

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

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## Designer job

### Miller has opened showroom in Portland

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

LeeAnn Miller's dream job didn't exist in Jay County.

So, she created it for herself. Two years after she started her own interior design business, Miller last week opened a showroom for Reclaiming Design in the front of Mainstream Furniture and Upholstery, 415 W. Water St., Portland.

After about a decade in commercial furniture sales in Ohio and Michigan, Miller and her family decided to move to Jay County to be closer to family. (She's a 2001 Fort Recovery High School graduate and her husband Nathan is a 1998 Jay County High School graduate.)

Miller stayed at home with her two children and gave birth to her third before returning to the workforce at Pennville Custom Cabinetry in Portland. She enjoyed her time there but was looking to be involved in the interior design process throughout the home.

"I wanted to do all of it, meaning from the very start to the very end," she said, mentioning rugs, flooring, decor and window coverings. "I wanted to do the design aspect of it."

Such an opportunity wasn't available in Jay County, so Miller launched her own interior design business in April 2019.

She had been working out of her rural Portland home, but one of her partners — Waypoint Living Spaces, a counter-top provider — requires that she have a showroom. That led to her approaching Mainstream, which had done custom furniture projects for her about the possibility of sharing space.

Miller officially opened the showroom with a ribbon-cutting ceremony last week.

She'll take on just about any level of renovation project, from a one-hour paint consultation to a single-room renovation to a full-scale remodel or a new build. The goal, she said, is to simplify the process for the homeowner.

"It is stressful going through a renovation," said Miller, who

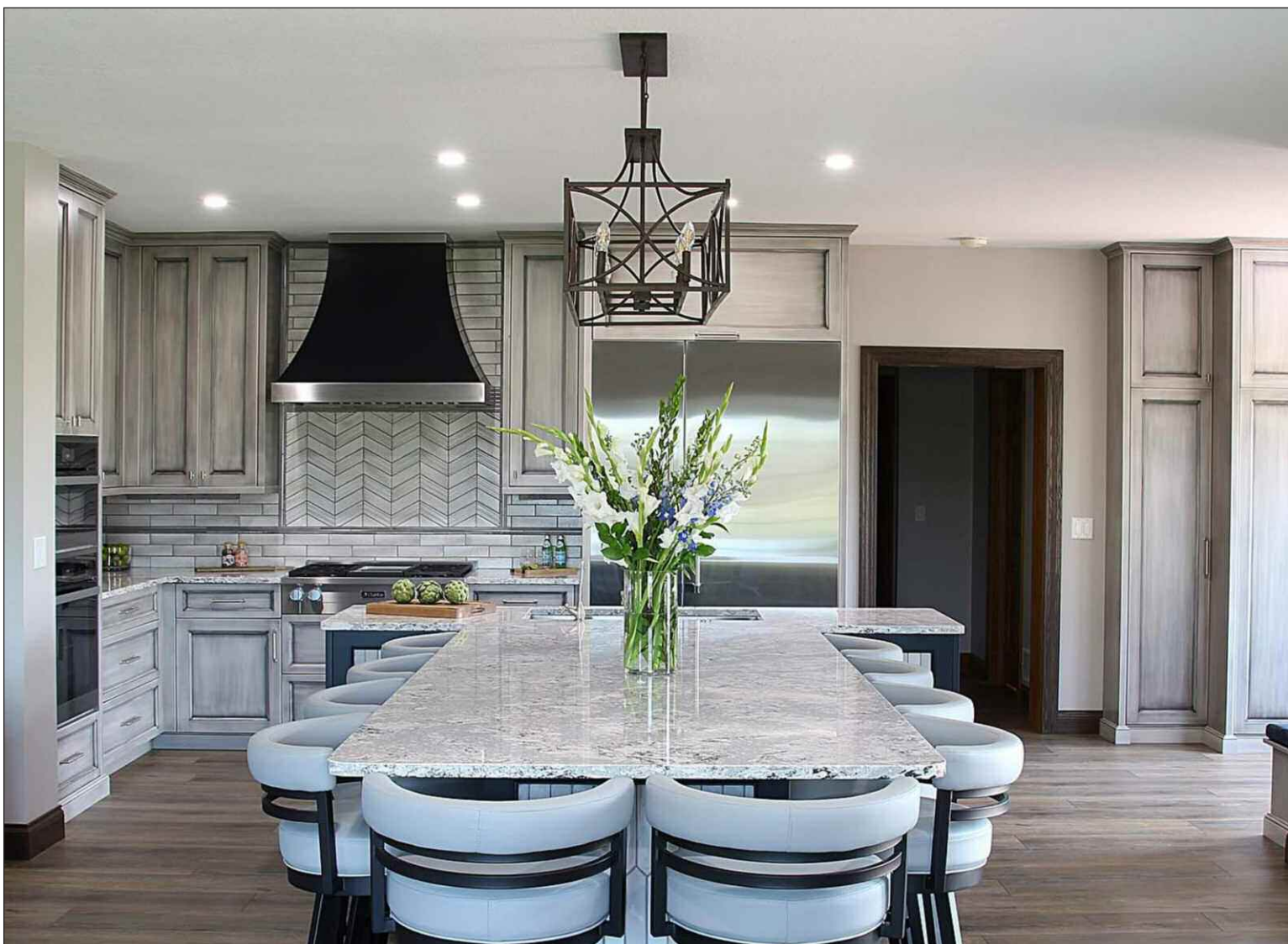


Photo provided

LeeAnn Miller of Reclaiming Design recently opened a showroom in the front of Mainstream Furniture and Upholstery on Water Street in Portland. She worked with Dan and Theresa Lennartz on their home remodeling project. They converted three rooms into an open concept with a kitchen and bar (pictured above), nook and living space.

graduated from Ohio State University in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in interior merchandising, adding that she wants to make the process less overwhelming by guiding homeowners through it. (She noted a kitchen remodel is a three- to six-month project.) "I really value people's time, people's time with family especially. Most people can relate with that."

"I'm their point person that's going to be able to help them navigate through all of that." One of the projects she has

worked on locally was a renovation for Dan and Theresa Lennartz of Fort Recovery. They turned what had been three rooms into an open-concept space with a kitchen, bar, nook and living area.

"I am so happy that we did this renovation for our kitchen and living space," Dan Lennartz says in a testimonial on the Reclaiming Design website. "Now, I can sit back, relax and it feels so great being in the space."

Miller, who has previously worked with Home Depot, King

Business Interiors, Herman Miller and Knoll, starts the design process with free 60-minute consultation during which she compiles information about a project. From there she develops a design agreement.

After that, the process can begin.

Miller recommends both designs and products and has several brands she works with, including Waypoint Living Spaces and Pennville Custom Cabinetry for cabinets, Distinctive Surfaces and Cambria Nat-

ural Quartz Surfaces for countertops, Uttermost for furniture, Kalalou for decor, Loloi Rugs and Graber for window coverings.

Currently, Miller prefers to work within about a one-hour radius of Portland, though she said she'd be willing to go further for the right opportunity. And she noted that design consulting has changed significantly with greater use of Zoom and Facetime during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

See Job page 2



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

## Royalty crowned

Alli Vaughn and Dillan Evers were crowned prom queen and king on Friday evening following promenade at Fort Recovery High School's Fort Site Fieldhouse. The event was held in person this year after the ongoing coronavirus pandemic made the 2020 promenade a virtual event.

## U.S. lifts pause on J&J vaccine

By MELISSA HEALY  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention rescinded their pause on the use of Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine Friday, clearing the way for states to resume immunizations with the single-dose shot.

The decision came just hours after a federal advisory panel recommended that immunizations with the J&J vaccine be resumed despite a tiny risk of blood clots.

On a 10-4 vote, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices reaffirmed its earlier guidance that the vaccine be used for people ages 18 and up.

Safety concerns about the shot arose from six cases of a rare and perplexing clotting disorder seen among recipients of the single-shot vaccine. All six of those cases involved women between the ages of 18 and 48.

The blood clots were unusual because they were accompanied by a dangerously low level of platelets, the building blocks of blood clots.

The initial six cases rose to 15 when safety experts went back and reviewed records of adverse reactions to the J&J vaccine. All of those cases involved women, and all but one was under 50.

Even so, the advisory panel said the risk was still tiny — in effect 1.9 cases per million people in the general population, or 7 cases per million women under 50.

Scientific and medical teams at the FDA and CDC agreed, having determined that the "known and potential benefits" of the vaccine outweigh its "known and potential risks."

"The FDA and CDC have confidence that this vaccine is safe and effective in preventing COVID-19," the agencies said in a joint statement, adding that they "will remain vigilant in continuing to investigate this risk."

### Deaths

**Jack Hammond, 88,**  
Dunkirk  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 59 Friday. There is a 50-percent chance of rain today with a high of 61. More rain is possible tonight with a low of 42. Expect mostly sunny skies Sunday with a high near 60 and sunny skies Monday with a high in the low 70s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

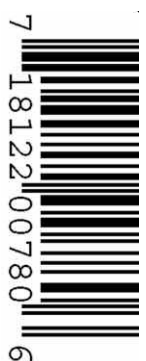
### In review

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday at Jay Community Center. To schedule an appointment visit red-crossblood.org or call (800) 733-2767.

### Coming up

**Tuesday** — Coverage of Tuesday's Dunkirk City Council and Jay County Commissioners meetings.

**Wednesday** — Results from Tuesday's JCHS girls tennis match against Union City.



# Obituaries

## Jack Hammond

Sept. 19, 1932-April 20, 2021  
Jack Leroy Hammond of Dunkirk, Indiana, passed away at the age of 88 at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie, Indiana, on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, following a very short and sudden illness.



Hammond

Jack was born in Muncie, Indiana, on Sept. 19, 1932, to the late Benjamin Franklin Hammond and Edna Madeline (VanNatter) Hammond.

Jack graduated from high school and became a carpenter for R.C. Keller, where he worked for 65 years. He was a 60-year

member of Carpenters Local 1016, Muncie.

He married Mary Jane Ratcliff on May 6, 1952, only three weeks after meeting her. He planned to recover and get back to his sweetheart of 69 years. They were happily married for 68 years.

