

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

JSC teacher placed on leave

Sheriff's office is investigating incident

By **RAY COONEY**
The Commercial Review

A Jay County Junior-Senior High School teacher has been placed on administrative leave following an allegation of misconduct.

Jay Schools superintendent Jeremy Gulley confirmed Saturday afternoon that Joel Bowers was placed on administrative leave Thursday.

Bowers, 36, Portland, is listed as a social studies teacher on the Jay County Junior-Senior High School website.

He is also chair of the Democratic Party in Jay County.

Bowers did not immediately respond to a request for comment Saturday afternoon.

The alleged misconduct occurred Wednesday, with school officials receiving a report on the incident Thursday, Gulley said. In a press release following a request by The Commercial Review for information regarding Bowers' status as a teacher, he said there were "allegations of conduct in violation of JSC Policy 3213 Student Supervision and Welfare." (That section of school corporation policy details standards such as providing proper instruction, reporting threats of violence, not fraternizing with students in an inappropriate manner and only communicating with students via electronic means directly related to school matters.) He added that information regarding the allegation was turned over to the school resource officer.

The teacher was then called to the principal's office during Thursday's lunch period to be informed of the allegation and "served notice" of his administrative leave.

See **Leave** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Propane preparation

Firefighters from the Portland, Redkey and Bryant departments underwent training Saturday afternoon for how to handle propane leaks. Pictured, firefighters work on injecting water into a leaking propane tank during the training session led by Responder Training Enterprises in the Pioneer Warehousing parking lot, 1617 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Loans available to cover ag losses

Loans are available to those who experienced damage in last month's severe storms.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that Randolph County has been declared a natural disaster area, making it and adjacent counties Jay, Delaware, Henry, Wayne and Darke County, Ohio, eligible for physical loss loans.

Those who experienced damage because of the tornado that ravaged Win-

chester and Selma, high winds, hail or excessive rain on March 14 are eligible for the loans through the USDA's Farm Service Agency. They are targeted at agriculture

Jay is eligible as a county adjacent to declared disaster area

producers who experienced several physical losses, such as buildings and livestock.

The EF3 tornado — winds ranged from 136 to 165 miles per hour —

stretched as wide as 700 yards and damaged or destroyed more than 130 structures while injuring about three dozen in Winchester. It was estimated to have damaged 50% of

the structures in Selma.

The loans can be used to help producers repair or replace damaged or destroyed property. Examples include farm buildings, fixtures to real estate, equipment, livestock, perennial crops, fruit- and nut-bearing trees, and harvested or stored crops and hay.

For more information, contact a local Farm Service Agency office.

Details are also available online at

City pursuing legal action

By **LIA RUSSELL**
and **DAN BELSON**
Baltimore Sun
Tribune News Service

Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott said Monday the city had hired attorneys to pursue legal action against the operators of the cargo vessel that struck and toppled the Francis Scott Key Bridge last month, the same day the FBI confirmed it had opened a criminal probe.

In a statement, Scott said the city had hired Philadelphia law firm Saltz Mongeluzzi Bendesky, which specializes in personal injury suits, and DiCello Levitt, a Washington, D.C.-based firm that specializes in civil and human rights litigation and commercial, environmental, and class-action lawsuits. Sara Gross, the city Office of Law's chief of affirmative litigation, will also be a part of the legal team.

Also Monday, an FBI Baltimore spokesperson said that federal agents were present "conducting court authorized law enforcement activity" on

Mayor announces on same day FBI opens criminal probe

the massive cargo ship that rammed into a bridge support column early on March 26, causing a 1.6-mile span to collapse into the Patapsco River. Six construction workers who were on the bridge died.

The FBI declined to comment further. A spokesperson for the Maryland's U.S. Attorney's Office wouldn't comment further on the matter but forwarded a statement from Maryland U.S. Attorney Erik Barron.

"My office generally will not confirm the existence of or otherwise comment about investigations," Barron said in the statement. "However, the public should know, whether it's gun

violence, civil rights abuse, financial fraud, or any other threat to public safety or property, we will seek accountability for anyone who may be responsible."

Six construction workers died in the March 26 incident, which temporarily shut much of the Port of Baltimore, idling 15,000 port workers and impacting nearby businesses. Authorities have since begun salvaging the ship, which remains stalled in the Patapsco River, weighed down by parts of the structure. Federal officials have pledged to finance the cleanup, and authorities expect the port to fully reopen by the end of May.

See **Pursuing** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Bass player

Sixth grader Fletcher Post is poised to play the bass bar last week during rehearsal for Bloomfield Elementary School's spring program.

Deaths

Max Glancy, 95, Hartford City
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County's high temperature climbed to 79 degrees Sunday. The low was 59.

Rain is expected tonight with a low around 60 and winds gusting to 30 miles per hour. Wednesday's high will be in the lower 70s with more rain expected.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition is hosting another community forum about recovery housing at 6 p.m. Thursday in IU Health Jay's conference rooms A and B. Local residents are encouraged to attend.

Coming up

Wednesday — Coverage of this week's Portland City Council meeting.

Thursday — Results from the Jay County track meet against Bluffton.

Friday — Coverage of this week's Portland Board of Aviation meeting.



