

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Celebrating 100



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Members of Portland American Legion Post 211 wave while riding on a float as grand marshals during the 2019 4th of July Parade in downtown Portland. The post, named for Robert Guy Ayers, will celebrate its 100th anniversary with a day full of activities Saturday. The celebration was originally scheduled for Aug. 22, 2020, but was postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Portland American Legion Post 211 will finally get to commemorate a century Saturday

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

The American Legion celebrated its 100th birthday in 2019. Portland's Post 211 had planned to celebrate its centenary of existence a year later.

Then, COVID-19 hit. Post commander Butch Micheau announced in late July that the post's 100th anniversary celebration that was scheduled for Aug. 22 would be postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Last year in August was our 100th," said Micheau, thinking back to that cancellation. "But I told them, 'By God, one way or another, we're doing it before it's 101 years.'"

That goal will become a reality Saturday.

Robert Guy Ayers American

Legion Post 211 will celebrate its 100th anniversary with an all-day celebration.

The festivities will begin about 7:25 a.m. Saturday with an invocation from Pastor Darrell Borders, followed by raising the American flag and Erika Frazee singing the national anthem. Then, it'll be time to eat.

The Legion will provide free breakfast to all veterans, their spouses and dependent children living at home from 7:30 to 10 a.m. (Anyone else will be able to buy breakfast for \$3.)

The second phase of the celebration will feature a cookout from 2 to 4 p.m. with burgers, hot dogs, chips and cookies free to everyone. Portland Mayor John Boggs and various American Legion dignitaries are scheduled to attend.

A flag retirement ceremony with a 21-gun salute is slated for 5 p.m., and the Mountain Dewe Boys will perform from 6 to 10 p.m.

Museum of the Soldier will also have a display about the history of the American Legion in addition to several military vehicles. There will also be a 50/50 raffle.

The entire endeavor is being coordinated by the Legion's volunteers.

"We have enough people finally volunteering," said Micheau, who served in the U.S. Air Force from 1962 to '65 with most of that time spent in Greece. "We'd always like to have more volunteers. But my staff, we've got nine people. ..."

"We've got a good core. It's just trying to build around it."

There's been a lot of celebrating to go around in the last few years.

The American Legion commemorated its 100th anniversary in 2019. That year, local American Legion members from the Portland post and others in Jay County served as grand marshals for the 4th of July parade.

Congress chartered the American Legion in 1919 as an organization for patriotic veterans. It now has more than 2 million members participating at 13,000 posts.

Robert Guy Ayers Post 211 — Ayers, a Portland resident, was killed during World War I — became one of those just a year after Congress chartered the organization.

See Celebrating page 5

Decatur facility is set to close

Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly

KANSAS CITY, Kansas — Dairy Farmers of America (DFA), a national milk marketing cooperative owned by family dairy farmers, announced June 11 that, after a careful review of its manufacturing operations and due to changing market conditions, it plans to close its Decatur manufacturing plant.

"Decisions like this that impact people's livelihoods are never easy," Robin Galloway, president, DFA Dairy Brands Ice Cream, said in a news release. "Unfortunately, the financial challenges associated with running the facility are just too great."

"The employees here have done an excellent job producing quality ice cream products, and we sincerely appreciate their hard work and dedication."

The plant, where 160 people are currently employed, will cease production Sept. 10. To help employees impacted by the plant closing, DFA will work with employees to help them through this transition. Additionally, DFA is already working with local agencies to identify employment opportunities and job placement services available.

"This was a difficult decision, but we have a responsibility to our dairy farmer-owners to operate financially sound businesses that bring them additional returns on their investments in the Cooperative," Galloway said.

DFA's Decatur facility manufactures select ice cream products for the Mayfield Dairy, Dean's Country Fresh and Friendly's brand.

Dean Foods sold the plant, 400 Chamber Drive, along with one in Huntington to DFA in 2020.

Dean filed for bankruptcy in November 2019 and announced in mid-February 2020 that it had entered into a \$425 million asset purchase agreement with DFA.

Judge blocks lease suspension

By KEVIN MCGILL
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The Biden administration's suspension of new oil and gas leases on federal land and water was blocked Tuesday by a federal judge in Louisiana who ordered that plans continue for lease sales that were delayed for the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska waters "and all eligible onshore properties."

The decision is a blow to Democratic President Joe Biden's efforts to rapidly transition away from fossil fuels and stave off the worst effects of climate change, including catastrophic droughts, floods and wildfires.

U.S. District Judge Terry Doughty's ruling came in a lawsuit filed in March by Louisiana

Republican Attorney General Jeff Landry and officials in 12 other states. Doughty said his ruling applies nationwide. It grants a preliminary injunction — technically a halt to the suspension pending further arguments.

"The omission of any rational explanation in cancelling the lease sales, and in enacting the Pause, results in this Court ruling that Plaintiff States also have a substantial likelihood of success on the merits of this claim," he wrote.

"We are reviewing the judge's opinion and will comply with the decision," an Interior Department statement emailed by communications director Melissa Schwartz said.

See Blocks page 5

Grinnin' Griffin

Jay County High School senior Griffin Mann (center) grins while chatting with Timothy Muhlenkamp (left) and Ashlyn Dow after they all received an award Monday during Jay County High School's Honors Night.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Deaths

Shirley Powell, 85, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 81 degrees Tuesday. The low was 55.

Tonight's low will also be in the mid 50s. Expect sunny skies Thursday with the high climbing into the mid 80s.

See page 2 for an extended forecast.

In review

Fort Recovery Harvest Jubilee kicks off tonight with the Taste of Fort Recovery from 5:30 to 8 p.m. tonight on the brick section of Wayne Street. Events at Ambassador Park follow Thursday through Sunday, with the Fort Recovery High School marching band presenting the opening ceremonies at 6 p.m. Thursday.

Coming up

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

Saturday — New community development director starts Monday.



Obituaries

Shirley Powell

July 23, 1935-June 15, 2021
Shirley A. Powell, age 85, of Portland passed away Tuesday morning June 15, 2021, at her residence.

Shirley was born in Celina, Ohio, on July 23, 1935, the daughter of Ernest and Freda (Frank) Knapke. She was married on Sept. 4, 1954, to Bill Powell who survives.

Shirley was a farmer, housewife and business owner work-

ing with her husband at Penn Grove Farms. She was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Alter Rosary Society, Indiana Halfinger Association and National Halfinger Association. She was a 1953 Celina High School graduate. Shirley enjoyed showing and breeding Halfinger horses and Holstein



Powell

cattle and was nationally recognized.

Surviving are her husband of 67 years, Bill; three sons, Jeff Powell of St. Petersburg, Florida, Jay Powell of Indianapolis and Dan Powell of Indianapolis; one daughter, Beth Durnell (husband: Drake) of Atlanta; three brothers, David Knapke (wife: Susan) of Sidney, Ohio, Mark Knapke (wife: Chris) of Coldwater, Ohio and Tom Knapke (wife: Karen) of Celina, Ohio; and seven grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a sister Carol Callaway; and grandson Cameron Powell.

