

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

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## Honoring spirit

### Freeman named first winner of Vicki award

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

"As Vicki always said, you are all very special."

It was that spirit of former Jay County Chamber of Commerce executive director Vicki Tague that hundreds gathered to celebrate Saturday night, including the first presentation of an award renamed in her honor.

Ron Freeman was voted the first winner of The Spirit of Vicki Lifetime Achievement Award as he was among the nine honorees at the Jay County Chamber of Commerce Community Awards ceremony at Jay County Event Center.

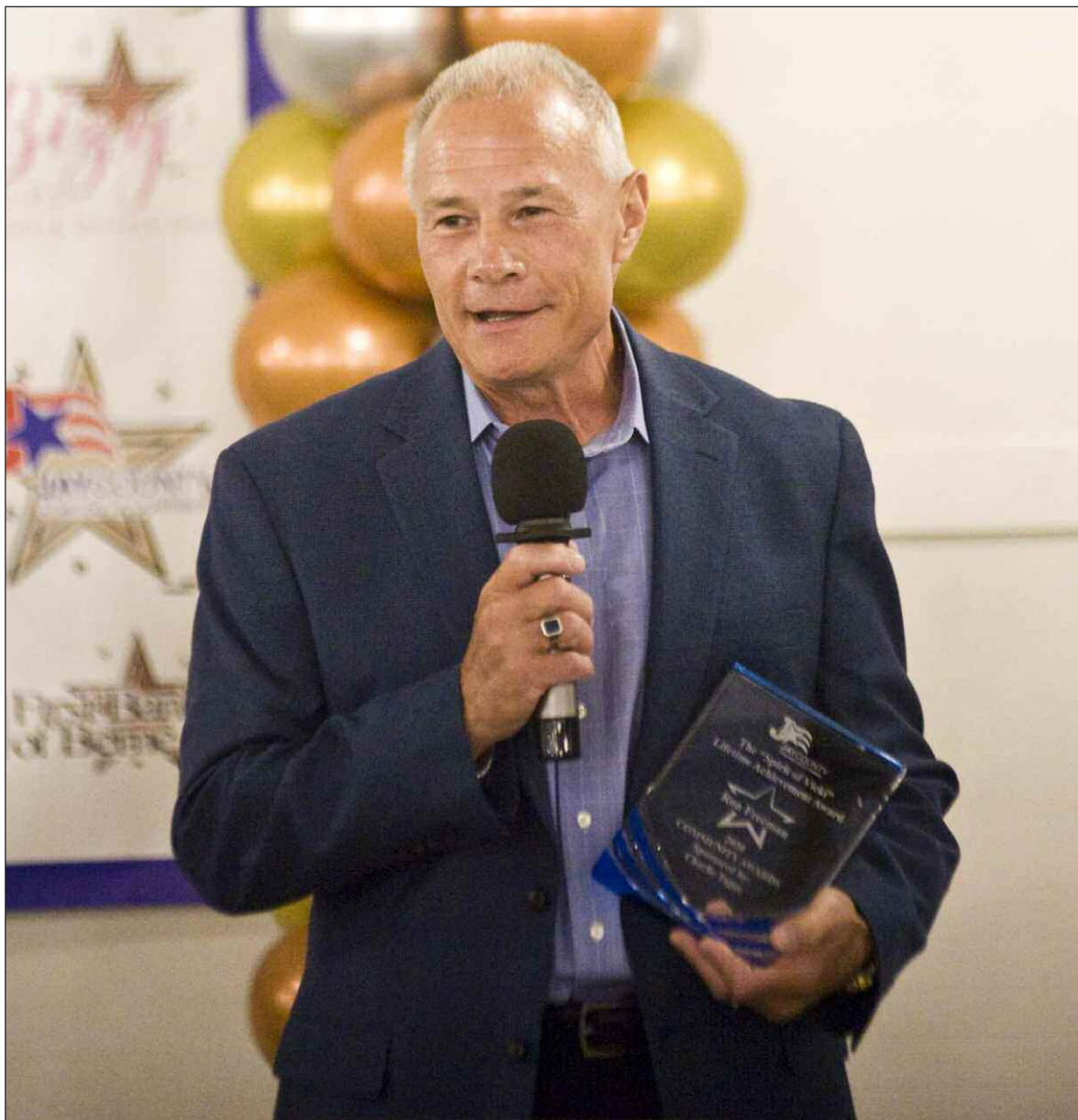
In accepting the award, Freeman noted that he was president of Portland Area Chamber of Commerce when Tague was hired as its executive director in 1992. She stayed in the position for nearly 22 years and spearheaded the implementation of a county-wide chamber in 2008.

"I always felt like this was one of the best decisions that I ever made in my career," said Freeman. "Vicki had an incredible influence on this community. So it's an honor for me to be the first recipient of this award."

The Lifetime Achievement Award, which has been given since 1992, was renamed this year in honor of Tague, who died April 19, 2019, following a battle with cancer. She won the award herself in 2016.

Her husband, Charlie, had hoped to be able to give out the award but was unable to attend Saturday's event because of his own battle with cancer.

"I adore Vicki, and this would



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Ron Freeman, who was honored as the first winner of the renamed Spirit of Vicki Lifetime Achievement Award, speaks Saturday night during the Jay County Community Awards ceremony hosted by Jay County Chamber of Commerce at Jay County Event Center. Freeman was the president of the chamber board when Vicki Tague, for whom the award is named, was hired as its executive director.

be an honor," he said in a prepared statement read by chamber executive director Tabby Sprunger. "It means so much to me, and also, I am sure, so much to Vicki that she is being honored in this way."

Also Saturday, Portland Fire Chief Mike Weitzel was named Citizen of the Year, with Bizzy

Dips winning Business of the Year and Tyson Mexican Original selected as Industry of the Year. Other winners were: Dunkirk Community Commitment - Ryan and Kelly Johnson; Not-for-profit of the Year - John Jay Center for Learning; Small Community Commitment - Brooks and Cassie Fugiett;

Young Professional of the Year - Adam Homan; and Innovator of the Year - the Jay School Corporation food service program and Chartwells. The chamber also recognized Pat Jellison, who retired as its administrative assistant after 30 years of service.

See **Honoring** page 5

## Young pleads, receives 20-year sentence

### Portland woman was charged in relation to son's death

By BAILEY CLINE

and RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

A Portland woman will serve two decades in prison after pleading guilty to a charge related to her son's death.

Jennifer Young, 35, was sentenced Monday in Jay Circuit Court to 20 years in Indiana Department of Correction for a Level 1 felony charge of neglect of a dependent resulting in death.

Senior Judge Max Ludy, filling in for vacationing Jay Circuit Court Judge Brian Hutchison, accepted the plea and handed down the sentence as agreed to by the defense and prosecution. (In Indiana, a Level 1 felony charge carries a sentence of 20 to 40 years with an advisory sentence of 30 years.)

"Given the circumstances, I think this was the best outcome for both sides," said Aaron Henderson, Young's attorney. "There's no win for anybody (here)."

As part of the plea agreement, two other charges against her — a Level 5 felony for possession of methamphetamine and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia — were dismissed.

Ludy indicated both sides had expressed they had evidentiary issues regarding the case.

Jay County prosecutor Wes Schemenaur explained after Monday's hearing that while the initial autopsy determined 3-month-old Hayden Markle's cause of death to be acute methamphetamine intoxication, the pathologist involved later also listed asphyxiation as a cause. (That detail came during a deposition in the case of Hayden Markle's father Ryan Markle, who also faces a neglect of a dependent resulting in death charge.) Hayden Markle was sleeping with his mother at the time of his death.

See **Pleads** page 5

## Staff to get extra-duty stipend

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

School staffers who were forced into extra work during the coronavirus pandemic will receive compensation.

Jay School Board on Monday approved an extra-duty stipend for teachers, support staff and administrators via Elementary and Second-

ary School Emergency Relief funds being provided through federal COVID-19 legislation.

Jay Schools superintendent Jeremy Gulley explained that rules for how the relief funds must be spent do not allow blanket bonuses for staff. The plan as approved Monday received the OK from

Indiana Department of Education.

Teachers and administrators will receive a \$1,200 stipend for extra duty related to the pandemic. Nurses will receive a \$1,000 stipend and non-certified employees (bus drivers, secretaries, custodians, etc.) will receive \$765.

Gulley noted that food service employees, who

are now employees of Chartwells, will also receive the \$765 stipend.

Board members Phil Ford, Ron Laux, Donna Geesaman, Mike Shannon, Jason Phillips, Vickie Reitz and Chris Snow also approved the corporation's spending plan for the third round of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief

funds, estimated at \$6.24 million in the third. It calls for reimbursement of teacher salaries, educational software, the addition of several teaching employees, summer school and tutoring expansion, transportation software, interactive classroom panels and other items.

See **Staff** page 5

## FCC is approved for tax abatement

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

One business will get tax abatement.

Another request will be reviewed.

And the way has been cleared for a local business to make the move to its new headquarters.

Portland City Council on Monday dealt with a variety of business-related issues, including approving the latest tax abatement of FCC (Indiana).

Council members unanimously approved a three-year abatement on \$1.4 million in

new equipment for FCC, as recommended by the city's tax abatement advisory committee. It is expected to save the company about \$35,000 in taxes. FCC had presented the request at the May 3 meeting.

The installation of the new equipment is expected to create 11 new jobs.

FCC has been approved for a new tax abatement nearly every year over the last decade, having invested more than \$130 million in expansions and equipment at its Portland location.

See **Abatement** page 5

## Running on 67

Runners, including Portland's Valentin Lopez (center), take off southwest on Indiana 67 after their stop at county road 300 South during Indiana's Run for the Fallen on Saturday morning. The three-day run honoring those who have lost their lives in military service began Friday morning in Fort Wayne and concluded Sunday afternoon in Indianapolis.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

### Deaths

Cheryl Chrisman, 74, Bryant

Patsy Huntsman, 87, Redkey

Thomas Sanderell, 91, Fort Recovery

Carl Brown, 93, Lafayette

Barbara Graber, 4, Berne

Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 61 degrees Monday. The low was 57. There was about a quarter inch of rain.