Obituaries

Max Glancy

Jan. 9, 1929-April 11, 2024

Max W. Glancy, 95, of Washington Township, Hartford City, Indiana, passed away with his family by his side on Thursday evening, April 11, 2024, at his home after a recent cancer diagnosis.



Glancy

He was born on Jan. 9, 1929, in Hartford City to John "Henry" and Helen (Johnson) Glancy. He was a proud Roll Red Roller, graduating in the Class of 1947.

Max had an impressive high school basketball career. He beat out all three local high schools as the leading scorer in the county; something to this day he was very proud of. Shortly after

high school, he was drafted by the United States Army.

He married Frances R. Anderson on Nov. 14, 1953, in Logansport, Indiana, celebrating over seven decades of precious memories together.

His long-time career as a truck driver began with Stoll Packing, New York City, and ended with DA Lubricant, Indianapolis. After retirement in 1993, Max began soaking up all of his free time with his only granddaughter, Shannon.

He owned "Wagon Masters" for several years, buying and selling old wagons. Many Saturday mornings you could find him behind the wheel of his pickup, with his trailer hitched up, driving down the road to a sale or auction. He loved collecting all sorts of things, tinkering in his barn, fishing and driving into town

with his brother John for morning coffee at the High Street Bar.

Max was a lifetime member of the Millard-Brown American Legion Post #156, a former member of the Blackford County Coon Hunter's Association of Roll and a former vice president of Glancy Funeral Homes. He spent the winter months in Bonita Springs, Florida, with his wife.

Max recently shared he lived a long, good life and he couldn't live forever. However, to his family, even forever wouldn't have been long enough.

Loving survivors include his wife Frances Glancy; son Jeff (wife: Trudie) Glancy; granddaughter Shannon (husband: Ben) Light; great-grandchildren Luna and Lane Light; sisters Marjorie Michaud, Hartford City, Indiana, Beverly Mal-

ott, Montpelier, Indiana, and Sharon (Jim) Roush, Montpelier, Indiana; brothers Jim (Sharon) Glancy, Hartford City, Indiana, John Glancy, Hartford City, Indiana, and Phil Glancy, Hartford City, Indiana; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother Ray Glancy; sister Joan Irving; daughter Brenda Glancy; and son Randy Glancy.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember at Walker and Glancy Funeral Home located at 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier, on Thursday, April 18, 2024, from 2 to 8 p.m.

A service to celebrate Max's life will be at Walker and Glancy Funeral Home at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 19, 2024, with Pastors Steve Rogers and Dewey Zent officiating. Burial will fol-

low in the Brookside Memorial Park in Montpelier. Millard-Brown American Legion Post #156 will be conducting graveside military honors.

In lieu of flowers, please make memorial donations to Millard-Brown American Legion Post #156, 112 W. Green St., Montpelier, IN 47359.

Arrangements are being handled by his son and granddaughter, Jeff and Shannon Glancy, Glancy Funeral Homes.

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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Wednesday 4/17	Thursday 4/18	Friday 4/19	Saturday 4/20	Sunday 4/21
72/52	65/48	61/43	55/37	55/36
Wednesday's forecast shows thunderstorms with winds reaching up to 30 mph.	Partly sunny skies on Thursday, with rain expected at night. The low may be in the upper 40s.	Another slight chance of rain on Friday. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high of 61.	Mostly cloudy skies on Saturday. The low at night may dip into the upper 30s.	Partly sunny on Sunday, with the high temperature hitting the mid 50s.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$63 million	56-63-70-73-77-79-80 Cash 5: 10-19-20-33-35 Estimated jackpot: \$664,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$148 million	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 3-2-0 Pick 4: 1-7-7-2 Pick 5: 9-3-8-9-0 Evening Pick 3: 5-6-6 Pick 4: 3-9-9-9 Pick 5: 4-8-5-3-4 Rolling Cash 5: 7-11-17-23-39 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 4-0-2 Daily Four: 4-2-9-6 Evening Daily Three: 7-8-4 Daily Four: 8-5-9-6 Quick Draw: 1-4-5-13-14-16-19-27-31-35-42-46-55-	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.36 May corn4.31 Wheat4.30	May beans11.52 Wheat 5.25
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.38 May corn.....4.38 June corn4.43	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.10 May corn.....4.14 Beans11.43 May beans11.46 Wheat5.21
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.24 May corn4.24 Beans11.52	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.25 May corn.....4.28 Beans11.29 May beans11.34 Wheat4.84

Today in history

In 1862, president Abe Lincoln abolished slavery in the District of Columbia, setting the stage for later full emancipation for Black citizens in the United States. Four years later, approximately 15,000 people arrived in Washington, D.C., to celebrate the day.

In 1964, The Rolling Stones released its first album, which was self-titled. The album topped United Kingdom charts for 12 weeks following its release.

In 1972, giant pandas Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing, a mated pair, arrived at the Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington, D.C. The pandas were a gift from China following president Richard Nixon's visit. (First lady Patricia Nixon had mentioned how much she enjoyed giant pandas to Chinese premier Zhou Enlai.)

In 2015, Redkey Town Council approved an ordinance regarding unkept properties and an ordinance prohibiting planting trees or placing rocks in the town's right-of-ways. The unkept properties ordinance, approved on a second reading, addressed cleaning abandoned vehicles, trash, garbage, rubbish and public nuisances in town.