Funeral services will be Friday, June 15, at 10 a.m. in the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church with Father Matthew Arbuckle presiding. Burial will follow in the Green Park Cemetery. Viewing will be Thursday from 3 to 8 p.m. and prior to the services in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home.

Memorials can be made to the Everherart Hospice.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge.

They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

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

CR almanac

Table with weather forecasts for Thursday 6/17, Friday 6/18, Saturday 6/19, Sunday 6/20, and Monday 6/21. Includes temperature ranges and weather icons.

Lotteries

Powerball: Estimated jackpot: \$40 million. Mega Millions: Estimated jackpot: \$30 million. Hoosier: Daily Three: 3-9-3. Ohio: Estimated jackpot: \$422,000.

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery: Corn 6.97, Wheat 6.49. POET Biorefining Portland: Corn 7.37, June corn 7.39. The Andersons Richland Township: Corn 7.02, Beans 14.81.

Today in history

On June 16, 1858, accepting the Illinois Republican Party's nomination for the U.S. Senate, Abraham Lincoln said the slavery issue had to be resolved... In 1963, the world's first female space traveler, Valentina Tereshkova, was launched into orbit... In 1976, riots broke out in the Black South African township of Soweto.

Citizen's calendar

Today 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North. Thursday 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St.

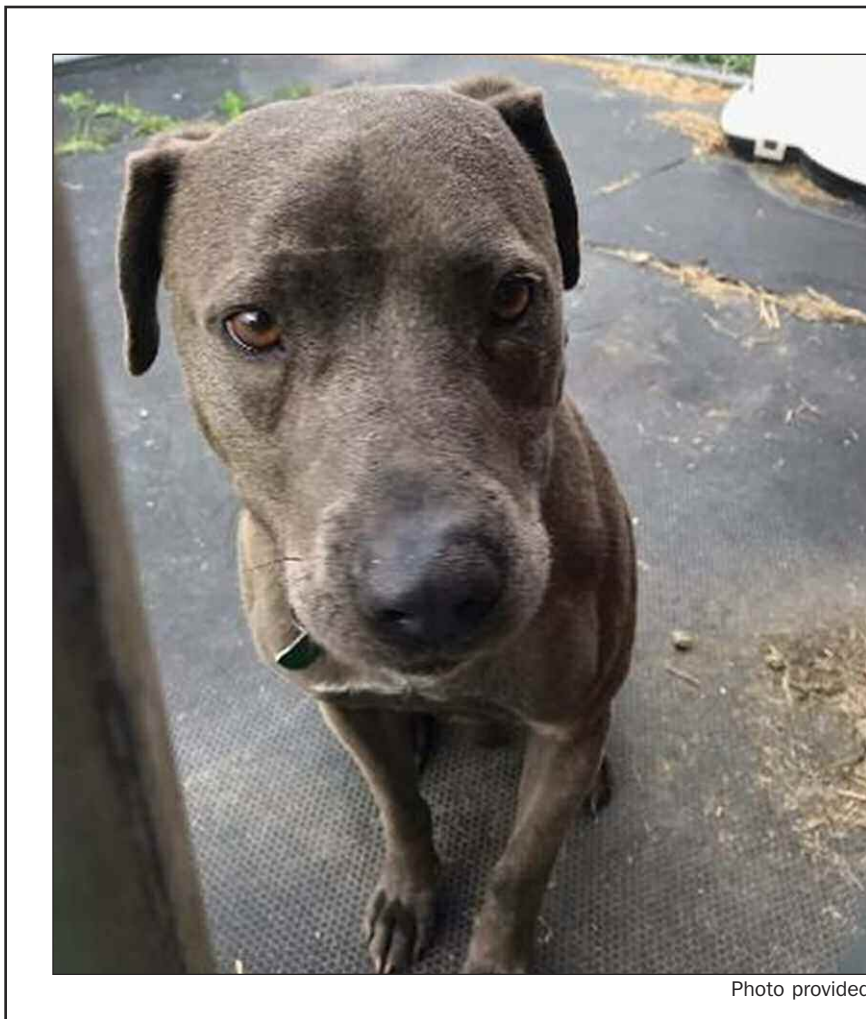


Photo provided

Pet of the week

Loki, a male weimaraner mix that is neutered, heart worm negative and up to date on vaccinations, can be adopted for \$100 from Jay County Humane Society, 1313 Shadeland Ave., Portland. The shelter can be reached at (260) 726-6339.

Capsule Reports

Intersection collision

A Virginia woman was transported to the hospital for a neck injury after another driver crashed his vehicle into hers on U.S. 27 about 4:20 p.m. Tuesday.

Helena S. Mock, 53, Williamsburg, Virginia, was stopped in a 2020 Toyota Corolla in the intersection of the highway and county road 200 North. She was attempting to turn left onto the county road, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report.

Blaine E. Zimmerman, 92, was driving a 2020 Chevrolet Equinox north on the highway near Tyson Road at the time of the accident.

Both vehicles were towed, with damage estimated between \$25,000 and \$50,000. Mock was transported to IU Health Jay for a neck injury. The Toyota she was driving is registered to Bayers Car Rentals of Vandalia, Ohio.

Highway crash

Between \$50,000 and \$100,000 in damage is estimated after a Portland man failed to stop before crashing his vehicle into another on Indiana 67 about 5 p.m. Monday.

Zimmerman's vehicle crashed into Post's Ford and pushed it into a 2017 Ram 250, driven by 60-year-old Dean A. Smith, going south on the highway. Zimmerman sustained an arm injury, and Post sustained a back injury. Both were treated at the scene. Their vehicles were also towed.

Felony court news

Child solicitation

A Yorktown man was sentenced to prison after pleading guilty to child solicitation, a Level 4 felony, in Jay Circuit Court.

Joshua D. Cooksey, 40, 8704 W. Mill Road, was sentenced to six years in Indiana Department of Correction with all but three years suspended and given three days credit for time served. He was placed on house arrest for three years pursuant to a direct commitment to the Jay County Community Corrections program.

Cooksey was assessed court costs of \$185 and ordered to pay a \$500 sexual assault victim fee. As part of his plea agreement, a Class B misdemeanor charge for possession of paraphernalia was dismissed.

Auto theft

A Pennville man was sentenced to prison after pleading guilty to auto theft, a Level 6 felony, in Jay Superior Court.

Mason D. Emerick, 25, 230 E. Bridge St., was sentenced to 366 days in Indiana Department of Correction. He was

assessed court costs of \$185.50. As part of his plea agreement, a Class A misdemeanor charge of theft was dismissed.

Illegal driving

A Portland man was sentenced to prison after pleading guilty to operating a vehicle after forfeiture of license for life, a Level 5 felony, in Jay Circuit Court.

Nathan Lawhead, 42, 066 N. 500 West, was sentenced to 42 months in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for one day and time served since Oct. 30, 2020. He was assessed \$185 in court costs.

As part of his plea agreement, the following charges were dismissed: a Level 6 felony charge of resisting law enforcement, a Class C misdemeanor charge of operating a vehicle while intoxicated and a Class A misdemeanor charge of operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol level equivalent to 0.15% or more.