There is a chance of showers tonight. The low will be 60 degrees. Expect a high near 80 Wednesday under partly cloudy skies with a slight chance of showers. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Portland Board of Works has scheduled a special meeting for 10 a.m. Thursday in the mayor's office at city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.

### Coming up

Wednesday — Coverage of today's inaugural Signing Day event at JCHS.

Friday — Results from the boys track sectional meet at Muncie Central.





# CR almanac

Wednesday 5/19	Thursday 5/20	Friday 5/21	Saturday 5/22	Sunday 5/23
<b>79/62</b>	<b>85/64</b>	<b>86/63</b>	<b>86/65</b>	<b>87/66</b>
There is a 30% chance of rain and thunderstorms in the afternoon and evening. Otherwise mostly sunny.	Skies will be mostly sunny all day with highs in the mid 80s. There will be a southwest wind at 5 to 10 mph.	Another day of mostly sunny skies and warm temperatures. Clouds may appear at night.	Mostly cloudy all day with temperatures in the mid to upper 80s.	More sun is expected Sunday with mostly sunny skies and temperatures reaching the high 80s.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Saturday 4-10-37-39-69 Powerball: 24 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$201 million	Cash 5: 4-8-13-24-34 Estimated jackpot: \$127,500
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$468 million	<b>Ohio</b> Monday Midday Pick 3: 4-8-5 Pick 4: 2-3-4-9 Pick 5: 1-8-8-0-4 Evening Pick 3: 0-9-1 Pick 4: 9-6-5-4 Pick 5: 4-7-0-9-7 Rolling Cash 5: 4-7-28-35-36 Estimated jackpot: \$150,000 Classic Lotto: 17-20-21-26-35-40 Kicker: 4-6-5-7-2-8 Jackpot: \$8.5 million
<b>Hoosier</b> Monday Midday Daily Three: 7-0-8 Daily Four: 2-0-9-8 Evening Daily Three: 7-7-8 Daily Four: 8-1-9-9 Quick Draw: 6-11-14-16-19-21-30-31-38-41-46-47-54-61-66-72-73-74-76-79	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....6.94 Wheat .....6.88	<b>Central States Montpelier</b> Corn.....6.92 June corn .....6.92 Beans .....16.17 Sept. beans .....13.56 Wheat ..... 7.00
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....7.06 June corn .....7.11	<b>Sunrise St. Anthony</b> Corn.....6.97 May corn.....6.97 Beans .....16.06 May beans .....16.06 Wheat .....6.65 July wheat.....6.65
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn.....6.95 June corn .....6.95 Beans .....16.26 June beans .....16.26 Wheat ..... 6.99 June wheat..... 6.89	

## Today in history

**On May 18, 1896**, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, endorsed “separate but equal” racial segregation, a concept renounced 58 years later by *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*.

**In 1642**, the Canadian city of Montreal was founded by French colonists. (On this date in 1765, one-quarter of Montreal was destroyed by a fire.)

**In 1652**, Rhode Island became the first American colony to pass a law abolishing African slavery; however, the law was apparently never enforced.

**In 1863**, the Siege of Vicksburg began during the Civil War, ending July 4 with a Union victory.

**In 1910**, Halley’s Comet passed by earth, brushing it with its tail.

**In 1927**, in America’s deadliest school attack, part of a schoolhouse in Bath Township, Michigan, was blown up with explosives planted by local farmer Andrew Kehoe, who then set off a bomb in his truck; the attacks killed 38 children and six adults, including Kehoe, who’d earlier killed his wife. (Authorities said Kehoe, who suffered financial difficulties, was seeking revenge for losing a township clerk election.)

**In 1933**, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a measure creating the Tennessee Valley Authority.

**In 1944**, during World War II, Allied forces occupied Monte Cassino in Italy after a four-month struggle with Axis troops.

**In 1953**, Jacqueline Cochran, 47, became the first woman to break the sound barrier as she piloted a Canadair F-86 Sabre jet over Rogers Dry Lake, California.

**In 1971**, the Pennville High School baseball team cruised to a 13-4 victory over Bryant. The Bulldogs racked up 16 hits, including a home run from John Crosbie.

**In 1973**, Harvard law professor Archibald Cox was appointed Watergate special prosecutor by U.S. Attorney General Elliot Richardson.

**In 1980**, the Mount St. Helens volcano in Washington state exploded, leaving 57 people dead or missing.

**In 1981**, the New York Native, a gay newspaper, carried a story concerning rumors of “an exotic new disease” among homosexuals; it was the first published report about what came to be known as AIDS.

**In 2015**, President Barack Obama ended long-running federal transfers of some combat-style gear to local law enforcement in an attempt to ease tensions between police and minority communities, saying equipment made for the battlefield should not be a tool of American criminal justice.

—AP and The CR

## Citizen’s calendar

<b>Wednesday</b> 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.	Board of Works special meeting, mayor’s office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.
<b>Thursday</b> 10 a.m. — Portland	6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St.

# Obituaries

## Cheryl Chrisman

Aug. 6, 1946-May 16, 2021  
With both heavy hearts and a peaceful acknowledgement to our God who does all things well, we share with you that Cheryl Delee Chrisman has gone home. Following a long battle with multiple complications caused by cancer, God chose to free her from the struggles at 1:40 a.m. on Sunday, May 16, 2021, by opening the gates of heaven and welcoming her inside.



Cheryl Chrisman

Cheryl was born in Jay County on Aug. 6, 1946, the daughter of Riley and Lena (Harry) Landers. She was married on June 27, 1965, to Steve Chrisman who survives. She was a homemaker, member of Bryant Wesleyan Church and 1964 Madison High School graduate.

Surviving are her husband of 55 years Steve; two sons, Brian Chrisman (wife: Laurie) of Bryant and Trent Chrisman (Cheryl Flaute) of Bryant; two daughters, Michelle LeTulle (husband: Craig) of Houston, Texas, and Stephanie Rash (husband: Michael) of Villa Hills, Kentucky; three brothers, Lowell Landers (wife: Barb) of Winchester, Bob Landers (wife: Jackie) of Geneva and Jack Landers of Goshen; eight grandchildren, Abbie, Eric, Macy Jo, Nate, Brennan, Brandon, Parker and Nicholas; and three great-grandchildren Hudson, Addison and Bexlee Jo.

She was preceded in death by a son, Troy; sister Barb McAbee; brother Gale Landers; and in-laws Santford and Marguerite (Brainer) Chrisman.

She touched the lives of so many people; now she touches the one who provides so much grace.

Funeral services will be Thursday, May 20, 2021, at 10 a.m. in the Bryant Wesleyan Church with Pastor Paul VanCise presiding. Burial will follow in the Gravel Hill Cemetery west of Bryant. Visitation will be Wednesday from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home and one hour prior to the funeral at the church.

Memorials can be made to the Bryant Wesleyan Church Missions Fund. Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

## Patsy Huntsman

Feb. 13, 1934-May 17, 2021  
Patsy D. Huntsman, age 87, of Redkey passed away Monday morning at her residence.

She was born on Feb. 13, 1934, in Cape Girardo, Missouri, the daughter of Ephriam and Pearl Tracy (Wills) Roberts. She was married on Aug. 11, 1950, to Elwood “Woody” Huntsman who survives. Patsy was a homemaker and loved doing crafts and raising children.

Surviving are her husband Woody; three sons, Lattie Huntsman (wife: Deb) of Salamononia, David Huntsman (wife: Carol) of Portland and Monte Huntsman (wife: Tina) of Salamononia; four daughters, Virginia Harrison of Redkey, Debbie Briggs (husband: Cris) of Winchester, Cheryl Sell (husband: Jim) of Portland and Susan Huntsman of Redkey.



Huntsman

She was preceded in death by a son, Marvin Huntsman.

Funeral services will be Friday, May 21, 2021, at 1 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastors Billy Stanton and Rob Ferris presiding. Burial will follow in the Mercy Memory Gardens in Celina, Ohio. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday.

Memorials can be made to the family.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

## Thomas Sanderell

May 18, 1929-May 15, 2021  
Thomas Stephen Sanderell, 91, of Fort Recovery, Ohio, passed away on Saturday, May 15, 2021, at Briarwood Village in Coldwater.



Sanderell

He was born on May 18, 1929, in Fort Recovery to the late Adolph and Ida (Reinhard) Sanderell.

Thomas was the last of his immediate family. He is survived by many nieces and nephews; numerous great- and great-great-nieces and great- and great-great-nephews; and friends.

In addition to his parents, Thomas was preceded in death by his five sisters, Regina (Walter) Forthoefer, Emma (Linus) Hart, Matilda Sanderell, Monica (Herbert) Rammel, and Bertha Sanderell; and his three brothers, William, Norbert and Leo Sanderell.

Thomas was a 1947 graduate of Fort Recovery High School. After school, Thomas joined the United States Army, where he served his country honorably during the Korean War.

Thomas was a lifelong farmer. He enjoyed raising crops and tending to his livestock. He was a lifelong member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in St. Joe. Thomas was a charter member of the Fort Recovery Knights of Columbus, and a part of the Fort Recovery and Holy Name Society of the church.

After retiring from farming, Thomas and his sister, Bertha, became world travelers and traveled to all seven continents.

Thomas will be remembered for his love and gen-

erosity to his beloved community and various organizations in Fort Recovery and the surrounding area. From St. Joseph Catholic Church to Mercer Health Hospital, Thomas’ legacy will live on forever.

