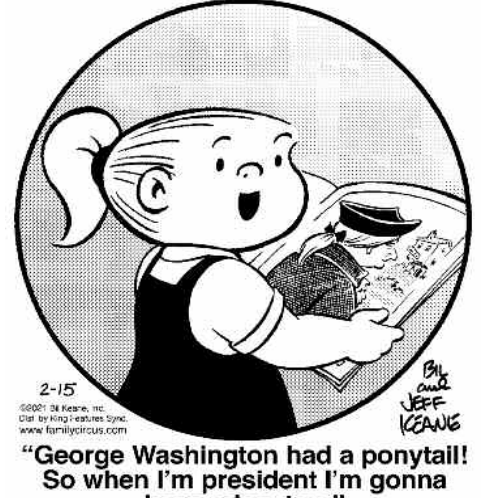
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Peanuts



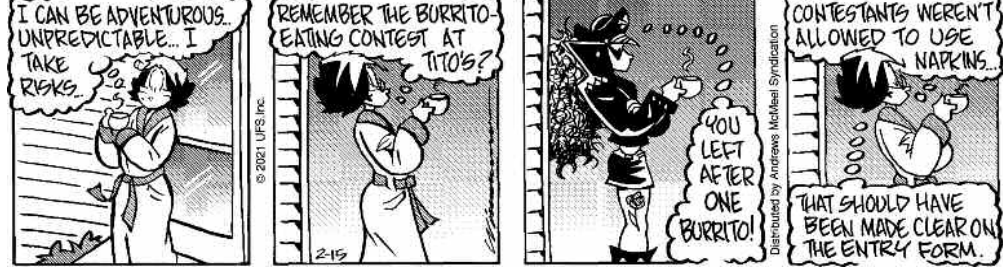
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Hi and Lois



Funky Winkerbean



Funky Winkerbean



Blondie



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Beetle Bailey



We Deliver



Maybe it's a chuckle from reading a vintage Peanuts cartoon. Maybe it's a column by a member of The CR staff. But we try to keep our sense of humor.

Laughter

The Commercial Review We Deliver

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JAY, SS:
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NO: 38C01-2102-EU-
000006
IN THE MATTER OF THE
UNSUPERVISED ESTATE
OF:
JOHN E. HANLIN, (Deceased)
NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION
Notice is given that TAMARA
K. HANLIN on the day 8th day
of February, 2021, was ap-
pointed Personal Representa-
tive of the estate of JOHN E.
HANLIN, deceased, who died
on January 31, 2021. The Per-
sonal Representative is autho-
rized to administer the estate
without Court supervision.
All persons who have claims
against this estate, whether or
not now due, must file the claim
in the office of the Clerk of this
Court within three (3) months
from the date of the first publi-
cation of this notice, or Within
nine (9) months after the deced-
ent's death, whichever is ear-
lier, or the claims will be for-
ever barred.
Dated: February 8, 2021

Jon Eads
Clerk of The Jay County Court
Natalie J. Booher
Schwarz Law Office, PC
310 N. Chicago St.
PO Box 637
Royal Center, Indiana 46978
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Supreme Court I.D. No. 33965-
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Attorney for the Estate
CR 2-13-20-2021 HSPAXLP

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

Bearcreek Township, Jay County, Indiana
Cash and Investments Combined Statement - 2020

Local Fund Number	Local Fund Name	Beg. Cash and Inv. Bal. Jan 1, 2020	Receipts	Disbursements	End Cash and Inv. Bal. Dec 31, 2020
Governmental Activities					
01	Township General				
	Activities Fund	-\$69,598.17	\$126,115.79	\$40,063.49	\$16,454.13
11	Firefighting Fund	\$74,713.77	\$25,897.87	\$13,800.00	\$86,811.64
81	Township Assistance Fund	\$11,377.18	\$1,189.14	\$2,218.20	\$10,348.12
91	Levy Excess Fund	\$307.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$307.00
95	Payroll Withholdings Fund	-\$2,013.47	\$1,158.41	\$1,494.24	-\$2,349.30
	Total All Funds	\$14,786.31	\$154,361.21	\$57,575.93	\$111,571.59

