

The Commercial Review

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\$1

No dancing

Students adjust as pandemic derails their prom night

By **CHRIS SCHANZ**
The Commercial Review

Prom is a marquee event. The chance to go shopping for a dress to find “the one,” then don perfect makeup and an intricate updo to complete the look is a little girl’s dream. For the guys, prom can be a chance to suit up for the first time.

A ton of planning goes into making everything perfect for one spring Saturday evening. No amount of preparation can help fathom the impact the worst pandemic in more than a century can have on such an event.

Tonight would have been that special night for Jay County and Fort Recovery high school students, but the ongoing coronavirus has stripped them of the chance, at least for now.

“I wasn’t too upset about it at first, but then it all started to sink in and it hit me,” said Emma James, a JCHS senior. “I realized that my senior year really is over and those memories that I’m supposed to be making I won’t have the chance to anymore.”

James chose her dress long before COVID-19 started to grip the nation in early March. Her dark red, two-piece dress was far from the sparkly and flashy one she donned as a junior, and once she saw it she didn’t bother looking elsewhere.

“This year I wanted to go simplistic and as soon as I saw that dress it was what I wanted,” she said.

Some students, like JCHS senior Trevor Shaneyfelt, expected the annual promenade to be canceled because of how quickly other events, both in the county and statewide, were being impacted.

Mikale Knight said she was upset at first, but her thoughts changed quickly.



Photos provided

Twins Hannah (left) and Emma (right) James and their fellow seniors had planned to spend this evening promenading into the Jay County High School gym, taking photos with family and friends, and then dancing the night away. But the coronavirus pandemic has forced the cancellation or postponement of all school-related events. Instead, the James twins got dressed up and took their prom pictures this week.

“At first I felt kind of selfish to mourn the prom because it seemed like a big thing to me when it was small to everything else that was

going on,” she said. “I was not prepared for it. I was expecting to have it and to have the time with my friends.”

Knight’s bouffant dress has a floral pattern on top. The bottom has flowing tulle with polka dots.

See **Dancing** page 2

Essential business? Many in Jay County make list

Most local manufacturing operations qualify under Holcomb’s order

By **JACK RONALD**
The Commercial Review

What’s essential? The executive order issued by Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb in the face of the coronavirus pandemic spells out in broad terms what operations are essential and which ones are non-essential.

But there’s still been some confusion on the part of the public.

“Pretty much all of the manufacturing base here is essential,” Jay County Health Department environmentalist and administrator Heath Butz said this week.

Companies like Tyson Mexican Original and Ardagh are a part of the chain that puts food and beverages on retail shelves.

Others like MSSL Wiring Systems LLC have contracts for government work.

“Most of the manufacturing here is part of the chain,” said Butz.

He noted the department has received some questions and complaints but is referring those to the governor’s complaint portal at in.gov/dol/3145.htm, adding that enforcement of the order is a state responsibility.

Holcomb’s order stresses that even those businesses and operations that are considered essential should comply with the social distancing guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including 6-foot distancing on the part of employees and the general public.

Retail businesses that are considered essential include grocery stores, supercenters and mass merchandisers like Walmart, specialty food stores, farm and produce stands, farmer’s markets that have been certified by the state, convenience stores, gas stations, pharmacies, automobile dealerships, auto parts supply stores, farm equipment outlets, construction equipment companies, liquor stores, hardware and supply stores, office supply stores, pet supply stores, bicycle shops, gun stores, garden centers and nurseries and building material suppliers like Menard’s.

See **Essential** page 2

Still learning, from a distance

Curriculum kept

By **RAY COONEY**
The Commercial Review

Conjugating verbs one week.

Decorating Easter eggs the next.

Jay County High School German teacher Anni McClung has worked to keep the curriculum she uses in the classroom while also integrating fun elements as the educational process has shifted to e-learning because of the coronavirus pandemic.

McClung received plenty of emails touting online resources for teaching German, but she chose her own path.

“I just feel that that would both overwhelm me and my students. And I do have a curriculum

McClung has transformed her in-classroom teaching to use online platforms

that I follow,” said McClung, who teaches German II, German III and AP German IV/V.

“And my students, with German as a foreign language being a class that continues in level ... I do want them to be prepared. ...”

“So I decided for myself that I would stick to my original curriculum and make it work online. So I

spend a lot of time digitizing those lessons.”

She uses Google Forms and Google Slides for that purpose, including photos and listening activities from her textbook in her new online offerings. And she uses virtual meetings and video apps so that she can hear them speak her native language.

See **Curriculum** page 2



Photo provided

For her German class with teacher Anni McClung, Jay County High School freshman Renna Schwieterman and her fellow students decorated eggs in a traditional German style. Her sisters Hallie (back), Whitney (front) and Karsyn (center) joined her in the fun. After the eggs were complete, McClung’s students used Flipgrid to record videos of themselves describing their eggs in German.

Weather

The high temperature Friday in Jay County was 63 degrees.

Today’s forecast calls for a high in the mid 60s with rain showers in the afternoon and winds at 15 to 25 miles per hour and more rain continuing into Sunday morning.

Skies will be overcast later in the day with wind gusts of 30 mph or higher possible. The low will be 35. Expect mostly sunny skies Monday with a high of 63.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Health Department on Friday reported two new confirmed cases of COVID-19. The county now has a total of 12 cases. As of Monday, 111 Jay County residents have been tested for the disease caused by coronavirus.

Inside

Tonight would have been prom night for Jay County and Fort Recovery high school students. Instead, our prom special section is in today’s newspaper featuring all of the students who got dressed up and sent us their photos. To see the entire section in color, visit thecr.com.



Dancing ...

Continued from page 1
 “I loved the uniqueness of it and how I didn’t think a lot of people would choose it as their first choice,” said Knight, who like many girls purchased her dress long before it was announced April 2 that Indiana schools would be closed for the remainder of the 2019-20 year thus forcing prom to be canceled. “Thought about getting a dress no one else would get.”
 Gyms are packed to the rafters wishing to get a glance at all the elegance. Boys and girls dressed to the nines taking pictures for and with both friends

and family is one of the biggest draws to prom each year. Jay County senior Mackynzie Fairchild was looking forward to the photographs and the memories they would have created.
 “But what I was looking forward to most about prom was dancing my life away with my friends and classmates,” she said. “You can dance and have fun with whoever you want. It’s a night full of building relationships and creating new ones.”
 “I’m going to miss the care-free, positive and hyped attitude throughout it when there’s not

judgement or drama because everyone is dressed to their best and people can be themselves for the night.”
 Prom can be fun for the guys, too. Shaneyfelt, who had purchased a gray suit to match the dress of his date, Allison Jobe, was counting on letting his long, curly red hair flow down the shoulders of his suit while living up the night with his friends.
 Plans have already been put in place for an alternate graduation at Jay County, and Jay Schools superintendent Jeremy Gulley remains adamant prom