— The CR

Citizen's calendar

Wednesday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, municipal airport, 661 W. 100 North.	Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 S. Mooney St.
Thursday 6 p.m. — Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals, Community Resource	Monday 3:30 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland.

Leave ...

Continued from page 1
Gulley did not characterize the nature of the allegations, saying he does not want to interfere or complicate the investigation by the sheriff's office. "As this matter is under investigation, appropriate information will be communicated to the extent, and at such time, as is consistent with the School Corporation's confidentiality obligations," said Gulley in a press release Saturday afternoon after

The Commercial Review requested information regarding Bowers' status. Jay County Sheriff Ray Newton said Saturday evening that Bowers has declined to speak with police without his lawyer present. He added that the sheriff's office is working to set up an interview with Bowers next week. No arrest had been made as of 5 p.m. Saturday. According to mycase.IN.gov, Bowers has

no criminal history beyond a traffic infraction. The incident marks the second time this year that a junior-senior high school employee has been placed on administrative leave for alleged misconduct. In January, assistant principal/dean Brad Milleman was placed on administrative leave after two lawsuits were filed against him alleging violations of students' Fourth Amendment rights via

"invasive" searches. Milleman returned to work last month when, following an independent legal review, Gulley said he concluded that the students' Fourth Amendment rights were not violated. A tort claim — a notification of intent to pursue legal action against a government agency — was filed against the school corporation in connection with the initial lawsuit against Milleman and Hudson.

Pursuing ...

Continued from page 1
The FBI also confirmed Monday its agents had searched the ship but declined to comment further. Scott said the city's purpose in hiring the firms was to "hold the wrongdoers responsible and to mitigate the immediate and long-term harm caused to Baltimore City residents." The Singapore-flagged ship Dali was minutes into a monthlong journey to Sri Lanka when it collided with the bridge shortly before 1:30 a.m. March 26. Scott said the two firms would take "decisive action" against the Dali's owner, Grace Ocean Private Limited; its manager, Synergy Marine; and its charterer, Maersk, citing the former two firms' April 1 petition to limit their legal liability. A Maersk spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment Monday. Darrell Wilson, a spokesperson representing Synergy and Grace

Ocean, declined to comment, citing ongoing investigations. "We are continuing to do everything in our power to support everyone impacted here and will continue to recognize the human impact this event has had," Scott said in a press release. "Part of that work needs to be seeking recourse from those who may potentially be responsible, and with the ship's owner filing a petition to limit its liability mere days after the incident, we need to act equally as quickly to protect the City's interests." Adam Levitt, of the firm DiCello Levitt, said they will bring "significant" economic and environmental loss claims on behalf of the city government and city residents for causing what is believed to be one of the largest maritime disasters. "We need to hold these entities accountable for the emotional toll and the substantial financial losses that the City of Baltimore and its residents are facing," Levitt said. FBI personnel were present at

the scene in the days that followed the collapse, though the National Transportation Safety Board is leading an independent investigation of the crash. The FBI and U.S. Attorney's Office both stated soon after the collapse that they had found no evidence the crash was tied to terrorism. The NTSB's probe is expected to cover all circumstances leading up to the collapse, which happened after the Dali appeared to lose power as it was approaching the bridge early that morning. That agency's investigators have been homing in on the electronics system of the 984-foot ship, getting assistance from Hyundai to assist authorities with the ship's engine, which the South Korean firm manufactured. The NTSB's preliminary report, which will be limited to factual findings surrounding the crash and ensuing collapse, is expected in the first week of May, and its final report could take up to two years.

Capsule Reports

Distracted driving
Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000 after a Pennville man drove off county road 700 East and into a scrap yard about 4:52 a.m. Friday.
Nathaniel D. Paxson, 19, was driving his 2003 GMC Sierra north on the road just south of county road 300 South. He told police he was texting and drove off the east side of the road, causing him to enter a yard and hit several scrapped vehicles.
Paxson's vehicle was towed.

Intersection crash
A Portland man drove in front of oncoming traffic, causing a collision at the

intersection of Meridian and Arch streets in Portland about 9:28 p.m. Saturday.
John L. Cook, 47, was driving his 2011 Dodge Ram west on Arch Street. He told police he didn't see the 2010 Kawasaki Vulcan motorcycle, driven by 35-year-old Steven Redford, driving south on Meridian Street. Cook entered the intersection as Redford was driving through it, causing Redford to strike Cook's vehicle. (Traffic on Meridian Street doesn't stop at the intersection.)
Damage is estimated between \$1,000 and \$2,500.
The motorcycle Redford was driving is registered to Teddy J. Bessesen of Pennville.



Abby E. Small, O.D.

We are having a Frame Show.



April 25th from 2:00-5:00 p.m.

1111 N. Meridian St. • Portland, IN 47371
260-726-4210

SERVICES

Today
Houser, Anita: 11 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Wednesday
Martin, Loretta: 1 p.m., Meacham Funeral Service, 648 W. State St., Albany.

