

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

HSE exam set to change

Assessment is transferable, recognized by military

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

There's a new test for Indiana adult students working on getting a High School Equivalency diploma.

Starting in July, they'll have the option to take a test that can be completed at home. Unlike the test used in recent years, it's also transferable to surrounding states and recognized by the military.

Indiana Adult Education is switching its final exam July 1. At that time, it will begin transitioning from the Test Assessing Secondary Completion to the High School Equivalency Test. This extends to the adult education offered at John Jay Center of Learning.

"We're just excited about the new test," said John Jay student services advisor Miranda Carr. "I think it will be beneficial to the students, and that's what we're here for — to provide the best education and best prepare these students."

The new assessment is offered by Educational Testing Service, the world's largest private educational testing and measurement organization. It administers and scores more than 50 million tests — including graduate admissions and English language proficiency — each year, according to its website.

The High School Equivalency Test is used in 23 states, including Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan and Illinois, making it an accepted certification for any students who move out of Indiana.

See Exam page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Festive finish

Fort Recovery High School held a variety of outdoor activities during Seniorfest on the last day of school Friday. Above, sophomore Alix Englehardt sips from a dripping snow cone. Vendors Wendel's BBQ and Kona Ice offered food in the parking lot. At left, Christian Marchal (left) and Rex Leverette race through an inflatable obstacle course. Other activities included cornhole, flag football and Twister.



IU requiring vaccinations for fall

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) — Indiana University is requiring all students and employees to receive COVID-19 vaccinations for the fall semester and is threatening to cancel class registrations and fire staff members who don't comply.

IU officials announced the requirement for its

campuses across the state Friday, saying it will allow the university to lift most coronavirus-related restrictions such as face masks and physical distancing.

Knowing that the vast majority of students and employees are vaccinated is the only way it "can confidently return to in-

person classes, more in-person events and a more typical university experience," the university said in a statement.

IU is among a growing number of colleges across the country requiring COVID-19 vaccinations, even as opposition to similar mandates led Indiana legislators to prohibit the

state or local governments from issuing vaccine passports.

IU President Michael McRobbie said the university's seven campuses are planning a "return to mostly normal operations" for their some 90,000 students.

"Requiring the COVID-19 vaccine among our stu-

dents, faculty and staff continues to extend the university's comprehensive and thoughtful approach to managing and mitigating the pandemic on our campuses and brings us one step closer to making a 'return to normal' a reality," McRobbie said in a statement.

Retrospect

Jay County celebrated 37 GED graduates

Twenty-five years ago this week, Jay County was celebrating education.

The May 22, 1996, edition of The Commercial Review featured coverage of Jay County Academy for Self-Improvement's 17th annual GED graduation ceremony.

That year's class included 37 graduates, including 75-year-old Dorothy Whitlock.

"I'm so very proud of each and every one of you," said guest speaker Jan Truby, director of Jay County Employment and Training Services. She referred the event as "a celebration of the progress you made toward your graduation, the celebration of your commitment to reach your high school degree."

She went on to congratulate the graduates for putting in the time and work it took to earn the GED and encouraged them to help friends pursue diplomas as well.

"The challenge that I have for

you is I believe when you accomplish something you worked very hard on you need to share the wealth," Truby said. "You may be the one person supporting or encouraging them."

The ceremony also included The Portland Foundation awarding \$1,000 scholarships to previous GED program graduates Martha Taylor, Cheryl Buckingham, Belinda Myers and Candice Hutzler. All four planned to take college courses that fall.

It marked the first time the scholarships were made available to past GED program graduates.

Sam Shoemaker, director of adult education in Jay County, offered his congratulations to the scholarship recipients.

"You earned a right to be a role model," he said. "You earned a right to make a difference."

"This is just the first stage. Go for it."



The Commercial Review/Ed Balint

The Jay County Academy for Self-Improvement held its 17th annual GED graduation ceremony May 21, 1996. Pictured, 75-year-old graduate Dorothy Whitlock (left) looks at her diploma along with her friend Linda Taylor.

Deaths

Donna Haffner, 75, rural Portland
John Minch, 84, Berne
Clarissa Mann, 83, rural Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County's high temperature was 82 degrees Friday. Skies will be partly sunny today with a high of 84. Tonight's low will be in the 60s. Expect a high in the mid 80s again Sunday under mostly sunny skies. There is a chance of showers early Monday. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The Portland Foundation is accepting applications for its summer grant round. Deadlines are June 14 for regular foundation grants and teacher creativity mini grants, June 21 for summer scholarships and July 16 for Women's Giving Circle Grants. All applications are available at portlandfoundation.org.

Coming up

Tuesday — Coverage of Monday's Jay County Commissioners meeting.

Thursday — Results from Jay County's baseball sectional tournament opener.



In Indiana legislature, money talks

Herald Bulletin (Anderson)

The report from the Hoosier Action Resource Center is titled "Corporate Captive: Big Business at the Indiana General Assembly."

"Corporate Captive" is a pretty good description of the report's findings.

"Overpowered" might be another.

The report reveals that 91% of all campaign contributions to legislative candidates in the 2020 election came from political action committees and large donors.