Drug dealing

A Dunkirk man was sentenced to prison after pleading guilty to dealing a narcotic drug, a Level 5 felony, in Jay Circuit Court.

See page 5

SERVICES

Thursday

Scher, Norbert: 5 p.m., Epworth United Methodist Church, 6450 Allisonville Road, Indianapolis.

Friday

Powell, Shirley: 10a.m., Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 506 E. Walnut St., Portland. Erwin, Roger: 1 p.m., Garden View Funeral Home, 10501 N. Indiana 3, Muncie.

Saturday

Markley, Jackie: 5 p.m., 5 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Service listings provided by

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

Advertisement for DIRECTV. Features a TV screen showing a sports event, a DIRECTV receiver, and promotional text: 'DON'T JUST KINDA TV. DIRECTV. \$69.99/mo. Watch your favorite live sports, news and entertainment anywhere. DIRECTV offers more top premium channels than DISH.' Includes AT&T Preferred Dealer logo.

Advertisement for ILS (Indiana Legal Services). Features a graphic of a person with a speech bubble and text: 'Take the first step to justice. If you have experienced financial exploitation, been a victim of a consumer scam, or have a family member whom you feel is taking advantage of you, contact the Legal Assistance for Victimized Adults Project (LAVA Project) at Indiana Legal Services to see if you qualify for free legal services. Learn more at IndianaLegalServices.org or call 844-243-8570. EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE logo.

'Flower' displays a layered beauty

By KWAME DAWES

I heard Yona Harvey say in an interview that this loose Shakespearean ("the bard") sonnet was written for her teenage daughter, which makes its deep, layered beauty a touching monument to what this mother knows and admires in her daughter's unsettling but necessary blooming into selfhood.

Harvey is the author of the poetry collection "Hemming

American Life in Poetry

the Water" (Four Way Books, 2013), winner of the Kate Tufts Discovery Award. She teaches in the University of Pittsburgh Writing Program.

Sonnet for A Tall Flower Blooming at Dinner Time

Southern Flower, I want to quote the bard,
to serenade you, to raise a glass to you.
Long & tall you are always parched
& hungry. You wobble in strong winds, you
pull your bright hair when it rains, you
foss off the lint of dandelions, you
lean into the evening haunts
with your indifferent afro. You
were born in the old-world city, the invisible
dark girl city, the city that couldn't hold
a candle, a straight pin, a slave-owner's sins
to you. You are the most beautiful
dark that hosts the most private sorrows
& feeds the hungriest ghosts.

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©2020 by Yona Harvey, "Sonnet for A Tall Flower Blooming at Dinner" from "You Don't Have to Go to Mars for Love," (Four Ways Books 2020). Introduction copyright © 2021 by The Poetry Foundation.

FR honor roll announced

Fort Recovery High School recently announced its honor roll for the fourth quarter.

Making the all-A honor roll were sophomores Elizabeth Alig, Danielle Braun, Megan Diller, Maddie Guggenbiller, Chase Kaiser, Abigail Knapke, Megan Knapke, Alayna Laux, Isaac LeFevre, Megan Metzger, Miranda Metzger, Sophie Pearson, Isaac Timmerman, Alexis Wendel, Faith Wendel and Alaina Will.

Also freshmen Natalie Brunswick, Chloe Bubb, Alex Dues, Alex Evers, Megan Evers, Teigen Fortkamp, Carson Grube, Paige Guggenbiller, Jenna Hart, Trevor Heitkamp, Addy Jenkins, Abby Keller, Allison Knapke, Ella Kremer, Joscelyn LeFevre, Saige Leuthold, Mara Pearson, Matthew Romer, Libby Schlarman, Marissa Schoen, Cole Shoemaker, Brynn Stammen and Ella Westgerdes.

Making the A-B honor roll were Jake Bechtol, Megan Bergman, Autumn Burk, Jake Diller, Natalie Fortkamp, Trisha Gaerke,

Emmy Guggenbiller, Tommy Hart, Maria Hartings, Logan Hartnagel, Laura Hipple, Brenna Homan, Derek Jutte, Ben Keller, Clark Knapke, Colin Knapke, Dylan Langenkamp, Olivia Laux, Derek Lochtefeld, Seth Lochtefeld, Katie McIntosh-Thobe, Kendra Metzger, Ryne Post, Carson Rammel, Shai Ann Rodriguez, AJ Romer, Clay Schmitz, Kristen Siefiring, Megan Sutter, Gavin Thobe, Caitlin Weigel, Cobe Wendel, Kierra Wendel and Jesica Westgerdes.

Also juniors David Adsit, James Adsit, Bailey Bergman, Miley Briner, Macy Brunswick, Ben Dues, Emma Fullenkamp, Faith Grube, Grace Guggenbiller, Kim Hart, Bruce Heitkamp, Jackie Homan, Emma Kahlig, Isaac Knapke, Logan Knapke, Madelyn Knapke, Abigail Lauber, MaKenna Laux, Melissa Laux, Lilie Leuthold, Aidan O'Dell, Whitley Rammel, Devin Schoenlein, Hailey Stammen, Chloe Sutton, Faith Weagant, Ben Wellman and Kendrick Wendel.

Also sophomores Lydia Brunswick, Audra Bubb, Ethan Evers, Allysen Fullenkamp, Jacob Hartke, Jacob Heitkamp, Paul Homan, Makensie Kaffenberger, Emma Keller, Grace Klingshirn, Parker Klingshirn, Pete Klingshirn, Derek Lennartz, Tucker Overman, Ava Schoen, Carson Siefiring, Amy Stammen, MacKenzie Steinbrunner, Bo Thien, Bradi Timmerman, Caitlin Weitzel, Lindsey Wendel and Taylor Will.

Also freshmen Lucas Acheson, Wes Bechtol, Arwyn Beitler, Myah Breen, Katie Bruns, Kensey Clark, Kenadie Ervin, Reece Evers, Gavin Faller, Kensey Gaerke, Reece Guggenbiller, Liz Hartings, Troy Homan, Monte Jones, Autumn Jutte, Nate Jutte, Lydia Kahlig, Conner Kaikala, Owen Knapke, Drew Langenkamp, Michael Laux, Rex Leverette, Christian Marchal, Kiana Garland, Liberty Pohlman, Olivia Smith, Austin Steinbrunner, Tiffany Taft, Britney Tebbe, Riggs Tobe, Calie Wendel, Sage Wendel, Ellie Will and Brooklyn Weyerick.

Man finds little support from so-called partner

DEAR ABBY: I'm a gay man who has been in an on-again/off-again relationship for three years. My partner still lives at home with his mother. He has never left the home, aside from a four-month period when he and his mom weren't getting along.

My issue is, aside from never fully committing, my partner, "Damien," seems to always find a way to abandon me when I hit a rough patch. I lose my job and I'm low on money? He yells at me and leaves. And he manages to not return until I'm "back on my feet."