Bearcreek Township, Jay County, Indiana
Detailed Receipts 2020

Fund/Category/Vendor Name	Amount
Governmental Activities	
Township General Fund	\$22,366.51
General Property Taxes	
Local Income Tax (LIT) for Levy Freeze	\$2,641.00
Vehicle/Aircraft Excise Tax Distribution	\$793.20
Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax Distribution (CVET)	\$104.82
Local Income Tax (LIT) Certified Shares	\$9,699.00
Grants and Distributions from Non-Governmental Entities	\$89,191.19
Other Court and Clerk Receipts/01 - Township General F	\$1,320.07
Total Township General Fund	\$126,115.79
Firefighting Fund	\$17,232.29
General Property Taxes	
Local Income Tax (LIT) for Levy Freeze	\$1,537.00
Vehicle/Aircraft Excise Tax Distribution	\$461.58
Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax Distribution (CVET)	\$67.00
Sale of Capital Assets	\$6,600.00
Total Firefighting Fund	\$25,897.87
Township Assistance Fund	\$1,153.38
General Property Taxes	
Vehicle/Aircraft Excise Tax Distribution	\$31.58
Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax Distribution (CVET)	\$4.18
Total Township Assistance Fund	\$1,189.14
Payroll Withholdings Fund	\$1,158.41
Payroll Fund and Clearing Account Receipts	\$1,158.41
Total Payroll Withholdings Fund	\$1,158.41
Bearcreek Township, Jay County, Indiana Disbursements by Vendor 2019	

Fund/Category/Vendor Name	Amount
Governmental Activities	
Township General Fund	\$800.00
Personal Services	
Wendel, Steven James	\$630.00
Haffner, James L.	\$630.00
Tressler, Kari D.	\$630.00
Gierhart, JoA.	\$6,000.00
Laux, Crystal E.	\$1,176.60
Internal Revenue Service	
Township General Fund	\$14.97
Supplies	
Harland Clarke	\$71.12
Progressive Office Supplies	\$12,216.75
Jay County Auditor	\$386.59
I & M	\$33.00
United States Postal Service	
Township General Fund	\$532.50
Services and Charges	
Coldren, Frantz & Sprunger	\$440.00
Bollenbcher & Associates	\$2,349.08
Comcast	\$2,882.00
Westfield Insurance	\$251.27
Graphic Printing	\$4,650.00
Rick Gabbard Fencing	\$700.00
Micro Spectrum	\$240.00
Jay County Treasurer	\$600.00
Mary Lou Frye	\$1,075.00
Michael D. Landers	915.00
Michael J. Landers	\$1,625.00
Robert Skiver	\$543.66
Harvest Land CoOp	\$550.95
I & M	\$120.00
CNA Security	\$40,063.49
Township General Fund	\$13,800.00
Firefighting Fund	
Services and Charges	
Bryant VFD	
Township Assistance Fund	\$642.75
Township Assistance	
I & M	\$494.73
AEP	\$772.00
REMC	\$308.72
Harvest Land CoOp	\$2,218.20
Township Assistance Fund	
Payroll Withholdings Fund	
Other Disbursements	
IN Department of Revenue	\$436.81
United States Treasury	\$1,057.43
Payroll Withholdings Fund	\$1,494.24
State of Indiana	
SS: Jay County	

I, Crystal Laux, Trustee of Bearcreek Township, Jay County, Indiana, do solemnly affirm under the penalty of perjury that the preceding report is complete, true and correct; that the sum with which I am charged in this report are all of the sums received by me; and that the various items of expenditures credited have been fully paid in the sums stated; that such payments were made without express or implied agreement that any portion thereof shall be retained by or repaid to me or any other person. I further affirm that a complete and detailed annual report, together with all accompanying vouchers showing the names of persons having been paid money by the township, have been filed as required by law in the office of the County Auditor, and that copies of this annual report are in custody of the Township Board and the State Board of Accounts. Said report is subject to inspection by any taxpayer of the township.