Using data from the website FollowTheMoney.org, the report reveals that candidates for the Indiana House of Representatives raised nearly \$17 million, and candidates for the state Senate raised more

Hoosier Editorial

than \$10 million. It says 79% of that money came from PACs and businesses, and just 2% came from contributors of \$100 or less.

House Speaker Todd Huston (R-Fishers) alone raised \$1.75 million, and Senate President pro tempore Rod Bray raised \$1.06 million.

"Our campaign finance laws allow organized money to overpower the voices of everyday people in pursuit of their own interests and profits," the report

said. "The influence of the wealthy and powerful is pervasive, and our legislature has become enthralled to those who control the big money."

The report singles out the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, which contributed more than \$420,000 to legislative candidates last year, and the Indiana Manufacturers Association, which contributed roughly \$90,000. Both groups made a priority of pushing through retroactive immunity for businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite the concerns of organizations representing workers and consumers, the legislation moved quickly through both houses of the General Assembly.

The business lobby also fought off efforts to require employers

to provide accommodations to pregnant workers. Instead, lawmakers approved a bill that merely allows those workers to ask for accommodations, something they already had a right to do under current law. The new law doesn't require employers to grant such requests.

Lawmakers also responded to priorities of the Indiana Hospital Association and the Indiana Health Care Association by providing liability protections to hospitals, long-term care facilities and out-patient clinics. Together, those organizations contributed more than \$115,000 to legislative campaigns.

The top five construction, housing and real estate PACs contributed nearly \$2 million to would-be state senators and representatives. As a result, the

report said, Hoosier tenants have some of the weakest protections in the country, and weak building regulations threaten Indiana's environment and put consumers at risk.

Fighting back, the report says, will require a unified approach.

"To outweigh the money and power of corporate interests in our state, more Hoosiers must get off the sidelines and get involved in our legislative process," said Kate Hess Pace, the organization's executive director.

It would also be a good idea to put some limits on all those campaign contributions.

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

Spending should focus on students

The Washington Post

"This pandemic has taken an extraordinary toll on students, parents, educators and schools, and we know that our schools, students and communities need help."

So said Education Secretary Miguel Cardona when he announced in March that schools would get \$122 billion under the American Rescue Plan Act. The money represents the largest single federal outlay on K-12 education in the country's history and, as such, is an unprecedented opportunity to improve student learning. At the same time, though, there is potential risk if the money is not used smartly to address the educational inequities that have been laid bare and exacerbated by COVID-19.

The emergency relief money is more than twice what the federal government spends on education in a typical year, and decisions about how to spend it will largely be left up to local education agencies. There's no need to apply for the money or compete with other states or adhere to a lot of requirements. The Education Department has offered guidance for use of the funding and has mandated that 20% of it be used to address lost learning time for students. Mainly, though, local districts will be left on their own, with minimal involvement from the state or federal government.

Local school officials, according to Jennifer O'Neal Schiess of the nonprofit Bellwether Education Partners, are still very much in the decision-making process, and it's much too early to tell whether the federal money will be put to good use. Districts have until October 2024 to spend the funds. A high priority must be placed on getting schools reopened and students back in the classroom. One of the painful lessons of the past year is that while virtual learning has a role in education, it is no replacement for the classroom with the personal attention of a teacher and interaction with other students.

Schools in the Washington area, The Washington Post's Donna St. George, Hannah Natanson and Perry Stein

Guest Editorial

One of the painful lessons of the past year is that while virtual learning has a role in education, it is no replacement for the classroom ...

reported, are expected to receive more than \$1.8 billion, and their plans include expansion of summer school, new virtual academies, extra teacher jobs and more mental health services. It's good that many school districts recognize the need to make up for lost time, and The Post hopes that an extended school day, year-round schooling and weekend instruction programs that have helped improve the achievement of at-risk children will be implemented with the new federal money.

Some states have sought waivers from having to administer federally mandated end-of-year exams. But how can districts target the federal money to help the students most in need if they don't have data on student progress? Schools have not always made the best choices in how they have spent the public's dollars; often they bow to adult demands rather than serving student needs.

It is important that they take to heart the challenge laid out by Cardona to use the emergency relief funds to equitably expand opportunities for students who have been hardest hit.



Expect a productivity boost

By MICHAEL R. STRAIN

Bloomberg Opinion

The COVID-19 pandemic seems to be ending almost as abruptly as it began. Across the U.S., states are dropping restrictions on business activity and people are resuming normal lives.

Throughout the pandemic, there's been evidence that remote work has increased the productivity of some workers and businesses. So it's natural to wonder whether a mass return to the office will lead to productivity declines.

I doubt it. Productivity is likely to be choppy over the next year, with some aspects of post-pandemic life leading to gains and others pushing in the opposite direction. But after the economy settles into a post-pandemic new normal this year, the likelihood of improvement over the next several years is high.

Output per hour of work — productivity — soared in the second quarter of 2020. In normal times, this would have been great news. But the reason for the surge was negative: The pandemic was crushing the economy, and businesses laid off their least-productive workers. The resulting boost in output per hour was a sign of economic weakness rather than strength.