When the coronavirus hit and I had all my bills paid but nothing to eat, I finally had to say, "Hey, can you get me something?" We go to a burger place,

Dear Abby



And when he hears about my difficulties, he talks down to me and mocks the situation I am in. He attributes his never leaving home to his family helping him and caring about him. The fact that I'm not in a situation like his implies my family doesn't care. Can you help? — A LOT WRONG IN TEXAS

DEAR A LOT WRONG: I'll try. It's time you recognized that Damien is NOT your "partner." Partners HELP each other when they are in trouble. The sooner you lose this person, the sooner you will start to feel better. Damien is all about Damien. His character is fully formed. You can't change him, and neither can I. Leaving

Damien may help you become more independent — and that's a good thing. Trust me on that.

.....
DEAR ABBY: I love my wife dearly. We've been married for 21 years. I'm frustrated with how she dresses for work and when we go out. Her idea of fashion is wearing clothes that are too large in size for her. I don't like going out in public with her when she dresses that way. Granted, she put on some weight after our third child, but she still has a nice, shapely figure. I have seen women with similar body shapes who wear closer-fitting clothes, and they look great. How can I convey that her style is unflattering without upsetting

her? — FRUSTRATED WITH FRUMPY

DEAR FRUSTRATED: Your wife may dress the way she does because she's self-conscious about her weight or simply because she thinks loose-fitting clothes are more comfortable. Because you feel they don't flatter her, start by asking why she's dressing the way she does. Tell her you think she is beautiful and that the items she is choosing don't do justice to her "nice, shapely figure." You might even volunteer to go with her to help her choose some things, if she's interested. But if she isn't, let the subject drop because, ultimately, she's going to wear whatever she wants.

Community Calendar

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

Today
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.

Friday
DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

The objective is to fill a nine-by-nine grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine three-by-three boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

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PORTLAND AMERICAN LEGION POST 211

Celebrating 100 years June 19th
Breakfast 7:30 - 10am
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Saturday Nite Dance 6-10 pm
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*Before taxes

Myanmar layoff was no surprise

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

I have been laid off.

Not by the newspaper you are reading — though you never know what might happen — but by the English language version of an independent news website out of Myanmar, also known as Burma.

Part of me knew when it started that this gig with The Irrawaddy wasn't going to last long. The fact that it stretched more than nine months is pretty remarkable.

The gig started about three weeks after I retired from newspapering in Jay County.

I had a connection to Myanmar because I had done some journalism training there in 2012, and I continued to follow news out of that country via several websites, including The Irrawaddy.

The 2012 experience could not have been better. The folks in charge of the military-led government were beginning to release their grip. The leader of the National League for Democracy — Daw Aung San Suu Kyi — was still under house arrest. But there were signs of change in the wind.

Back in the Saddle



An election for parliament was scheduled and candidates from the National League for Democracy (NLD) were being allowed on the ballot. No one wanted to get overly optimistic, but the military leadership seemed prepared to usher the country into a new era.

At a memorable conference I attended near the end of my month there, the military government spelled out almost astounding plans for increased press freedom.

And things looked good. For a while.

The election was held. The NLD did well. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was released from house arrest. And after an election in 2015, she found herself as the de facto head of state.

(She was prevented from holding the presidency because she had married a Briton, and the

military government had inserted a clause in the constitution making it impossible for anyone who had married a foreigner to serve in that office.)

So last fall, the NLD seemed likely to be re-elected to power. COVID-19 was a bigger issue at the time than politics.

That's about the time I signed on as a part-time copy editor for the English language version of The Irrawaddy's site.

The work was quirky and unpredictable. There were no typical days.

I might get three long stories to edit, fixing the English, cleaning up the language, clarifying the information. Or I might get none. Or I might get a series of breaking news posts for the website's Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Politics and COVID dominated the subject matter throughout the fall and into the winter.

Then came Feb. 1.

The military, whose proxy parties had been humiliated in a landslide election that went to the NLD, decided to seize power in a coup.

Using the pretext of "election fraud" based upon unsubstantiated charges of ballot tamper-

ing, the military upended the constitution, put Daw Aung San Suu Kyi under arrest and rounded up dozens of its political opponents in the NLD.

(If that sounds spookily familiar, trust me that you're not to first person to feel that way.)

Instantly, the part-time job of a retired newspaperman in small-town Indiana changed.

The Irrawaddy was facing legal action from the military regime. Bylines of reporters disappeared, replaced by the generic "By THE IRRAWADDY." Photos of editors in the "about us" portion of the website disappeared. Staff members went into hiding to avoid arrest as the military regime took action against journalists across the country.

And my gig became a seven-day-a-week matter (That fact brought a bemused smile to my face. One of the papers I had worked with in 2012 was 7DayNews. When the coup came, it shut down entirely.)

So, the copy kept coming. Every day.

At one point, for a period of weeks, I found myself editing stories every day that updated the civilian death count, complete with grisly photos of peo-

ple shot in the head. Not a good way to start the morning.

As the resistance — the civil disobedience movement — continued, eventually there was armed opposition to the regime's brutality. Militias formed. Homemade bombs were detonated around government buildings.

Diplomatic efforts were an exercise in impotence.

By June, it seemed that something approaching a permanent stalemate had developed.

The situation was bad, and by every indication it was going to be bad for a long, long time.

That's when I started wondering when I would get the axe.

The Irrawaddy's primary work is its Burmese language website. The English version is aimed more at the international community, diplomats and business people for the most part.

So the email from Kyaw Zwa Moe came as no real surprise.

"Thanks for your understanding and thoughts for our people. I don't know how long this struggle will take. ... But we have no choice but to do what we are supposed to do. ... Hope we'll get a chance to meet up in the future."

Me too.

Situation in Haiti is dire

The Washington Post

This spring, the Catholic Church in Haiti warned that the country is in the throes of a "descent into hell."

Guest Editorial

Any suspicion that the church's analysis was tinged with hyperbole has been dispelled by events since then. And without much more concerted help and pressure from Washington and other influential parties, the spiral of suffering and dysfunction in Haiti, the Western hemisphere's poorest nation, will surely accelerate.

Elections are no guarantee of democracy, let alone good governance, but one thing is indisputable: Without them, Haiti has no chance. For the past four years the country has been governed by Jovenel Moïse, an inept autocrat who has neutered parliament and independent institutions while presiding over, and likely abetting, a tableau of urban gang violence, murder, kidnapping, extortion and intimidation that has made life intolerable for millions. On top of that, a deadly new wave of COVID-19 has lately swept the country, whose already rickety public health system is overwhelmed. Virtually no one has been vaccinated against the virus.

No scenario for improving Haiti's prospects — not for good governance, nor for transitioning to order from chaos in the streets — is plausible without elections that would produce new and legitimate leadership. Moïse has paid lip service to going forward with balloting this fall, for parliament and a successor president. He has devoted far more attention to pushing a referendum, already twice postponed, to redraw the country's constitution, a probably illegal undertaking that has only intensified already riotous domestic political discord.