His first love was his Lord and Savior, whom he served by teaching in his local church for 49 years. Mary was second only to his Savior, and he wanted to be sure that she was the last person who was going to be OK with him passing.

He loved his wife and four sons, but he was a stern man. He provided for his family and provided a home that was second to none in love.

He was a lifelong hunter and fisherman with his childhood

friend, Jack Tobias. They hunted and fished together for over 40 years.

His main hobby, reading the Bible, was his driving force in life. His personal goal was to read it through twice a year, which he had done for over 30 years. He would never let an opportunity slip by to tell someone how the Lord saved him and gave him hope for this time in his life.

He will be sorely missed by his wife and two sons, along with his grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchild, and his church family and friends. He left this life that had provided many medical miracles and gave praise to the Lord for being able to reach the age of 88 years.

Jack is survived by his wife, Mary Jane (Ratcliff) Hammond;

sons Charles Duane Hammond (wife: Cathy Sue Hammond) and Jeffery Ward Hammond; daughter-in-law Mary Lou Hammond; grandchildren Michelle, Melissa, Benjamin, Jason, Jessica, Adam, Travis, Taran, Dustin, and Jeremy; 23 great grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and 15 nephews and nieces.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents, Benjamin Franklin Hammond and Edna Madeline (VanNatter) Hammond; sons Stephen Alan Hammond and Jack Franklin Hammond; and sisters Mabel Heatherly, Eula May Schrode, and Phyllis Van Huesen.

Visitation will be held on Monday, April 26, 2021, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the First Free Will Baptist Church, 12369 W. 600 South, Dunkirk, with funeral services

immediately following at 1 p.m., also in the church. Burial will follow in I.O.O.F Cemetery on county road 400 North, Pennville.

Please contact the church or cemetery for possible COVID-related limitations.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Garden View Funeral Home.

Condolences may be expressed by visiting [gardenviewandgardensofmemory.com](http://gardenviewandgardensofmemory.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<br>4/25  | Monday<br>4/26   | Tuesday<br>4/27   | Wednesday<br>4/28   | Thursday<br>4/29  |
|---|--|---|---|---|
|   |  |   |   |   |
| <b>59/41</b>  | <b>74/59</b>   | <b>82/64</b>  | <b>73/59</b>  | <b>67/45</b>  |
| Mostly sunny during the day with some clouds at night. Otherwise moderate temperatures. | Mostly sunny with highs in the low 70s. Temperatures will begin to climb again through the week. | Mostly cloudy all day. Temperatures will be in the low 80s, with winds between 20 and 30 mph. | There is a 50% chance of thunderstorms under mostly cloudy skies. Otherwise warm. | Another potential rainy day with a 60% chance of showers. Winds may reach 10 to 20 mph. |

## Lotteries

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Hoosier</b><br>Midday<br>Daily Three: 8-0-0<br>Daily Four: 0-8-9-6<br>Quick Draw: 1-12-14-15-16-17-18-19-32-35-43-52-58-59-61-65-68-70-71-74 | Pick 4: 0-5-2-9<br>Pick 5: 1-3-0-1-9                     |
| <b>Ohio</b><br>Midday<br>Pick 3: 4-3-9  | <b>Powerball</b><br>Estimated jackpot: \$104 million     |
|   | <b>Mega Millions</b><br>Estimated jackpot: \$277 million |

## Markets

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b><br>Corn.....6.63<br>Wheat .....6.87  | <b>Central States Montpelier</b><br>Corn.....6.57<br>May corn.....6.58<br>Beans .....15.73<br>Sept. beans .....12.96<br>May wheat ..... 6.97           |
| <b>POET Biorefining Portland</b><br>Corn.....6.72<br>May corn.....6.72   | <b>Sunrise St. Anthony</b><br>Corn.....6.62<br>May corn.....6.65<br>Beans .....15.50<br>May beans .....15.50<br>Wheat .....6.65<br>July wheat.....6.67 |
| <b>The Andersons Richland Township</b><br>Corn.....6.59<br>May corn.....6.63<br>Beans .....15.80<br>May beans .....15.80<br>Wheat ..... 7.02<br>May wheat ..... 7.02 |  |

## Today in history

On April 24, 1980, the United States launched an unsuccessful attempt to free the American hostages in Iran, a mission that resulted in the deaths of eight U.S. servicemen.

In 1877, federal troops were ordered out of New Orleans, ending the North's post-Civil War rule in the South.

In 1915, in what's considered the start of the Armenian genocide, the Ottoman Empire began rounding up Armenian political and cultural leaders in Constantinople.

In 1960, rioting erupted in Biloxi, Miss., after Black protesters staging a "wade-in" at a whites-only beach were attacked by a crowd of hostile whites.

In 1962, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology achieved the first satellite relay of a television signal, between Camp Parks, California, and West-

ford, Massachusetts.

In 1967, Soviet cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov was killed when his Soyuz 1 spacecraft smashed into the Earth after his parachutes failed to deploy properly during re-entry; he was the first human space-flight fatality.

In 1996, the United Way of Jay County honored Greg Moser as its volunteer of the year. Moser led the organization's 1995 annual campaign, which brought in a record \$143,269.

In 2003, U.S. forces in Iraq took custody of Tariq Aziz, the former Iraqi deputy prime minister. China shut down a Beijing hospital as the global death toll from SARS surpassed 260.

In 2009, Mexico shut down schools, museums, libraries and state-run theaters across its overcrowded capital in hopes of containing a deadly swine flu outbreak.

—AP and The CR

## Citizen's calendar

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Monday</b><br>9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.<br>3:30 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management | District, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland.<br>6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St.<br>7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St. |
|---|---|

## Retrospect

# Wind peeled back gym roof

Twenty-five years ago this week, the roof was literally blown off of Fort Recovery's middle school gym.

The April 22, 1996, edition of The Commercial Review featured coverage of the continued clean-up efforts after high winds over the weekend peeled the roof off of the middle school gym at Fort Recovery High School. The storm included a report of a possible touchdown of a tornado in the Dunkirk area, and hundreds of area residents were left without power.

The damage to the roof occurred about 1:30 a.m. April 20. While some debris fell to the ground, about half of the Fort Recovery gym roof was wrapped around a chimney.

"It just basically peeled it right off," said Fort Recovery High School principal Ed Snyder.

Pieces of yellow insulation and bricks were strewn around the building. In addition to the



The Commercial Review/Barb Wilkinson

roof damage, the school's satellite dish was knocked over and several windows were broken.

Despite the damage, Fort Recovery High School was able to hold classes April 22.

Fort Recovery School Board held an emer-

gency session April 20 in order to get repairs moving as fast as possible. Materials were set to be ordered April 22.

Pat Niekamp, superintendent of Fort Recovery Local Schools, explained that the gym remained mostly protected

because an old roof was still in place below the portion that was torn off. However, he added "a lot of water was running in."

Niekamp estimated the cost of the repairs to be between \$50,000 and \$60,000.

## Capsule Reports

### Backing accidents

Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000 after a Portland woman backed into oncoming traffic on Main Street about 2:25 p.m. Thursday.

Pennee C. Carpenter, 64, was backing her 2018 Jeep Cherokee out of a parking space near Commerce Street when she failed to notice the eastbound 1999 Dodge Ram Pickup

driven by 18-year-old Kip Haffner coming toward her. The collision caused Carpenter's vehicle to move forward and slide into a parked 2016 Buick Enclave registered to Portland resident Donald L. Spencer.

Also, two Jay County residents backed into each other while leaving lots on Sesame Street about 4:41 p.m. Wednesday.

Mona M. Fairfield, 88, Portland,

was backing south out of lot 4 on the street near Blaine Pike at the same time Kallie M. Richardson, 15, Pennville, was backing north out of lot 5. Neither driver noticed the other and collided their vehicles.

Fairfield was driving a 2010 Ford Escape, and Richardson was driving a 2017 Dodge Durango. Damage is estimated between \$1,000 and \$2,500.

## SERVICES

### Today

**Wendel**, Ruth: noon, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 7321 E. Indiana 67, Bryant.  
**James**, Herbert: 4 p.m., 248 E. South St., Winchester.

### Monday

**Hammond**, Jack: 1 p.m., First Free Will Baptist Church, 12369 W. 600 South, Dunkirk.

### Wednesday

**Gibson**, Steve: 10 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

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

## Job ...

Continued from page 1  
And while her current showroom is in the Mainstream Furniture and Upholstery building on Water Street, Miller has already started thinking about the future.

She's in the process of purchasing a Meridian Street building through a tax sale and is hoping to someday have her own space in the downtown area, whether that be just a design studio or a retail outlet as well.

"I like how in the five years that I've been here I can see people trying to rejuvenate and renovate downtown," she said. "And I'd like to be a part of that too."

## R&C Flowers

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- Berry Plants
- Vegetable plants & seed
- Annuals
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- Roses

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## Now Seeking: Food Service Aide

Full-Time, first shift position with flexible scheduling available. Every other weekend required. This position will be responsible for taking resident food orders, serving meals, and cleaning assigned dining areas. Food service experience preferred. This position is eligible for benefits including health, dental, vision, and life insurance, Paid Time Off (PTO), and 403(b) retirement plan participation.

Apply online at [www.swissvillage.org](http://www.swissvillage.org), in-person, or send Resume to:

Taylor Lehman, VP of Human Resources  
Swiss Village  
1350 W. Main St., Berne, IN 46711

## 50th anniversary



Jay and Susan Louck - 1971

### Susan and Jay Louck

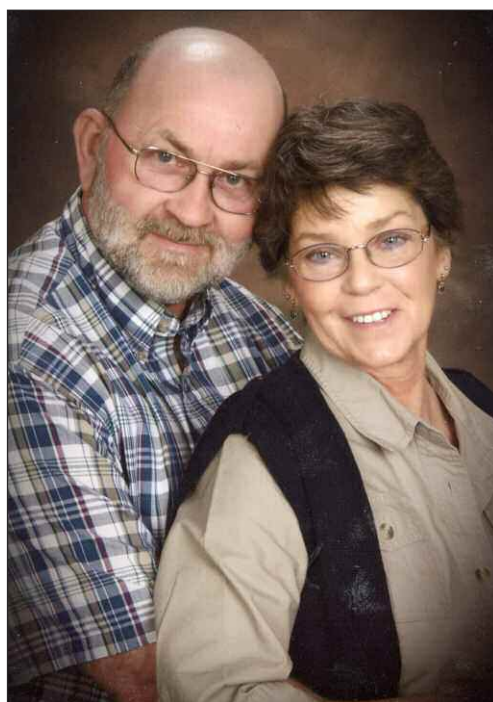
Jay and Susan Louck are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary today.