Expect something similar over the next few months, but in reverse. According to my calculations, there are around 10.8 million fewer jobs in the economy than there would have been without a pandemic. Most will come back over the next two years. Many of the jobs lost are in lower-productivity sectors like retail and travel. So as workers return to these jobs, another wrinkle in economic statistics will emerge: The process of job-market healing will put downward pressure on measured productivity.

Adjusting to post-pandemic life will be another temporary factor that will slow productivity growth. On Monday, I tried working a full day in the office for the first time since March 13, 2020. My commute was rocky. I wasn't sure what traffic pat-

Michael R. Strain



terns would be like, and I didn't know where to park. When I arrived at my desk, I realized I couldn't easily participate in Zoom meetings for lack of a digital camera. I burned half an hour just figuring out what to do for lunch.

Naturally, I got less work done. My productivity must have hit a record low. Millions of workers will experience similar adjustment issues that will take weeks or months to sort out.

Though much of the debate has focused on how remote work has increased productivity, let's remember that the pandemic made many workers less productive, not more.

Particularly over the past few months, people have complained about how hard it has become for them to do their jobs remotely as major business decisions need to be made, new employees need to be trained and acculturated, and the absence of spontaneous interactions with colleagues took an increasing toll.

Once the economy settles into a post-pandemic new normal, though, I expect productivity growth to be stronger than the tepid, roughly 1% annual rate the U.S. experienced over much of the last decade.

Workers will figure out how to work from the office again, and the drag from readjustment will fade. After 14 months of remote work, businesses should know better than ever how to strike the right balance between the advantages and disadvantages of a work-from-anywhere culture. This could lead to the best of all worlds, with the businesses that have suffered due to COVID-19 restrictions able to bring employees back to the office and those that are

flourishing with remote work continuing that practice.

Companies that continue with remote work will continue to downsize office space and save on related expenses. This will allow those resources to be used for other purposes — think of converting them to private residences in places plagued by housing shortages — increasing economic efficiency and productivity.

Another reason to expect strong post-pandemic productivity growth is that companies often use economic downturns to change the way they do business, including restructuring their workforces to boost output per hour. The pressures to do so have been intense over the past year.

Some of the most productivity enhancing aspects of pandemic life will likely stick around, at least to some degree. The market share of e-commerce businesses won't shrink back to pre-covid levels. Because online retailers require fewer workers and square feet, this shift will boost output per hour in the retail sector.

And count on less business travel. For some people, the frequency of travel will return to normal. But many have learned that the reason they used to travel so much was simply because of the lack of an alternative that was widely accepted by the broader business culture. Virtual meetings are now not only acceptable, but in many cases preferable. According to one survey, businesses expect virtual meetings to triple relative to their share before the pandemic. That would save time and money, enhancing productivity.

There are other reasons to be bullish about productivity over the coming decade that have little to do with the pandemic. But that's another column. Suffice it to say that workers and businesses will get a lot more out of each week than they did during the previous decade. As normal life resumes, that's another welcome change.

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Strain is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist.

The Commercial Review

HUGH N. RONALD (1911-1983), Publisher Emeritus



The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and four holidays (New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

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VOLUME 149-NUMBER 16
SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 22, 2021

www.thecr.com

"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter." — Thomas Jefferson

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

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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Top business

Bizy Dips, the Portland coffee shop and bakery that opened its location inside John Jay Center for Learning last summer, was honored as Business of the Year at last weekend's Jay County Community Awards. Pictured with presenter Mark Valentine are business owners Hannah and Patrick Long.

Coming back online

A company with an operation in Dunkirk recently had to shut down some of its systems.

Ardagh Group announced in a press release this week that shut-downs of some of its information technology systems and applications came after a "cyber security incident."

Ardagh, which operates glass manufacturing facilities in Dunkirk and Winchester, said it promptly initiated defense and containment procedures. It has reached out to specialists in an effort to make sure its facilities are being operated safely. Systems are being brought back online in phases.

"While every effort is being made to minimize the impact on our operations, and our customers and suppliers, this incident has resulted in some delay and disruption in parts of our business," the company said in the release. "This is likely to give rise to some deferral or loss of revenue, as well as to incremental costs."

Heading to Illinois

Riley Eubanks, who served as The Commercial Review's city reporter from December 2019 through February 2021, has accepted a job in Illinois.

Eubanks announced this week that he has joined the staff of The State Journal-Register, also as its city reporter. The newspaper is located in Springfield, Illinois, and owned by Gannett, which also owns The Star Press in Muncie, The Palladium-Item in Richmond and The Indianapolis Star.

"I'm thrilled to be reporting in our neighboring state's capital," said Eubanks, a 2019 Ball State University graduate who left The Commercial Review in February to move back to his home in the Indianapolis area. "I know I'm ready for the task at hand because of what I learned while working in Portland."

Bank appointments

First Bank of Berne has appointed Jayde Sills to its agribusiness banking team.

Sills most recently worked in seed sales. She is a graduate of Southern Wells High School and earned her bachelor's degree in agribusiness management from Purdue University.

"We are incredibly thrilled to have Jayde join the First Bank of Berne Agribusiness team. Her experience and passion for Ag, local background and ability to develop strong relationships makes her a great addition and fits our culture well. Our community is blessed that Jayde is returning home to begin her banking career at First Bank of Berne," said First Bank of Berne agribusiness banking manager Rick Gentis in a press release.