To honor Thomas’ wishes, there will be no visitation. Family and friends were invited to attend a public Mass of Christian Burial that took place this morning at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 1689 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery, Ohio, with Father Ned Brown officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Brockman-Boeckman Funeral Home served Thomas’ family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to the Thomas S. Sanderell Memorial Fund in care of the Fort Recovery Foundation.

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

## Carl Brown

Sept. 8, 1927-May 13, 2021  
Carl Martin Brown, a teacher to hundreds, a mentor to many, and a friend to all, died to this life on Thursday, May 13, 2021.



Brown

He was born Sept. 8, 1927, in Portland, Indiana, to Mable Hickman Brown and Ralph Ernest Brown. He earned degrees from Redkey High School and Ball State University, with advanced degrees from Butler University.

He proudly served his country in World War II with the U.S. Army, and the Korean War with the U.S. Air Force stationed in Okinawa, Japan.

Beginning in 1952, he joined Indiana Bell Telephone, Ameritec, AT&T. He moved up through a number of project engineering and management positions before retiring in 1989. He was a former member of Telephone Pioneers, Theta Chi Fraternity, Immanuel United Church of Christ, Covenant Church, Elks and the American Legion.

Upon retirement, he taught at Ivy Tech, volunteered for Lafayette Legal Services, H&R Block, Tippecanoe Historical Society, Jay County Historical Society and Boy Scouts of America. Carl was wise beyond his education, and people of all ages and stations in life sought his advice and benefited from his counsel. Carl is remembered for his unflinching work ethic, his generous smile, his willingness to come at any time, day or night, to help a friend in need and then try to reassure them he was already awake and it was no problem.

In 1954, he married Jackie Clapper in Danbury, Connecticut. They were happily married for 67 years.

He is survived by his children, Julie Leonard

and Jack Brown (wife: Jeannine); grandchildren, Dylan Leonard (wife: Beth), Colin Leonard (wife: Lindsey), Drew Brown and Faith Brown; great-grandchildren Mia Leonard, Mylee Leonard, Mak Leonard and Emerson Leonard; cousin Rex Brown; niece Kelley Clapper Randolph (husband: Chris); and nephews Marc Clapper (wife: Brenda) and Jeff Clapper.

He enjoyed traveling to new places, spending time at his home on Lake Freeman while fishing off the dock with his great-grandkids, attending estate auctions to discover lost gems, getting his hands dirty restoring antique cars with his grandsons, golfing and genealogy. Come rain or shine, he attended his grandson’s Harrison High School basketball and football games, getting wrapped up in the game day excitement as his grandson played for the University of Clemson football team, sitting cart side at Junior PGA matches and cheering on his great-granddaughters at Boiler Jr. Volleyball tournaments. He collected Indiana artists and attended exhibitions at Indianapolis Museum of Art where daughter Julie is a docent.

Carl was happiest when he was amongst his loved ones. He found his heaven on Earth among his family.

Private family services will be held.

In lieu of flowers, request memorials to be made to charity of choice.

Share memories and condolences online at clapperfuneralservices.com.

**Barbara JC Graber**, Berne, the granddaughter of a Geneva woman, June 16, 2016-May 14, 2021. Services were this morning at the Graber residence.

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*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.*

## SERVICES

### Thursday

**Chrisman**, Cheryl: 10 a.m., Bryant Wesleyan Church, 209 S. Hendricks St., Bryant.

### Friday

**Huntsman**, Patsy: 1 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Service listings provided by

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Or call 844-243-8570

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## Home, owner seem to be at odds

By DIANA DOLECKI  
Special to The Commercial Review

I think our house is out to get me. I am used to it causing me to bump my head on the kitchen cabinets even with the doors closed. I am also used to it shoving me into random walls and causing me to trip over nothing. If I ignore all that then the house waits until I'm barefoot to cause me to stub my toe on something or other.

The house has now gone into partnership with anything that requires a light bulb. In the last few days the oven light burned out. I couldn't get the cover off without breaking it. My hubby did it for me. A couple days after the oven light was replaced the undercabinet light started flashing. I think it may have been Morse code. I don't remember any of what I learned in school a half century ago about how to translate the flashes to letters.

Again, hubby to the rescue. He

### As I See It



took the old light out and replaced it with one we never use. Then to complete the trifecta, one of the headlights on the car burnt out. He hasn't replaced it yet but he did get it removed from the car.

This is the first time since we owned them that any of those bulbs burnt out so it was probably time for them to go.

It could be that the house is upset because the houseplants have made their twice a year migration. The house could be feeling a little naked and lonely without all the greenery. A few of the plants have moved off of the porch. Most of them need to be

reotted, trimmed and inspected for bugs. I used up all the potting soil I had and until I get some more the plants will have to make do with what they have.

Yes, I know that I am anthropomorphizing by giving human characteristics to something that is clearly not human. Buildings can't think or feel or plot to harm their humans. Can they?

The flowerbeds don't agree with the house. The little early flowers and the daffodils and tulips have outdone themselves this year. The alliums with their round purple balls atop a long stem are the stars of the show for the next week or so.

Part of what I enjoy about the flowerbeds is that things are always changing. Some plants bloom one color at a time. Some bloom one species at a time. Sometimes they are tall, other times they are short. The variety is what I like.

Plants are not as grumpy as

the house is when they get a bug up their bloomers. Instead of shoving me into a kitchen cabinet they will cause me to get dizzy when I stand up after bending over to pull a weed or two. They also pretend it wasn't their fault. They reach out a branch for me to grab onto as an example of their goodwill.

Burned out light bulbs are something that just happens. The newer light bulbs on the market say they will last longer than the ones they replaced. I am not sure I believe that. All the other assorted mischievousness I attribute to the house is more likely to be caused by my own clumsiness and not something that happens on purpose. I am planning to offer a peace offering to the house by doing a little painting as soon as the weather allows. I should probably stock up on light bulbs just in case.

## Garden fair is scheduled for June

A Muncie organization is reading give a little gardening help.

Minnetrista will host a two-day garden fair next month with vendors offering a variety of plants, landscaping tools and other items.

The event is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 5 and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 6. The Minnetrista Farmers Market will also be open from 8 a.m. to noon June 5.

Minnetrista requires masks in all buildings and strongly suggests patrons wear masks while inside the Fair and Market areas.

For more information, visit [minnetrista.net](http://minnetrista.net).

## Cat rescue leads to tension between neighbors

DEAR ABBY: I am a lover of and rescuer of cats (and dogs). I rescued a beautiful and loving cat with horrible wounds on his neck. I got him neutered, his wounds cleaned and sewn up, and became attached to him. I had asked my elderly neighbor if she wanted him. She said she'd think about it. She visited him at my house as his wounds healed, and a few months later she took the cat.

When I visited her a few months after that, I saw she was feeding him so many treats that he was morbidly obese. When I told her so, she got insulted. She didn't believe me so she took the cat for a checkup at the local veterinarian.

The vet told her the same thing

### Dear Abby



in no uncertain terms, and to feed the cat no treats and a certain low-fat dry cat food. With my help she ordered the food and I measured it into bags to make it easier for her, as she gets a bit confused.

I weigh the cat every Monday and he has lost a bit of weight already. Slowly is the best way. But she's not pleasant to work with and is fighting me all the way. I'm a patient person and do

my best, but sometimes it's hard not to lose my temper. Any suggestions? — CARES ABOUT FUR BABIES

DEAR CARES: Unfortunately, we don't always get to know people until we see them in action, as you are now doing with this neighbor. For that cat's sake, hang onto your temper and continue to help her and her fur baby. If she's becoming increasingly confused, it is important that someone not only keep an eye on the feline in that household, but also her — to ensure that she is able to take care of herself.

\*\*\*\*\*

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I divorced five years ago. We have

four grown children. He wanted to sell the house, but I ended up buying him out because two of our kids were still living at home.

Fast-forward to now: We are expecting our third grandkid. Since the divorce, he doesn't want to co-parent with me. He keeps saying we are no longer a family. The holidays and main events are now celebrated separately. I am increasingly sad about this. He refuses to be civil with me. He's a racist, and I happen to have a boyfriend of a different race living with me now.

His attitude is affecting our children, especially the one still living with me. I want to be able to share the joy of our new grandkids and the successes of our children, and the dilemmas as

well, but I can't. Should I confront him? Or should I just consider him "dead"? — SOMEONE'S MISSING IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR SOMEONE'S MISSING: I seriously doubt that "confronting" your ex-husband will work out well. You are a loving, enthusiastic parent and you do not need your ex's negative attitude putting a damper on your happiness.

Continue hosting these celebratory events, and extend invites to your ex if you wish. However, because of his racism, do not expect him to show up. That's a good thing, all things considered. Continue to dwell on the positive, and you and your children will all be happier.

## Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email [news@thecr.com](mailto:news@thecr.com).

### Today

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 - 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.

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.

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

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

### Wednesday

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

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

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday at Harmony Cafe, 121 N. Meridian St.

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

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

STRESS AND ANXIETY CLASS — Meets each Wednesday at 2nd Chance at Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-9625 or (260) 703-0534.

### Thursday

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

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

SENIOR CITIZENS CARD CLUB — Will meet at 1 p.m. on the first, second, third and fifth Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage,

birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

EN AVANT CLUB — Meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

ORGAN TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the IU Health Blackford main conference room.

JAY COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY — Will meet at 5:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Jay County Public Library. The public is welcome.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North.

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- Ability to learn

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**THE PORTLAND FOUNDATION**

## Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

### Saturday's Solution

3	1	2	6	5	4	8	7	9
9	4	7	3	1	8	6	5	2
5	6	8	7	2	9	4	1	3
2	5	9	4	6	1	3	8	7
7	3	4	5	8	2	9	6	1
6	8	1	9	3	7	5	2	4
1	7	6	8	4	3	2	9	5
4	9	5	2	7	6	1	3	8
8	2	3	1	9	5	7	4	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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# Jay County 4-H Council says thanks

To the editor:

On behalf of the Jay County 4-H Council I would like to express a sincere thank you to the Jay County community for its support on the council's donations for its capital campaign to raise funds for improvements on the 4-H buildings at Jay County Fairgrounds.