High school sweethearts Susan Fraley and Jay Louck were married April 24, 1971, at in the Redkey Christian Church rectory with the Rev. Larry Music officiating.

They are both actively involved in farming.

They are the parents of Carolyn (James) McDonald of Shelbyville, Illinois, Shawna (Charley Jr.) Bye of Portland and Katy (Slade) Dull of Indianapolis. They have eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

They plan to celebrate at a later date.



Jay and Susan Louck - 2021

## Teams advance to state

Two Patriot teams will be heading to state.

The Jay County High School Academic Team finished in the top five Tuesday to earn state berths at the Academic Senior Super Bowl Regional Area Contest. The top five teams — about 50 competed in the six-round competition — in each discipline advance to the state finals, which will be held May 10.

The English team of Jocelyn Nelson, Lainey Reynolds, Brooke Stauffer and Ava Stockton posted the best finish for JCHS. They took second place out of 47 teams to earn their state berth.

Joining them at the state finals will be the JCHS science team of Isaac Braun, James Larrowe, Lucas Lyons and Alex Ardizzone. They teamed to place fourth out of 47 teams at the regional competition.

Jay County narrowly missed a third state berth as the interdisciplinary team of Hannah Boggs, Braun, Stockton and Ardizzone placed sixth. They missed out on qualifying for state by way of a tiebreaker.

Also competing for JCHS were:

•Mackenzie Brown, Sarah McClain and Boggs, who were 13th in the fine arts competition.

•Lyons, Larrowe, Braun and Boggs, who took 16th in the math competition.

•Mackenzie Brown, Jocelyn Nelson and Ardizzone, who were 28th in the social studies competition.

## Man makes neighbor uncomfortable

DEAR ABBY: I am a 34-year-old woman. I live in a ground floor unit in an apartment complex with my terrier-collie mix, who is a very good judge of character.

An elderly neighbor has a habit of walking his German shepherd by my unit. My dog does not like the man and barks ferociously every time he hears them. What unsettles me is that something seems off about him, and his behavior is becoming intrusive.

The couple of times he has seen me outside, he has asked me if I live "all alone" or comments that he "hasn't seen my boyfriend around in a long time." He peers into my window when he walks and lingers, despite my growling and snarling dog. I tried closing the blinds, but now he comes to my door and knocks. I haven't answered because he makes me feel unsafe.

I want to confront him, but I'm

### Dear Abby



not sure what to say. It's also happening right in front of the building I live in, which makes me nervous. What should I do? — WARY IN WASHINGTON

**DEAR WARY:** The person you describe may be more lonely — or nosy — than dangerous. You can't stop someone from walking his dog past your front door if that is where the exit is located. Talk to your other neighbors and ask if he has a history of doing this with them.

If he knocks on your door again, tell him you are busy

and don't like being disturbed and to stop doing it. If he asks any more personal questions or comments again about your boyfriend's absence, tell him your social life is none of his business. If it will make you feel more secure, install security cameras in your apartment, and if you catch him peering into your windows again, tell him you have him on camera and you will report him not only to building management but also the police.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a middle-aged woman needing to know what to do. I have family members who say if I weren't around, things would be a lot better. I was told from the beginning that I was a "mistake." I am wondering, should I stay hurt with them for saying these things, or should I let it go?

They are always saying I will

never amount to anything. When I say something to them about the way they make me feel, they tell me to be quiet and mind my own business. Should I tell them how I feel or what? — DEVALUED IN THE SOUTH

**DEAR DEVALUED:** A family member (!) who would say something so cruel as what you have described is someone you should avoid contact with, if possible. It's very important that you spend time with people — other family members or friends — who help you to feel BETTER about yourself rather than worse.

Should you tell these family members how you feel? Ordinarily, I would say yes. However, because you have already done that, I don't think it would enlighten them. Believe me, you have my sympathy because these relatives are toxic.

## Community Calendar

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

### Today

**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.

**EUCHRE** — For those 55 and older from 12:30 to 3

p.m. at West Jay Community Center in 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.

**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.

### Tuesday

**BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE** — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

**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 - BRANNA'S HOPE** — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call

Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS** — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

**JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS** — Meet at 8 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Richard's Restaurant.

### Wednesday

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB** — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

**PING PONG** — Will be played from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays at West Jay Community Center.

**AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP** — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

## Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

### Friday's Solution

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

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.



**Fort Recovery Industries, Inc.**

### Summer Employment Opportunity

### Fort Recovery Industries (FRI) needs you!

We are hiring High School/College students to fill our open Production Positions at all three FRI Locations!  
**18 years of age or older**

### How to Apply

Email Resume to:  
applications@fortrecoveryindustries.com,

Apply Online at:  
www.fortrecoveryindustries.com

In Person at:  
2440 St. Rt. 49, Fort Recovery, Oh 45846  
Hours between 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



**Swiss Village**

### Now Seeking: Candidates for Certified Nursing Assistant Class

Part-Time and Full-Time CNA Positions on 1st and 2nd shift are available at Swiss Village!

- Flexible scheduling — applicants can choose 8-hour or 12-hour shifts.
- \$2.00/hr. bonus for picking up open shifts.
- Shift premium for 2nd shift.
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Swiss Village, 1350 W. Main St. Berne, IN 46711  
Or email: careers@swissvillage.org

## WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

### For Jay County Schools April 26-30

**Monday: Main Entrees:** Biscuit & turkey sausage, country gravy, scrambled eggs **Alternate entrees:** PB&J Fun Lunch, Turkey & cheese salad, saltine crackers, light ranch dressing **Sides for all meals:** Hash brown patty

**Tuesday: Main Entrees:** Mashed Potato & chicken bowl, **Alternate entrees:** Strawberry parfait with granola, Turkey & cheese salad, saltine crackers, light ranch dressing **Sides for all meals:** seasoned corn

**Wednesday: Main Entrees:** Mini turkey corn dogs **Alternate entrees:** PB&J Fun Lunch, Turkey & cheese salad, saltine crackers, light ranch dressing **Sides for all meals:** Steamed broccoli florets

**Thursday: Main Entrees:** Classic American cheeseburger **Alternate entrees:** Strawberry parfait with granola, Turkey & cheese salad, saltine crackers, light ranch dressing **Sides for all meals:** Baked Beans

**Friday: Main Entrees:** Classic cheese pizza **Alternate entrees:** PB&J Fun Lunch, Turkey & cheese salad, saltine crackers, light ranch dressing **Sides for all meals:** Savory green beans



### Start Your Mornings With Us!

Our coffee is brewed every 30 minutes to insure you get the best cup possible.

# We must address roots of problem

The Detroit News  
Tribune News Service

Within hours of the guilty verdicts against former cop Derek Chauvin for the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, police in Detroit shot and killed a man who had stabbed himself and was stabbing an officer.

At roughly the same time, a cop in Columbus, Ohio, had to make a split-second decision when confronted with a teen girl who was attacking another girl with a knife. He shot and killed her.

Both those instances highlight the challenges the nation faces as it attempts to curb police shootings. It's not all about regulating the police.

There are broader issues of

## Guest Editorial

mental health, poverty and the roots of violence that also must be addressed.

As Robert Bobb, the former emergency manager for the Detroit Public Schools, wrote, "perceiving the problem as primarily a policing matter ... is a false narrative."

Bobb, chairman of the Washington, D.C., police reform commission, advocates for a compre-

hensive approach that examines all the factors in a community that lead to violent confrontations between police and citizens.

Reform efforts that don't take into account mental health services, education and other social issues will not succeed.

That will take much more money and a lot more work than what Congress has offered in response to police shootings. Lawmakers so far are more interested in layering on more rules and red tape than finding a true fix.

Following the conclusion of the trial in Minneapolis, new calls have emerged for final passage of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which passed the

House on a near straight Democratic vote in March.

The act offers some common sense measures, such as safeguards against turning police departments into paramilitary operations, limiting no-knock warrants, and requiring more body cameras. But it also includes elements that could compromise officer safety and place the public in greater danger.

Most concerning is the lifting of qualified immunity for officers, and de facto quotas to assure that departments aren't disproportionately arresting one demographic group over another.

These measures could serve to paralyze officers who often need

to react in an instant to save their own lives or those of others.

But the biggest flaw in the act is that it pretends the problem rests largely with police and policing. It fails to acknowledge that police officers are the ones that have to deal with the consequences of an inadequate mental health system and insufficient social services.

Nothing in the Justice in Policing Act addresses the root causes of violence. That's why many civil rights organizations have worked against its passage.

More federal regulations on police departments will do little good without steps to improve the conditions that lead to confrontations between cops and citizens.

## Putin's story is all about himself

By CLARA FERREIRA  
MARQUES

Bloomberg Opinion  
Tribune News Service

"If we want things to stay as they are, things will have to change." That's the opportunistic Tancredi's advice on how to manage political turbulence in Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa's 1958 classic "The Leopard."

Vladimir Putin is trying to hang on by doing the exact opposite.

The president's state-of-the-nation speech on Wednesday was much anticipated. Rumors swirled he would make dramatic moves like a ratcheting up of confrontation in Ukraine, an indication of feverish times.

Instead, what Russians got was an underwhelming pitch ahead of September's parliamentary elections, with a Brezhnev-esque hour-plus of populist tropes, a litany of handouts and vague policy pronouncements that said far more about the state of Putin's Russia than any foreign-policy hectoring. This is a regime well aware of the pain of falling living standards and flatlining growth, but it has no real plan to resolve either.

There should be relief, of course, that there were no fireworks on Ukraine or Belarus. Putin limited himself to some fist-shaking directed at countries he said were ganging up on Russia, implausible talk of foreign interference in Minsk and a warning to enemies considering crossing Moscow's "red line." Not surprisingly, there was no mention of the domestic adversaries, even as almost 1,800 people were arrested at demonstrations across Russia in support of jailed opposition leader Alexei Navalny.