— in some shape or form — will still happen albeit not tonight.
 Fairchild, James, Shaneyfelt and Knight are all hopeful the administration and the senior class officers will work together to ensure a safe environment for all.
 But for many, their night won’t go as planned. James said she’d probably just have a movie night with her twin sister, Hannah.
 Knight said she sent an email to all of the senior girls asking for a video clip of them in their respective dresses. She plans to compile them into a single video.
 And for some, their prom attire

is featured in a special section in today’s issue of The Commercial Review.
 “I really liked the idea,” James said. “Some people spend so much money on dresses for them to not be shown off so I thought it was a really good idea.”
 “It also gave us something to do. Just take day to get ready then do pictures. It actually gave us the opportunity to put on the dress instead of it just sitting in a closet until it can be worn. One of my favorite parts about prom last year was seeing all the different dresses so it’ll be nice to still get to see them.”

CR almanac

Sunday 4/26	Monday 4/27	Tuesday 4/28	Wednesday 4/29	Thursday 4/30
55/37	61/47	67/53	62/46	61/47
Temperatures will get colder in addition to a 60% chance of rain. Wind gusts up to 25 mph.	Mostly sunny with a 40% chance of rain in the evening. Slightly warmer than Sunday.	Warmer though there’s a 60% chance of rain during the day. Possible thunderstorms late.	80% chance of rain during the day and 80% at night. Temperatures will stay warm, though	50% chance of rain during the day but temperatures will still be warm. Winds around 16 mph.

Lotteries

Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 5-7-8 Daily Four: 2-4-8-2 Quick Draw: 3-5-8-12-20-34-35-39-44-45-48-55-58-61-62-70-71-73-77-80	Pick 4: 2-6-8-7 Pick 5: 4-9-4-4-0 Rolling Cash: 3-10-22-34-37 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000
Ohio Midday Pick 3: 6-6-2 Pick 4: 1-5-9-4 Pick 5: 7-6-6-1-1 Evening Pick 3: 5-0-5	Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$37 million Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$174 million

Markets

Sunrise St. Anthony Corn.....3.01 May corn.....3.01 Beans.....8.37 May beans.....8.42 Wheat.....5.22	Central States Montpelier Corn.....3.05 May corn.....3.08 Beans.....8.26 May beans.....8.24 Wheat.....5.20 July wheat.....5.20
Cooper Farms Fort Recovery April corn.....3.26 May corn.....3.26 June corn.....3.26	The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....3.11 May corn.....3.11 Beans.....8.35 May beans.....8.35 Wheat.....5.27 May wheat.....5.27
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....2.96	

Today in history

On April 25, 1945, during World War II, U.S. and Soviet forces linked up on the Elbe River, a meeting that dramatized the collapse of Nazi Germany’s defenses. Delegates from some 50 countries gathered in San Francisco to organize the United Nations.
In 1507, a world map produced by German cartographer Martin Waldseemüller contained the first recorded use of the term “America,” in honor of Italian navigator Amerigo Vespucci.
In 1859, ground was broken for the Suez Canal.
In 1898, the United States Congress declared war on Spain; the 10-week conflict resulted in an American victory.
In 1915, during World War I, Allied soldiers invaded the Gallipoli Peninsula in an unsuccessful attempt to take the Ottoman Empire out of the war.
In 1959, the St. Lawrence Seaway opened to shipping.
In 1968, Geneva Town Council hired Ben Eiting of Fort Recovery as the town’s new marshal, street superintendent and water superintendent.
In 1983, 10-year-old Samantha Smith of Manchester, Maine, received a reply from Soviet leader Yuri V. Andropov to a letter she’d written expressing her concerns about nuclear war; Andropov gave assurances that the Soviet Union did not want war, and invited Samantha to visit his country, a trip she made in July.
In 1990, the Hubble Space Telescope was deployed in orbit from the space shuttle Discovery. (It was later discovered that the telescope’s primary mirror was flawed, requiring the installation of corrective components to achieve optimal focus.)
In 1992, Islamic forces in Afghanistan took control of most of the capital of Kabul following the collapse of the Communist government.
In 2015, A magnitude-7.8 earthquake in Nepal killed more than 8,200 people.
 —AP and The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, Jay County Courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	May 4 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, via Zoom 7 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, via Zoom.
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Photo provided

Spreading the message

Erika Kunkler, a 2017 Jay County High School graduate and Ball State University junior, paints the #JayTogether message Wednesday morning on the window at Adams Physical Therapy in Portland.

Essential ...

Continued from page 1
 Also exempt are operations involving agriculture and food and beverage production, news media, non-profit organizations that provide charitable and social services and religious entities.
 Banks, finance companies, payday lenders and insurance companies are also considered essential along with

building, construction and other trades such as plumbers, electricians, exterminators and the like. Shipping and delivery services are also considered essential, as are taxis and laundromats. Funeral homes are also essential.
 Restaurants and bars that serve food are limited to delivery, drive-through, carryout or curbside pick-up. Professional services, such as legal services, accounting services, insurance services and real estate services should be conducted virtually or by phone whenever possible, the order states.
 In all cases, the CDC guidelines on social distancing should be followed, including limiting the number of customers in a retail setting.

Curriculum ...

Continued from page 1
 While freshman Renna Schwieterman said learning German via e-learning is tougher than other classes, she added students meet in their small groups with McClung each e-learning day.
 “If we have any questions, she’ll answer them. ... She’ll always help out,” said Schwieterman. “She’s usually pretty active on email. ... It’s good to keep up because she’s always answering.”
 For a recent lesson on modal verbs — to be able to, to have to, to want to, etc. — McClung included a German news article about how coronavirus is affecting lives. Then she asked the students to answer a series of yes/no questions based on the article.
 The students uploaded their answers via Flipgrid. Then they each had to listen to three of their classmates’ videos and fill in answers on a BINGO grid.
 “That was like my assessment that they understood what they were doing because I could hear them, I could see them fill in their answers,” she said.
 The timing fell perfectly for the egg assignment, as the next chapter in the German textbook was about holidays, dates and greetings like “Happy Easter.”
 It’s tradition in Germany to blow out eggs, decorate them and hang them to brighten their homes. McClung used Flipgrid and Google Slides to show her students the process.
 “I really wanted them to get creative because we have been encouraged to give them lessons that they can do away from the computer,” said McClung. “So this was perfect. And if they wanted to, I encouraged them to involve the entire family — blow out eggs, eat omelets and decorate eggs.”