Crystal Laux, Bearcreek Township Trustee
Telephone: 260-997-4023
Date this report was to be published 2/13/2021
Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, the Chairman of the Township Board of Bearcreek Township at its annual meeting this 9th day of February, 2021
Jim Haffner, Township Board Chairman
This report was received, accepted, and approved by the Township Board at its annual meeting, this 28th day of January, 2020.
Bearcreek Township Board:
Jo Ann Gierhart
Kari Tressler
CR 2-13-2021- HSPAXLP

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Hamlin seeks historic third Daytona victory

By JENNA FRYER
AP Auto Racing Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Denny Hamlin, considered perhaps the best NASCAR driver without a Cup Series championship, can look past that hole on his record. He instead points to a pair of Southern 500 trophies, a Bristol night race victory, three road course wins, six at Pocono and the big daddy of them all, the Daytona 500.

Hamlin has won NASCAR's crown jewel, the one race that can define a driver's career, three different times in the last two years. On Sunday, he will attempt to become the first to win three consecutive Daytona 500s, a feat that would forever dull the disappointment of his championship failures.

"This is something that no one's ever done before," Hamlin

said. "Other guys have won championships, obviously. I would want to do something no one else has done."

Hamlin is the 8-1 betting favorite but the Daytona 500 can be a crapshoot, particularly in NASCAR's condensed new schedule forced by the pandemic. Speedweeks at Daytona International Speedway for decades spanned nearly two weeks but this year was cut to just six days.

With only three practice sessions and the 150-mile Duel qualifying races, there is no clear indication who has cars capable of winning the Daytona 500.

Hendrick Motorsports swept the front row in qualifying with Alex Bowman and William Byron, but Byron crashed in the qualifying race and will fall to the back in a backup car at the start of the 500. Bowman had an

engine problem that will cost him the pole if the motor needs to be replaced.

Chase Elliott is the reigning series champion but hasn't had enough time to show if he's a contender for his first Daytona 500 victory. It's also unclear how Kyle Larson, new to the Hendrick stable this season after last year's NASCAR suspension for using a racial slur, is adapting to his new team.

Kevin Harvick is looking to rebound after falling short of the series title in last year's nine-win season. He tweeted "She's bad fast" about his Ford, though it was Stewart-Haas Racing teammate Aric Almirola who won the first qualifying race and said his car is strong for Sunday.

Fellow Ford drivers and Team Penske teammates Joey Logano and Ryan Blaney both seemed

able to run with Almirola.

Austin Dillon won the second duel, setting him up for a possible second Daytona 500 victory on the 20th anniversary of Dale Earnhardt's death. Dillon drives Earnhardt's famed No. 3 on grandfather Richard Childress' team and understands how emotional a victory would be in that Chevrolet.

"It would be amazing and huge for the company, RCR and all the 3 fans out there," Dillon said.

Dillon beat Bubba Wallace to win his qualifying race in a dramatic finish that showed Wallace might finally have the equipment he needs to be competitive. Wallace is the only Black racer at NASCAR's top level and gained a national platform last season for his outspokenness on social justice issues.

He landed multiple sponsors

through his activism and Wallace brought that funding to Michael Jordan and Hamlin for the launch of 23XI Racing. Jordan and Wallace are the only Black majority owner and driver combination in the sport, and this team has the sponsorship and support that could finally give Wallace a chance at his first Cup Series victory.

Wallace expects Jordan to demand results.

"He wants winning race cars, he wants a winning race driver and he took an opportunity to invest in me and he has seen something that sparked his interest," Wallace said. "We're just going to go out and do what I know how to do, not change up anything, not try too hard because of MJ or because of Denny or because of the opportunity."

Short ...

Continued from page 10
"They're tough to play against, but our kids, we tried to give it away in the fourth quarter, son of a gun," Gray said.

Jay County trailed by 14 in the first half on Tuesday and nearly tied the score in a 64-61 loss to South Adams. It also had double-digit deficits in losses to New Castle, Yorktown and Northeastern before making charges after halftime.

Jay County went 14-of-18 from the stripe. Ethan Dirksen (4-of-7) and Dusty Pearson (4-of-5) led the charge from the line, especially during the fourth quarter as JCHS was 10-of-13 during the final eight minutes.