The significance of Putin's address lies in just how little substance there was. Valentina Matviyenko, pro-Kremlin stalwart and speaker of the Federation Council, had promised a message of the "new age." It was nothing of the sort.

Putin often projects the image of a benign patriarch, and this would have been a good time for some elder-statesman vision. While Russia's economy weathered the pandemic better than some, growth ahead looks anemic, especially compared to developed rivals. Prices are rising and real incomes have shrunk. Fresh sanctions will bring more pain. The popularity of the main

Clara  
Ferreira  
Marques



United Russia party has been fading.

It's a bleak landscape ahead of legislative elections in which the Kremlin needs a strong majority to lay the foundations for the 2024 presidential vote.

And yet, there was little evidence of a grand spending strategy to get the economy moving again. There was help for indebted regions and cash thrown at some pressing issues, particularly the country's shrinking population: promises of benefits for single parents, an average monthly subsidy for needy mothers-to-be, free hot meals for primary children and even full paid leave for parents caring for a young child who's sick. Plus a one-off payment for families with school-age children.

However the pledges were all so modest that they can be covered by funds already available.

A litany of figures (5,000 new ambulances, 16,000 new school buses), exhortations that decisions "must be made" and Putin's dramatic shows of frustration with slow-moving officials couldn't cover up a missed opportunity to lay out a comprehensive economic vision. Perhaps because there is none. Hinted-at tax changes, for example, won't come close to fixing what is holding companies back from investing more heavily.

As Vladimir Gelman, professor at the European University at St. Petersburg, put it to me recently, Russia is falling into a repression trap. A focus on cracking down, without working to appease people's demands, becomes a vicious circle, requiring more repression. It's a strategy of sticks without carrots, he says, that's unlikely to yield good results with an urbanized and educated population.

By jailing Navalny, arresting his supporters and preparing to ban his movement, Putin silences irritants. What he hasn't dealt with is the underlying popular discontent Navalny so ably taps. That requires real change.

.....

*Ferreira Marques is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering commodities and environmental, social and governance issues.*



## Pent-up demand is back

By LARRY DEBOER

Suppose you've been prevented from buying things for a year, or maybe a decade. Now the dishwasher is on the fritz, the tires are nearly bald, and the springs on the couch have sprung. Or, you've not been to a restaurant or concert or ballgame — or anywhere — for all that time.

Then the constraints are lifted. You emerge from the house, ravenous to buy goods and services that you've missed for so long.

That's pent-up demand. Pent-up demand often happens after a recession. People are unemployed, or scared for their jobs, and cut back on their spending. When jobs return and fear subsides, people shop and never drop.

But sometimes pent-up demand is more extreme. Like in 1946. And now.

During the 1930s, the Great Depression raised unemployment, cut incomes and created fear-so people couldn't spend. Then came World War II. Government increased its spending to build an army, paying soldiers and buying equipment. By 1944 the federal government's spending was 42 percent of gross domestic product. Taxes rose, but not nearly enough to pay for that much spending, so the budget deficit hit 28 percent of GDP.

That created jobs. The unemployment rate dropped to its lowest level ever, 1.2 percent in 1944. People on the "home front" were earning a lot of money, many for the first time in more than a decade. They wanted to buy things.

The government had other ideas. Most of the factories were producing war material. Production of consumer goods was cut way back. Big home front spending on the few

remaining consumer goods would have caused a lot of inflation. It had happened during World War I.

So the government urged people not to spend. Save your money, buy War Bonds instead! Dr. Seuss drew a cartoon showing deer with dollar-sign antlers. Save 10 percent of your bucks, the caption read, "if you hope to defeat both the Axis and inflation!"

There weren't enough consumer goods to go around, so the government set up rationing. Everyone got a ration book full of stamps. You needed cash and stamps to buy rationed goods. No one got all they wanted, but everyone got some.

People had money, but there was little to buy. Patriots bought war bonds instead of consumer goods. Rationing made it illegal to buy all you wanted. So people saved. Households saved 28 percent of their incomes in 1944, the highest percentage during the past 90 years.

Then it was 1946. You hadn't bought what you wanted during the Depression. You couldn't buy what you wanted during World War II. You owned war bonds and a healthy savings account. Now rationing was over and industry was reconvert to consumer goods production.

The result was super pent-up demand. Consumer spending exploded. That kept unemployment low, even as government cut military

spending. Inflation increased a lot, until industry managed to ramp up consumer production.

In 2020 the COVID pandemic caused a recession. Unemployment surged to the highest rate since the Great Depression. Many consumers couldn't spend. "Social consumption" was dangerous, so governments urged social distancing. Most people complied and cut back on service purchases and on travel. Governments shut down much consumer production, then restricted its capacity. Restaurants, theaters and arenas operated with strict limits. Some goods were rationed, by retailers instead of governments. A sign in my local Target said "We will be limiting the quantities of toilet paper, flushable wipes and facial tissue to 1 each per guest."

The federal government increased its spending, and the budget deficit rose to 15 percent of GDP. Americans received added income in benefit payments and unemployment insurance benefits. Spending that money was too risky, or not allowed. So people saved. The savings rate hit 16 percent of income, the highest rate since 1945.

Now it's 2021. Or is it 1946? As people are vaccinated, restrictions are lifted and the pandemic subsides, consumers will want to spend, and they'll have the savings to do it. Pent-up demand returns!

We're expecting a boom in consumer spending in 2021. That should help unemployment drop below 5 percent by the end of the year. And inflation? How fast can business ramp up production?

.....

*DeBoer is an agricultural economist at Purdue University.*

Larry  
DeBoer



# The Commercial Review

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

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## 4-H donors

Local businesses recently donated to Jay County 4-H. Pictured above with Beth Stephen and Dru Mercer of Jay County 4-H is Josh Atkinson of Atkinson Tire, which donated \$3,613. Pictured below with Stephen and Mercer is Shawn Robinson of Park National Bank, which donated \$1,000.



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# Award nominations open

Outstanding manufacturing operations are eligible for recognition through a state organization.

Indiana Manufacturers Association this week announced it is accepting nominations for its 2021 Manufacturing Excellence Awards.

Categories open for nominations are: Manufacturing Talent Champion Award; Emerging Leader Award; Community Impact Award; Innovation Excellence Award; and Lifetime Achievement Award. The awards are intended to "highlight Indiana companies and individuals for the outstanding work they do, exceptional contributions made to the industry and their impact on the future of manufacturing in Indiana."

Nominations can be made at [indianamfg.com](http://indianamfg.com). The deadline is Sept. 3.

Winners will be announced at the IMA's Hall of Fame Luncheon on Oct. 14 in Indianapolis.

### On the list

Portland native Mary Meeker has been named to Barron's 100 Most Influential Women in U.S. Finance.

Meeker, a Jay County High School graduate, was named to the list that honors "women who are helping to shape the modern financial-services industry and leading it confidently into the future." Barron's originally declared Meeker "Queen of the Net" in a 1998 story.

In a profile of Meeker, Barron's noted that her firm — BOND Capital — recently completed a \$2 billion fund. Recent investments include Latin American used-car company Kavak and database software company Cockroach Labs.

Last week, Meeker was named to Forbes magazine's 2021 Midas List, which ranks the world's top 100 tech investors.

### Awards presented

Biggs Property of Decatur recently announced award winners for the year.

Mike Derkatsch was named the company's rookie maintenance technician of the year for his impact on communities in Fort Wayne. Other winners included Mitsi Bish as property manager of the year, Mike Lawson and maintenance technician of the year and Tori Anderson as rookie property manager of the year.

### Tyson joins

Tyson Fresh Meats, a subsidiary of Tyson Foods, has joined the cattle disease traceability program called U.S. CattleTrace.

Tyson, which operates a facility in Portland, is the first beef processor to invest in membership in the program designed to assist animal health officials in disease response. It

## Business roundup

uses ear tags to collect data used to track animals in the case of a disease outbreak.

"We believe CattleTrace can help to reduce the risk that animal disease poses to the U.S. cattle supply, while also protecting our industry's access to important export markets, which can quickly be compromised in the event of an animal health issue," said Tyson Fresh Meats group president Shane Miller in a press release.

### Purdue partnering

Purdue University announced Thursday that a new project has been accepted by Rolls-Royce as part of its Cybersecurity Technology Research Network.

Assistant professor Shaoshuai Mou is the leading investigator on the project that involves integrating artificial intelligence and is joined in the project by Pi Ding Zhao of Carnegie Mellon University. The partnership between Purdue, Rolls-Royce and the State of Indiana is supported in part by a \$6 million commitment over three years by Indiana Economic Development Corporation.

"Purdue's involvement with Rolls-Royce underscores the importance of industry and academic collaboration to address emerging cyber and cyber-physical threats," said Purdue executive vice president for research and partnerships Theresa Mayer in a press release.

### Not for sale

Subway announced this week that it is not for sale.

The restaurant chain based in Connecticut sent out an addendum this week to a previous statement that had sparked talk of a potential sale, Restaurant Business reported this week. The company's shift to move some of its headquarters to Miami had added to the chatter.

In its statement, the chain was direct: "Subway is not for sale."

### Ardagh to announced

Ardagh Group will announce its first-quarter results and hold an update call Thursday.

The results will be released on Ardagh's website — [ardaghr.com](http://ardaghr.com) — at 2 a.m. Thursday. An investor webcast will follow at 10 a.m.

Ardagh operates glass manufactur-

ing facilities in Dunkirk and Winchester.

### Officer named

CVS Health on Thursday announced that it has named Kathryn Metcalfe as its new senior vice president and chief communications officer.

Since 2016, Metcalfe has been chief communications officer for Aetna, a CVS Health company. In her new role, she will be responsible for all internal, external, crisis, and reputation communications across the organization.

"I'm excited to help CVS Health transform the health care system and make it more convenient, simple and affordable for consumers," Metcalfe said in a press release. "CVS Health has played a significant role throughout the pandemic response, with over 15 million tests and 10 million vaccines administered — with more to come."