Sills will work out of the bank's Bluffton branch.

Relocating

True Fabrications is planning to build a new

Business roundup

distribution facility in western Hancock County to move its operation from Indianapolis, the Daily Reporter (Greenfield) reported recently.

The Seattle-based firm that is part of True Brands estimates it will spend about \$14 million in the new 200,000-square-foot facility. The company sells products including corkscrews, glasses and other beverage accessories.

"They are at maximum capacity where they're at," said Alexis Sowder, a project manager with Indianapolis-based KSM Location Advisors, at a Hancock County Council meeting earlier this year. "There's no opportunity for growth."

The move will mean 93 new jobs for Hancock County. The project is expected to be complete by the end of 2022.

Publisher named

Doug McAvoy has been named as the new publisher of The Goshen News, the newspaper reported this week.

McEvoy joins The Goshen News after serving as regional director of audience development for Adams Publishing Group in Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. He is returning to Elkhart County after his time as director of audience and digital media for The Elkhart New from 2007 through 2014.

"Rarely does a publisher have the opportunity to lead a hometown publication that is near and dear to their heart," McAvoy told The Goshen News. "Having deep roots in Elkhart County, I am thrilled to return home where lasting relationships and Michiana partnerships remain."

Tyson collaborating

Tyson Foods is partnering with the League of United Latin American Citizens to encourage its employees to get vaccinated against coronavirus.

Tyson recently hosted an event with League of United Latin American Citizens CEO Cindy Benavides at the company's Houston plant. Company-wide, 28% of Tyson Foods employees identify as Hispanic or Latino.

"We appreciate LULAC's partnership and thank Cindy for helping drive awareness about the importance of the vaccine with our team members," said Tyson senior vice president Hector Gonzalez in a press release. "Our focus has been on providing education and access to the vaccine and this event helped accomplish both of those goals."

Walgreens launches

In an effort to make

sure COVID-19 vaccines are available in areas of need, Walgreens on Monday launched a mobile clinic tour.

The mobile bus clinic will offer walk-up vaccinations at various locations between now and early July. Scheduled stops include May 29 and 30 in Detroit and June 1 in Cincinnati.

Comcast awards

The Comcast NBCUniversal Foundation and NBCUniversal Local this week announced \$3.475 million in Project Innovation grants.

The grants will be presented to 100 non-profit organizations in 11 markets. They are intended to be used for programs that foster a culture of equity and inclusion, empower youth and inspire participation in community initiatives.

"We're proud for Comcast NBCUniversal Foundation's funds to be used by all of these outstanding groups to help create opportunities for others and strengthen the communities we serve," said NBCUniversal vice president of corporate social responsibility Jessica Clancy in a press release.

CVS appoints

CVS Health has appointed Shawn Guertin as its new executive vice president and chief financial officer.

Guertin served as executive vice president, chief financial officer and chief enterprise risk officer for eight years. He will start his new position with CVS Health on May 28.

"Shawn is an extraordinary leader with a proven track record of developing financial strategies to help companies drive transformation," said CVS Health president and CEO Karen S. Lynch in a press release. "His deep and broad health care experience will be invaluable and I'm confident he will play an integral role as we transform CVS Health to become an even bigger part of consumers' everyday health."

Revenue grows

Walmart announced this week that its total revenue for the first quarter of its fiscal year 2022 went up by \$3.7 billion over the previous year.

The company reported total revenue for the quarter of \$138.3 billion, an increase of 2.7%. Its operating income went up by 32.3% to \$6.9 billion.

"This was a strong quarter," said Walmart president and CEO Doug McMillon in a press release. "Every segment performed well, and we're encouraged by traffic and grocery market share trends. Our optimism is higher than it was at the beginning of the year. In the U.S., customers clearly want to get out and shop. We have a strong position as our store environment improves and eCommerce continues to grow."

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5-22 CRYPTOQUIP

QSQDV ADSRWHJD VDPVSRHJP
SJ DFISQDR IZJUHIM RHFIZUDVDR
AHRHJP HJ S ISCQFHMD:

"IVHCHJSW HJ MDJM."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SOUTH AMERICAN METROPOLIS THAT'S A MAJOR PRODUCER OF CREAM-FILLED COOKIES: OREO DE JANEIRO.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals L

CRYPTO FUN
Solve the code to discover words related to boating. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 24 = A)

WORD SCRAMBLE
Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to boats. CSODK

Guess Who?
I am a dancer, singer and actress born in Nebraska on May 19, 2003. I began dancing at a young age and appeared on a dance competition show.

kids' corner
Illustration of school supplies and a laptop.

ANIMAL FACT:
WHICH ANIMAL WAS THE FIRST TO BE DOMESTICATED, AND PROBABLY THE FIRST PET OF OUR HUMAN ANCESTORS?

How they SAY that in...
ENGLISH: Pet
SPANISH: Mascota
ITALIAN: Animale
FRENCH: Animal de compagnie
GERMAN: Haustier

5-24 CRYPTOQUIP

QHRWTBMAXZS THELB LM
YULRU AUB RHWMAZS'D
VLMBDA ZBDAXWZXMAD IBA

ZBELBYBQ: "X VBY IHHQ TBMWD."