After falling behind 11-4 in the first quarter, Jay County rallied to tie the score at 13 in the second. Pearson led the JCHS charge by scoring five points in that run, while Crosby Heniser (three points) and Dirksen (two) also contributed in the 9-2 spurt.

Heritage, however, scored the next 10 points that spanned half-time, and later scored 11 in a row for their 15-point lead.

Pearson led the visiting Patriots with 13 points, and Dirksen was second with 11 points.

Kiel Eldridge and Luke Saylor

led Heritage with 12 points each.

Junior varsity

Jay County scored 14 straight points in the second half on its way to a 51-49 victory over Heritage.

It was the seventh consecutive win for Jay County (7-5).

Blake Bogenschutz, who led all players with 24 points, hit a pair of free throws to put the visiting Patriots on top, 45-44. He then came up with a steal and a layup for a 47-44 advantage and Jay County, which trailed 41-31 at the end of the third quarter, never trailed again.

Trent Alexander scored 11 points in support of Bogenschutz, and Brady Davis contributed seven points.

Freshman

Parker Nichols scored in double figures in leading Jay County to a 41-32 win.

Nichols put in 17 points to lead the visiting Patriots, who moved to 11-2 on the season.

Abraham Dirksen followed with six points, and Trevin Dunnington was third on the squad with six points.



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Jay County High School junior Gavin Muhlenkamp tries to shoot over Aidan Wanner of South Adams during the second half Tuesday at Stardome. The Patriots, who had a rally come up short against the Starfires, suffered the same fate Friday night in a 50-44 loss to the Heritage Patriots.

Fall ...

Continued from page 10
The Tigers moved to 8-14 (3-6).

Brian Bihn had five points and Clay Schmitz scored four as the Indians led the Tigers 15-13 at the end of the first quarter. But the Tigers responded by holding a 17-11 margin during the second to lead 30-26 at halftime.

Versailles added one to the difference to lead 41-36 after three quarters of play before the Indians and Tigers combined to

score 47 points in the final eight minutes.

Cale Rammel and Bihn had 15 points each for the Indians, who also got nine points from Derek Jutte and seven each from Regan Martin and Clay Schmitz.

Jared Demange led Versailles with 15 points.

Fort Recovery's junior varsity team fell to the Tigers, 49-34. Troy Homan led the Indians with 11 points, and Ross Pearson chipped in seven points.

Spieth takes lead at Pebble

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Jordan Spieth took on a bold tee shot and pulled it off perfectly to set up birdie. He hit a poor 3-wood that went off a tree and back into the fairway that led to another.

Whether it's good golf or good breaks, it's making him feel a lot better about his game at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. He shot a 5-under 67 at Spyglass Hill on Friday for a one-shot lead over Daniel Berger going into the weekend.

"I like where things are at," Spieth said, referring to more than his name atop the leaderboard on the weekend for the second straight week.

Winless since his British Open title in 2017 at Royal

Birkdale, Spieth wasn't sure if he was taking baby steps or a giant leap. But one week after relying so much on his wizardry with the wedge and putter, this was a steady diet of keeping the ball inside the tree-lined fairways of Spyglass, reducing stress and making a few putts.

There was a 45-foot birdie putt he holed on the tough par-3 fifth hole. He also missed a few inside 10 feet, and his lone bogey was a three-putt from 7 feet on the par-5 first hole after he made the turn.

"A little bit improved off last week, which was the goal this week, to just try and feel like I'm getting better each day," said Spieth, whose tie for fourth in Phoenix was his best result since May 2019. "I haven't

made a ton of longer putts ... which is probably a really good sign that I'm keeping the ball in front of me and striking it really nicely."

Spieth was at 12-under 132, his first 36-hole lead since Birkdale.

Berger shot a 66 at Pebble Beach by going 2-3-2 along the ocean on a day filled with sunshine and a Pacific breeze. He holed 15-foot birdie putts on the par-3 fifth and par-3 seventh holes, and in between chipped in for eagle from about 20 feet on the par-5 sixth.