### NextEra announces

NextEra Energy reported Wednesday that it had first-quarter net income of \$1.67 billion. That compares to \$421 million for the first quarter of 2020.

NextEra Energy Resources, the clean-energy arm of NextEra Energy, reported a first-quarter net income of \$491 million. NextEra owns and operates Bluff Point Wind Energy Center in Jay and Randolph counties.

"NextEra Energy delivered strong first-quarter results and remains well-positioned to meet our 2021 and longer-term growth prospects," said NextEra Energy chairman and CEO Jim Robo in a press release. "After a strong start to the year, we remain as enthusiastic as ever about our long-term growth prospects ..."

### Advance increases

Advance Auto Parts this week announced that its board of directors has approved an additional share repurchase authorization of \$1 billion, bringing the total to about \$1.3 billion.

The board also declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$1 per share, up from 25 cents per share. It is payable to shareholders July 2.

"In recognition of our 2020 results, strong financial position and confidence in our ability to deliver additional top- and bottom-line growth this year, the Board has voted to significantly increase the quarterly dividend," said advance president and CEO Tom Greco in a press release. "Across Advance, we remain focused on our financial priorities of maintaining an investment grade rating, investing in the business and returning cash to shareholders."



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Swiss Village 1350 W. Main St., Berne, IN 46711  
Or email: [careers@swissvillage.org](mailto:careers@swissvillage.org)

*Thank You*

*The family of Wilma Jean Theurer would like to thank the many who sent flowers, a memorial, a card, or said a kind word at her recent passing.*

*Thank you to Baird Freeman Funeral Home and Pastor Robin Owen for the beautiful service she would have approved of.*

*Lastly we would like to thank the Emergency Department, Medical Surgical and Respiratory teams of IU Health Jay Hospital for the excellent and compassionate care given our mother in her final days.*

*Your kindness will not be forgotten.*

*The family of Wilma Jean Theurer*

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- 2) Specify dust control location & specify footage
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4-24 CRYPTOQUIP

ZVKL MVK AMGNP MINLKO
GIM MG YK PIHV PTWOKN
MVCL VCO YKKL XNKOTHMKO,
TM ZCA CLMT-HWTPCMTH.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SUPREME COURT MEMBER WHO OWNS AN INCREDIBLE SPA WITH MANY DRY, HOT-AIR BATHS: SAUNA SOTOMAYOR.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals M

CRYPTO FUN
Solve the code to discover words related to poetry. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 25 = E)

WORD SCRAMBLE
Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to poetry.
TRCOIMNA

Guess Who?
I am a pop singer born in Michigan on April 27, 1988. I started performing with groups in 2011. In 2014 I was named as an artist to watch, and a few years later I had a No. 1 hit.

POETIC TERMS WORD SEARCH

PEPNNHCVAAASRRHRGNCKMCA
HEOLDCLCSICOTRVABIA
ANNNTOLMYGNAECTVAABSL

WORDS
ABECEDARIAN
ACCENTUAL
ACMEISM
ACROSTIC

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 38 — Lingus 39 Shock 1 Goblet 39 Shock 1 Beholds crime
DOWN 22 Incendiary 2 Towering 24 Secret 25 High school subj.
Solution time: 26 mins.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14
15 16 17
18 19 20

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand
East dealer. North-South vulnerable.
NORTH: K Q J 9, A K J 7, K Q 9 5 4
WEST: 7, 6 5 4 3, A J 4 3, A 7 6 3
EAST: 8, 10 9 2, Q 10 9 7 6 5, J 10 8
SOUTH: A 10 6 5 4 3 2, Q 8, K 8 2, 2

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Will wonders never cease?
South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH: K 10 9, 8 6 2, K Q 3, 8 6 3 2
WEST: A Q 4 3, 9 7 5 4, 10 9 7, J 9
EAST: A 10 3, A J 8 6 5 4 2, Q 10 7
SOUTH: J 8 7 6 5 2, K Q J, A K 5 4

4-26 CRYPTOQUIP

ZTZOK BSPLWCZSW HPS
DWKWBMPVYVJ O MPIIYD YV
"DMW KPSC PH DMW SYVJT":

HSPCP-LOKK BSPDLPK.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE STORM TURNED OUT TO BE MUCH Milder THAN HAD BEEN PREDICTED, IT WAS ANTI-CLIMATIC.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals U

What's the Difference?
There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?
A: Person wearing sunglasses, trash on floor, woman wearing necklace, extra person on right.
B: Person wearing sunglasses, trash on floor, woman wearing necklace, extra person on right.

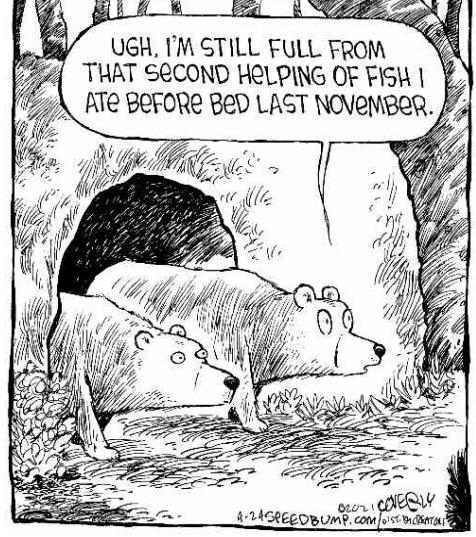
Did You Know?
EARTH DAY OCCURS EVERY YEAR ON APRIL 22. IN 2020, THE WORLD CELEBRATED THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY.
GET THE PICTURE?
Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 36 Paris school 2 "Home-land" org. 22 Oompah band
37 Everest guide 3 Gore member 23 Milk selle
5 Tampa Bay (Abbr.) 40 Depot (Abbr.) 4 Pulled in out of
5 NFLer 41 Arizona tribe 5 Some place, as a disk
8 Mentor 42 Deli sandwich 6 "Yecch!" 26 Jared of "Panic Room"
12 — City (Denver nickname) 47 Actress Lena 8 Small beard 27 Satan's purchase
14 Burden 48 Puts in place 9 Military group 29 Sporty car
15 Medley 49 Quick kiss 10 Occupy the throne 31 SSW opposite
16 Feels unwell 50 Mag. staff 11 Cold War initials 33 Get smaller
20 Cosmetics mogul 51 Smile broadly 13 Bee's home 34 Orna-mental beetle
23 Eat in style 1 Little rascal 20 PC key 21 Desist 36 Words to Brutus
24 Poker variety 37 Boutique
25 Summery shades 38 Bagel feature
28 Corn core 39 Grand tale
29 Banal 40 Bygone fliers
30 A gazillion years 43 Succor
32 Church leaders 44 Chowd down
34 Dazzle 45 — culpa
35 Sacred 46 Doctrine

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14
15 16 17
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20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27
28 29 30 31
32 33 34 35 36
37 38 39 40
41 42 43 44 45 46
47 48
49 50 51

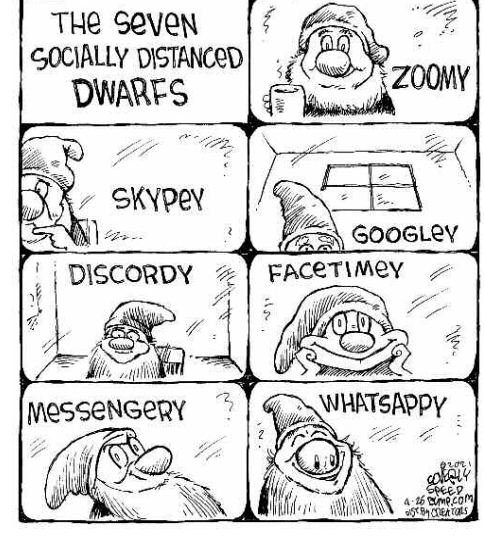
SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Peanuts