First, we would like to thank the landowners, farmers, individuals and businesses that made donations or established programs within their local businesses to raise money.

We would also like to thank The Portland Foundation for the grant and the Friends of Ag

## Letters to the Editor

Grant as well as POET Biorefining for its grant. They all went a long way in helping us meet our goal.

We would also like to thank Rob Weaver for his support and air play on the radio to promote and support our campaign.

We would like to thank the former county commissioners for their assistance and guid-

ance in helping direct us on a direction to take.

We would like to thank all current 4-H volunteers, clubs and species that supported the campaign and made donations.

We want to thank all current and past 4-H members that recognize the tremendous part that 4-H plays in the community. The recognition that the program means more than one week a summer at the fair — it means helping the kids of today gain skills, leadership, work ethic and the confidence throughout the year to become local leaders of the future.

Finally, thank you to the current commissioners for their

financial support in helping put us over the mark to meet the needs to begin phase one.

In the next few weeks we will be meeting with the contractors and establishing a schedule to start remodeling on the livestock buildings this fall.

Rest assured we will still be applying for more grants and accepting more donations as we move into phase two. This will be getting quotes and working on needs within the Bob Schmidt Memorial Exhibit Hall. These include a new furnace for the main area, a heat and air system for the small meeting room, a new sound system and screens in main area and the

small meeting room for banquets, sales, receptions and meetings. We will also look to install more efficient lighting and bathrooms along with some other updates.

Finally, we will then move into phase three, the repainting of all the buildings.

Please continue to make donations and support the campaign as we look to keep Jay County 4-H a major impact and role in meeting the needs of our youth to help them reach their goals and success.

Thank you.  
Sincerely,  
C. Dru Mercer  
4-H council vice president

## Was innocent man executed?

By KELLY HAWES

CNHI News Indiana

Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson is still holding out hope he made the right call.

"Whenever you make tough decisions, whenever you have to carry out the decision of a jury, you realize it's been reviewed by the Supreme Court at every level," he said. "They affirmed the convictions, and it's my duty to carry out the law."

Hutchinson was talking about the case of Ledell Lee, a man who was executed four years ago in the 1993 murder of his 26-year-old neighbor, Debra Reese. It was a crime Lee insisted to the very end he did not commit.

"My dying words will always be, as it has been, 'I am an innocent man,'" he told the BBC in an interview published just ahead of his execution.

With the clock ticking toward Lee's final breath, the Innocence Project and the American Civil Liberties Union sought a stay to allow their experts time for more testing, but the governor said no.

Now, tests have found another man's DNA on the apparent murder weapon, a wooden club, and on the shirt that was wrapped around that club.

Lee's sister, Patricia Young, has been fighting for years to prove her brother's innocence, and the evidence had been released for testing in response to a lawsuit she filed. Police found "five interpretable fingerprints" at the crime scene, and none came from Lee. Investigators also obtained DNA samples from six hairs or hair fragments found at the scene.

"Ledell Lee was excluded as the source of five of these six hairs," the Innocence Project said in a summary of its findings. "For one hair, Mr. Lee could not be excluded as a potential source."

According to its website, the Innocence Project has succeeded in exonerating 375 people, including 21 who spent time on death row. His sister is hoping Lee will one day join that list.

"Though it is too late for DNA and fingerprint testing of the crime scene evidence to save Lee's life, it can reveal whether or not Arkansas executed an innocent man," the Innocence

Kelly Hawes



Project said in a news release issued last year. "And, if it turns out that Lee was innocent, the same testing could uncover the identity of Reese's actual killer, and bring justice to both her family and the family of Ledell Lee."

It's at least worth noting that Lee actually faced two trials in the death of Debra Reese. The first resulted in a hung jury after numerous alibi witnesses testified he could not have committed the crime. For some reason, though, the defense called none of those witnesses at his second trial.

Investigators found no physical evidence directly linking Lee to the crime, and the prosecution's own experts admitted the results of several forensic tests were ultimately "inconclusive."

Hutchinson is still standing by his decision not to grant that reprieve.

"The evidence obviously that's been uncovered is inconclusive," he said, "and the fact is that the jury found him guilty based on the information that they had."

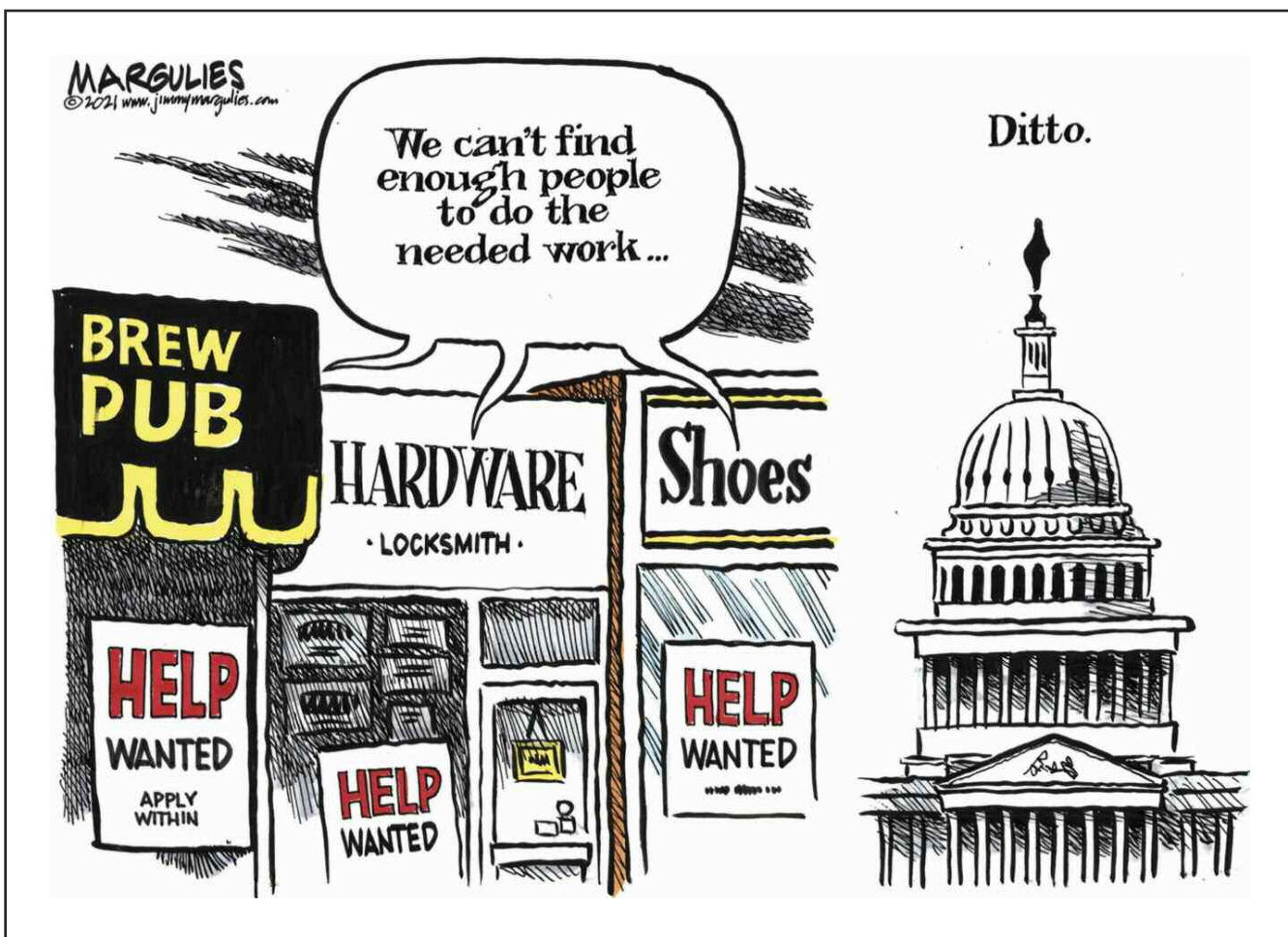
University of Michigan law professor Samuel Gross led a team of experts in a study aimed at calculating the number of death row inmates who were wrongfully convicted. The study, published in 2014, put the number at 4%.

Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge seems confident Lee was not part of that number.

"The courts consistently rejected Ledell Lee's frivolous claims," she said, "because the evidence demonstrated beyond any shadow of a doubt that he murdered Debra Reese by beating her to death inside her home with a tire thumper."

Looking at the evidence, some might wonder how she can be so certain.

.....  
This column was provided to The Commercial Review through the Hoosier State Press Association Information Network.



## Underwater oil pipeline is dangerous

By GRETCHEN WHITMER

Special To The Washington Post

Oil and water don't mix — especially when the latter involves the Great Lakes, the repository of more than 20 percent of the world's fresh water. And yet for nearly 70 years, an oil company has pumped crude oil through the Straits of Mackinac, where Lake Michigan and Lake Huron connect and where Michigan's upper and lower peninsulas come closest.

The two aging, 4.5-mile sections of underwater pipeline are a ticking time bomb. I'm taking every action I can to shut them down, to protect two Great Lakes and the jobs that depend on them.

Calgary-based Enbridge Inc. owns the pipeline, known as Line 5, which is part of a network that transports crude oil and other petroleum products from Western Canada. In 1953, a forerunner Enbridge company secured an easement from the state of Michigan for \$2,450 to run the pipeline through the Straits. It now moves about 540,000 barrels of crude and natural gas liquids through the Great Lakes daily.