RE-ELECT

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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JUDGE
JAY SUPERIOR COURT

Experienced, Trained
Dedicated, & Fair

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ELECT

GAIL SIEGRIST

DUES

Jay County Superior Court Judge

Paid for by the Committee to elect Gail Dues for Jay Superior Court Judge

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES - ACES

What are Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)?
 ACEs are potentially traumatic events that occur in a child’s life:

Physical Abuse

Emotional Abuse

Sexual Abuse

Domestic Violence

Parental Substance Abuse

Mental Illness

Suicide or Death

Crime or Imprisoned Family

Please visit our website for more information about ACE's and other programs @ www.jcdpc.org or call us at 260.251.3259

Letter to governor is way off base

Ill-advised. That's one way to describe it. Some of the others probably don't belong in print.

State Rep. J.D. Prescott (R-Union City), whose district includes Jay County, Randolph County and part of Delaware County, was one of four state representatives along with Jim Lucas, Christy Stutzman and Christopher Judy who sent a letter dated April 20 to Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb. In short, it questioned Holcomb's most recent extension of the state's stay-at-home order through May 1 and called for reopening the Hoosier economy now.

The letter made a variety of arguments that do not hold water. Let's take a look:

•"The original prediction of the number to succumb to COVID-19 has been significantly reduced downward."

Yes, that is true. But that's not an argument to end social-distancing. If anything, it's an argu-

Editorial

ment to continue the practice that has been successful in helping us avoid a massive spike in infections.

•"Since the original executive orders were implemented, we have also discovered many forms of effective treatments using existing medications."

False. Simply false.

Corticosteroids have been used to treat some patients, but their effectiveness has not been determined. There are no FDA-approved drugs that have been proven safe and effective against COVID-19.

There are theories.

There are trials.

There are absolutely not

"many forms of effective treatments."

•"It has since been discovered that countless people have either already had the virus or currently have it yet are asymptomatic."

Absolutely not. In fact, as of Thursday, 75,553 Hoosiers have been tested. They are counting. And that count is barely over 1% of the state's more than 6.7 million residents. Beyond that, the fact that someone can have the virus and be asymptomatic shows just how dangerous it is. You, the editor of a newspaper or even a state representative can be a carrier without even knowing it.

We thoroughly understand the desire to get our economy opened back up. We, like everyone, want to be able to go out to eat, attend a concert or just get together with friends in public.

Perhaps no one is more anxious to get the country reopened than President Donald Trump. But even he said Wednesday he

"disagreed strongly" with Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp's move to ease his state's month-long shutdown.

The federal government has set out sensible guidelines — whitehouse.gov/openingamerica — for reopening. One of the criteria is to have a downward trajectory of documented cases or a downward trajectory of positive tests as a percentage of total tests. Indiana has not yet come close to meeting either.

The coronavirus pandemic has made amateur epidemiologists of us all. Everyone has an opinion. But not all of our opinions should hold the same weight.

The opinions that matter most are not those of Prescott, his fellow representatives or even this newspaper. Rather, the most important opinions are those of experts like Indiana State Health Commissioner Dr. Kristina Box, like Ohio Department of Health director Dr. Amy Acton, like Dr. Anthony Fauci, who has served

as director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious disease since the Reagan administration, like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and like the leaders of our own local hospitals.

To his credit, Holcomb is following the advice of medical experts. And he's collaborating with governors of other Midwest states about when and how Indiana should begin to lift stay-at-home restrictions.

He should be applauded for doing so.

As for the letter from Prescott and his colleagues, it was irresponsible. Following its advice would put Hoosiers in danger. Lifting restrictions immediately would potentially negate the positive impact the stay-at-home order has made in terms of slowing the spread of coronavirus and saving lives.

We hope the governor read the letter and promptly discarded it. That's the fate it deserved. — R.C.

The Fed should go negative next week

By NARAYANA KOCHERLAKOTA
Bloomberg Opinion

Unprecedented situations require unprecedented actions. That's why the Federal Reserve should fight a rapidly deepening recession by taking interest rates below zero for the first time ever.

When Fed officials hold their regular policy-making meeting next week, all the lights on their dashboard will be flashing red. The unemployment rate is expected to reach double digits by June. With global demand cratering, the Fed's preferred measure of inflation will likely fall to 1% or even lower by the end of the year — well below its target of 2%. And in the absence of a COVID-19 vaccine, the malaise will likely persist well into 2021.

Any Economics 101 student knows that in such a dire situation, the central bank should cut interest rates to stimulate growth and job creation. But as Chair Jerome Powell reiterated last month, the Fed doesn't plan to do so in the foreseeable future, because a further quarter-percentage-point cut would drive the interest rate it pays on banks' reserve deposits into negative territory.

Why the fear of negative rates? A decade ago, the answer would have been that it was impossible to go below zero: Banks would simply avoid the charges by withdrawing their reserve deposits and holding the funds in paper currency, which pays zero interest. But economists now recognize that doesn't happen, because it's costly to store billions (or trillions) of dollars of paper currency safely. Several European central banks, as well as the Bank of Japan, have successfully taken interest rates below zero.

This stimulates consumer demand in the usual ways: by incentivizing banks to make loans at lower interest rates, to bid up the prices of financial assets, and to charge higher fees for deposits.

Another of the Fed's concerns about negative rates has to do with financial stability — a relatively new (and completely made up) responsibility of central banks. Sure, negative

Narayana Kocherlakota



... negative interest rates would help lower the unemployment rate from what is likely to be its highest level since World War II.

interest rates would help lower the unemployment rate from what is likely to be its highest level since World War II. But officials worry that they will also weigh on banks' profitability, pushing down share prices and making the financial system more vulnerable to distress. Put crudely, the Fed is giving up on unemployment reductions to help keep banks and their shareholders safer.

The Fed is inventing a trade-off where none exists. If the central bank really cares about financial stability, it has many tools to ensure it. Right now, for example, it could block large banks from paying dividends, a practice that erodes the capital they need to absorb losses. None of this precludes a monetary policy focused on the Fed's congressional mandate of maximizing employment and keeping inflation near target.

So, the Fed is left no good argument against going negative. Terrifyingly high unemployment and potentially rapid disinflation are powerful arguments in favor. Next week, the Fed should take interest rates at least a quarter percentage point below zero.

Kocherlakota is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist.



Rushing would be lethal

By MICHAEL S. SAAG
Special to The Washington Post

In Steven Spielberg's 1975 film "Jaws," a great white shark haunts the beach community of Amity Island. Police Chief Brody declares the beaches off-limits but is overruled by the mayor. Fourth of July is approaching, and all the island businesses depend on a successful holiday weekend. After an innocent tiger shark is captured, the mayor declares the problem solved. As vacationers swarm into the water, the real predator shark kills a boy paddling on a raft, and a second round of panic floods the island.