Peanuts



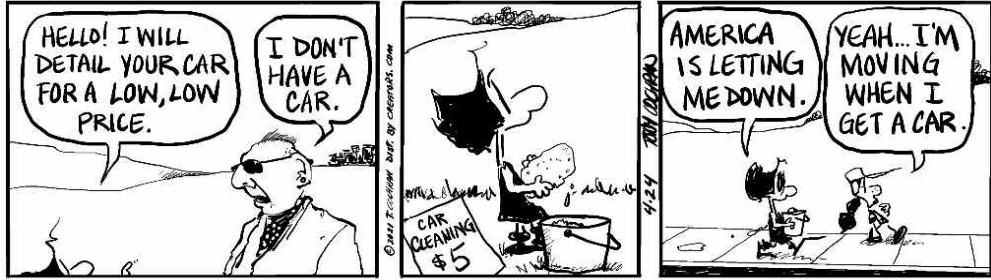
Rose is Rose



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Agnes



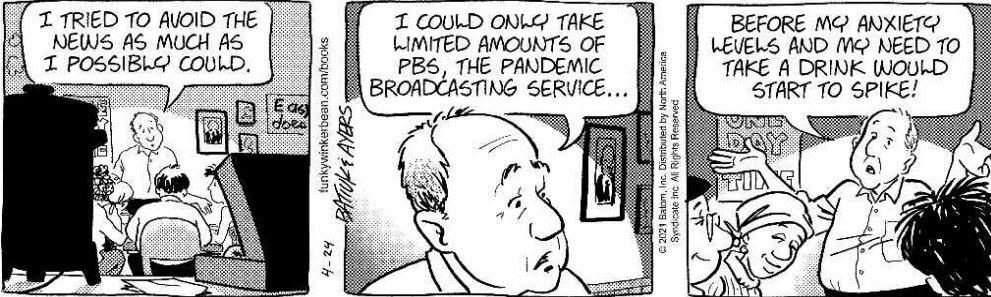
Hi and Lois



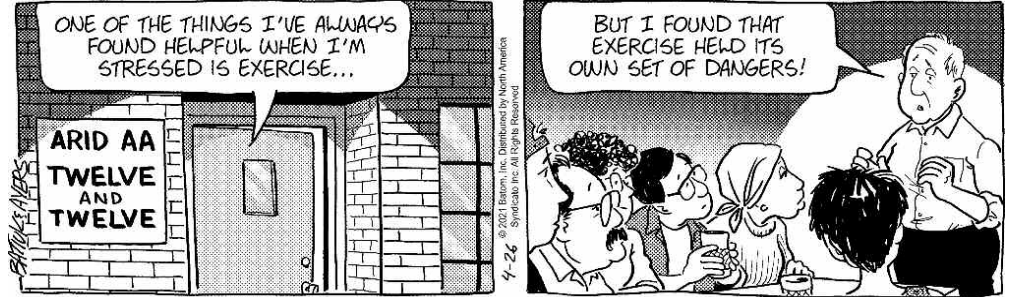
Hi and Lois



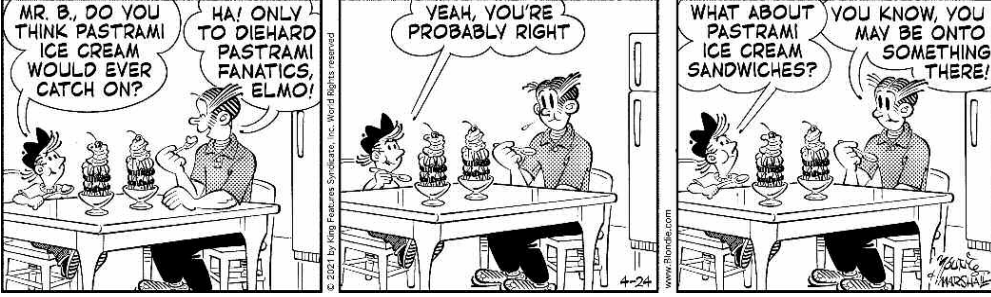
Funky Winkerbean



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*

| CLASSIFIEDS   | 30 LOST, STRAYED OR FOUND  | 50 RUMMAGE SALES   | 90 SALE CALENDAR  | 90 SALE CALENDAR  | 90 SALE CALENDAR   | 110 HELP WANTED  |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|--|
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May 1st at 10:00 A.M.<br/><b>ANTIQUES - OLD &amp; COLLECTORS ITEMS - TOOLS</b> Cherry three corner cupboard, Cherry dovetailed blanket chest with ball feet, Victorian inlaid sewing stand with 9 small drawers inside main drawer, Old hickory glider, Country Hepplewhite mule chest with three drawers, Kentucky Cherry inlaid one drawer stand, Early painted blanket chest with 1 drawer, Early large farm house table with center drawer, Federal blanket chest with original Salmon paint graining, Sheraton Cherry/Birdseye maple bowfront chest, 18th century Chippendale side chair, Kentucky long rifle with Cherry stock, Shaker revolving spinning stool, Birch Bark canoe, Rare period William and Mary armchair with Sausage turnings, CROCKS AND STONWARE- James Hamilton &amp; CO 1 gallon canning jar, 3 gallon-4 gallon-5 gallon-6 gallon Bee Sting, 3 gallon Bee sting jug, 3 gallon Bee sting churn, #3 and #5 Bee sting jugs with turkey droppings, # 5 Western stoneware, 1930’s Aeroflite wagon mwith original tires, Victorian croquet stakes with original paint, 1929 Louisville Electric Pioneer lawnmower, Inlaid/dovetailed Federal bible box, Disney Seven Dwarf dolls, Jewelry, 2 Liter Pepsi crates, TOYS - Sand/Gravel truck, Wind up metal tank, Cast Iron motorcycle with rider, Watch Joe Go military Jeep, and other vintage toys, Pottery, Quilts, Clocks, Precious moments, Welding supplies, Air tools, Misc. Hardware, Hand Tools and many many other items not listed.<br/>See pictures on Auctionzip, Auctioneer #12987<br/><b>SMITH FAMILY</b><br/>Loy Auction<br/>AU31600027 260-726-2700<br/>Auctioneers<br/>Gary Loy AU01031608<br/>Ben Lyons AU10700085<br/>Travis Theurer AU11200131<br/>Troy Foust AU19800068</p> | <p><b>PUBLIC AUCTION</b><br/>Saturday, April 24th, 2021<br/>TIME 10:00 A.M.<br/>LOCATED: 3886 W 300 N, Portland, IN 47371 (3.8 mi west of Hwy 27, on CR 300 N – north side)<br/><b>REAL ESTATE</b><br/>81 acres located in Section 33 of Jackson Township, Jay County. Being offered as 2 tracts, or in entirety. Tract One is 3 acres containing a 1½ story 3-bedroom home with 816 sq. ft., a 40 ft. by 40 ft. Quonset building, a 20 ft. by 30 ft. outbuilding. Fenced and in a great location! Tract Two contains 78 acres with approximately 60 tillable acres (the balance being wooded).<br/><b>OPEN HOUSE</b><br/>SUNDAY, April 11th, 1 TO 3 PM.<br/>Or for private showing phone Auctioneers. TERMS on real estate: Cash with 10% non-refundable deposit day of Auction. Balance due at closing. Sale not subject to buyer obtaining financing. Arrange financing if needed prior to Auction.<br/>Tractors – Vehicles – Farm Equipment - LP Tanks- Antiques– Appliances– Furniture<br/>Terms on personal property: Cash – Good Check – Credit Card<br/><b>OWNER: Kelley Dixon Estate</b><br/>Randy Noble (personal representative)</p> | <p>Statements made sale day take precedence over written ad.<br/><b>Shawver Auctioneering and Real Estate</b><br/>AC31800004<br/><b>AUCTIONEERS</b><br/>Pete D. Shawver Lic# AU19700040<br/>Zane Shawver Lic# AU10500168<br/>260-726-5587 260-729-2229<br/>More Photos available at www.auctionzip.com &amp; www.auctionsoft.com</p> <p><b>100 JOBS WANTED</b></p> <p><b>AMISH CREW LOOKING FOR</b> any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489.</p> <p><b>110 HELP WANTED</b></p> <p><b>1ST AND 2ND SHIFT COOKS.</b> 3 days on, 3 days off. Call 260-997-8300 before 2pm.</p> <p><b>ADVERTISING ACCOUNT</b><br/>Representative(s) Full &amp; Part-Time. Seeking a hard-working, motivated, self-starter with a winning attitude who enjoys a challenge and will attract new clients to print and digital media. Responsibilities: Develop and manage revenue producing relationships with current clients and agencies. Prospect for new business and build a full pipeline of sales products. Analyze client marketing goals and</p> | <p>develop needs based solutions to achieve them. Qualifications: Strong problem solving and analytical skills. Have basic computer skills. Be able to work on a deadline. Have good communications skills. Be organized and have a positive attitude. Be able to pay attention to detail. Have reliable transportation &amp; valid driver license. Prior experience with digital &amp; print advertising sales experience preferred but not necessary, we will train. Apply in person along with your resume or mail in your resume to: The Commercial Review PO Box 1049, 309 W. Main St., Portland, IN 47371 Attn: Business Manager or email gpcbusiness@embarq-mail.com</p> <p><b>EXPERIENCED SEMI DRIVER</b> needed in Portland, IN. Monday-Friday dedicated run only, \$0.60/mile, 2500-3000 miles/week. Lots of benefits included. Call/text 260.251.7839 or email customerservice@tjx-pservice.com</p> |

**260 PUBLIC AUCTION**

## PUBLIC AUCTION

LOCATED: 1854 West State Route 28, Ridgeville, IN  
(1 mile East of Ridgeville on State Route 28)

**Saturday, May 1st, 2021**

10:00 A.M.

**TRACTORS – FARM EQUIPMENT  
LAWN & GARDEN**

Oliver 1650 Tractor with Dunham Hydraulic Loader, Minneapolis Moline 445 WF, John Deere B Tractor, King Cutter 6 ft. 3pt. Rototiller, 5 ft. 3pt. Rotary Mower, 7 ft. Sickle-bar Mower, 15 ft. Hay Wagon with Metal Bed, 17 ft. Hay Elevator Hydraulic Drive, 1 Bottom King Cutter Plow, 3pt. Boom, (3) Troybilt Rototillers, Horse Pony & Junior, Lawnboy Push Mower, Craftsman 5hp Chipper/Shredder, John Deere Lawn Thatcher, Garden Planter, Lawn Cart, Lawn Aerator, Fertilizer Spreader, Lawn Sweeper, 12 Bales of Straw

**ANTIQUES – COLLECTIBLES**

1 Bottom Wood Beam Plow, Garden Plows, Cast Iron Pots/Skillets, Cast Iron Dinner Bell, Bushel Baskets, Large Crock, Crock Butter Churn, Glass-doored Cabinet, Griffith Laboratories Produce Scale, Platform Scales, Antique Band Saw, Galvanized Tubs, Fence Stretchers

**SHOP TOOLS – BEE EQUIPMENT –  
MISCELLANEOUS**

Michelin 5 gal. Air Compressor, Kennedy Roll-around Toolbox, Acetylene Cutting Set, Craftsman 15 in. Drill Press, Sickle Repair Tool, Parts Washer, Cut-off Saw, Knipco Salamander, Air Tank, Engine Stand, Jack Stands, Chainsaws, Tarps, Large lot of Bee Equipment (Including Mixer, Melter, Extractor, Smoker, and other equipment), Pressure Cooker, Electric Range, Small Chest-type Freezer, Porch Swing, Large Lot of Canning Jars, Fence Chargers, Shelving, 6 ft. Galvanized Water Tank, Wrenches, Sockets, Hand Tools, Power Tools, Lawn & Garden Tools, Metal and Wood Fence Posts, Miscellaneous Wire/Copper/Scrap Metal, Large Metal Corn Crib (Buyer to disassemble)

TERMS ON PERSONAL PROPERTY: CASH – GOOD CHECK – CREDIT CARD

**OWNER: Max Winningham**

Statements made sale day take precedence over written ad

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More Photos available at www.auctionzip.com & www.auctionsoft.com

CR 4-24-2021

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**260 PUBLIC AUCTION**

## PUBLIC AUCTION

Located in the Bubp Exhibition Hall at the Jay County Fairgrounds, Portland Indiana on Saturday Morning

**MAY 1, 2021**

10:00 A.M.