A delegation from the Organization of Ameri-

can States has been in Haiti last week, pressing Moïse and opposition parties to move forward with elections. That message is all the more critical given specious suggestions that, in place of an actual vote, the country could make do in the meantime with some ill-defined transitional government upon the completion of Moïse's term next February. The last time Haiti tried that, in 2016, what was meant to be a 120-day provisional administration dragged on for a year — deepening instability and confusion about the country's future.

Much of the current anarchy is directly attributable to Moïse, who has contrived to establish what amounts to one-man misrule. In the absence of legislative elections, he has allowed Haiti's parliament to wither into nothingness, while installing his own toadies as mayors to replace elected ones across the country. In a country of 11 million people, no legislation can be passed, because so few lawmakers remain. If Haitians do not go to the polls this fall, the terms of every single one of the few remaining elected officials will expire in February. That is a recipe for pandemonium.

There is now a real prospect of full-blown anarchy, and resulting waves of boat people fleeing to safer shores. The United States, France, the United Nations, the OAS and other influential parties must act before that happens. Moïse must go, and be replaced in free and fair elections. They will certainly not set everything right in Haiti, but without them you can bet things will get worse.

AS GLOBAL WARMING CONTINUES...



Take time to try something different

By HUGH HEWITT

Special To The Washington Post

Summer beckons, and so does the easy season's need for a good, nourishing read.

Everything after J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings" is in some way derivative, but fantasy epics remain a staple on many bookshelves, including mine.

CNN's Chris Cillizza sent me into the endless but eventually satisfactory Wheel of Time series by Robert Jordan. The New York Times's Ross Douthat nudged me toward British writer Joe Abercrombie, with a warning that his books are as grown-up and dark as "Game of Thrones," but have the decided advantage of an author committed to finishing his epics.

During the pandemic's endless opportunities to walk, I blew through Brandon Sanderson's "Mistborn" series (on audio) but hesitated on brink of his "The Way of Kings." Patrick Rothfuss is delivering the goods in his Kingkiller Chronicle trilogy but he's only two-thirds finished. So, Abercrombie it will be when next I get the epic itch.

The attraction of epics is much the same as those of Patrick O'Brian's 20 works built around British naval officers Jack Aubrey and Stephen Maturin: The writers create entire worlds around a few central characters and a long list of recurring friends, lovers, competitors and enemies. "For the past 30 years the greatest novelists writing in English," asserted playwright David Mamet, "have been genre writers:

Hugh Hewitt



John le Carré, George Higgins and Patrick O'Brian." From Mamet, that's quite a tribute.

Thriller authors, like Daniel Silva and Brad Thor, have legions addicted to their knowledge and storytelling prowess. C.J. Box's books deliver an understanding of the mountain west not easily available to city folk on the coasts — and an unlikely hero in Joe Pickett. And I inhaled "Ridgeline," the new historical fiction by Michael Punke (author of "The Revenant"), about an 1866 battle in Wyoming's Powder River Valley between the Lakota and the U.S. Army.

These writers are terrifyingly prolific — add up their titles and ask yourself, "How do they do it?"

They serve the need for the human imagination to travel far from whatever reality it inhabits day to day.

Nonfiction writers broaden our horizons, too, but their work is both harder and easier to absorb. Three nonfiction books have made it on to my "necessary bookshelf" this year — works that need to be read to understand our age: Niall Ferguson's "Doom," Josh Rogin's "Chaos Under Heaven" and Joby Warrick's

"Red Line" can grip as tightly as any thriller, but the reader has to take mental notes if not actual ones.

These books form the basis of important — and official — conversations in our national politics, and the details matter.

Where does this leave fantasy epics? Their purpose, beyond pure entertainment, is construction of a moral universe different from ours, with different gods and dilemmas; rituals and standards, tests, triumphs and failures. Many of the epic fantasies construct vast archipelagos of competing regimes that, while hardly as helpful as Aristotle's "Politics," still dance around the ancient and central question of what form of government is best. Machiavelli is embedded in these tales, as is Rousseau. Very few Thomas Jeffersons, quite a few Stalins and Maos, and occasionally the attempt at the genuinely heroic.

Mostly they give space to roam far from 2021 — or 1968, when I read Tolkien for the first time. For some (not me), escape means science fiction; others have their own guilty pleasures. But as summer approaches, and if you've read everything by Dickens or you are done with Evelyn Waugh, take Douthat's advice (with his disclaimer about Abercrombie's grown-up content) and try something completely different.

What can it cost you, save the price of a book and a few hours away from Twitter and Instagram?

.....

Hewitt hosts a nationally syndicated radio show on the Salem Network.

The Commercial Review

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



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Blocks ...

Continued from page 1
“The Interior Department continues to work on an interim report that will include initial findings on the state of the federal conventional energy programs, as well as outline next steps and recommendations for the Department and Congress to improve stewardship of public lands and waters, create jobs, and build a just and equitable energy future.”

The moratorium was imposed after Biden on Jan. 27 signed executive orders to fight climate change. The suit was filed in March. The Interior Department later canceled oil and gas lease sales from public lands through June — affecting Nevada, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming and the bureau’s eastern region.

Biden’s orders included a call for Interior officials to review if the leasing program unfairly benefits companies at the expense of taxpayers, as well as the program’s impact on climate change.

The 13 states that sued said the administration bypassed comment periods and other bureaucratic steps required before such delays can be undertaken, and that the moratorium would cost the states money and jobs. Doughty heard arguments in the case last week in Lafayette.

Federal lawyers argued that the public notice and comment period doesn’t apply to the suspension, that the lease sales aren’t required by law and that the Secretary of the Interior has broad discretion in leasing decisions.

“No existing lease has been cancelled as a result of any of the actions challenged here, and development activity from exploration through drilling and production has continued at similar levels as the preceding four years,” lawyers for the administration argued in briefs.

But Doughty sided with the plaintiff states attorneys, who argued that the delay of new leasing cost states revenue from rents and royalties.

“Millions and possibly billions of dollars are at stake,” wrote Doughty, who was nominated to the federal bench by President Donald Trump in 2017.

“Local government funding, jobs for Plaintiff State workers, and funds for the restoration of Louisiana’s Coastline are at stake,” he added, alluding to a possible loss of oil and gas revenue that pays for Louisiana efforts to restore coastal wetlands.

“This is fantastic news for workers in Louisiana whose livelihoods are being threatened by the administration’s thoughtless energy policy,” U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy (R-Louisiana) said in a statement.

Felony arrests

Drug possession

Two Jay County residents were arrested recently for drug possession.

Cheryl A. Johnston, 46, 609 W. 3rd St., Portland, was arrested this morning. She was preliminarily charged with two Level 6 felonies for maintaining a common nuisance and possession of cocaine, methamphetamine or narcotic drugs. Johnston is being held in Jay County Jail on a \$4,500 bond.

Phillip O. LeMaster, 65, 5849 E. 400 South, Salamina, was arrested Tuesday. He was preliminarily charged with two Level 6 felonies for maintaining a common nuisance and possession of cocaine, methamphetamine or narcotic drugs, along with two Class A misdemeanors for possession of marijuana and paraphernalia. He’s being held in Jay County Jail on a \$10,000 bond.