Today our country is being attacked by a predator virus. By the end of April, it almost certainly will have infected more than 1 million people here, resulting in up to 60,000 deaths. Since early March, most states have announced "stay at home" restrictions that are successfully flattening the curve of anticipated cases. Though many hospitals have been stretched to capacity, those orders averted a catastrophic implosion of health-care systems and saved lives.

But stay-at-home policies were implemented at a high cost. The closing of small businesses, restaurants, bars and other "nonessential" activities resulted in a huge spike in unemployment, economic hardship for tens of millions of citizens and near-collapse of the economy. Pressure is building for release of the restrictions and a gradual return toward normalcy.

Ending restrictions without plans based on sound public health principles, however, will almost surely result in a new wave of cases, putting us right back where we were in early March. The virus is lurking just under the surface of our frustration. The vast majority of Americans remain susceptible. It doesn't matter if the restrictions are lifted on May 1, June 1 or July 1 — without reentry



Michael S. Saag

plans grounded in science, we're headed for Amity Island outcomes.

Most of the current state proposals for reopening society rely on social distancing, screening workers for symptoms of COVID-19, asking those who feel ill to refrain from coming to work and frequent hand-washing. These are nice steps. But since up to 50% of transmissions of the virus occur before symptoms develop, with the peak time of transmission beginning in the five to eight hours before the onset of symptoms, these safeguards are not enough.

The proposed interventions alone will almost certainly fail and result in a new surge of cases. It will take 14 to 28 days for the spike to be noticed, and probably another week or two for a second stay-at-home order to be issued. By that time, the health-care systems will be once again swamped, fatigued health-care workers will be called on to again perform heroic feats and the cry will go up, "Will this ever end?"

There's a better way to reopen society — and it's no secret: It's testing.

Public health officials use this approach every day in controlling infectious diseases such as tuberculosis. It employs aggressive, early testing of those with symptoms (index cases), along with isolation and testing of all those who had close contact with the index case until their status is determined. Other countries, including South Korea, Israel and Germany, are accomplishing contact tracing with the aid of an expanded workforce and information technolo-

gy. The index cases are treated and placed in quarantine. This process minimizes exposure and can allow us to gradually lift restrictions and begin safely returning toward normalcy. The final piece of the public health approach involves widespread random testing to identify who has had prior infection and thus might have immunity (a condition yet to be proved, but which seems likely).

The United States has expanded COVID-19 testing capacity significantly in recent weeks, with up to 4 million tests being administered, currently around 140,000 a day. Unfortunately, estimates summarized by the Kaiser Family Foundation indicate that between 500,000 and 4 million tests daily will be required to manage the U.S. pandemic. The tests alone will cost billions per month — and there will also be the cost of personnel and staffing needed to manage them. No state can afford its share of this; the federal government must act.

In "Jaws," the rush of Amity Island's mayor to declare the beaches safe to save the economy without addressing the real problem — a predatory shark — led to needless deaths. Rushing forward to drop stay-at-home policies without first tackling the greatest need — testing — will have the same outcome.

It's going to take a bit more time and significantly more money. It's a national need requiring a national solution. States can help with stay-at-home orders, but the federal government needs to deliver on testing.

To paraphrase what Chief Brody said when he first saw the actual size of the shark: We're going to need a bigger boat.

Saag is associate dean for global health and the director of the Center for AIDS Research at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Follow him on Twitter @msaagmd.

The Commercial Review

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



JACK RONALD
President and Publisher

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

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Ardagh posts quarterly results

Ardagh Group, parent of glass container manufacturing plants in Dunkirk and Winchester, said its first quarter financial results were in line with expectations.

Business Roundup

Revenue for the quarter was \$1.622 billion, unchanged from the prior year. Adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization totaled \$273 million, which was consistent with the prior year.

Paul Coulson, chairman and chief executive, said that so far there has been “no material impact from COVID-19,” adding, “It is too early to assess the macroeconomic impact of the pandemic.”

Coulson added that Ardagh’s \$1.5 billion in liquidity is sufficient to manage the current uncertain environment.

Revenues from glass packaging were down 1%, while metal beverage packaging was up 1%. North American glass operations saw a 3% drop in revenue.

Income down

First Financial Bancorp reported first quarter income down sharply from the same quarter in 2019.

For the three months, the banking company, which has branches in Portland and Fort Recovery, reported net income of \$28.6 million, or 29 cents per diluted common share. That compares to net income of \$48.7 million, or 49 cents per diluted common share, for the fourth quarter of 2019 and \$45.8 million, or 47 cents per diluted common share, for the first quarter of 2019.

The banking company made a \$1 million contribution to the First Financial Foundation for COVID-19 relief during the quarter.

Stay local

Fort Recovery Mayor Dave Kaup has proclaimed Thursday, April 30, as “Support Your Local Small Business Day.”

“This is our chance as a community to show our gratitude and support for our many local businesses and let them know we appreciate the business opportunities and services they provide to us year-round,” Kaup said in a prepared statement.

“Buy a gift certificate for use later,” said Kaup. “All of these timely purchases will help show our support to all of our local small businesses and we will be doing our part to help our businesses to stay alive.”

Joins Walmart

Walmart has named Target veteran William White as its new U.S. chief marketing officer, AdAge reported this week.

White has been senior vice president of marketing at Target since 2013. Prior to that he was an executive at Coca-Cola Co.

Down a bit

First Merchants Corporation, parent of First Merchants Bank, this week reported first quarter 2020 net income of \$34.3 million compared to \$38.8 million during the same period in 2019.

Earnings per share for the period totaled 62 cents per share compared to the first quarter of 2019 result of 78 cents per share.

Total assets equaled \$12.7 billion as of quarter-end and loans totaled \$8.6 billion, the company reported.

The corporation’s allowance for loan losses totaled \$99.5 million as of March 31, up from \$80.9 million as of March 31, 2019.

“The increase of \$18.6 million, or 22.9%, primarily reflects our view of increased credit risk related to the COVID-19 pandemic,” the company said in a press release.

Watching trends

Mary Meeker, known for her annual Internet Trends Report, has issued



Photo provided

Team effort

The Portland Pizza King team has been busy during the COVID-19 crisis, donating more than 1,000 meals. Pizzas have been delivered to Persimmon Ridge, Portland, staff and residents as well as Miller’s Merry Manor, Dunkirk. At least 20 students a week have been picking up free pizzas Mondays through Fridays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

a technology trend report reflecting the impact of the pandemic.

The report by Bond Capital was first reported on the website Axios. Meeker, a Jay County native, is Bond’s best-known partner.