**INDIAN ARTIFACTS**

**ANTIQUES – OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS - TOOLS**

Cherry three corner cupboard; Cherry dovetailed blanket chest with ball feet; early Cherry three corner cupboard with broken arch top; Victorian inlaid sewing stand with 9 small drawers inside main drawer; Martinsville/Martinsville type old hickory glider, original; Country Hepplewhite mule chest with three drawers; Kentucky Cherry inlaid one drawer stand; early painted blanket chest with 1 drawer; early large farmhouse table with center drawer; Federal blanket chest with original Salmon paint graining; Sheraton Cherry/Birdseye Maple bowfront chest; 18th century Chippendale side chair; Kentucky long rifle with Cherry stock; Shaker revolving spinning stool; pair of 18th century Queen Anne side chairs; child’s Pine step back cupboard; 18th century child’s high chair; early Birch Bark canoe; early Walnut quilting stand; Rare period William and Mary armchair with Sausage turnings; bench made Windsor arm chair; early carved wooden eagle; large copper kettle; Great Lakes area goose decoy; copper kettle lid; Great Lakes area duck decoys; Tramp Art dressing box; CROCKS AND STONWARE: Hamilton and Jones 1 gallon, E Norton & Co, Vermont 1 ½ gallon, James Hamilton & Co 1 gallon canning jar, 3 gallon Bee Sting, 4 gallon Bee Sting, 5 gallon Bee Sting, 3 gallon Bee Sting jug, 3 gallon Bee Sting churn, #5 and #4 Red Wing jugs, 6 gallon Bee Sting, #3 and #5 Bee Sting jugs with turkey droppings, decorative blue jug, #3 blue jug, #5 Western Stoneware, #2 blue decorative crock, #4 Blue decorative “leaf” jug with turkey droppings, R & B Essery jug, #5 Bee Sting, #4 Blue decorative churn, #3 ovoid jug, and #8 double handled jug; 1930’s Aeroflite wagon with original tires, wheels, and hub caps; Tramp Art spice cabinet, very unusual; wooden works clock with eagle; Tramp Art lidded box on stand; clocks; Victorian croquet stakes with original paint; 1929 Louisville Electric Pioneer lawnmower; Tiger Maple apple peeler, unusual; glass minnow trap; Tiger Maple mirror; pantry box with original paint decoration; Pennsylvania sampler dated 1798; inlaid/dovetailed Federal bible box; Disney Seven Dwarf dolls; Patriotic document box with stars and stripe shields; Equestrian prints in original Tiger Maple frames; large early general store sliding candle box, dovetailed with original paint; early jointed bears and monkey; Lignum Vitae candle stand; lightning rod; Diamond Dyes store cabinet; primitive baskets; vintage fixtures; large firkin with lid; beaded bags; ladies hand fans; Rhinestone jewelry; Imperial punch bowl with cups; Heisey; Imperial Slag Glass; Czechoslovakia decanter with goblets; Colonial Amber glass; Blue Satin glass; Fenton Milk Glass; White Satin Glass; Mosaic jewelry; L.G. Wright glassware; Mosser glass pitcher with glasses, in box; Ballerina Green Depression miniature cups and saucers, in box; Custard Satin Glass; St Clair lamp and paperweight; Fenton Colonial Blue glassware; Velva Rose Glass; ladies cigarette lighters; Murano Rose Bowl; Longaberger umbrella basket; jewelry; Boyd’s Bear figurines; kerosene lights; lightning rod; Coleman lamp; barn lanterns; feed sacks; wood pulleys; 2 liter Pepsi crates; glass carboy; butter churn; children’s blocks; brass steam whistle; large apple butter kettle with hand crank stirrer; dress form; cast iron plant stand; Aladdin lamp; Packard thermometer; Lladro figurines; primitives; Callahan Seeds sign; cast iron items; Conn saxophone; flower basket cast iron doorstops; glass knobs; TOYS: Sand/Gravel truck, ambulance with stretcher, Allied Van Lines semi with trailer, Watch Joe Go military Jeep, wind up metal tank, Hi Way Express truck, cast iron motorcycle with rider, Silver Skipper aluminum Stream Lined boat in box, flatbed truck, trolley car, and other vintage toys; pottery; quilt tops; quilts; Spongeware; lace tablecloths; wood ducks by Cabelas; rock/mineral collection; large Hummels (6-8”); steamer trunk; cedar chest on legs; sculptures; Chapel Time Hummel clock; regular size Hummels; Goebel Joseph and Mary on donkey; Precious Moments; Dicken’s Village houses; White Mountain ice cream freezer; Screwdrivers; pipe wrenches; welding supplies; punches; allen wrenches; electrical; hammers; files; air tools; misc hardware; and many other items not listed.

SEE PICTURES ON AUCTIONZIP, AUCTIONEER #12987.

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LOY AUCTION AC31600027  
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Gary Loy AU 01031608 Ben Lyons AU 10700085  
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# Johnson's debut at St. Pete like 'starting over'

By NATHAN BROWN  
The Indianapolis Star

Tribune News Service  
ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — At 45 years old, Jimmie Johnson can still remember his own amazement his first time racing around an open-wheel street course. In some ways, even as he prepared to step into his No. 48 Carvana Honda Friday afternoon, he still feels it.

And so when his two daughters, Genevieve and Lydia, asked over breakfast on Friday, "Wait a second, cars are racing right now, and we can hear them? In a city?" Johnson understood a little.

"I'd already showed them the map. 'You saw the walls!'" he explained. "'Yes, we're racing in a city,' and their minds were blown. It finally hit that, and it's bringing back childhood memories. It's been really fun to share with them."

But the El Cajon, California, native didn't know he'd ever compete in one himself, in a race with some similarities to what he considered his hometown race growing up, the Acura Grand Prix of Long Beach. Even though Johnson made his official IndyCar debut last weekend at Barber Motorsports Park, everything about the hype and newness of this weekend in Florida feels so similar.

And like Barber, he was at the back for his first practice, finishing last in 24th in Friday afternoon in Practice No. 1 (1:03.1317). Two-time defending champ at St. Pete, Josef Newgarden, set the pace at 1:00.8029, followed by teammate Will Power, Colton Herta, Alexander Rossi and Simon Pagenaud —



Tribune News Service/IndyCar/Joe Skibinski

Jimmie Johnson makes a turn during his IndyCar road course debut last weekend at Barber Motorsports Park in St. Petersburg, Fla. Johnson finished 21st after starting 19th, and said his debut was like "starting all over again."

all of them separated by less than a tenth of a second.

The track intricacies, the different tires, the much, much tighter racing space — all of it's brand new for Johnson once again. Just as he'd used his winter testing with his Chip Ganassi Racing teammates as well as teenagers in Formula 4 cars to try to prepare himself for Barber on April 18, so too were those 90 laps last Sunday a crash course for April 25. Still, nothing could prepare him for the

next step in his open-wheel racing career as a rookie.

"I'm loving it, but I do feel like I'm starting all over again," Johnson said, referring to this weekend's race at St. Pete. "It's such a different track, different environment, different tire, but I did learn a lot of lessons last weekend, and one that's top of mind now is just how the intensity from the start and how it ramps up, where NASCAR is the other way around.

"I also realized how by myself

you feel out there in the race. There's not many chances to pit, not many cautions, so literally, every little mistake you make, that might end your chance to make a pass on a car or win the race. That moment might be gone. It's such a different flow of a race than I'm used to."

Johnson did admit to learning the hard way some intricacies about the in-car adjustments he can make. After surviving the Lap 1 crash at Barber caused by Josef Newgarden get-

ting loose, dropping his left tires into the grass and spinning into the middle of the track, Johnson spun himself on Lap 9, and as he tried to work himself into a rhythm, he felt like he was losing his feel he'd established.

Luckily, he's established a solid enough vocabulary with his No. 48 team that they were able to get him situated and on the move again, where he ended up completing 87 of the 90 laps.

"I left a lot of time on the table last weekend," he said. "I didn't realize the track was getting better, and I got lost in my adjustments. I'd chalked it up to the track going away, but once I shared that on the radio, they had me adjust the sway bars, and then I was off and going away. Lesson learned."

Those lessons, Johnson quipped, have come over fewer than 1,000 laps, he guessed, when combining his five tests where he averaged 125 laps a day, the 10-20 or so each practice, a handful in qualifying and the 87 on race day. Maybe the most important one, though, didn't have anything to do with him and his car or his own driving fortunes at all.

In the fractions of a second it took Johnson to navigate that Lap 1 crash, Ryan Hunter-Reay slammed straight into the side of Newgarden, with nowhere to go on-track after starting 17th. Post-race, Hunter-Reay took time to view the on-board video of the crash taken from his No. 28 Honda, and realized that Newgarden's right-front tire slammed square into the front of Hunter-Reay's aeroscreen. He shared still shots of the video and reasoned, "The aeroscreen likely saved my life."

## Welcome ...

Continued from page 10

In the all-inclusive playoff format for the 2020 season, the Indians were a No. 12 seed in their region and lost in the second round to eventual state champion Coldwater.

### More games

Niekamp is a competitor, and there is perhaps no more competitive football conference in the state than the Midwest Athletic Conference.

The MAC routinely dominates the small-school state tournaments, especially football. Since its inception in 1975, the MAC has won 140 total state championships; 37 in football.

In a typical season, half of the MAC's 10 member football schools qualify for the playoffs. In 2019, Kemper noted seven MAC schools earned playoff berths, and had it been a 16-team regional format an additional two conference teams would have had a playoff game.

And in order for MAC teams to make deep tournament runs, they generally meet one another again in the playoffs.

Who wouldn't want the opportunity to avenge a regular-season loss during the playoffs, or keep bragging rights by beating the same team twice in the same season?

Expanding playoffs gives the MAC more of an opportunity to manhandle the state when it comes to post-season play.

"This gives us more chances to compete longer, play more games," Niekamp said. "Why not? I don't get the idea that you get to a point where you don't want to compete.

"If you're having a bad season — you might say, 'We just want the season to be over with' — I've had plenty of those seasons where you've got a bad record. We've gotten blown out by 60 before. My attitude is I will always take another game if I could get one."

### Win to get in?

Opponents of the 16-team regional playoff field could argue teams without a winning record may be granted post-season play.