Celebrating ...

Continued from page 1
Ethan A. Fulton, a World War I veteran, was its first commander.

The Portland post’s charter hangs on a wall in its headquarters at 211 W. Walnut St.:

“Now therefore, pursuant to the powers conferred by the Constitution of The American Legion, this Charter is granted and those applying together with such others as may unite with them are hereby authorized to establish and maintain a Post of The American Legion at Portland, to be known as Robert Guy Ayers Post No. 211, Department of Indiana, and this instrument, unless revoked or suspended, shall be conclusive evidence of the lawful existence thereof.”

Not all that long ago, the continued existence of the post was in doubt.

It was May 4, 2015, when the post’s officers met in hopes of reaching a consensus for the future.

“We’re still in limbo,” newly installed post commander Fred Bailey said the next day. He referred to the post as “financially strapped.”

“We would like to salvage this somehow,” he added.

Legion members, auxiliary members and members of the Sons of the American Legion met again May 6, 2015, to weigh options and chose to try to save Post 211.

That effort has been successful.

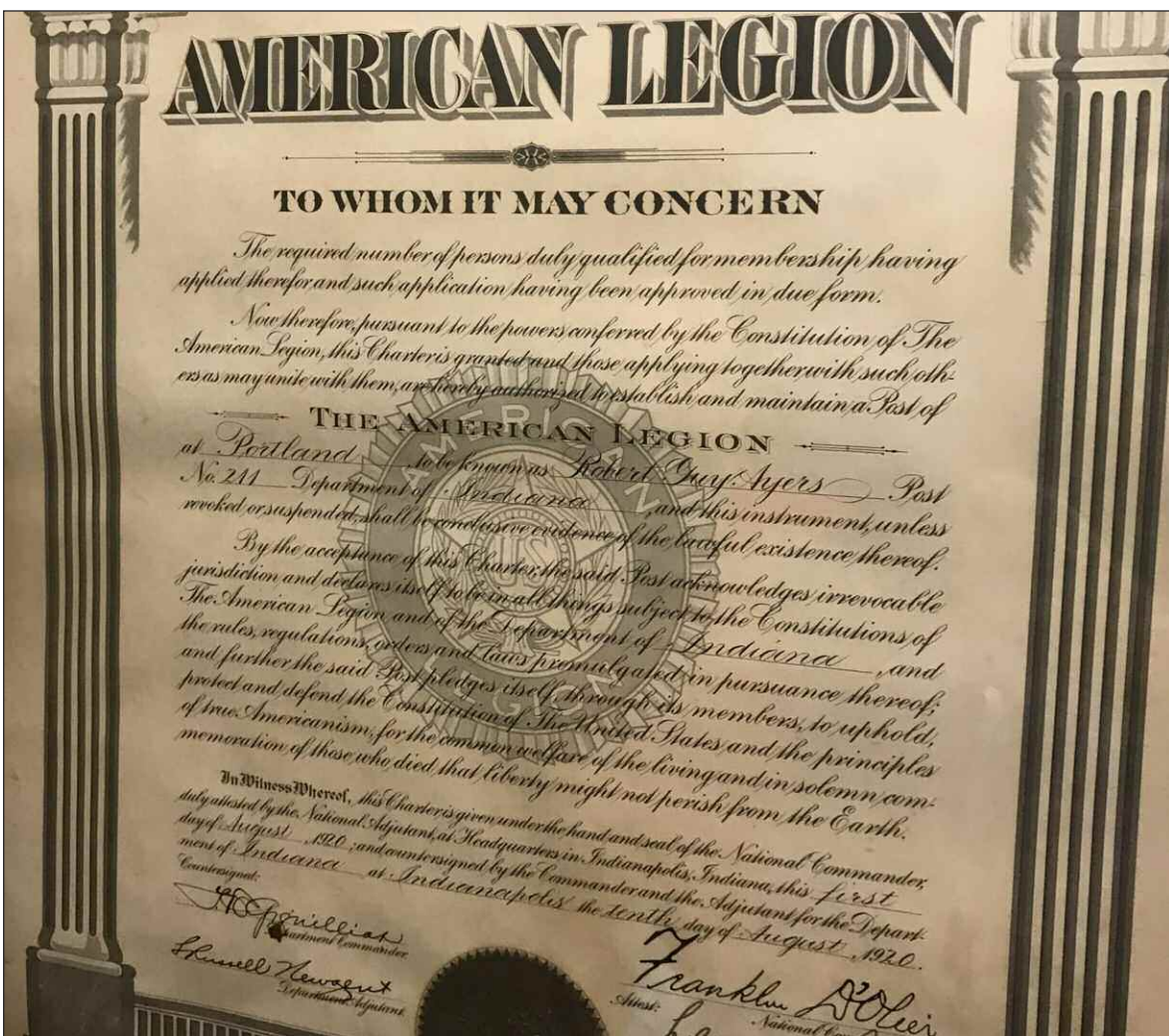
“Financially we’re solvent,” said Micheau, who credited Bailey with spurring the comeback. “We’re good — a lot better than we were.”

He reports that after the post was tens of thousands of dollars in debt six years ago, it now has more than \$90,000 in its coffers.

How does it feel to see Post 211 back in strong financial standing?

“I can’t explain it,” Micheau said. “I really can’t. Fred did a hell of a job. He had everything in place.”

“To watch it come from where it has, I’m happy.”



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

The original charter for Robert Guy Ayers American Legion Post 211 of Portland hangs on the wall at its facility at 211 W. Walnut St. The charter was signed by national and state Legion leaders in August 1920. The post will celebrate its 100th anniversary Saturday after a nearly 10-month delay because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Thanks to the work to keep the local American Legion post alive, it continues to fulfill its mission in a variety of ways.

Those include the post’s honor guard, which serves at veterans’ funerals, the annual Memorial Day event at Green Park Cemetery and other events. The American Legion also presented scholarships to local students during Monday’s Jay County High School Honors Night.

The local chapter of the American Legion Riders has come back in recent years. It

held a ride last month for Skylar Esparza, an 11-year-old Portland boy who was diagnosed with leukemia, and has another coming up for Shea Briar, who was murdered in January 2020. (Brian was a member of Post 211.)

The post also donates to a variety of charitable causes in Portland and Jay County.

“It’s a good organization,” said Micheau. “We — we, Portland’s Legion — is good for the community. They do things that nobody knows about. It makes me feel good to see stuff work.”

Robert Guy Ayers American Legion Post 211’s members — there are 224 currently signed — hope to continue that work for another century and beyond.

Their mission is clear, inscribed as part of the charter: “... said Post pledges itself through its members, to uphold, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and the principles of true Americanism, for the common welfare of the living and in solemn commemoration of those who died that liberty might not perish from the Earth.”

Felony courts

Continued from page 2

Justus P. Folkerth, 28, 1146 S. Indiana 1, was sentenced to five years in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for time served from July 2, 2020, through July 7, 2020, and from May 20, 2021 forward. He was assessed court costs of \$185 and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee.