Friday
Glancy, Max: 11 a.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

Service listings provided by
PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS
120 N. Meridian St.
Portland, Indiana 47371
(260) 726-9201
progressiveofficeproducts.com

Jay County Solid Waste Management District

Rain Barrel Workshop



Interested in harvesting rainwater from your rooftop?

April 18th at 6:00 pm

District Office 5948 W. State Road 67

The safety solution is in your hands

By DAVID A. FRYE

It's time to be honest with you. You're the problem. Every year about this time we warn you, the motoring public, that highway work is beginning across the country. State Police, State Departments of Transportation, workers, Unions, OSHA, and more; we produce public service announcements and billboards and newspaper ads begging you to be alert, slow down, and drop the phone in work zones.

Yet, every year the number of fatalities in work zones increases.

We have tried to scare you by telling you about the stiff penalties for speeding and reckless driving in work zones. We have tried to appeal to your humanity by talking about the tens of thou-

David A. Frye



sands of lives that have been destroyed due to work zone accidents.

Yet every year, the number of work zone crashes exceeds 100,000.

We have successfully lobbied state legislatures across the country to enact stricter safety laws with tougher penalties. We have fought for reduced speeds in work zones, and cones, then barrels, then barrier walls. We have fought for work zone cam-

eras and police officers. We have fought for higher minimum fines for speeding in work zones, and mandatory jail time for accidents.

That still doesn't seem to have done the trick.

My Union, the Laborers International Union of North America, requires hours of safety training before our members ever set foot on a job site. They are qualified flaggers; they know the best techniques for keeping themselves and their co-workers safe on the job. Our members are equipped with all appropriate personal protective gear; hard hats, steel toed boots, high visibility safety vests, gloves, glasses, and ear plugs.

But we can't protect them from you.

National Work Zone Aware-

ness Week is April 15 through 19. It is held annually to remind the motoring public that there are now people out there fixing those potholes and finishing those projects you've been complaining about all winter. These workers are not here to "make you late" or inconvenience you. They are doing the hard and dangerous work it takes to keep you and this country moving — literally. And, what each of them wants more than anything is to get home safely from their job. It's really the least any of us can ask for in any job.

You are the wild card. We can't make you slow down in work zones. We can't make you leave earlier, and we can't make you wait two minutes to answer the phone or respond to that text. That is your responsibility.

We will continue to remind you that one second of distraction, or poor decision-making, can have a lifetime of consequences. We will continue to implore you to slow down in work zones. We will continue to fight for tougher penalties and tighter safety regulations. However, none of that will help us achieve the goal of zero accidents and zero fatalities in work zones without your commitment to the safety of workers and drivers in work zones. It's past time to break the patterns, and be the solution instead of the problem. Slow down. Be alert. Help everyone get home safe.

Frye is vice president and Midwest regional manager for Laborer's International Union of North America.

Health care is still too costly

Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

America's approach to health care is an outlier among the world's rich countries, and not in a good way. Extraordinarily complex and hideously expensive, it still manages to leave some 26 million people without coverage. The Affordable Care Act of 2010 made notable progress, but failed to solve the pressing problems of high costs and less-than-universal access.

The ACA fell short partly because legislators dropped the public option. This idea should be revived. The dysfunction in Washington makes such innovation difficult at the federal level, but states have been trying variants. These experiments are worth watching.

The need for more reform is clear. The US spends about 17% of gross domestic product on health care, half as much again as comparable countries — yet on many metrics, including life expectancy, US outcomes are worse. The system's enormous cost is partly hidden because most Americans are insured through their employers: The premiums suppress wages, so the true hit to families' finances is disguised. Even covered employees can be on the hook for additional charges, enough in some cases to pay for a small car.

Workers fear that losing their jobs will mean they lose their insurance too. More than half of the 20 million who've signed up for Obamacare in 2024 complain of high monthly costs and out-of-pocket spending. And despite the ACA, roughly 10% of Americans still have no coverage at all.

When Obamacare was taking shape, some lawmakers envisioned a public option — a government-run plan that would compete alongside private insurance. Like Medicare, it would save money by negotiating prices and cutting costs. Voters liked the idea, but it met stiff industry opposition and was ultimately scrapped. During his presidential campaign a decade later, Joe Biden supported a public option, but his administration has focused on other ways to make health care more affordable.

Yet the public option wasn't quite dead: As a result of the ACA, states have been able to try "innovative strategies" to lower costs and broaden coverage. Three have used it to advance programs they're