Her trend report said that the pandemic is likely to have impact similar to the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

“COVID-19 has upended our modern lives in ways we’re just starting to understand,” the report said.

Meeker foresees an acceleration of digital transformation because so many are now working from home.

The link between new technology and health care is also likely to accelerate.

“We are optimists and believe there is hope on the other side of despair... We need government, business and entrepreneurial intervention at scale (deployed logically and effectively) to get to the other side,” the Bond report said.

Profit down

NextEra Energy Inc., parent of Bluff Point Wind Energy Center, reported a drop in first quarter profits from last year’s level.

The company’s earnings totaled \$421 million, or 86 per share. That compares with \$680 million, or \$1.41 per share, in last year’s first quarter.

Taking toll

COVID-19 is taking a toll on the clean energy indus-

try, The Denver Post reported this week.

The Post cited a report by E2, Environmental Entrepreneurs that said 106,000 workers lost their jobs in the clean energy sector in March.

Colorado lost 1,080 clean-energy jobs, or 1.6% of the workforce, The Post reported, citing data from the U.S. Department of Labor.

The Post said Scout Clean Energy, which develops, finances and builds wind and solar energy installations in 13 states, is concerned about delays in materials from other countries and how uncertainty will affect financing and the ability to benefit from the tax credits on a timely basis.

Scout is the parent of Bitter Ridge Wind Farm,

now under construction in southwestern Jay County.

Mike Rucker, founder and chief executive officer of Scout, told the Post the hope is that Congress will include relief for the energy industry in future legislation.

Coming down

Demolition of the former Celina Motel has been given the green light to make way for a new commercial development, The Daily Standard has reported.

Celina City Council approved the appropriation of \$76,300 in revolving loan funds to pay for the demolition of the problem property.

Lake Edge LLC plans a \$4 million investment in a commercial development on that site.

Deeds

Dunkirk Investment Group LLC to DRS Properties LLC, warranty deed — Lot 5, Block 4, Original Plat of Dunkirk

Lillian M. Foland and Arvin R. Foland (deceased) to Lillian M. Foland, deed affidavit — Section 22, Knox Township, 70 acres

Brown Farms and Rentals LLC to Florence Family Farms Ltd., warranty deed — Section 32, Bearcreek Township, 43.47 acres

Brown Farms and Rentals LLC to Florence Family Farms Ltd., warranty deed — Section 32, Bearcreek Township, 15.56 acres

Elliott Family Revocable Trust to Pioneer Warehousing LLC, trustee deed — Section 16, Wayne Township, 14 acres

The Cellular Connection LLC to Portland 928 LLC, warranty deed — Lot 6, Outlot 24, Bakers

Addition, Portland

Shirley K. Rogers and Nikki L. Flaming to Shirley K. Rogers and Nikki L. Flaming, death deed — Part of Outlot 2, Woodlawn Park Addition, Portland

Aaron D. Lairson to Makayla Schlosser, warranty deed — Part of parcel Section 8, Wayne Township David Gierhart and Jo Ann Gierhart to Parker and Patricia May, warranty deed — Section 2, Bearcreek Township, 11 acres

Larry Joe Johnson (deceased) to James P. and Kristen P. Schoenlein, personal representative deed — Section 1, Greene Township, 20 acres

Larry Joe Johnson (deceased) to James P. and Kristen P. Schoenlein, personal representative deed — Section 1, Greene Township, 36.78 acres

Larry Joe Johnson (deceased)

to James P. and Kristen P. Schoenlein, personal representative deed — Section 1, Greene Township, 45 acres

Larry Joe Johnson (deceased) to James P. and Kristen P. Schoenlein, personal representative deed — Section 1, Greene Township, 25 acres

Larry Joe Johnson (deceased) to James P. and Kristen P. Schoenlein, personal representative deed — Section 1, Greene Township, 40 acres

Larry Joe Johnson (deceased) to James P. and Kristen P. Schoenlein, personal representative deed — Section 1, Greene Township, 40 acres

Larry Joe Johnson (deceased) to James P. and Kristen P. Schoenlein, personal representative deed — Section 1, Greene Township, 25 acres

Theodore P. Ferguson to

Theodore P. Ferguson and Laura K. Emerick, quit claim deed — Part of Outlot 3, Fleming Third Addition, Portland

Theodore P. Ferguson to Theodore P. Ferguson and Laura K. Emerick, quit claim deed — Lot 19 and 1/2 vacated alley, Jaqua and Hayes Addition, Portland

Robert Rickner, Steven Rickner, Donna Rickner Loden, Donna Loden, Brandy Laxton, Brandy Fuller, Carolyn Jean Rickner (deceased) to Matthew F. and Brandy Sue Laxton, warranty deed — Lot 2, Adair Addition, Portland

Robert Rickner, Steven Rickner, Donna Rickner Loden, Donna Loden, Brandy Laxton, Brandy Fuller, Carolyn Jean Rickner (deceased) to Matthew F. and Brandy Sue Laxton, warranty deed — Lot 37, Corwin and

Jaqua Addition, Portland

Ted and Luann Champ to Indiana Michigan Power Company, easement — Parcel, Section 11, Richland Township

Jason W. Priest to Heather Priest, quit claim deed — Lot 23, Woodlawn Park Addition, Portland

Jason W. Priest to Heather Priest, quit claim deed — Lot 24, Woodlawn Park Addition, Portland

Luther L. McKamey (deceased) and Janice McKamey (deceased) to Valerie Laux and Kimberly Bell, death deed — Part of Outlot 25, Lot 21, Dunkirk Land Company First Addition, Dunkirk

Valerie Laux and Kimberly Bell to Scott Ryan Foy, warranty deed — Part of Outlot 25, Lot 21, Dunkirk Land Company First Addition, Dunkirk

Factory was home during ‘longest shift’

By MEAGAN FLYNN

The Washington Post

At his factory just off the Delaware River, in the far southeastern corner of Pennsylvania, Joe Boyce clocked in on March 23 for the longest shift of his life.

In his office, an air mattress replaced his desk chair. He brought a toothbrush and shaving kit, moving into the Braskem petrochemical plant in Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania, as if it were a makeshift college dormitory. The casual office kitchen became a mess hall for him and his 42 coworkers-turned-roommates. The factory’s emergency operations center became their new lounge room.

For 28 days, they did not

leave — sleeping and working all in one place.

In what they called a “live-in” at the factory, the undertaking was just one example of the endless ways that Americans in every industry have uniquely contributed to fighting coronavirus. The 43 men went home Sunday after each working 12-hour shifts all day and night for a month straight, producing tens of millions of pounds of the raw materials that will end up in face masks and surgical gowns worn on the front lines of the pandemic.