For decades, few people even realized that the dual pipelines passed through the Straits. But catastrophic oil spills have since alerted millions of Americans to the enormous potential dangers. In Michigan, the turning point might have been in 2010. In April of that year, the deadly disaster of the BP Deepwater Horizon drilling rig poured millions of barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico; three months later, an Enbridge pipeline in Michigan, Line 6B, ruptured, sending hundreds of thousands of gallons of oil gushing into a creek feeding the Kalamazoo River, near Marshall, Mich. It was one of the largest inland oil spills in U.S. history.

After those twin catastrophes, eyes turned to the aging oil pipelines running through the Great Lakes.

While Enbridge says its pipelines

Gretchen Whitmer



pose no threat, the record from just the past few years says otherwise. The Straits of Mackinac is a busy shipping channel, with the dual pipelines lying perpendicular to passing ships. In April 2018, a commercial vessel inadvertently dropped and dragged a massive anchor across the pipelines while passing through the Straits. An "underwater pipeline inspection video shows deep scoring along the lake bottom, then up and over the twin pipelines," the Detroit Free Press later reported. "Deep marks are etched in both pipelines, and there is evidence of outer protective coating loss."

It was just a matter of luck that the pipelines did not rupture. Then, in 2020, Enbridge disclosed another strike on Line 5, one that caused significant damage to a pipeline support, likely by either an anchor or cables from a passing ship. Another catastrophe dodged.

The potential costs of a major oil spill are too great to ignore. The Great Lakes support more than 1.3 million jobs that generate \$82 billion in wages annually across the United States. We cannot continue to run the risk of the devastating economic, environmental and public health impacts that would follow a disaster involving Line 5.

That's why I took action. Last November, I filed a lawsuit and notified Enbridge that the state of Michigan was revoking and terminating the 1953 easement for Enbridge's dual pipelines in the Straits. The notice gave Enbridge 180 days — until this past Wednesday — to cease pumping oil through

the Great Lakes. This week, I notified Enbridge that if it continues to operate past the deadline — which it has done — the state would make every effort to disgorge the company of all profits unjustly earned from Line 5 while trespassing on state land.

Enbridge says it will continue pumping until a court orders it to stop. I'm confident the state will prevail. Even under federal law, states retained the right to prescribe the location of pipelines. The company may end up running a new pipeline elsewhere: Although it would be years away at best, Enbridge is exploring the possibility of digging a tunnel under the Straits of Mackinac. The authority is 49 U.S.C. 60104(e).

But at this moment, the company must stop pumping oil across the bottomlands of the Great Lakes. Enbridge is flat wrong in its absurd argument that Michigan, having said yes in the 1950s, cannot say no today. That's why 16 other states and D.C. have filed an amicus brief supporting my position: to preserve their sovereign rights over where pipelines are laid.

Shutting down Line 5 will require adjustments, which are already underway. For example, Michigan draws propane from the pipeline. Anticipating the coming changes, the market for Michigan's wholesale propane supply is diversifying and propane retailers are developing alternative sourcing arrangements. The state is also taking steps to prevent price gouging and exploring opportunities to invest in renewable energy, energy efficiency and electrification to bring down long-term costs.

Running pipelines through the water of the Great Lakes is, and always has been, a dangerous threat. I will not sit idle as this time bomb keeps ticking.

.....  
Whitmer, a Democrat, is governor of Michigan.

# The Commercial Review

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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.



# Honoring ...

Continued from page 1

Freeman was honored for his years with Jay Petroleum, including 23 as president of the company. He retired in December, shortly after the company completed the purchase of Ottawa Oil that expanded its footprint to 57 retail Pak-a-Sak and Party Mart locations in Indiana and Ohio. He was a member of the first board of directors of Indiana Association of Convenience Stores and served on the Indiana Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association twice. He has also been actively involved in local theatre, with his church and with various other local organizations.

Freeman said he was especially honored to share the award with his father-in-law, Jim Peterson, the founder of Jay Petroleum. Peterson won the award in 1996.

"Jim brought me to Portland in 1983 to work in his company," Freeman said. "He shared a great deal of trust in me and allowed me many years of opportunities. My career would not have been the career it was without that man."

Weitzel earned the Citizen of the Year Award for both his efforts leading Portland's fire department and his community service. He is a member of the United Way of Jay County Board of Directors and a founding member of Portland Main Street Connect.

Bizy Dips was honored as Business of the Year after expanding its bakery operation with a coffee shop in John Jay Center for Learning last year. Tyson, which has been in Portland for more than 25 years, earned the Industry of the Year Award for its continued investment in its operation, including the installation of a new taco shell line in the fall that resulted in dozens of new jobs.

Ryan Johnson spoke enthusiastically about the efforts the city is making to grow after he and his wife Kelly won the Dunkirk Community Commitment award. Together, they opened Glass Capital Grill in Dunkirk in late summer 2020.

"Thank you, thank you, thank



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Ryan Johnson gestures Saturday while speaking after he and his wife Kelly (background right) were honored with the Dunkirk Community Commitment Award during the Jay County Community Awards. The Johnsons opened Glass Capital Grill in Dunkirk late last summer.

you. All we're doing is riding the coattails of a few guys in Dunkirk who have already started a fire," said Johnson, referencing Rock Fuqua and Dunkirk Mayor Jack Robbins. "We're throwing gasoline on it. ...

"There's a group of people in Dunkirk that are amazing people. This award really goes to those guys. It's their dream in Dunkirk. We're just keeping it going."

John Jay Center for Learning was honored for its efforts to expand post-secondary educational opportunities, including implementing programs such as its advanced manufacturing classes. Homan earned the Young Professional of the Year Award both for his work as general manager at POET Biorefining, his efforts as a member of The Portland Foundation board and the chamber of

commerce board and for his active role as a coach of youth sports. The Fugietts, owners of Mid-States Construction and Citadel Supply in Redkey, received the Small Community Commitment Award for supporting the town's business community and being involved in youth sports and activities.

Jay School Corporation's food service department and Chartwells won the Innovator of the Year Award for their efforts to continue to feed students when schools were closed because of the coronavirus pandemic. From the time schools closed in mid-March 2020 to reopening in September, they provided about 45,000 meals to local children.

Other finalists for the awards were as follows:  
The Spirit of Vicki Lifetime

Achievement — Randy Fisher and Jack Ronald

Citizen of the Year — Cindy Denney, Tracey VanSkyock and Mindy Weaver

Business of the Year — Glass Capital Grill and Pizza King of Portland

Dunkirk Community Commitment — Aaron and Stephanie Walter, and West Jay Optimist Club

Industry of the Year — Advanced Seal Technology and TLS by Design

Not-for-profit of the Year — Pregnancy Care Center and Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition

Small Community Commitment — Debbie James and Kelly Smeltzer

Young Professional of the Year — Erin Davis and Hannah Long

Innovator of the Year — Dilcia Ruiz and First Bank of Berne

# Abatement ...

Continued from page 1  
That includes investments of \$19.6 million in 2011, \$16.4 million in 2013, \$27 million in 2014, \$15.8 million in 2016, \$26.3 million in 2017 and \$14.5 million last year. It now has more than 800 employees.

Council also heard a new tax abatement request from Joyce-Dayton on about \$228,000 in new equipment. The one-year abatement would result in \$2,700 in savings for the company, and one new job is expected to be created. The request was referred to the tax abatement advisory committee for its review.

Council members Kent McClung, Janet Powers,

Don Gillespie, Michele Brewster, Dave Golden, Matt Goldsworthy and Mike Aker also approved rezoning of the current Jay School Corporation administrative office at 1976 W. Tyson Road to highway service from the current low-density residential. Brigade Electronics, which has rented office space elsewhere in the city, is in the process of buying the site to serve as its new U.S. headquarters. Portland Plan Commission unanimously recommended approval of the rezoning earlier this month.

Jay Schools plans to move its administrative offices to the General Shanks building follow-

ing the conclusion of the 2020-21 school year.

Gillespie also asked about the status of the Meridian Street arch bridge construction project and the city's policy regarding trucks as related to that work. He said semis have been all over the city, including Third and Wayne streets, rather than following the specified truck detour.

Portland Mayor John Boggs said city police had been giving a lot of warnings and have been asked to write more citations.

"I'm getting complaints from all over, so we're addressing it," he said.

He added that the project was expected to be complete today.

In other business, council:

•Heard the following from Boggs: a reminder that a groundbreaking for the Portland Municipal Airport runway extension project will be held at 3 p.m. June 2; the city has applied for a federal grant to replace all traffic control signs in the city with highly reflective signs over the next four years; downtown planters are expected to be filled this week; a reminder that larger trash items — details are available at thecityofportland.net — will be picked up during city-wide clean-up week May 24 through 28.

•Appointed Aaron Loy to the city's board of zoning appeals. He fills the seat

previously held by Rusty Inman, who resigned last week. Loy will complete the term that runs through the end of 2022.

•Heard a suggestion from Goldsworthy that the city review its ordinance regarding open burning. He has received several questions on the issue over the last couple of weeks.

•Approved an appropriation of funds for the purchase of a new police vehicle. The purchase was approved last year.

•Boggs, in response to a question from Golden, said the city is pursuing multiple possibilities for using COVID-19 relief funds to pay for the proposed Meridian Street storm sewer project.

# Pleads ...

Continued from page 1

The fact that the pathologist would not definitively say whether or not methamphetamines were the cause of death complicated the case for both the prosecution and the defense. That led to the plea agreement.

"Both Mr. Henderson and I, recognizing that a trial on that issue would be perhaps a coin flip, (believe) that this was a decent outcome," Schemenaur said. "We compromised a little bit on the sentence. She gets a sure thing in the form of ... 20 years, knowing that the result could have been a lot worse for her if she'd gone to trial. ... It's not the preferred outcome for me, but a conviction nonetheless and a significant sentence."