The court recommended Folkerth for purposeful incarceration, meaning upon completion of a substance abuse treatment program, it will consider modifying his sentence.

As part of his plea agreement, the following charges were dismissed: a Level 6 felony for unlawful possession of a syringe, a Level 6 felony for maintaining a common nuisance, a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.

Drug possession

Several people were sentenced to prison in Jay courts recently.

Edgar Pimentel Jr., 1224 W. Water St., Berne, was found guilty by trial of possession of a narcotic drug, a Level 5 felony, and unlawful possession of a syringe, a Level 6 felony, in Jay Circuit Court. He was sentenced to eight years in Indiana Department of Correction — The court determined

Pimentel to be a habitual offender and added three years to his initial five-year sentence. He was given credit for time served from June 13 to June 15 and from July 14, 2020 forward. Pimentel was assessed \$185 in court costs and \$200 for drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fees.

Tonya L. Borgerding, 31, 155 E. Largo, Pennville, pleaded guilty to unlawful possession of a syringe, a Level 6 felony, in Jay Circuit Court. She was sentenced to two years in Indiana Department of Correction and assessed \$185 in court costs. As part of her plea agreement, a Level 5 felony charge for possession of a narcotic drug and a Class A misdemeanor charge for possession of marijuana were dismissed.

Stephen P. Ping, 43, 401 Canterbury Lane, Portland, pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony, in Jay Superior Court. He was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but 10 days suspended and given 10 days credit for five days served. Ping was placed on probation for 355 days and ordered to submit an evaluation within 30 days of his sentencing for substance abuse counseling. He was fined \$1, assessed \$185 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee.

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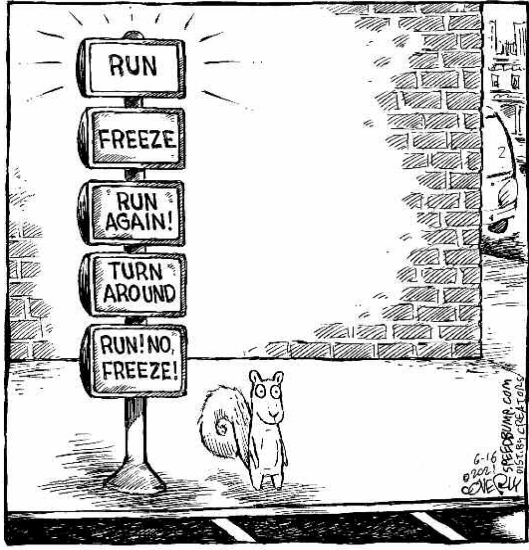
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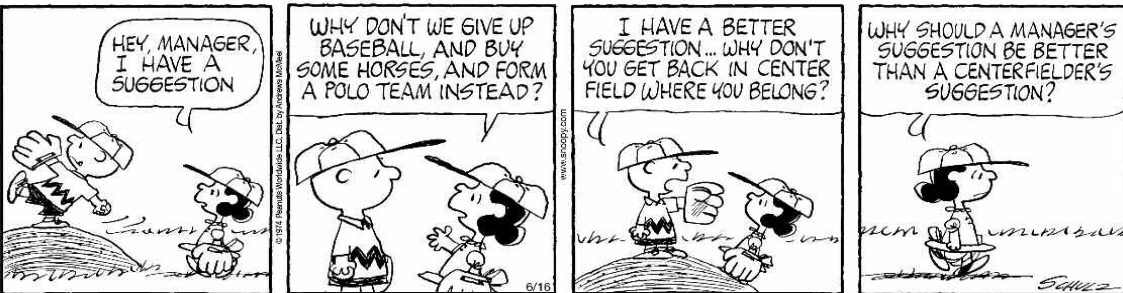


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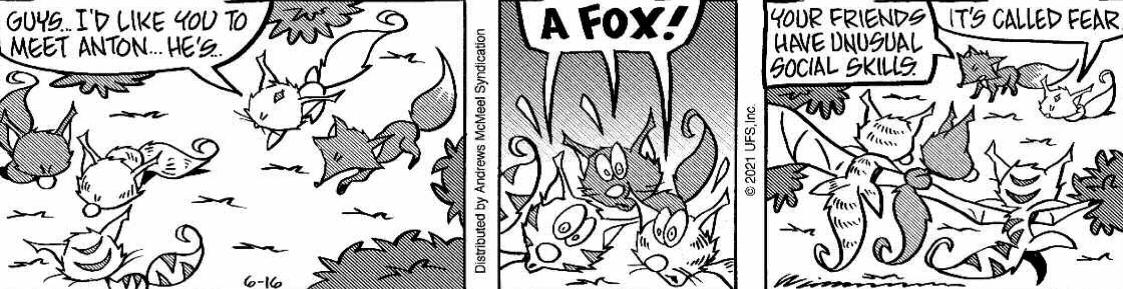
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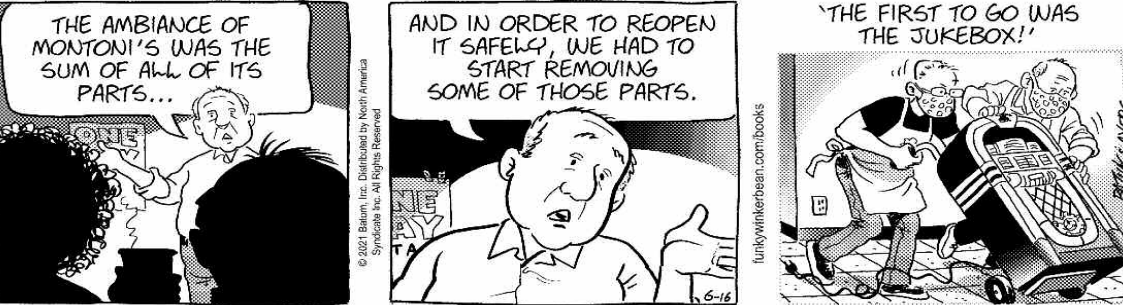
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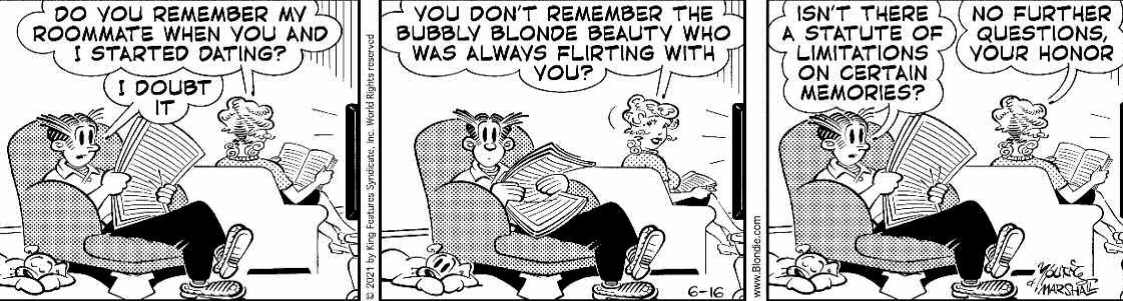
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Winning swimming



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay Co. rolls by 603 in Berne

BERNE — The Jay County Summer Swim Team cruised through its first dual meet of the season, winning 71 of 82 events in an 873-270 victory Tuesday over host South Adams.