Saturday's Cryptoquip: PAPER HEADLINE REGARDING AN ESCAPED CONVICT DISCOVERED HIDING IN A CAMPSITE: "CRIMINAL IN TENT."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals D

Crossword Puzzle
Grid with numbers 1-8.

ACROSS
1. Living organisms
3. Loose garment
5. Shelters for dogs or cats
8. Being with others

DOWN
1. Foolish behaviors
2. Small rug
4. Pleasant to snuggle together
7. Long story

THIS DAY IN...
MAY 22
HISTORY
1849: ABRAHAM LINCOLN RECEIVES A PATENT FOR HIS FLOATING DRY DOCK.

New Word
FERAL
animal in a wild state

BOATING BASICS WORD SEARCH

Grid for word search with letters H, A, U, F, O, U, L, E, D, N, R, E, T, S, A, R, N, A, U, C, etc.

WORDS
ADRIFT ANCHOR BEAM BELOW BULKHEAD BUDY CABIN CHART CLEAT CUDDY CURRENT DECK FATHOM FOULED HITCH HULL INBOARD KNOT LINE PIER STERN TACKLE VESSEL WINDWARD

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 35 Calendar entry (Abbr.)
36 Honeycomb compartments
37 Chic Coco
40 Metal source
41 Decorate anew
42 Atypical
47 Now, in a memo
48 Some Bach compositions
49 Like venison
50 Needle hole
51 Tube spot

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers 1-51.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Every card played tells a story
South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH: 8 4 3, A 8 6, 7 5 2, K Q 7 6
WEST: 6, J 10 7 4, A Q 10 8 3, 10 4 2
EAST: Q J 10 7 5 2, 9 3, 6, A 9 8 3
SOUTH: A K 9, K Q 5 2, K J 9 4, J 5

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

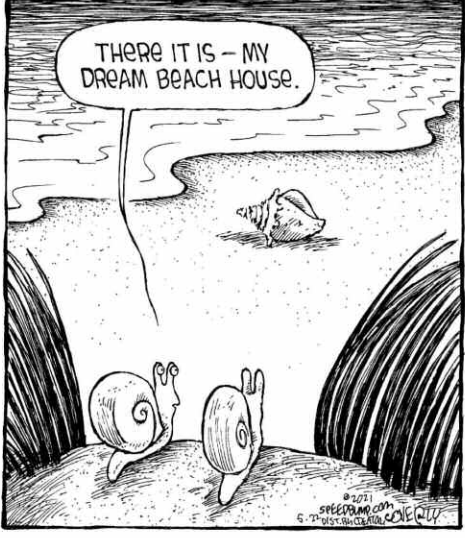
Famous Hand
North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH: J 8 7 3, A 8 5, A 6, K J 4 2
WEST: Q 10 6 4 2, J 4, 9 7 4, 9 6 5
EAST: A 9 5, Q 6 3, 10 8 5 2, 8 7 3
SOUTH: K, K 10 9 7 2, K Q J 3, A Q 10

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 37 Corp. boss
38 "Do — say!"
39 Marathoner's stat
42 Gun the engine
44 Office part-timer
48 Epoch
49 To be, in Tours
50 Cameo shape
51 Knock
52 Dam
53 Disaster aid org.
54 Mensa stats
55 Genesis garden

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers 1-55.

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



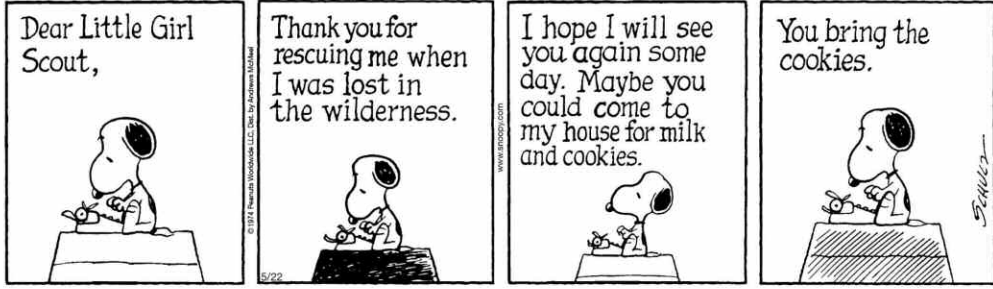
SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