Guest Editorial

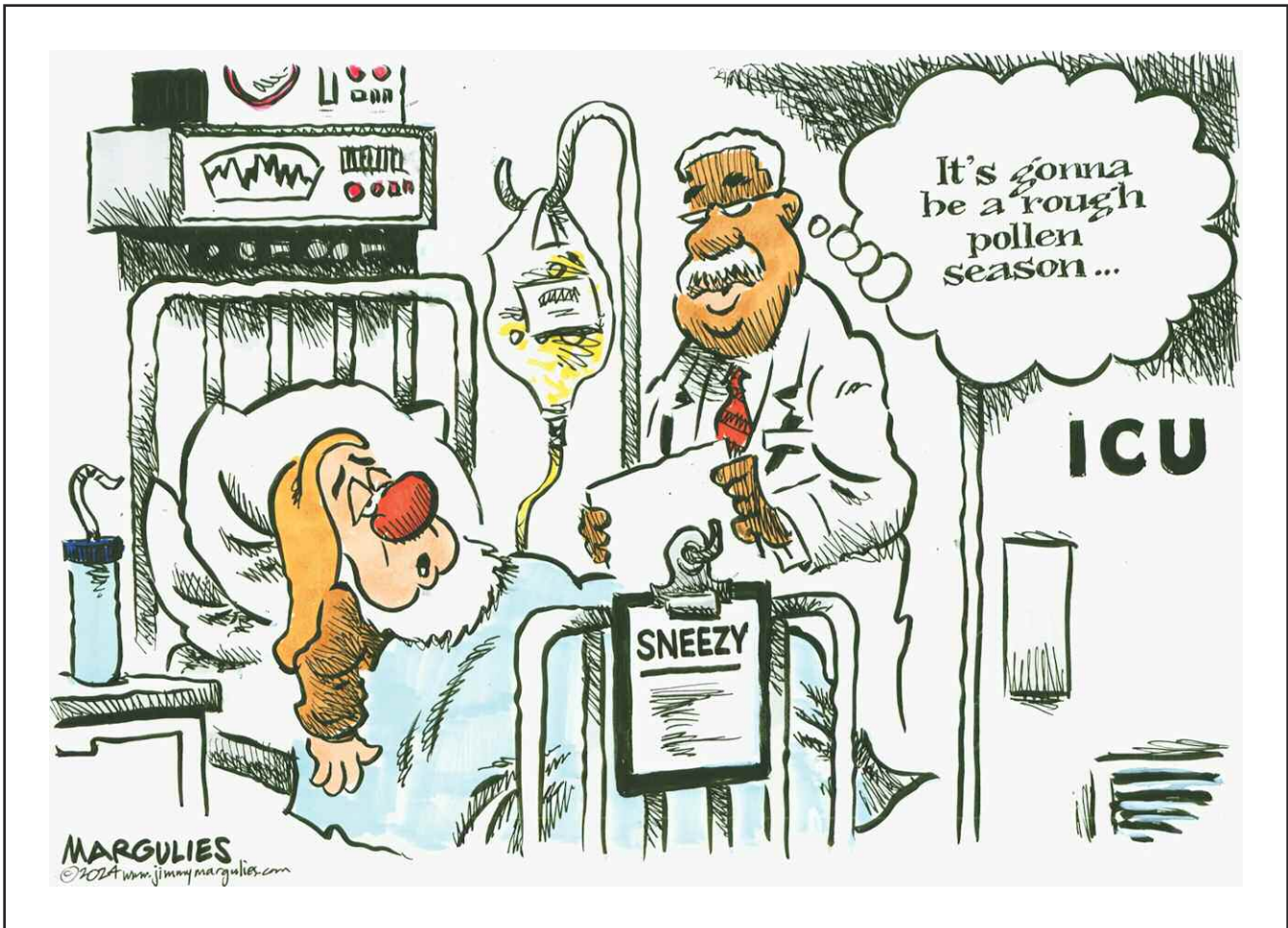
calling public options, and a handful of others have plans underway.

Colorado's scheme is especially popular, thanks to generous benefits (including free primary and mental-health care) and lower premiums than many marketplace plans. State law requires insurers to meet premium-reduction targets, and the insurers negotiate hard with hospitals to cut costs. If they miss the targets, insurers and providers alike can be summoned to public hearings. The state has also introduced a reinsurance program to defray the cost of expensive claims.

Admittedly, schemes like Colorado's depart from the original public-option idea, which relies on competition from a gradually expanding Medicare, not price controls. The old-school public option still has a lot to recommend it: Use Medicare's systems and provider network to gradually extend affordable coverage — with premiums set to recover full actuarial costs, offset by ACA subsidies for eligible households. A plan called Medicare-X, championed by Senators Michael Bennet and Tim Kaine, would work in this way. The aim isn't to replace private insurance, as some "single payer" schemes envisage, or to regulate some private offerings more tightly state by state, but to broaden access to affordable choices.

Public options will face setbacks. Health-care reform is administratively demanding and politically fraught. Absent rules compelling participation, hospitals and providers could refuse to see patients if reimbursement rates fall too low, leaving areas with less coverage and weaker competition. Nobody says this will be easy.

Yet the existing system is undeniably failing. In poll after poll, Americans say rising health-care costs are a top concern. States should keep on trying new approaches to see what works. And Washington should put the Medicare-based public option — perhaps the most promising way to solve the system's biggest problems — back on the agenda.



Let's concentrate on us

By AMY LOCKARD
The Fulcrum
Tribune News Service

"Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people." — Eleanor Roosevelt

Have we become a society of small minds?

In 1974, Time magazine rolled out a new publication, People, to capitalize on its wildly popular section. Fifty years later, we need not wait for a weekly publication.

Privacy, a concept once treasured, is being ceded to the pirates.

After Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, the widow of our 35th president, had been widowed a second time, the paparazzi hounded her. They argued that because she had married a former president and then a wealthy shipping magistrate, she was fair game. She had given up her right to privacy.