It swept three divisions, with Maria Laux and Elly Byrum handling the 9-10-year-old girls events, Kaitlyn Fisher and Brooklyn Byrum taking the 11-12-year-old girls races, and the Bader sisters — Eliza and Mara — owning the 15-and-older competi-

tion. Laux was first in the long freestyle, individual medley and breaststroke while Elly Byrum picked up her victories in the butterfly, backstroke and short freestyle. Fisher won the backstroke, individual medley and short freestyle, and Brooklyn Byrum's first-place efforts came in the long freestyle, butterfly and breaststroke. Eliza Bader, who will swim at Ball State University next season, took the top spot in the butterfly, backstroke and short freestyle while Mara Bader, a Jay County High School junior, won the individual medley, breaststroke and open 200 freestyle.

See Jay page 7

Hailey Wenning of the Fort Recovery Eels swims to victory Tuesday night in the 8-and-younger girls 25-meter butterfly. She took the race in 28.79 seconds to help Fort Recovery to its total of 825 points in a double victory over Union City (298) and Randolph County (159).

FR tops Union City, Randolph Co.

FORT RECOVERY — In every contested relay, the Eels came out on top.

Fort Recovery's summer swim team swept the relays — except those they didn't enter — on Tuesday night while also getting sweeps in the 8-and-younger girls and 11-12-year-old girls divisions as it scored 825 points to defeat Union City (298) and Randolph County (159).

In addition to the dominance in the medley and freestyle relays, the Eels used four swimmers to sweep the 8-and-

younger girls events. Natalie Wenning (50 freestyle, 25 freestyle) and Rozlyn Diller (100 individual medley, 25 breaststroke) each won two events in the division. Hailey Wenning was first in the 25 butterfly and Rhianna Wuebker took the top spot in the 25 backstroke.

Makenna Huelskamp paced the other Fort Recovery sweep with her victories in the 11-12-year-old 50 butterfly, 50 breaststroke and 50 freestyle. Kendall Ranly earned wins in the 100 freestyle and 100 individual

medley, and Livy Timmerman was first in the 50 backstroke.

Four boys won three events apiece for the Eels, with Maverick Huelskamp reaching the wall first in the 8-and-younger 25 butterfly, 25 breaststroke and 25 freestyle. Wyatt Gann took the top spot in the 9-10-year-old 50 freestyle, 25 backstroke and 25 freestyle. Will Faller was victorious in the 11-12-year-old 50 backstroke, 50 breaststroke and 50 freestyle, and Carson Fullenkamp won the 13-14-year-old 100 freestyle, 50 backstroke and 50 breaststroke.

Joining Huelskamp in earning three wins for the girls were Joelle Kaup in the 13-14-year-old 50 butterfly, 50 backstroke and 50 freestyle, and Teigen Fortkamp in the 15-and-older 50 backstroke, 100 individual medley and 50 freestyle.

Double winners on the evening were Isla Kaiser, Kendall Ranly, Autumn Leuthold, Kolson Bechtol and Isaac LeFevre.

Earning single victories for Fort Recovery were Jenna Bertke, Autumn Burk, Ava Bubb and Elijah Grieshop.

Pioneer defeats Matt's in slugfest

Portland Junior League contests weren't particularly close Tuesday night.

One was a slugfest. The Rookie baseball game saw a combined 47 hits, with Pioneer Packaging out-swinging Matt's Garage 21-14.

In Minor softball, Fisher Meats topped Craven Nutrition 11-1. Portland Optimists beat the Rock Church 10-2 in Rookie softball.

Four players — Gabe Bentz, Koda Johnson, Easton Johnson and Bryce VanSkyock — were all a perfect 4-for-4 at the plate for Pioneer. VanSkyock hit a home run, a triple and two doubles to lead the way, while Easton Johnson had a triple and three doubles. Bentz added a triple and two doubles while Koda John-

Junior League roundup

son singled in all of his four at bats.

Matt's was nearly as efficient at the plate, with Lavaughn Ballard going 4-for-4 with a home run and a double.

Fisher 11, Craven 1

Erin Aker paced Fisher in its victory with a double, two RBIs and two runs. Adria Roessner finished with three runs and an RBI, and Ali Clark and Kadilynn Stout each had two singles and a run.

Natalie May scored the lone run for Craven Nutrition.

See Roundup page 7

run it more, pay less!

Run your ad

in the month of JUNE

(Special pricing not available for Special Sections)

Ad Spec/Size	Once	Twice	Three times	Four times
1/2 pg. color	\$400	\$300 each (\$600 total)	\$250 each (\$750 total)	\$200 each (\$800 total)
1/4 pg. color	\$250	\$225 each (\$450 total)	\$200 each (\$600 total)	\$175 each (\$700 total)
3x5 B&W	\$195	\$150 each (\$300 total)	\$115 each (\$345 total)	\$95 each (\$380 total)

Call (260) 726-8141

or email ads@thecr.com

The Commercial Review
Jayland's Award Winning Newspaper

KEEP YOUR DOLLARS LOCAL!

Wendelin Tavern Grill Holy Cow! Indiana Patrons Welcome!
2981 Fort Recovery-Minster Rd.
Located in the great metropolises of Wendelin
419-375-2751 Like our page on Facebook! See all our events & hot specials!

Our NEW Thursday Specials 4-8pm
Our Famous!!
4pc. CHICKEN DINNER! ...only \$6.99
Our Tender & Juicy
14oz. NEW YORK STRIP! ...only \$9.99
SMOKED PORK CHOP ...only \$8.99
Hot or Bourbon BBQ
10pc. CHICKEN CHUNKS! ...only \$6.99

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT 4-8pm!!!
ALL YOU CAN EAT
ALASKAN POLLOCK FISH or
POPCORN SHRIMP DINNER ...\$8.99
or FROG LEGS! ...\$18.99

Our Own Thick Cut 16oz. Marinated Chop! ...\$9.99

Happy Birthday
WE ABSOLUTELY LOVE BIRTHDAYS AROUND HERE
so all of our HAPPY BIRTHDAY PATRONS EAT FOR FREE! on the day of their birth!
NO SHARING! Dine in only.
Up to \$15.00
No alcoholic beverages will be included

Saturday 4-8pm & Sunday 11am-8pm
Sooooo Tender & Juicy
14OZ. NEW YORK STRIP DINNER!!! ...only \$12.99
Our Hand Breaded FROG LEGS DINNER!!! ...only \$11.99
Our Boneless, Butterfly MARINATED PORK CHOP!!! ...only \$9.99
Our Lightly Dusted BUTTERFLY SHRIMP DINNER!!! ...only \$9.99
EVERY SUNDAY 11am-8pm
CHICKEN FRY! Dine-in or carry-out
4pc. Dinner with all the fixin's ...only \$6.99!
10pc. Chicken Bucket ...\$9.99
20pc. Chicken Bucket ...\$18.99