"I didn't make a bunch of birdies in the middle of the round and then hung in there and toward the end rattled off a couple and got myself in a good position going into Saturday," Berger said.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Wrestling semi-state at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne — 8:30 a.m.; Boys basketball at Delta — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Swimming sectional at Defiance Ayersville — 4 p.m.; Boys basketball vs. South Adams — 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday
Jay County — Junior high swimming at Muncie Southside — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high wrestling vs. Delta — 5:30 p.m.

Thursday
Jay County — Boys swimming hosts sectional preliminaries — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high wrestling at Muncie Southside — 5:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball sectional semifinal vs. Hardin Northern — 7 p.m.

Friday
Jay County — Wrestling state finals at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis — 6 p.m.; Boys swimming sectional (diving) — 6 p.m.; Boys basketball triple-header vs. Norwell — 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Boys basketball vs. New Bremen — 5:30 p.m.

Feb. 20
Jay County — Wrestling state finals at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis — 9 a.m.; Boys swimming hosts sectional finals — 1 p.m.; Boys basketball vs. Seton Catholic — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball sectional final vs. TBA — 7 p.m.

TV schedule

Saturday
Noon — Men's College Basketball: Indiana at Ohio State (ESPN); Loyola Chicago at Drake (ESPN2); UConn at Xavier (FOX)
1 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: Auburn at Kentucky (CBS)
2 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: Tennessee at LSU (ESPN)
2:30 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: Iowa at Michigan State (FOX)
3 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: Kansas at Iowa State (ABC)
4 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: Arkansas at Missouri (ESPN2); Duke at N.C. State (ESPN)
5 p.m. — Men's College Basketball:

Villanova at Creighton (FOX)
6 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: Gonzaga at San Francisco (ESPN2); North Carolina at Virginia (ESPN)
7:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Indiana Pacers at Atlanta Hawks (FSN)
8:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Brooklyn Nets at Golden State Warriors (ABC)
10 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: UNLV at Boise State (FS1)

Sunday
1 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: Michigan at Wisconsin (CBS)
3 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: Loyola Chicago at Drake (ESPN2)
3:30 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: Nebraska at Penn State (BTN)
7 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: Oregon State at Arizona State (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Portland Trail Blazers at Dallas Mavericks (ESPN)
10 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Los Angeles Lakers at Denver Nuggets (ESPN)

Monday
7 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Indiana Pacer vs. Chicago Bulls (FSN)
7 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: Virginia at Florida State (ESPN)

We have a busy schedule of special sections and pages coming up.

Mark your calendar so you don't miss them.

Spring Home Improvement
Friday, March 19 (ad deadline Mar. 12)

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

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

FRHS Graduation
Friday, May 21 (ad deadline May 14)

The Commercial Review
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Sports

Patriots' year ends at state prelims

By CHRIS SCHANZ

The Commercial Review

INDIANAPOLIS — The Patriots did their part and were set up for a chance to make the consolation finals in two events.

But as the second session carried on, one trend came to light. It was fast.

Jay County High School's girls swim team had its season come to a close Friday as it was held out of the championship or consolation finals during the preliminary round of the IHSAA Girls Swimming and Diving State Finals at the Indiana University Natatorium.

"The second session is a lot faster than the first for whatever reason," said JCHS coach Matt Slavik. "I know the schools that were in there, I figured there were five top schools. They're swimming a lot faster."

"I thought (our 200-yard medley relay) had a shot looking at the way the morning went but everybody dropped this afternoon."

The preliminaries were split into two sessions — Jay County and schools from odd-numbered sectionals swam in the afternoon with even-numbered sectionals swimming at night. The top eight times from preliminaries advance to today's championship heat, while places nine through 16 compete in the consolation finals.

"We moved up pretty good on our end," Slavik said. "Not quite what I thought we needed to get in. It was good though."

The Patriots' biggest improvement came from senior Ashlyn Dow, who had a time of 53.56 seconds in the 100-yard freestyle. She was just off her 25th-seed time of 53.44 and she improved five spots to 20th overall.