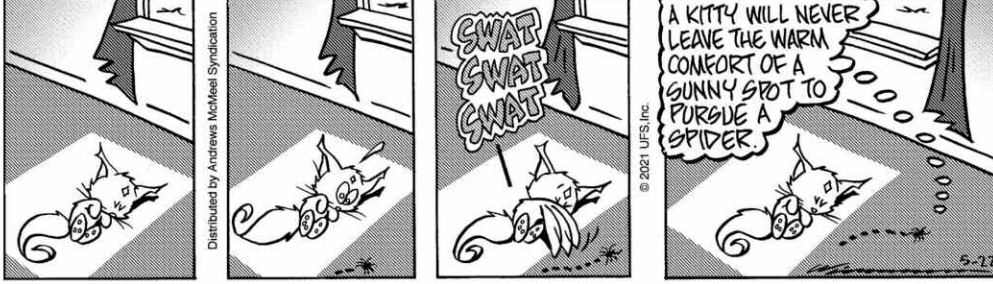
Peanuts



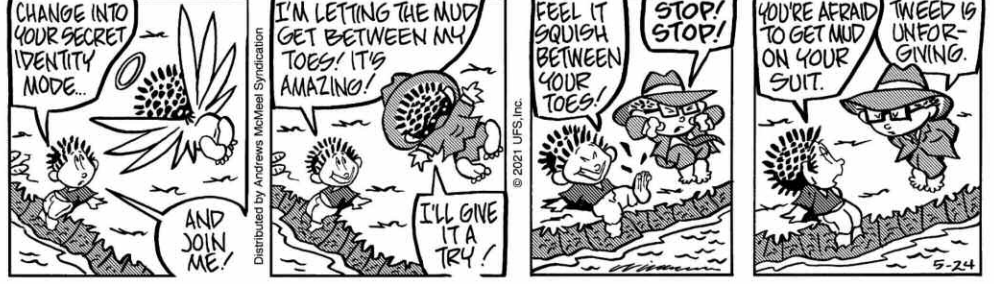
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Agnes



Hi and Lois



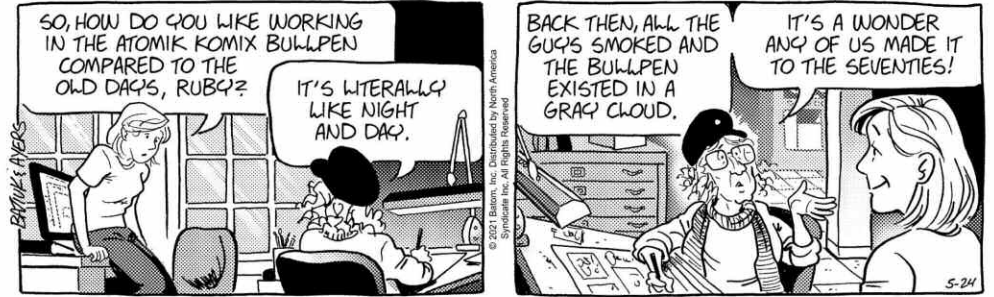
Hi and Lois



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



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Pacers face major questions

By MICHAEL MAROT

AP Sports Writer
INDIANAPOLIS — Now that the Indiana Pacers' long, injury-riddled season is over, the hard part begins.

President of basketball operations Kevin Pritchard is embarking on yet another offseason filled with questions, the first being whether to keep coach Nate Bjorkgren.

Pritchard hired the 45-year-old former Raptors assistant in October, hopeful he could forge tight bonds with players and implement a new philosophy to keep his team fresh for a long postseason run.

It didn't work. Rumors of internal strife surfaced late in the season, which culminated with an embarrassing 142-115 season-ending loss at Washington.

"Coach really did his best this year," guard Malcolm Brogdon said afterward. "Regardless of the reports, regardless of all the distractions and the noise, he continued to communicate with his players. He continued to work extremely hard for us and coach us the best he could, and we appreciated that. That's what I just told him in the locker room: I appreciate him. I appreciate everything he did for me and this team."

Brogdon thrived in Bjorkgren's offense. He averaged a career-high 21.2 points per game while the team averaged a franchise record 115.3 points.

Defense, rebounding, an inability to close out games and injuries were far bigger obstacles.

Indiana finished 25th in the league in points allowed (115.3), had the fourth-worst rebounding differential (minus-4.1) and blew 17 fourth-quarter leads. Had they been better

in any of those areas, the Pacers probably would have made their sixth straight playoff appearance.

But they couldn't overcome all the injuries.

T.J. Warren, Indiana's top scorer in 2019-20, went down with a season-ending left foot injury in late December. Myles Turner, the NBA's blocks champion, didn't return after hurting his right foot in mid-April. Caris LeVert, who was acquired in a January trade for Victor Oladipo, missed both play-in games after entering the league's health and safety protocols.

There were times Indiana didn't have any of its opening-game starters available. And yet, Bjorkgren still had Indiana with-in one win of making the playoffs and having a chance to end a five-year run of first-round exits.

"I thought he did great. As a first-year coach, it's always going to take a little time," Doug McDermott said Friday. "You've got to manage a lot of stuff. There's a lot on your plate and in terms of all we went through, with all the testing and everything, I thought he did great. I thought he grew a lot as the year went on. I know there was a lot of stuff that was written about him that I don't agree with and I think Indiana is lucky to have him."

If Bjorkgren does return, then Pritchard may need to make some roster changes.

While all five starters are under contract next season, McDermott and NBA steals champ T.J. McConnell can become free agents. Fans are also wondering whether the defensive struggles were the result of Bjorkgren not having the right cast. Either way, something needs to change.

Sectional serve

Rachel Muhlenkamp serves early in her No. 2 doubles match Thursday with partner Madison Dirksen against Emily Evans and Andrea Sanders of Union City. Muhlenkamp and Dirksen bounced back from a loss Wednesday against Winchester to cruise to a 6-2, 6-3 victory.