Privacy is not mentioned in our Bill of Rights, but perhaps it should be. It is implied in the Declaration of Independence's promise of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," as depriving citizens of their privacy violates every aspect of life and limits their personal liberty. Plus, happiness is difficult to pursue when you are being pursued by paparazzi.

Should Jackie have had to spend her entire life pleasing all of the people all of the time? Did the public have a right to know her every move, even to vilify her for wanting privacy? Apparently, the answer was "yes" to both questions. Her only choice: to hire a firm to manage her public relations. She was considered American royalty.

The stakes have only gotten higher, the privacy invasion only more insidious.

Years later, a "real" royal,

Princess Diana, discovered this. And paid dearly.

And since her hospitalization in January, Kate Middleton, now princess of Wales, has become the object of intense media speculation. Was her husband, Prince William, having an affair? Was she? Were they on the verge of divorce? And why was the princess not playing to her public, catering to the enquiring minds who want to know, as The National Enquirer used to say.

Turns out the answer to all the speculation was: none of the above. The princess is battling cancer.

For shame. Yet, the blood-thirsty media can't be entirely blamed for procuring fresh meat to feed our insatiable appetites. Besides, don't we have a right to know?

Do we? Did we have the right to force a devoted mother suffering with a horrendous disease to disclose her struggle publicly?

Others' "stories" may be interesting, but their personal lives are just that — personal. Why do we so want to infiltrate them? As fodder for our otherwise mundane lives? And why are we satisfied being preoccupied with other's lives, while, in the words of T.S. Eliot, measuring out our own in "coffee spoons?"

Garnering adulation for being in the know, especially for the first to know, our hunger for salacious gossip is seemingly unquenchable and



Amy Lockard

only grows more so in our increasingly connected world. In our obsession with celebrity status, so much time is consumed by others' lives and curating our own. Influencers and those famous for being famous, with no other talent than the ability to draw attention to themselves, are admirable, emulated. And how willingly we disclose our own honed versions of ourselves, hoping our "followers" or resulting "likes" will capitulate us to our 15 minutes of fame, as promised by Andy Warhol.

But what is the difference between the outrage we feel at our phones being tapped, or cameras in private places, and the invasion of an individual's privacy?

And where is "oneself," when always playing to the public or pleasing others? Appeasing and pleasing are constraints which leave no possibility of remaining true to oneself.

Despite this, Oscar Wilde's adage has seemingly been taken to heart: "The only thing worse than being talked about is not being talked about." Privacy has become an archaic idea in this tell-all age. The pirates have taken over the ship.

What if we concentrated on fully living our own lives, ignoring both critics and followers, and engaging in worthwhile, real pursuits? Instead of indulging our endless fascination with others' lives and showcasing our own, would it not be a thousand-fold more enthralling for us to keep our treasures and sail bravely forth?

Then, think of Mary Oliver "and tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"

Lockard is an Iowa resident who regularly contributes to regional newspapers and periodicals.

The Commercial Review



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HUGH N. RONALD (1911-1983), Publisher Emeritus
JOHN C. "JACK" RONALD (1948-2022), Publisher Emeritus

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We welcome letters to the editor, which are accepted by email only to letters@thecr.com. They should be 700 words or fewer; signed, with city/town of residence and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit for content and clarity.

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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

Subscription rates
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Mail: Monthly auto-pay - \$13; 13 weeks - \$49; six months - \$80; one year - \$151.
Home delivery problems: Call (260) 251-9588



Bank donates

First Bank of Berne recently donated \$1,000 to Jay County Cancer Society. Pictured First Bank of Berne agribusiness banker Angela Paxson and bank branch manager Tracy Carpenter. Paxson is also a Jay County Cancer Society board member.

Photo provided

Meijer donates to Second Harvest

A local business recently made a donation to support a local food bank.

Meijer donated \$70,000 to Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana.

The contribution will go toward distributing health food to communities in the area, including in Jay, Randolph, Blackford and Delaware counties.

"Meijer's commitment to helping us feed our community is not just a donation; it brings hope and sustenance to thousands of individuals and families all over East Central Indiana," said Bekah Clawson, president and CEO of Second Harvest, in a press release. "This gift is a testament to Meijer's purpose of enriching lives in the communities it serves, and we are deeply grateful for their support."

Training scheduled

ServSafe training will be held monthly at John Jay Center for Learning in Portland through June.

Training sessions are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays April 23, May 21 and June 18. The certification course is open to all food service employees and emphasizes safe food- and beverage-handling practices to minimize the risk of food-borne illnesses.

For more information, or to register, call (260) 729-5525.

Fair scheduled

Jay County Chamber of Commerce announced that the 2024 Jay County Career Fair is scheduled for Sept. 12 at Jay County Junior-Senior High School.

Additional information about the event will be provided in the coming months. Businesses that would like to be placed on the list to participate should call the Jay

Business roundup

County Purdue Extension office at (260) 726-4707.

Advice offered

CenterPoint Energy recently offered safety tips as part of its observance of National Safe Digging Month.

Anyone who plans a project that requires digging should contact 811 at least two days prior to their work in order to have underground utilities located for free. Such projects include building a fence, planting trees, installing a deck and placing a mailbox.