Portland police and Jay Emergency Medical Service were called March 6, 2020, to an upstairs apartment at 221 S. Meridian St., Portland, where a 3-month-old child was not breathing. Hayden Markle was then transported to IU Health Jay, where he was later pronounced dead. His parents were arrested April 15 following an investigation by Portland police. Jay County Prosecutor's Office, Indiana Department of Child Services, Jay County Coroner's Office and Indiana State Police.

As part of Monday's hearing, Schemenaur said had the case gone to trial he would have sought to prove that Young placed her son in a situation that endangered his life by possessing and/or consuming meth in the apartment.

Young, appearing in court via video conference, acknowledged

that she was guilty of that crime.

She mostly offered one-word answers during the hearing, often given in between sobs. She also read a prepared statement.

"They say forgiveness is the key to feel better," she read. "What happens when it's yourself you need to forgive? ... I will never be able to forgive myself. If I did not have drugs in my house and if I did not sleep with my son, he would still be here."

She said she would live with the guilt for the rest of her life and that she would do anything to have her son back.

"I'm sorry that I failed you," she said to her son. "There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think about you."

In sentencing Young, Ludy told her that she had gotten a good deal given the circumstances of the crime and her previous convictions. She pleaded guilty to dealing in methamphetamine, a Class A felony, along with two Class D felony counts of neglect of a dependent, in 2013. She pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of battery resulting in bodily injury in 2008.

"This is a real tragedy, especially when it involves a young child," Ludy said.

He added that some people refer to doing drugs as a victimless crime. "But this is a prime example as to why drugs are not a victimless crime," he said.

Young was given 396 days credit for time served. She was ordered to pay \$185 in court costs.

A separate trial for Ryan Markle on the same charges is scheduled to begin Sept. 2.

# Staff ...

Continued from page 1

The board also approved one roof project and gave permission to advertise for bids for another.

Approved was a project to replace just over 8,000 square feet of the roof at Bloomfield Elementary School. McGuff Roofing was awarded the project at a cost of \$103,860. It is expected to be complete this fall.

Board members granted business manager Shannon Current permission to advertise for bids for replacing a total of nearly 43,000 square feet of the roof at Jay County Junior-Senior High School. (A sealed bid process is required because the cost of the project is expected to be more than \$150,000.) It will be advertised over the next two weeks with the board expected to review bids at its June meeting.

Current said the corporation is in the process of having the former West Jay Middle School roof assessed with plans to have a section replaced in the coming year.

More than half of the about 50-minute meeting was spent on Patriot Pride moments and other recognition, including the retirement of school board attorney Phil Frantz. He has served as the board's attorney for 32 years and will be retiring from Portland firm Coldren, Frantz and Sprunger at the end of the week.

The board also recognized the following for Patriot Pride:

•Students from East Jay Elementary School for their efforts via the Care and Share program. Students Cameron Coats, Trinity Pyle and Freddie Lingo explained that students received a \$400 grant from The Portland Foundation but that they and their classmates wanted to raise more. Through school activities including a dress-up week, they were able to donate a total of \$1,040 to Jay County Cancer Society.

•Members of the Jay County High School business club. They competed in regional and state competitions, with Samuel Bracy, Isaac Braun, Dylan Burruss, Grace Morgan and Marissa Overla advancing to the national competition. The club has also re-opened Jay Cafe, which offers coffee and other drinks for sale to students and staff before each school day.

•Staff retiring from Jay Schools this year, including Ventura "Bennie" Moreno, who has 45 years of service as a custodian. Other retirees include Gay Jobe, Sheryl Lawrence, Joan Wilkins, Betty Muhlenkamp, Ed Geesaman and Debora Funk.

•The local manufacturing council, a partnership between the school corporation and John Jay Center for Learning. It has expanded to cover 13 counties and focuses on providing advanced manufacturing training.

In other business, the board:

•Heard from assistant superintendent Trent Paxson that a two-hour delay on the first Wednesday of each month will be recommended for the 2021-22 school year. The time is planned to be used for teachers to plan how to provide help for students in need of extra assistance, review testing data and work on curriculum. The corporation is seeking approval from the state department of education before bringing the policy to the board for a vote.

•Approved the following social studies textbooks for the 2021-22 school year.

•Accepted several resignations, including for Melissa Wolters as agriculture teacher at the junior-senior high.

•Received a copy of recommended yearbook changes for the 2021-22 school year. The board will review the changes with plans to vote on them at its June meeting.

•Accepted a \$500 grant on behalf of junior-senior high librarian Cathy Fugiet from Jay County Solid Waste Management District.

# Senior singer

Fort Recovery choir president Alli Vaughn performs a solo Sunday at the spring high school and junior high school concert in the elementary/middle school auditoria. Vaughn, a graduating senior, plans to attend Huntington University to study special education and play baseball in the fall.



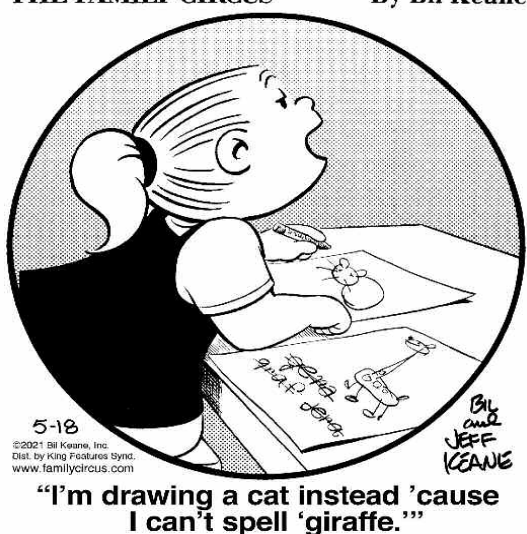
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**SPEED BUMP** Dave Coverly



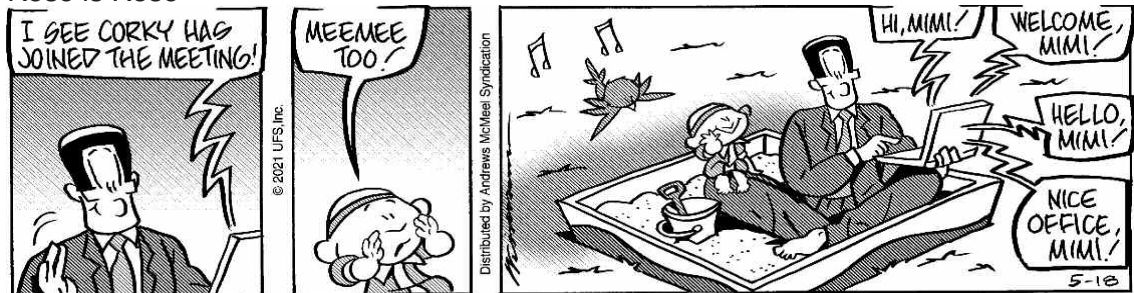
**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** By Bil Keane



**Peanuts**



**Rose is Rose**



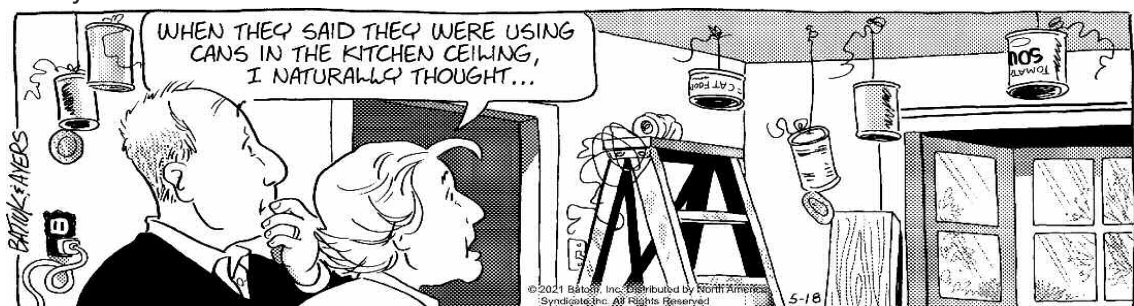
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**Hi and Lois**



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**Snuffy Smith**



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**90 SALE CALENDAR**

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2404W 350S, Berne, IN Horses; Ponies; Horse-Drawn Machinery; Produce Equipment; Buggies; Harness Carts; New Tack Saddles; Shop Tools; Lawn/Garden Tools; Sausage Grinder/Stuffers; New/Used Furniture; Washing Machines; Hay, Straw, Firewood. Accepting consignments every evening that week from 4pm-8pm and all day

Thursday, June 3rd/Friday, June 4th from 7am-8pm.

Auctioneers  
John P. Troyer AU10900141  
Lonnie Miller AU10300135  
Also with J. S. Auctions AU10700049

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
Located at the Jay County Fairgrounds Bubb Exhibition Hall Saturday Morning May 22, 2021 10:00 A. M.

**HOUSEHOLD OLD & COLLECTOR ITEMS**  
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**TOOLS-LAWN ITEMS**  
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Loy Auction AC#31600027 260-726-2700  
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**CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer

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1 Roundish do  
5 Med. plan option  
8 - transit (public transportation)  
12 Pop singer Céline  
13 "How dare -!"  
14 City on a fjord  
15 Exotic berry  
16 Olympic race  
18 Leaves stranded  
20 Encounters  
21 "Still-matic" rapper  
22 Fa follower  
23 Capital of Belarus  
26 Sicilian wine  
30 Strike caller  
31 Author Umberto  
32 Just out legend  
33 Tennis Navratilova

**DOWN**  
17 Cupid's specialty tree  
19 Sturdy tree

**Solution time: 22 mins.**

Yesterdays answer 5-18

L	I	S	A	I	S	M	E	S	T	A
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## Colts change offseason schedule, cut deal with players

By **MICHAEL MAROT**  
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Indianapolis Colts coach Frank Reich is always considering new approaches to finish the job.

So this offseason, he made a proposal to starting center Ryan Kelly.