Football is the only OHSAA sport in which there are no automatic qualifiers. Therefore, there's a sense of having to win in order to get in.

But a winning record doesn't always guarantee qualifying for the playoffs.

Based solely on computer rankings, the New Bremen Cardinals would not have qualified for the playoffs in 2020. At 4-2, they were seeded 11th in Division VII's Region 28. But because of the all-inclusive playoff format in 2020, they got in. Then they dominated.

New Bremen beat No. 16 seed Southeastern Local, No. 13 seed St. Henry, No. 2 seed Fort Loramie and top-seeded and defending state champion Marion Local on its way to the regional championship.

The Cardinals edged Lima Central Catholic, the top-seeded team in their region, 26-24 in the state semifinal before blowing out Warren John F. Kennedy, another No. 1 seed, 31-0 in the state championship.

"You can manufacture a winning record by scheduling games you can go out and win," Niekamp said, noting most conferences schedule non-league games against teams expecting to win in order to gain computer points (which decides regional rankings and playoff berths). "That's part of the system where you have to earn your way into the playoffs.

"As far as taking pressure off of scheduling, that maneuvering and gamesmanship in scheduling has gone way beyond scheduling games. Leagues are breaking up because of football."

Under the 16-team playoff format, Fort Recovery would have qualified for the playoffs with losing records seven times. In 2018 and 2019, when

the Indians were 4-6, they were 15th and 16th, respectively, in their region. They would have also qualified in 2012 (3-7 – 16th seed), 2011 (4-6 – 14th), 2007 (5-5 – 16th), 2000 (4-6 – 16th), 1999 (3-7 – 14th). At 6-4 in 1994, computer points had Fort Recovery ranked 13th in its division.

"That illustrates something," Niekamp said. When we had those 3-7 seasons two of those wins were non-conference and those were typically quality wins. Sometimes we were beating teams that were getting into the playoffs with losses to a 3-7 team.

"The idea you have to have a winning record to get in the playoffs is a joke."

Kemper went on to say coaches within the MAC can change one of their goals each season.

"Some of our best coaches continually say their goal is to just make the playoffs," he said. "They feel if they can make the playoffs they can win some games.

"I think ultimately there are more positives than negatives. It'll be interesting to see how it works out."

### New format

Prior to the 2020 season, the higher-seeded team hosted regional quarterfinal games, while the rest of the state tournament was held at neutral sites.

With the new format, seeds one through eight will host the first round. Out of the eight teams that advance out of the first round, the higher-seeded team in each matchup will host the quarterfinal.

Regional semifinal and championship games will be at neutral sites, along with the state semifinal games.

The site of the state championship games, scheduled for Dec. 2 through 5, has not yet been determined.

The first Friday of the regular season is set for Aug. 20, with week 10 games to be played Oct. 23 and playoffs to start Oct. 29 and 30.

## Wentz ...

Continued from page 10

From video chats with defensive backs to throwing sessions with Michael Pittman Jr. and Dezmon Patmon in California to helping recruit T.Y. Hilton back to Indianapolis, Wentz had already been working hard to build bonds before the beginning of the Colts' virtual off-season program earlier this week.

"He's comfortable in his own skin," Ballard said. "He's been great. Great to be around, great family, great perspective on life.

"He's going to be a good player for us."

Wentz also has another

advantage that helped Rivers immensely last season, and it should become apparent as soon as Indianapolis is able to take the field this spring, whenever that may be.

He's already fluent in Frank Reich.

"When you have a familiarity with the offense and the coach that's coaching you every day, then automatically there's going to be a comfort level there," Ballard said. "It's like last year. We didn't have any off-season. Philip came in, knew the offense.

"There wasn't a lag in terms of him playing and understanding what needed to be done."

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Today**  
Jay County — Boys golf at South Adams Invitational — 9 a.m.; Boys track at Muncie Relays — 10 a.m.

**Monday**  
Jay County — Boys golf at Winchester — 4:30 p.m.; Baseball vs. Monroe Central — 5 p.m.; Softball at Wapahani — 5 p.m.; Girls tennis vs. South Adams — 5 p.m.; JV baseball at Delta — 5 p.m.; Junior high golf vs. Southern Wells — 5 p.m.; Junior high track vs. Heritage and Bluffton — 5:30 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Freshman baseball vs. Coldwater — 5 p.m.; Softball at South Adams — 5 p.m.

**Tuesday**  
Jay County — Boys golf vs. South Adams and Adams Central at Celina Lynx — 5 p.m.; Girls tennis vs. Union City — 5 p.m.; Track vs. Heritage — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high golf at Winchester Driver — 4:30 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Baseball vs. Cold-

water — 5 p.m.; Softball at Coldwater — 5 p.m.; JV baseball at Coldwater — 5 p.m.

### Thursday

Jay County — Boys golf vs. Blackford — 4:30 p.m.; Softball vs. Adams Central — 5 p.m.; Baseball vs. Adams Central — 5 p.m.; JV baseball at Adams Central — 5 p.m.; Junior high golf vs. Centerville — 5 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Track vs. South Adams — 4:30 p.m.; Baseball vs. Minster — 5 p.m.; Softball at Minster — 5 p.m.; JV baseball at Minster — 5 p.m.

### Local notes

**Derby is this weekend**  
Derby Icons will be hosting its Spring Explosion event today and Sunday at Jay County Fairgrounds grandstand.  
Action begins at 6 p.m. tonight and 2 p.m. Sunday.  
Daily admission is \$25 for adults and \$15 for children ages 3 through 12.  
Weekend passes are \$40 for adults and \$25 for children.

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# 'Let's play!'

## Tribe coach, MAC commissioner both welcome OHSAA's decision to expand football playoffs

By CHRIS SCHANZ

The Commercial Review

The Indians will have a better shot at making the playoffs this fall.

The Ohio High School Athletic Association's Board of Directors on Thursday approved expanding the football playoffs this fall to 16 teams per region, up from the previous 12.

This decision comes on the heels of the OHSAA announcing in May the playoffs would expand to 12 teams from eight (the top four seeds in each region were to receive a bye).

But last fall, the OHSAA introduced an all-inclusive playoff system for the 2020 season, which was shortened to six games because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

"Last fall we received overwhelmingly positive feedback when we allowed every team to enter the football playoffs due to the shortened season because of COVID-19," OHSAA Executive Director Doug Ute said in a press release. "We know there are some who want to keep the football postseason to a smaller number of schools, but the post-season tournament gives such a positive experience for our student athletes, the schools and their communities that we felt strongly about giving that opportunity to more schools to make the playoffs."

Fort Recovery coach Brent Niekamp is in favor of the expansion.

"More chances to compete? Sign us up!" he tweeted Thursday evening. "1 seed or 16 seed. Doesn't matter to us. Let's play!"

Niekamp, who started as FRHS coach in 2005, offered more thoughts Friday afternoon.

"I think it's going to take the pressure off of scheduling," he said. "With eight-team playoff there was a lot of pressure to schedule the right non-conference games to maximize the



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

In this Dec. 5, 2015, photo, the Fort Recovery High School student section prepares to cheer on the football team prior to the OHSAA Division VII State Championship at Ohio Stadium on the campus of Ohio State University in Columbus. The OHSAA announced on Thursday it was going to expand the regional playoff field to 16 teams from the previous eight-team field.

most computer points before you got into conference play."

Don Kemper, commissioner of the MAC, agreed with Niekamp's assessment, saying the conference's member schools generally have a tough time scheduling non-conference games for the first two weeks of the season because of the reputation the conference has established as being one of the best in the state.

"At the end of the day, teams are reluctant to play teams they think can beat them," he said. "Hopefully it resolves that issue and makes it easier to find non-conference opponents in week 1 and week 2."

### Tribe history

The OHSAA football playoffs began in 1972 when four schools in each of the three classes qualified for the playoffs.

Eight years later, the field was expanded to five divisions with eight playoff teams in each division. A sixth division was added in 1994, with four qualifiers per region. The field was then increased to its current format, eight teams per region, in 1999.

It wasn't until 2013 that the OHSAA added a seventh division.

"The eight teams, that wasn't perfect," Niekamp said. "People that are just in love with it being eight teams per region, they probably forget that when it was expanded 20 years ago when they made it eight teams they said it was watered down."

"I'm sure those arguments came up in 1999 when they changed it from four to eight. None of those that made it as an eight (seed) would want to go back to four. I don't think anybody who gets in now at 13 (seed) or 14 (seed) is going to turn around and say 'No thanks, we won't do it.'"

Fort Recovery began playing a varsity football schedule in 1992. The Tribe's first winning season came two years later — its first full, 10-game schedule — but it did not qualify for the playoffs until 2014.

The Indians were the No. 5 seed in their region and fell in the regional semifinal to eventual state champion Marion Local. The Indians caught fire the following year and won the program's first state championship, finishing the year 13-2.

Fort Recovery qualified for the playoffs the next two years, but 4-6 records in both 2018 and 2019 kept them out of the post-season.

See **Welcome** page 9

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DIANA EDWARDS, CPA

## Ballard: Wentz more like Luck

By JOEL A. ERICKSON  
The Indianapolis Star  
Tribune News Service  
INDIANAPOLIS

Nearly all of the attention surrounding the Colts right now is on the end of next week, the team's chances to fill its needs in the NFL Draft.

But the Indianapolis franchise has already spent the better part of two months getting to know the man who will make the biggest impact on the 2021 season.

The Colts are starting to get a sense of Carson Wentz.

"He's got a great sense of humor, doesn't take himself too seriously," general manager Chris Ballard said Friday. "He's dialed in, he works. I'd probably compare him a little more to Andrew Luck (Luck) than to Philip (Rivers)."

Ballard admittedly is still in the early stages of getting to know Wentz — the general manager has spent most of the last couple of weeks locked in the draft room, preparing the Indianapolis board for the draft.

But the Colts have had success with both approaches, the gregarious, childlike love of the game that Rivers carried and the quieter personality of Luck. As different as their personalities might be, though, there is one clear similarity between Wentz and Rivers in the way they've approached their first few months after joining Indianapolis.

Wentz has been hard at work building relationships with his new teammates.

See **Wentz** page 9

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