Benefiting ...

Continued from page 10
"We have had lots of inquiries," he said.

In addition to the derby, there will be a raffle of multiple items, including power tools, car parts and at least two derby-ready cars for the windshield class. A DJ will be playing music after the event.

The Lions Club stand will be open selling its trademark burgers, and Mays will be selling its sugary

treat. Both will be donating a portion of its sales to the cause.

Jay Beverage, which will be selling alcohol, has also agreed to donate proceeds to the McLaughlin and Barnett families.

As of Friday night the total purse for the derbies has eclipsed \$16,000.

"It's been overwhelming, the community support for this event," Jay County Fair Board member

Travis Theurer said.

Neargarder also said local fire departments, sheriff officers and other law enforcement agencies are donating their time.

"A lot of people are jumping on board," he said. "Very little expenses (are) going out except payouts for winners."

Pit passes for the event are \$20, box seats are \$15 and grandstand tickets are \$10.

Tops ...

Continued from page 10
Haley Gillette was 4-for-4 with an RBI and a run scored, while Rielew Brewster doubled, singled twice

and scored three times. Olivia Bright doubled and singled, and Aubrie Schwieterman hit a home run and scored twice.

Haleigh Clayton was charged the loss. She allowed nine earned runs on 19 hits with four strikeouts.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys golf ACAC championships at Celina Lynx — 9 a.m.; Baseball at Richmond Invitational — 2:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Track district at Spencerville — 10:30 a.m.
Fort Wayne TinCaps vs. Lansing Lugnuts — 6:35 p.m.

Sunday
Portland Rockets doubleheader vs. South Bend Royals — 1 p.m.
Fort Wayne TinCaps vs. Lansing Lugnuts — 1:05 p.m.

Tuesday
Jay County — Boys golf at Union City 4:30 p.m.; Girls track regional at Ben Davis — 6 p.m.; Softball sectional quarterfinal vs. Yorktown at Hamilton Heights — 7 p.m.; JV baseball vs. Bishop Dwenger — 5 p.m.
Fort Wayne TinCaps at South Bend Cubs — 7:05 p.m.

Wednesday
Jay County — Baseball sectional semifinal vs. Guerin Catholic at Yorktown — 7:30 p.m.
Fort Wayne TinCaps at South Bend

Cubs — 7:05 p.m.

Thursday
Jay County — Boys track regional at Lawrence Central — 5:30 p.m.; Boys golf at Adams Central — 4:30 p.m.; Softball sectional semifinal vs. TBA at Hamilton Heights — 5 p.m.
Fort Wayne TinCaps at South Bend Cubs — 7:05 p.m.

Friday
Jay County — Boys golf vs. Wes-Del — 4:30 p.m.; Baseball sectional semifinal vs. TBA at Yorktown — 5:30 p.m.
Fort Wayne TinCaps at South Bend Cubs — 7:05 p.m.

Saturday
Jay County — Softball sectional final vs. TBA at Hamilton Heights — 11 a.m.
Portland Rockets doubleheader vs. Midland Tribe — 1 p.m.
Fort Wayne TinCaps at South Bend Cubs — 7:05 p.m.

TV schedule

Today
2 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Miami Heat at Milwaukee Bucks — Game 1 (ESPN)
4:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Dallas

Mavericks at Los Angeles Clippers — Game 1 (ESPN)

7:15 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Chicago Cubs at St. Louis Cardinals (FOX)
8 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Boston Celtics at Brooklyn Nets — Game 1 (ABC)
10:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Portland Trail Blazers at Denver Nuggets — Game 1 (ESPN)

Sunday
1 p.m. — NBA Basketball: TBD at Philadelphia 76ers — Game 1 (TNT)
2:30 p.m. — NASCAR Racing: Monster Energy Cup Series — EchoPark Texas Grand Prix (FS1)
3:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Los Angeles Lakers at Phoenix Suns — Game 1 (ABC)

7 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Atlanta Hawks at New York Knicks — Game 1 (TNT)

7 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Chicago Cubs at St. Louis Cardinals (ESPN)
9:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: TBD at Utah Jazz — Game 1 (TNT)

Monday
8 p.m. — Major League Baseball: St. Louis Cardinals at Chicago White Sox (ESPN)




The Portland Police Department is accepting applications for TWO FULL-TIME SWORN POLICE OFFICERS

The hiring process is open now through June 11, 2021. All applications must be turned in by June 11, 2021. Any late applications will not be accepted. Applicants must meet the entry level physical agility requirements mandated by the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy, which will be held on June 12th.

Upon the successful completion of the physical agility an interview process, background check, and a pre-employment voice stress will be conducted.

Benefits include a starting base salary of \$46,391, an excellent insurance plan of 90/10 coverage, a \$500 deductible single and \$750 deductible for family coverage, excellent dental coverage, and a Police/Fire 1977 Retirement Fund pension.

Applications can be picked up at the Portland Police Department located at 319 N Meridian Street anytime or online at <https://thecityofportland.net/Police-Department-Opening>.



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

Mark your calendar so you don't miss them.