Dow was also 24th in the 100 breaststroke, which was one spot lower than her seed. She finished in 1 minute, 6.74 seconds, sixth hundredths of a second off her sectional championship time.

Jay County's 200 medley relay



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

In this photo from Feb. 4, Jay County High School senior Ashlyn Dow swims the breaststroke leg of the 200-yard medley relay during the IHSAA sectional preliminaries at JCHS. Competing in the state meet at IU Natatorium at IUPUI Friday night, Dow had the biggest individual improvement as she was 20th overall in the 100-yard freestyle five spots ahead of her seed entering the meet.

team of Rieley Brewster, Eliza Bader, Mara Bader and Dow also had a shot at the consolation finals based on its afternoon performance.

Seeded 24th overall with a time of 1 minute, 50.1 seconds, the quartet took 0.13 seconds off their seed time. The Patriots were ninth in their session, but the second set of prelims saw 11 teams post faster times.

Eliza Bader's best individual performance came in the 100 butterfly. The senior was seeded 24th,

and swam to a time of 58.52 seconds. She placed 11th in her session and 22nd overall.

She slipped one spot from being seeded 28th in the 50 freestyle. She had a time of 24.88 seconds, which was 15th during the afternoon session, and placed 29th.

In the 200-yard individual medley, Mara Bader struggled during the butterfly leg and ended with a time of 2:24.14, which was 32nd overall and matched her seed going into the state meet.

Jay County's 200 freestyle relay

team — Lilli Clemmons, Dow and the Baders — also moved up one spot to 26th as it had a time of 1:42.18.

"I thought it was a good day for us," Slavik said. "I am proud of the girls. They are a super bunch to be around."

Friday was the end of the career for four seniors; Eliza Bader, Brewster, Clemmons and Dow. They guided the Patriots to four consecutive Allen County Athletic Conference and sectional titles.

"I think more importantly than everything they've done as far as the records they put up and the hardware, they've been at the heart of a solid Jay County swim team and boosting the reliance on one another," Slavik said. "They did an amazing job of building each other up. They epitomize what high school sports should be all about."

Winchester senior Ella Baldwin, who trains with the Patriots, capped her career by placing 32nd in the 100 backstroke in 1:02.4.

Jay boys short again

MONROEVILLE — It happened again.

For the second time in as many games and fifth time this season, the Jay County High School boys basketball team had a rally come up short with a 50-44 loss to the host Heritage Patriots on Friday.

"Same old song," JCHS coach Jerry Bomholt told WPGW following the game. "Dig a hole, come back (and) come up short."

The setback dropped Jay County to 5-7 on the season and they end 3-3 in Allen County Athletic Conference play. Heritage, led by 2009 JCHS graduate Adam Gray, improved to 9-7 on the year with a flawless 6-0 ACAC record to claim the conference title.

"We knew it wasn't going to be easy," Gray said. "Jay County has gotten so much better over the course of the season. They are just so hard to play against and they're going to be really, really good for years to come."

After trailing by 15 in the third quarter, JC gets within three but can't pull out win

Three-pointers helped the host Patriots build a 36-21 lead late in the third quarter before the visitors mounted their comeback yet again. Jay County started the final period on a 9-3 run, and slowly started to chip away.

Jay County, which travels to Delta tonight, had pulled within three, 47-44 with less than 17 seconds to play, but Heritage made 3-of-4 from the free-throw line to put the visitors away.

See Short page 9

Indians fall to Tigers

Loss to Versailles drops FR to .500

VERSAILLES, Ohio — The Indians led by two points after eight minutes.

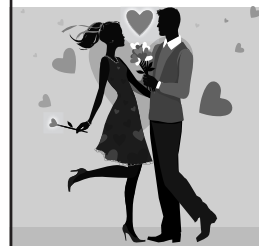
The Tigers raced by them in the second quarter and defended their home court for just their third conference win.

Fort Recovery High School's boys basketball team wasn't able to recover from the second quarter in a 66-58 loss to the Versailles Tigers in a Midwest Athletic Conference matchup Friday.

The Indians dipped to an even .500 on the year at 10-10 overall and 4-4 in MAC play.

See Fall page 9

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