No one told them they had to do it, Braskem America CEO Mark Nikolich said. All of the workers volunteered, hun-

tering down at the plant to ensure no one caught the virus outside as they sought to meet the rocketing demand for their key product, polypropylene, which is needed to make various medical and hygienic items. Braskem’s plant in Neal, West Virginia, is doing a second live-in now. The story was earlier reported in Philadelphia’s WPVI.

“We were just happy to be able to help,” Boyce, an operations shift supervisor and a 27-year veteran at Braskem America, told The Washington Post. “We’ve been getting messages on social media from nurses, doctors, EMS workers, saying thank you for what we’re doing. But

we want to thank them for what they did and are continuing to do. That’s what made the time we were in there go by quickly, just being able to support them.”

For countless face masks in America, their journey from a blob of chemicals into the hands of first responders and grocery-store clerks likely began at a plant just like Braskem’s.

The company, which touts itself as the largest petrochemical producer in the Americas, is one of the earliest links in the supply chain, providing a key ingredient for the personal protective equipment that millions of people worldwide now need each

day. Nikolich said the company has shifted its production lines to focus on making that key ingredient, polypropylene, given the high demand due to COVID-19.

The company then sells the product to clients that turn it into a nonwoven fabric, which medical manufacturers ultimately use to make face masks, medical gowns and even disinfectant wipes, among other items.

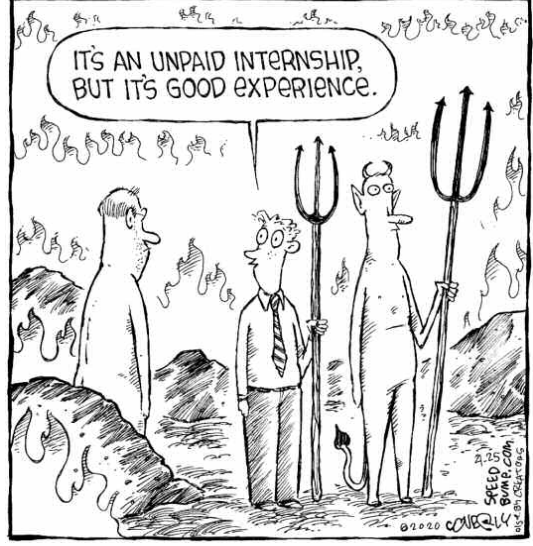
Nikolich estimated that the Braskem plants in Pennsylvania and West Virginia have produced 40 million pounds of polypropylene over the past month — enough to hypothetically make

either 500 million N95 masks or 1.5 billion surgical masks, if the material were only used for that purpose. (It will also be used for other PPE such as the gowns, Nikolich stressed.)

“It just makes you immensely proud to be associated with a team like that,” Nikolich said. “They’re operating in a strange environment 24/7, 365.”

Nikolich said the plants decided to launch the live-ins so employees could avoid having to worry about catching the virus while constantly traveling to and from work, and so the staff at the factory could be closed off to nonessential personnel.

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Peanuts



Rose is Rose



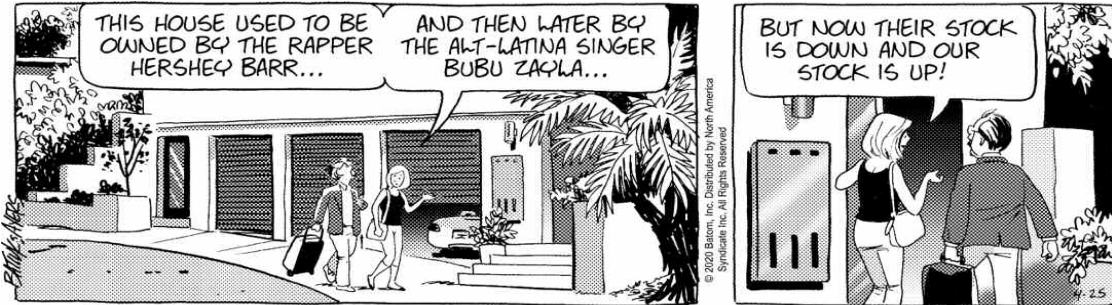
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: ACROSS 1 Tousele effort- lessly 5 Mast 9 Anderson Cooper's channel 12 Vivacity, in music 13 Untamed 14 Non-clerical 15 1946 song "— in Calico" 16 Actor Omar 17 Paris summer 18 Big rig 19 Botanist Gray 20 Booty 21 "Spring ahead" hrs. 23 Hit CBS series 25 Dust particles 28 Find not guilty 32 "— Like It" 33 Pound fraction 34 Spanish dish 36 Moved 37 World Cup cheer 38 Toss in 39 Scoff 42 "Smoking or —?" 44 Leak out slowly 48 Squid squirt 49 Look after 50 Shoppe description 51 Russian jet 52 Indy event 53 Pond growth 54 TV spots 55 —-friendly 56 Remits 20 Bottled dish cleaner 22 Cranium 24 Berate 25 Tree fluid 26 Unpaid TV ad 27 Needle hole 29 German con- junction 30 "Rocks" 31 Slugger Williams 35 Dido's lover 36 Male goose 39 Iwo — 40 Oklahoma city 41 Heart charts (Abbr.) 43 "Measure twice, cut —" 45 Jazzy Fitzgerald 46 Jittery 47 Carrots' mates 49 Capote nick- name Solution time: 26 mins. MAC RBIS ZEST EMO ORSO ALTA LOVEBIRD GMAN ELEM TROTS IDRAIS KLEE TESS LAIDBACK ASU SORES BOA LIPBALMS USER ELLA RHODA BLINK SOUR LONG LUNCHBOX ABRA ISAK ENO HEEL DOGS DOO Yesterday's answer 4-25

Grid for the crossword puzzle with numbers 1-56 indicating starting positions for words.

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Some boxing hopefuls needed one more day

By KEN MAGUIRE
Associated Press

With tears in her eyes, Nadine Apetz asked herself "why not one more day?"

The German boxer had waited four years, and a ticket to the Tokyo Olympics was tantalizingly close when the qualifying tournament in London was suspended because of the coronavirus outbreak.

"One day longer and I might have had it," said Apetz, a 34-year-old welterweight who is studying for a doctorate in neuroscience. "I was crying because I was so disappointed. You are so close to your biggest goal, and it's all stopped."

The pandemic has forced many Olympic hopefuls to wait it out, but the delay is particularly painful for the European boxers who were on the verge of qualification last month. Several were only one victory away.

The competition at the Copper Box was suspended after three days. A short time later, the Tokyo Games were postponed for one year and are now set to open on July 23, 2021.

"They probably shouldn't have started it in the first place," Apetz said, citing public health risks.

Fighters including Apetz, Emilie Sonvico of France and Charley Davison of Britain won

their opening bouts. If they win their next one, they'll qualify.