"By taking the time to call 811 prior to starting their digging project, our customers and communities are taking a critical first step in helping keep everyone safe," said Centerpoint vice president of field services Chastita Martin in a press release. "No matter how shallow the digging project, everyone can help prevent safety incidents and potential loss of service for their fellow community members by having underground utility lines located."

In talks

Motherson Sumi and Leoni are in talks about possibly combining the two companies, Reuters reported.

Motherson Sumi, the parent company of MSSL Wiring of Portland, has bought several companies in recent years and has been looking to make an acquisition in Europe. Reuters reported that a deal with Leoni, a

German company, would be worth more than \$1.14 billion.

Former CEO dies

Former NextEra Energy chairman and CEO James L. Broadhead died Wednesday at the age of 88.

Broadhead led the company from 1989 to 2001 when it was known as Florida Power and Light Group. He previously served in roles with GTE Corporation and St. Joe Minerals Corporation. He was a member of the boards of directors for Delta Air Lines, the Pittston Company, New York Life Insurance Company and a trustee emeritus of Cornell University.

"Jim Broadhead altered the trajectory of our company, was a leader in our industry and he helped make Florida a better place to live and work," said NextEra Energy chairman, president and CEO John Ketchum in a press release. "He was an incredible businessman, leader, mentor and friend to so many of our team members, both past and present. Jim changed our company's culture for the better and we will continue to carry his legacy forward."

NextEra owns and operates Bluff Point Wind Energy Center in southern Jay County and northern Randolph County.

Named to board

Advance Auto Parts on Thursday announced the appointment of A. Brent Windom, Gregory L. Smith and Thomas W. Seboldt to its board of directors.

The appointments are in connection to a cooperation agreement with Third Point LLC and Saddle Point Management.

"We are pleased to welcome Brent, Greg and Tom to the Advance Auto Parts board," said board chair Gene Lee. "These

directors' automotive industry and supply chain experience will help us progress in our plan to return the company to profitable growth. With new management in place, important strategic actions underway, and an enhanced board, we are confident that Advance is on the right path to create significant long-term value for shareholders."

Leeward launches

Leeward Renewable Energy's Horizon Solar has started operations in Texas.

The 200-megawatt solar project in Frio County, Texas, will provide energy to Verizon Communications. It is the company's second solar project in Frio County, joining the 200-megawatt Morrow Lake Solar.

"LRE is pleased to have completed another successful project that will provide our longstanding customer, Verizon, with renewable energy," said Omar Aboudaheer, LRE's Sr. Vice President, Development. "None of this would have been possible without the supportive, wonderful community in Frio County, who welcomed our team and this project."

Leeward is planning Rose Gold Solar just north of Dunkirk. The company recently approached Jay County Council about adjusting its timeline for the project because of delays with the grid interconnection process.

School tops rankings

Indiana University's Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs received the most No. 1 speciality rankings in the 2024-25 U.S. News and World Report Best Graduate School rankings released last week.

The O'Neill school ranked No. 1 among public institutions and No. 2 among all colleges and uni-

versities in the category of public affairs graduate programs. It marked the eighth straight year in which the school has been ranked first or second nationally.

"This year's rankings again demonstrate that graduate programs across the university have earned their rightful place among the nation's best," said IU president Pamela Whitten in a press release. "The impact of our dedicated faculty and the excellent graduate programs offered on Indiana University's campuses is unmistakable. Through their students and alumni, these programs strengthen the vitality of Indiana, our nation and the world through a commitment to transformative research, bold innovation and a desire to improve communities."

Airport is No. 1

Electronics Hub recently named Indianapolis International Airport as No. 1 in North America and among the top 10 worldwide for its wifi connectivity.

The organization based the rankings on review of international airports on Skytrax.

"Wi-Fi connectivity is a significant factor in airport customer experience, from the travel journey showing boarding passes to app-driven self-check-in, along with people striving to stay connected while traveling or to help pass the time for entertainment purposes," said Mario Rodriguez, Indianapolis Airport Authority executive director, in a press release. "IND has made providing that connectivity a priority, and it shows in how people rate Indy's airport."

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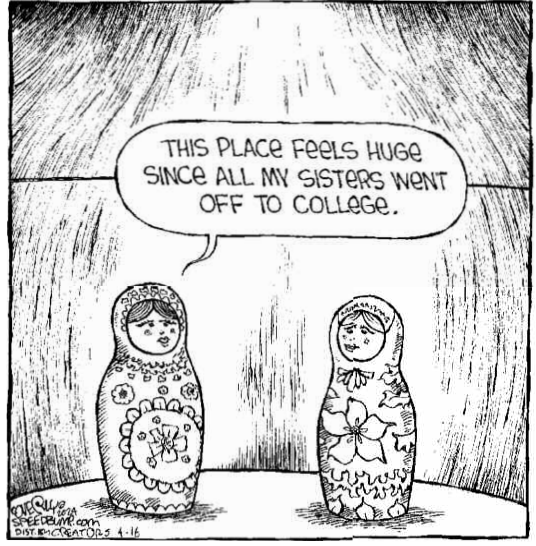
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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