Rather than wait until the traditional three-day mandatory mini-camp in June, Reich and general manager Chris Ballard asked Kelly whether his teammates would be interested in holding light, in-person, voluntary workouts for two weeks and then get eight full weeks off before the start of training camp.

It was almost an instant hit. "We have a four-hour day, we test, work out a couple times a week, we do individual (drills), we run routes in the air, we do walkthroughs against the offense," Kelly said. "I think this is the best offer I saw out of everybody in the NFL and it just goes to show the Colts being proactive about health and safety. I think it just makes sense going forward."

Workouts began Monday at the team complex, and while it was unclear if anyone opted out, most opted in.

Team officials made four veterans — Kelly, three-time All-Pro

left guard Quenton Nelson, All-Pro defensive tackle DeForest Buckner and four-time Pro Bowl receiver T.Y. Hilton available for interviews. All participated.

Reich said new quarterback Carson Wentz also was in town, but sat out Monday because of a non-COVID-19-related illness. Indy hopes to have Wentz on the field Tuesday. Recently signed left tackle Eric Fisher also was at the team complex, but he's still recovering from a torn left Achilles tendon suffered in January.

The traditional offseason format was tossed out last season amid the pandemic, and if players

have anything to say about it, the previous workout scheduled may be scrapped for good thanks to the new 17-game regular-season schedule.

What players found out last year, NFLPA president J.C. Tretter wrote on Monday, was that they stayed healthier without all of the offseason team activities. Tretter explained on the union's website that the union had been increasingly concerned over the past decade about the intensity of offseason workouts and the pressure to attend practices.

He believes last season's virtual workouts changed the game. "Players felt better, physically

and mentally, and the injury data supports those anecdotes," Tretter wrote. "Our player leaders proposed changes to their teams' programs (this year), such as shortening the number of weeks of the offseason program and decreasing the number of practices, as well as decreasing intensity by converting practice to walkthroughs and removing 11 v. 11 periods."

But as players from some teams, such as the Denver Broncos and Seattle Seahawks, announced they wouldn't attend the voluntary workouts, Reich and Ballard were already devising a solution.

## Absent ...

Continued from page 8  
"It was huge," Minster coach Rob Hemmelgarn said. "For about the last two weeks we've been having to play come from behind ... It's exciting to come back and win it that way, but it's taking its toll on me."

"I told them, 'Let's establish the tone early.'" Minster made it 5-0 in the fourth inning before walking off in the sixth with five more runs, including a two-run home run from Lilly Barhorst, the No. 9 hitter in the Wildcat lineup. Alexis Bishop also had a two-run single in the game-ending inning.

Homan, Fort Recovery's lone senior, was the only Tribe player to reach base. She hit an opposite-field single through the left side of the infield to lead off the fourth inning and break up Rachael Hoying's no-hit bid. She advanced to second on a fielder's choice but didn't advance any further.

Two innings later, Homan walked — Hoying's only other blemish on her stat line — and stole second but again was left there.

Fort Recovery had only two ground outs and one strikeout in the game. The other outs were either line drives caught by outfielders or pop flies all over the field.

"Their coaches had us played perfectly," Thien said. "We were hitting solid line drives right at their players. Then when we'd hit a little blooper it would go foul by five or six feet."

"(Hoying) was a good pitcher, don't get me wrong, but they had us played very well."

"Outfield was huge today," Hemmelgarn said, referring to Barhorst in left field, Bishop in center and Alayna Albers in right field. "Outfield was definitely the MVP today."

"We knew what Fort Recovery was going to bring; we're kind of watched their hitters the last few weeks."

"Their hitters did what their tendencies were and our outfield was prepared and they made some big plays."

Tribe starting pitcher Jackie Homan was charged with the loss, giving up eight runs — six earned — on seven hits with four walks and four strikeouts in five innings. After Homan loaded the bases in the bottom of the sixth inning, Sophie Pearson entered in relief and wasn't able to get the Indians out of the jam.

Fort Recovery, which had its postseason hopes dashed in the sectional final on Thursday, finished with 13 or more wins in back-to-back seasons for the first time since winning MAC titles in both 2003 and '04. It is also the most wins in a season since the 2004 team went 18-8.

And the Indians lose just Brenna Homan, the team's leadoff hitter and the conference's leader in career stolen bases with 86.

"There's a lot of great kids on this team," Thien said. "Great kids, great parents and great coaches. We've definitely turned a corner over the last couple of years. I really thought that this was the team that was going to put us on the

### Box score

Fort Recovery Indians at Minster Wildcats (18-7, 5-1 MAC)							
Fort Recovery (17-11, 4-3 MAC)							
	ab	r	h	bi			
BHoman c	2	0	1	0			
Grisez ss	3	0	0	0			
JHoman p	2	0	0	0			
Pearson 1b	2	0	0	0			
Guggenbiller 3b	2	0	0	0			
Tebbe dp	2	0	0	0			
Schoen rf	2	0	0	0			
Wendel 2b	2	0	0	0			
Gaerke cf	2	0	0	0			
Shinabery lf/1f	0	0	0	0			
Totals	19	0	1	0			

Minster (18-7, 5-1 MAC)							
	ab	r	h	bi			
Bergman c	3	2	2	0			
Hemmelgarn ss	4	2	1	0			
Oldiges 1b	2	2	1	2			
Wehrman pr	0	0	0	0			
Bishop cf	3	0	1	0			
Goubeaux dp	3	0	1	2			
Prenger pr	0	0	0	0			
KAlbers 3b	4	1	1	1			
AAlbers rf	3	0	1	0			
Hoskins 2b	2	1	1	1			
Barhorst lf	1	1	1	2			
Schulze pr	0	1	0	0			
Totals	25	10	10	8			

Fort Rec.							
	000	000	—	0			
Minster	400	105	—	10			
LOB — Fort Recovery 2. Minster 8.							
2B — Minster (Oldiges). HR — Minster 1 (Barhorst). SB — Fort Recovery (BHoman). Minster 3 (Bergman, Hemmelgarn, Hoskins).							
IP H R ER BB SO							
Fort Recovery							
JHoman, L	5+	8	8	6	4	4	
Pearson	0.0	2	2	2	2	0	
Minster							
Hoying, W	6.0	1	0	0	1	1	

top, especially with Brenna leading.

"I think the goal stays the same; we compete with every league team. We're definitely hoping to build on this season. It's going to be a lot of production we have to fill at the top of the order there. We just have to hit all the way through the lineup."

## Sweeps ...

Continued from page 8  
Taylor Brown was the winner in game two. Only one of the three runs she gave up was earned, and she surrendered six hits with three strikeouts and a walk.

### Patriots 10th

HUNTINGTON — In a meet of just freshmen and sophomores, the Jay County boys track team placed 10th out of 11 teams in the Huntington Invitational on Saturday.

Full team scores were not available. Sebastian Solis and Isaac Kunkler had the best individual finishes for the Patriots. Solis had a career-best time of 11 minutes, 55.01 seconds, to take fifth in the 3,200-meter run, and Kunkler had the same place in high jump with his height of 5 feet, 6 inches.

Joseph Kunk threw a career-best 111 feet, 2 inches, for fifth in discus, and placed eighth in shot put with his best distance of 35 feet, 6 inches.

Kunkler was sixth in 110 hurdles (18.15

seconds) and eighth in 400 dash (career-best 56.75 seconds).

Trey Nichols, Owen Ransom, Kaleb Meadows and Kunkler placed eighth in the 4x400 relay.

### JV drops two

Jay County's junior varsity baseball team fell to 5-8 on the season with a pair of run-rule losses to the Norwell Knights on Saturday.

The Patriots lost 12-0 in five innings before a six-inning 18-1 loss.

Bennett Weitzel led the Patriots with a double and the team's only RBI on the day. Cody Rowles, Ryne Goldsworthy and Peyton James also singled.

James took the loss in game one, giving up eight runs — seven earned — on four hits. He walked 10 and struck out seven 4 1/3 innings.

Rowles was charged the loss in game two. He surrendered seven runs — four earned — on two hits. He struck out five and walked six in four innings.

## Named ...

Continued from page 8  
Jackie Homan was second in batting with a .423 average and shared the team lead of five home runs with Maddie Guggenbiller. Homan collected a 19 doubles and 39 RBIs to lead the squad, and scored 31 times. As a pitcher, Homan posted an 11-7 record with two saves. She had a 2.97 ERA with 89 strikeouts and just 10 walks in 113 innings.

Chloey Grisez and Sophie Pearson were both named to the All-MAC second team, while Kensey Gaerke earned honorable mention.

Fort Recovery's baseball team (7-15, 3-6 MAC) had one first-team representative in senior Ryne Post. Brock Dues and Daniel Patch were both named to the second team, and Dillan Evers received honorable mention.

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Today**  
Jay County — Girls track sectional at Delta — 5 p.m.; Baseball at Blackford — 5 p.m.; Junior high golf at Monroe Central — 4:30 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Baseball sectional semifinal vs. Ada — 5 p.m.  
Fort Wayne TinCaps vs. Lansing Lugnuts — 7:05 p.m.  
**Wednesday**  
Jay County — Girls tennis sectional

semifinal vs. Winchester — 5 p.m.; Baseball vs. Adams Central — 5 p.m.; JV baseball at Adams Central — 5 p.m.  
Fort Wayne TinCaps vs. Lansing Lugnuts — 7:05 p.m.  
**Thursday**  
Jay County — Boys track sectional at Muncie Central — 5 p.m.; Girls tennis sectional final vs. TBA — 5 p.m.; Softball vs. Northeastern — 5 p.m.; Baseball at Bellmont — 5 p.m.; JV baseball vs. Blackford — 5 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Track district at Spencer — 4 p.m.; Baseball sectional final vs. TBA — 5 p.m.  
Fort Wayne TinCaps vs. Lansing Lugnuts — 7:05 p.m.  
**Friday**  
Jay County — Softball at Richmond — 5:30 p.m.; Baseball at Richmond Invitational — TBD  
Fort Wayne TinCaps vs. Lansing Lugnuts — 7:05 p.m.