Likewise, lightweights Luke McCormack of Britain and Nikolai Terteryan of Denmark can qualify in their next bout, while their welterweight twin brothers Pat McCormack and Sebastian Terteryan can guarantee spots with two more wins each.

The London competition lasted long enough for 16 boxers to qualify. Among them was British featherweight Peter McGrail.

"Tokyo 2020 see ya there," he wrote on Instagram, followed by an expletive about the virus.

Sixty-one European spots remain available.

"It was so painful for me," the

31-year-old Sonvico, who like Apetz was scheduled to fight again on Day 4, said of leaving London empty-handed. "It's difficult because we have to go back to training. It's a lot of work, a lot of sacrifice."

Like other athletes, they also have practical challenges in lockdown. Davison, a flyweight who set aside earlier Olympic aspirations to start a family, trains at home while co-parenting three young children.

Apetz is trying to finish her Ph.D in neuroscience, examining brain stimulation in Parkinson's disease.

Sonvico is an investigator with the gendarmerie, which conducts

police duties but under French military jurisdiction. She's been on leave while with the national team, but that was to end soon.

"If it goes well, I'll need one more year," said Sonvico, who uses a rowing machine and heavy bag at home in the south of France. "It's a problem. The president of the French (boxing) federation is asking the gendarmerie to see what we can do."

Both Apetz and Sonvico set goals for Tokyo only after their division — welterweight — and one other was added after the Rio de Janeiro Olympics. The Tokyo Games will have five women's classes; the men's divisions were cut from 10 to eight.

Painful ...

Continued from page 8

"I don't try to get hit by a pitch," he said. No player in Major League Baseball had ever been hit more than three times in a single contest. "My teammates think I try to lean into it."

In the bottom of the eighth inning, Williams-Sutton got another plate appearance but grounded into an inning-ending double play, but not before fouling off five consecutive pitches. One of them deflected off his leg.

Ouch.

"It's frustrating because I'm looking out for the health of my player," Tin-Cap manager Anthony Contreras said. Williams-Sutton had missed more than two weeks in July with a wrist injury. "You just want him to be as healthy as possible, trying to keep his spirits up and laugh."

The four-HBP effort certainly came at a price. Heading to the post-game interview, Williams-Sutton was hobbling. While he didn't have any ice as he spoke to reporters just outside the TinCaps' clubhouse, it was clear he was in pain.

"Right now I'm just feeling a little down," he said. "My arm is hurting, I'm going to go into the training room and get some ice

"It's frustrating because I'm looking out for the health of my player. You just want him to be as healthy as possible, trying to keep his spirits up and laugh."

—Anthony Contreras, TinCaps manager

on it. Hopefully I feel better tomorrow.

"Good thing we have an off day tomorrow because no way I will be able to play tomorrow," he joked.

The feat — getting hit by four pitches in a single game — was without a doubt exceptional, even if it didn't take much "effort." But Williams-Sutton most definitely made the baseball adage come true.

No one could have expected to see such a game when they got to the ball park that evening.

Draft ...

Continued from page 8

Ballard gave himself even more flexibility by signing defensive tackle Sheldon Day along with cornerbacks Xavier Rhodes and T.J. Carrie.

On Wednesday, the Colts re-signed receiver Marcus Johnson and added tight end Trey Burton, best known for throwing the touchdown pass to Nick Foles on the "Philly Special" in the Eagles' Super Bowl victory two years ago.

Burton spent the past two seasons with Chicago and will be reunited

Empty ...

Continued from page 8

In Sweden, where soccer authorities are planning for a June 14 restart, a venue official at champion Djurgarden told the AP that it would be possible to limit numbers to 50 if fans aren't allowed in stadiums.

In Switzerland, leaked plans attained by daily newspaper Blick this week stated there should be no more than 200 essential staff at games.

Much depends on the directives from governments and the demands of domestic and international broadcasters, whose money clubs increasingly rely on.

Players and match officials obviously are on the list. Each squad for a match

with Colts coach Frank Reich, the Eagles' offensive coordinator during their title-winning season. He signed a one-year deal as he continues to recover from season-ending hip surgery in December.

"They love pass-catching tight ends and that's what I am," Burton said. "I'm undersized, I know that, but blocking is more a mentality so I think I've grown tremendously over the last four years at this position."

None of the three quarterbacks on Indy's depth chart — Rivers, Jacoby

has 18 or 20 players in major European leagues, and some back-ups will be required in case of late withdrawals. There is a four-person team of match officials (referee, two assistant referees and a fourth official), along with a replacement official.

Then there's the coaching staff — managers, assistants, fitness coaches, physios and a club doctor.

Other essential people include a match delegate, an anti-doping official, official photographers and staff from broadcasters (like sound engineers, technicians, camera crew and producers), and medical workers. In England, for example, there needs to be four paramedics and an

ambulance driver at every game.

In a list provided by the Spanish league while it planned for games without fans in March, other groups getting stadium access included both teams' board of directors, community managers, integrity officials and what it termed "technical staff with functions strictly related to holding the games," which could be a group of up to a maximum of 100 people. That could include caterers, ground staff, ball boys and girls, maintenance, ground-safety officers, people who run advertising hoardings and stewards.

The number of journalists attending would vary

from country to country, but that could easily be slimmed down. However, what's unlikely to be altered is the TV set-up for top European competitions that generally uses between 10 and 15 cameras, plus technicians and interviewers for the host broadcaster.

When Borussia Mönchengladbach played Cologne last month, under different societal circumstances, there were 600 people in the stadium, Gladbach said. That included 250 media representatives, 200 security staff, 80 players and team staff members, 50 other club employees and smaller numbers of ball boys and paramedics.

Brissett or Chad Kelly — is under contract beyond this season. Another receiver or tight end isn't out of the question, either, after injuries decimated the Colts' receiving corps last season.

Where else could Ballard look? Perhaps offensive line. Indy's five-man unit has been one of the league's best the past two seasons and all five starters are back. But longtime left tackle Anthony Castonzo pondered retirement earlier this year before signing a two-year contract.

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Sports

Exceptional Efforts

Ouch! TinCap gets painful prize

Editors note: In more than six years, Chris Schanz has seen his fair share of individual performances, whether in a single contest or over the course of a career. In this "Exceptional Efforts" series, he will take a look back at some of those standout games or careers.

By **CHRIS SCHANZ**
The Commercial Review

One of the wonders about the game of baseball is the old saying, "Every time you go to the park you have a chance to see something you've never seen before."

July 22 was most definitely one of those days.

I was at Parkview Field in Fort Wayne, covering the Fort Wayne TinCaps' game against the Cedar Rapids Kernels, an affiliate of the Minnesota Twins.