JCHS Graduation
Wednesday, June 16 (ad deadline June 9)

Senior Citizens
Friday, June 18 (ad deadline June 11)

Jay County Fair
Wednesday, July 7 (ad deadline June 30)

Marching Patriots
Wednesday, July 21 (ad deadline July 14)

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Benefiting families

Demolition derby today at Jay County Fairgrounds to help local residents

By CHRIS SCHANZ
The Commercial Review

Demolition derbies in Portland are no new phenomenon. They've been going on for decades.

Curt McLaughlin was a big part of those derbies for many years. Brian Barnett has been a mainstay in Portland derbies as well.

McLaughlin passed away in March. Barnett is facing a neurological disease.

Today's action will be supporting both of them.

Portland-based Gettin Junked Promotions is hosting a demolition derby at Jay County Fairgrounds grandstand today, and all proceeds will benefit the McLaughlin and Barnett families.

"I brought it to the board (that I) wanted to do a benefit derby and the board jumped on to help put it on," said Jay County Fair Board member Rick Neargarder.

At the time, McLaughlin was battling cancer (he passed away in March at age 61), and Barnett, now 37, had been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

"They get a lot of bills going through all kind of treatments," Neargarder said. "Barnett's are the most giving family in the community toward the fairgrounds."

"You need something, make one call and they never charge



Special to The Commercial Review/Katie Lyons

Two cars collide during a demolition derby event in April at Jay County Fairgrounds grandstand. Gettin Junked Promotions is hosting a benefit derby for the families of the Brian Barnett and the late Curt McLaughlin, with 100% of proceeds going to be split between the families.

anything. We wanted to give back to both families."

Gates for the derby opened this morning at 8 a.m., and action is set to begin at 3 p.m.

Neargarder said he then approached Rick Roop, owner of Gettin Junked Promotions which is in charge of the annual derbies at the fair, about being the principal promoter of the event.

Neargarder noted Roop said he'd be more than willing to pro-

mote it and demanded he take no fees.

Roop said the competition classes of the derby will be identical to those run at the Jay County Fair. This time around, however, there won't be a limit as to how many vehicles will be in each class.

"We will do everything we can to fit each and every car into one of the classes we are running," he said. "Since it's a benefit with

all the proceeds being split between the two families, we do not want to turn away anyone."

One change, Roop noted, is the track may have to be made bigger to accommodate a larger number of vehicles in each heat.

And while Roop did not have an idea of how many vehicles have registered as of Thursday, interest in the event is in no short supply.

See **Benefiting** page 9

Jay tops 'Dogs

RICHMOND — The Patriots suffered their second big loss of the season Thursday.

The following day they were back in the win column.

The Jay County High School baseball team didn't give up a run until the seventh inning of a 7-2 win against the New Haven

Local roundup

Bulldogs on Friday in the first game of the Bob Haustetter Memorial Invitational at McBride Stadium.

The Patriots (13-8), who lost to Bellmont 16-6 on Thursday but have now won four of their last five games, resume tournament play at 2:30 p.m. today against Seymour, then play Richmond at 5 p.m.

Austin Curts hit a single in the top of the first inning for Jay County, which scored a run in the second on a wild pitch.

In the fifth, the Patriots tacked on four more runs, including RBI singles from Dusty Pearson and Josh Dowlen. They added two more runs in the frame for a 6-0 advantage.

Dowlen led the Patriots with a double, two singles and an RBI, and Pearson chipped in a double. Quinn Faulkner also had a double.

Crosby Henser earned the win, giving up two unearned runs on three hits. He struck out seven and walked two in six innings.

Rally falls short

RICHMOND — Jay County's softball team lost a late lead and had its rally fall short in a 9-8 loss to the Richmond Red Devils on Friday.

The Patriots (16-7), which opens sectional play Tuesday against Yorktown at Hamilton Heights, had a 6-5 lead after five innings before Richmond struck for four runs in the home half of the sixth inning. Jay County rallied with a pair of runs in the seventh but wasn't able to tie the score.

See **Tops** page 9

MLB relaxes COVID protocols

NEW YORK (AP) — Two more Major League Baseball teams have been able to relax coronavirus protocols after 85% of their players and other on-field personnel completed vaccination, raising the total to 14 of the 30 clubs.

The commissioner's office and the players' association said Friday that two additional teams had reached the 85% level of having received final doses and would be able to relax protocols within the next week once they are fully vaccinated. The teams were not identified.

Relaxed protocols include dropping the

requirements for face-masks in dugouts and bullpens, and loosening restrictions on mobility during road trips.

In addition, the Dodgers said Dodger Stadium will return to full capacity on June 15. The announcement means at least one-third of the 30 teams will be at full capacity by the All-Star break.

MLB said 84.4% of all Tier 1 individuals such as players, managers, coaches, trainers and support personnel had been partially or fully vaccinated, up 0.5% from the previous week, and 78.8% had been fully vaccinated, up 1.2% from the previous week.

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CALL 260-726-8141 with questions

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Fort Recovery High School - Friday, May 21 (deadline Friday, May 14)
Jay County High School - Wednesday, June 16 (deadline Wednesday, June 9)

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