### 90 SALE CALENDAR

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
Saturday, May 22, 2021  
10:00 A.M.  
LOCATION: 9502 N 250 W, Ridgeville, Indiana

Allis Chalmers D-17, Allis Chalmers B, Allis Chalmers G, Allis Chalmers 60 All Crop Combine, metal working machinery and tools, garage items, yard items,

household, old Marvel comic books  
Go to [auctionzip.com](http://auctionzip.com) search auctioneer 9332 for full listing and pictures

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AU10600051

### SURPLUS AUCTION

Location: Bricker Auction Building  
414 N Meridian St. Portland, IN  
Saturday, May 22nd  
10:30 AM

This auction will contain items from The Jay County Sheriff Department, Highway Department, and other county buildings. This Auction will be a webcast auction so you may attend and bid live or bid online at [www.bidbricker.com](http://www.bidbricker.com).

There will be several trucks, cars, tools, vintage filing cabinets, laser, level and more.  
Tel: 260-251-4445  
Cell: 260-703-0839

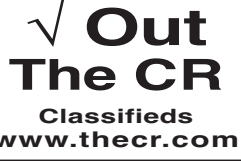
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### Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker  
**Safety first**

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠ A  
♥ A J 6  
♦ Q J 8 7 2  
♣ K 9 6 3  
**WEST**  
♠ Q 8 7 6  
♥ 9 5  
♦ 6 5 4  
♣ Q 10 5 2  
**EAST**  
♠ 10 9 5 3 2  
♥ 10 8 4 3  
♦ A K 3  
♣ 8

The bidding:  
**North** 1♥ Pass  
**East** 1♥ Pass  
**South** 3NT  
**West** Pass  
Opening lead — six of spades.

In most deals, declarer's main objective is to make his contract. In attempting to meet this goal, he should not allow himself to be diverted by other factors that are not relevant to his primary objective.

Consider this case where declarer might easily go wrong. West leads a spade to dummy's ace, and the question is how to continue.  
Let's say South leads a diamond from dummy, attempting to establish his longest suit. East goes up with the king and returns a spade through South's K-J. It doesn't matter whether

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**THE DUNKIRK PARK BOARD** is accepting applications for the following position until May 19th, certified life guards. Applications can be picked up at the City Building from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm Monday-Friday. EOE

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### 110 HELP WANTED

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**RETAIL SALES** days, nights & weekends. Clean work environment, good hourly pay. Must be 21 or older. Apply @ Northside Carry Out, 1226 N. Meridian, Portland, IN. Attn: Ruth

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V K B W N , D L Q R X P G W C T L F P Y L R  
P G W B D U P G A L W C - N P U T I N ?  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FUNNY ACTOR WHO IS USUALLY SEEN WEARING CLOTHES MADE OF CHINO, SERGE OR DENIM: TWILL FERRELL.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals G**

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### 260 PUBLIC AUCTION

## JAY COUNTY SURPLUS AUCTION

Located Bricker Auction Building  
414 N Meridian St., Portland, IN

**May 22nd**  
10:30AM

This auction will contain items from The Jay County Sheriff Department, Highway Department, and other county buildings. This auction will be a webcast auction so you may attend or bid live or bid online at [www.bidbricker.com](http://www.bidbricker.com). There will be several trucks, cars, tools, vintage filing cabinets, laser level, and more.

Chad Bricker - 260-703-0839  
Auctioneer - AU11600027  
CR 5-18-2021



# Sports

## Offense absent in loss

**Indians muster just one hit in 10-0 setback to Wildcats**

By CHRIS SCHANZ  
The Commercial Review

MINSTER — The Wildcat offense came in streaks.

The Tribe's was all but absent. Fort Recovery High School managed just one hit and gave up four or more runs twice in a 10-0, six-inning loss to the Minster Wildcats on Saturday at Four Seasons Recreation Park.

"That was not the way we wanted to send (senior) Brenna Homan off," said FRHS coach Ryan Thien, whose team finished 17-11 (4-3 Midwest Athletic Conference) after having its chance for the program's first conference championship in more than a decade come up short. "We wanted to send her off with a win."

A victory would have made a three-way tie for the MAC championship with Minster and Coldwater, but Minster's win gave the Wildcats (19-8, 6-1 MAC) the outright crown and its third consecutive league title.

Minster, which on May 6 clinched at least a share of the conference championship, jumped on Fort Recovery in the bottom of the first inning.

After Savannah Bergman got hit by a pitch, Lyndi Hemmelgarn followed with a single ahead of a two-run double from Hannah Oldiges. Mikaela Hoskins also had an RBI single as the Wildcats sent 10 batters to the plate and scored four times.

See **Absent** page 7



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Fort Recovery High School catcher Brenna Homan reaches to grab a ball as Minster's Lilly Barhorst slides into home during the fourth inning Saturday afternoon at Four Seasons Recreation Park in Minster. The Indians lost 10-0 in six innings, ending their hopes for the Midwest Athletic Conference championship.

## Homan named POY

Brenna Homan anchored the Indian offense from the top of the order.

She was the stalwart on defense too behind the plate.

She highlights the conference as player of the year.

Homan, a Fort Recovery High School senior, was named Midwest Athletic Conference Player of the Year this morning as all-conference teams were released for both softball and baseball.

Jackie Homan was also a first-team honoree, while two Indians were placed on the second team.

Brenna Homan, a future Miami-Hamilton Harrier, led the Tribe softball team (17-11, 4-3 MAC) with a .543 batting average, .623 on-base percentage and .734 slugging percentage. She posted team highs in hits (35), runs (53) and walks (14), and had a team-low three strikeouts. She stole 35 bases — and became the conference's leader in career stolen bases with 86 — and was only caught stealing three times.

The last first FRHS athlete to be conference player of the year in any sport was Nick Thwaits in baseball in 2017 and '18.

See **Named** page 7

## Patriot baseball sweeps Archers in doubleheader

FORT WAYNE — The Patriots finally swept a doubleheader.

The Jay County High School baseball team took two games from the South Side Archers on Saturday to earn its first doubleheader sweep of the season.

The Patriots (10-7) beat the Archers 3-1 in the first game before a 14-3 triumph in five innings in game two.

Crosby Heniser paced the Patriots offensively, collecting two hits, including the first home run of his career, and four RBIs. Blake Caldwell also homered, his team-leading third of the season, and drove in two runs. Quinn Faulkner doubled, hit two singles and knocked in a pair of runs.

Austin Curts and Sam Dunlavy both doubled and singled with two RBIs. Josh Dowlen chipped in three singles and two RBIs, with Sam Myers, Dusty Pearson and Kess McBride all adding hits.

Pearson earned his sixth win of the season in game one. He struck out two, walked one and didn't allow a hit in three innings. Dunlavy struck out seven and allowed one earned run on one hit in four innings of relief.

Heniser pitched the Patriots to the game two win, surrendering two earned runs on two hits with four walks and a pair of punch-outs in two innings.

### Local roundup

#### Softball sweeps Tigers

HAGERSTOWN — Jay County's softball team earned a pair of 13-3 victories against the Hagerstown Tigers on Saturday.

The Patriots (16-6) needed five innings to get the win in game one, and used a seven-run seventh inning for the game-two win.

Aubrie Schwieterman led the JCHS offense with a double, two singles and six RBIs on the day, with Riah Champ adding a double, two singles and four runs. Olivia Bright doubled, singled and knocked in a pair of runs, while Rielew Brewster hit a double and collected two RBIs.

Haleigh Clayton finished with two hits, while Maddy Rinker and Kristen Wendel each scored three times.

Clayton got the win in the first game, allowing three runs — two earned — on five hits. She struck out five and walked three.

See **Sweeps** page 7

## JH girls track wins ACAC

BLUFFTON — Four event wins carried the Jay County Junior High School girls track team to the Allen County Athletic Conference championship on Friday at Bluffton.

The Patriots scored 119 points for the title, with South Adams (115.5) second and Woodlan (92) in third.

Host Bluffton won the boys championship with 97 points, 4.5 points ahead of runner-up Jay County. South Adams finished third with 81 points.

Jenna Dues won the 200-meter dash championship for Jay County with her time of 30.08 seconds, and Brenna Bailey was the runner-up to give the Patriots a one-two finish in the event.

Dues were first and second, respectively, in high jump. They were the only two competitors to clear 4 feet, 8 inches.

Kenzie Huey and Jordyn Hutzler gave the Patriots another one-two finish in shot put. Huey won with her distance of 27 feet, 9.5 inches, while Hutzler had a put of 27 feet, 1 inch.

Morgan DeHoff, Aixa Lopez, Dues and Bailey combined to give Jay County a win in the 4x100 relay in 57.4 seconds.

The boys 4x100 relay team of Gabe Pinkerton, Adam Alig, Levi Muhlenkamp and Garrett Hiday had a time of 52.31 seconds to win the team's only championship.

Other top-eight finishes for the girls were Alexis Sibray (third — 800 run),

Cameran Paxson (sixth — 100 hurdles and 200 hurdles), Dues (second — 100 dash), DeHoff (second — 200 hurdles; third — 100 hurdles and long jump), Bailey (fourth — 100 dash), Huey (sixth — discus) and Lopez (eighth — long jump).

Those placing in the top eight for the boys were Levi Muhlenkamp (second — 200 hurdles; third — 110 hurdles), Joseph Boggs (second — 1,600 run; third — 800 run), Creed Beiswanger (fourth — 800 run; sixth — 400 dash), Kaiden Castillo (fifth — discus), Chris Compton (sixth — shot put; eighth — 200 hurdles), Hiday (second — 100 dash and 200 dash; sixth — long jump), Pinkerton (third — 100 dash) and Alig (seventh — high jump and shot put).

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