Dwanya Williams-Sutton, a 22-year-old native of Wilson, North Carolina, was leading the TinCaps with a .386 on-base percentage, and had been hit by 15 pitches, good for third in the Midwest League.

Both of those numbers increased on that July summer evening.

Williams-Sutton, who the San Diego Padres drafted in the fifth round of the 2018 draft out of East Carolina, stepped into the right-handed batter's box in the bottom of the first inning against Kernel starter Tyler Palm and drew a five-pitch walk.

One inning later, Palm's first pitch of the at-bat struck Williams-Sutton on

the left arm with bases loaded for an RBI hit by pitch.

Alex Schick's first pitch of the fourth inning also hit Williams-Sutton on the left arm.

In the fifth frame, Schick hit him again.

Another plate appearance. Another hit by pitch. Another RBI for the 6-foot, 2-inch, 225-pound outfielder.

Williams-Sutton went to the plate in the seventh inning after Blake Hunt hit a leadoff double. In four trips to the dish, Williams-Sutton didn't get to swing the bat but had reached base each time.

Of course he'd want to finally put the ball in play. There's no way he can get hit again, right?

Nate Hadley's first offering missed low and away. The second pitch was even closer to the dirt. Hadley's third hit Williams-Sutton square in the left arm.

"It's frustrating, but then it's not," Williams-Sutton said after the game. "The Padres organization really focuses on on-base percentage. That's the good thing. The bad thing is not being able to swing the bat."

This night, one in which the TinCaps won 10-2, Williams-Sutton set Fort Wayne franchise record for hit by pitches in a game. Minor League Baseball's available statistics only go back to 2005. That July evening, Williams-Sutton became just the sixth MLB player to be hit by a pitch four times in one game.

See **Painful** page 7



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Dwanya Williams-Sutton of the Fort Wayne TinCaps reacts to being hit by a pitch against the Cedar Rapids Kernels during a game July 22 at Parkview Field in Fort Wayne. Williams-Sutton was hit a franchise record four times in the TinCaps' 10-2 win against the Kernels.

Colts draft WR, RB

By **MICHAEL MAROT**
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts used the first part of the offseason to invest in their defense.

Now it's time to work on the offense.

General manager Chris Ballard started quickly Friday, grabbing Southern California receiver Michael Pittman Jr. with their first pick in the NFL draft at No. 34 overall. The Colts then traded up to No. 41 with Cleveland to take star Wisconsin running back Jonathan Taylor.

"I was almost certain I was going to be a Colt today," Pittman said on a video conference call. "That's why you see the blue shirt. I thought we had a good connection and it felt like it was the right fit."

Pittman caught 101 passes for 1,275 yards and 11 touchdowns for the Trojans. At 6-foot-4 and 223 pounds, he gives the Colts a bigger body to work opposite Pro Bowl receiver T.Y. Hilton. Some thought he might be selected late in the first round after running the 40-yard dash in 4.52 seconds at the scouting combine in February.

Pittman's father was an NFL running back for 11 seasons with Arizona, Tampa Bay and Denver.

Indy thought highly enough of Taylor it gave up its original second-round pick, No. 44 overall, and a fifth-rounder to get him.

At Wisconsin, the 5-10, 226-pound back became the first player in Division I history to top the 6,000-yard mark in three seasons, finished his career with back-to-back 2,000-yard seasons and was a two-time Doak Walker Award winner.

He impressed scouts with a 4.39-second 40 at the combine, though he also lost 15 fumbles in college and had an heavy workload with 926 carries.

After taking Taylor, Ballard still had the 75th overall pick late Friday, though with his proclivity for making deals to stash extra picks, he could add even more. With four picks remaining over the next two days, Ballard could go any number of directions.

The Colts made their first big moves last month by trading a first-round pick for Pro Bowl defensive tackle DeForest Buckner to fill one glaring need and signing free agent quarterback Philip Rivers to fill another.

See **Draft** page 7

Empty stadiums? Not that simple

By **STEVE DOUGLAS** and **JAMES ELLINGWORTH**
AP Sports Writers

It will soon be the new norm, a cold and often unnerving sight that soccer and many other sports will have to get accustomed to over the coming months.

Games taking place in empty stadiums.

But will these stadiums actually be empty? Far from it.

"It's not about 22 players walking onto a pitch and (kicking) a ball about," FIFA vice president Victor Montagliani told The Associated Press, referring to what he called the "phased-in approach" that soccer — and society as a whole — will need to take to get back to normal following the coronavirus outbreak.

Some teams in Europe have experience in staging games without flag-waving and loudly cheering fans — be it while serving a punishment for crowd trouble or, as was the case

in February and March, because of a rapidly spreading virus that turned into a pandemic.

Now, almost every club will be planning for such a scenario as soccer leagues start to ramp up preparations for a resumption which will be staggered depending on how well countries have managed to contain the virus.

Of Europe's major leagues, Germany appears to be closest to lifting its suspension, with some state governors even hoping to resume games on May 9. The Bundesliga is planning to have a maximum of 213 people in the stadium — everyone from players to TV cameramen.

In Britain, which is in the peak of the virus outbreak, a return in late June is the possible — albeit optimistic — call from clubs in the Premier League. One leading club official spoke of the need for at least 300 people at matches.

See **Empty** page 7

NCAA denies D1 request

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**
AP College Sports Writer

The NCAA Division I Council denied a request to temporarily waive the minimum number of sports required to be a Division I member and delayed a decision on allowing all college athletes to be immediately eligible one time after transferring.

The NCAA announced Friday night that a request made recently by five FBS conference commissioners to waive numerous Division I requirements for up to four years would be considered in the coming weeks. But a blanket waiver permitting schools to drop below the minimum 16 sports would only be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The request was made with schools bracing for tough times as the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic begins to take a toll athletic departments.

"Higher education is facing unique challenges, and the Division I leadership believes it's appropriate to examine areas in which rules can be relaxed or amended to provide flexibility for schools and con-

ferences," said Council chairwoman Grace Calhoun, the athletic director at Pennsylvania. "We will prioritize student-athlete well-being and opportunities balanced with reducing costs associated with administering college sports, but a blanket waiver of sport sponsorship requirements is not in keeping with our values and will not be considered."

The transfer waiver working group recommended in February to allow all athletes to transfer one-time in four years without sitting out a season. Some sports already have a one-time transfer exception, but not football, men's and women's basketball, hockey and baseball.

The waiver change could have gone into effect this year, but the council cited the uncertainty related to the COVID-19 outbreak for delaying a vote.

The council also recommended the Division I Board of Directors lift the current moratorium on transfer legislation so the council could vote on the concept of a one-time exception for all transfers in January 2021.

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