The art of card-reading

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: A K 9 2, K 10 9 8, Q 7 5, 6 5. WEST: A J, 7 5, A K J 10 3, K J 9 8 2. EAST: Q 10 8 4, 6 2, 9 6 2, 10 7 4 3. SOUTH: 7 6 5 3, A Q J 4 3, 8 4, A Q. The bidding: West 1, Pass, Pass. North Pass, Pass, Pass. East Pass, Pass, Pass. South Pass, Pass, Pass. Opening lead—king of diamonds. There are some deals where declarer can tell exactly how the missing cards are divided and, as a result, can achieve the maximum result possible. Declarer has two main sources of information that can guide him in working out the composition of the unseen hands. One is the bidding, and the other is the plays already made, which nearly always shed valuable light. Consider this case where South winds up in four hearts after West has opened the bidding with one diamond. West leads the king of diamonds and shifts to the jack of spades. South sees that the contract is easy to make if the spades are divided 3-2, since he can eventually establish dummy's diamond queen and his fourth spade to come to 10 tricks. He therefore begins to think in terms of what he might do if the spades turn out to be divided 4-1. After taking the spade jack with the king, he plays the A-K of trump and then leads the eight of diamonds. West wins with the ace and returns a diamond to the queen, on which South discards a spade. But when declarer next cashes the ace of spades, West shows out, leaving South with the possibility of losing both a spade and a club for down one. Declarer can, of course, attempt a club finesse, hoping to find East with the king, but this is a bleak prospect, since West is virtually certain to have the king for his opening bid. It is this clue, gained from the bidding, that saves the day for declarer. Instead of trying the tempting club finesse, South plays the ace of clubs followed by the queen! West wins with the king but is stymied. He has no choice but to lead a diamond or a club, and whichever he chooses, South ruffs in dummy and discards his last spade to bring home the contract. Tomorrow: Once upon a midnight dreary. ©2024 King Features Syndicate Inc.

CRYPTOQUIP

CS LGV WPKVEV MPTTGCVL SCRPKV IVYL D ADEVH-HCIV MVDWL SJK D YVL, APHT CL MV LGV TDHDC HHDED? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CAFFEINATED DRINK THAT MIGHT MAKE PEOPLE EXPERIENCE A TENSE FEELING OF DISTRESS: ANXIE-TEA. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals L

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 38 Choice words? 2 Pepper dispenser 23 Sailor 24 Fish eggs 1 Apple computer 39 Little lie 3 Others (Lat.) 25 Earth Day mo. 5 "Didn't I tell you?" 40 Twist dry 4 Universal 26 Historic time 8 Umps 43 Philanthropist 5 Soft leather 27 Sashimi fish 12 Metric Gates 6 Austen novel 28 Use a shovel 13 Sounds of hesitation 49 Acute 7 Mentalist's gift 29 Fire sign? 14 Alike (Fr.) 50 In— (shortly) 8 "The Bathers" painter 31 Billboards 34 "Friends" friend 15 Yale students 51 Deep hole 9 "Zounds!" 35 Desire 36 Zilch 16 Mexican entree 52 Part of Q.E.D. 11 Bridge coup 37 Battery-powered two-wheelers 19 Summer in Arles 39 Daring deeds 20 Cable company device 53 Mother of Helios 17 Latin 101 word 22 "The buck stops here" 40 "Huh?" 21 Mineral suffix 54 Motor homes 19 Summer in Arles 39 Daring deeds 22 Japanese "yes" 55 Male children 22 "The buck stops here" 41 Impetuous 42 Frozen drink brand 43 1504, in old Rome 44 Roman emperor 45 Campus bigwig 46 Picnic interlopers 48 "Morning Edition" airtel

Solution time: 22 mins. Yesterdays answer 4-16

Crossword grid with numbers 1-55.

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Sports

Patriots put things together

Jay Co. baseball splits with Centerville to end five game skid to start the season

By **ANDREW BALKO**

The Commercial Review

It's been a tumultuous start for the Patriots.

The offense has been better but just not enough, the defense has struggled and the pitching hasn't been what they expected.

Finally, all of those came together in a game this season.

After dropping the first game of Saturday's double header against the Centerville Bulldogs 15-5, the Jay County High School baseball team picked up its first win of the season in game No. 2 by a score of 7-3.

"To get that first win was good for us," JCHS coach Todd Farr said. "It wasn't necessarily the prettiest, but the guys continued to battle and stuck with it."

"Even after the first game, which wasn't very good at all, they continued with positive attitudes and got it done, so I'm proud of them for that."

Jay County (1-5) started the season off on the wrong foot as it dropped the first five games, including game No. 1 against Centerville (3-2).

Things finally came together in the sixth game of the season when the offense found ways to manufacture runs, the pitching put forward a solid effort and the defense played just clean enough to not surrender an insurmountable number of unearned runs.

Zedrian Vasquez started the game for JCHS. During his five innings on the mound, the junior recorded three strikeouts while walking six batters and surrendering four hits over five innings.

The only damage came in the fourth inning. With one out, he walked Peyton Ramsey and



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School first baseman fields a throw from the pitcher during the Patriots' 7-3 victory over the Centerville Bulldogs on Saturday. Jay County split a doubleheader with Centerville to secure their first win of the season.

Luke Basler to put a runner in scoring position. Keith Plyley followed with an RBI single with Ed Parker driving in a run on a groundout next. A final run scored unearned on a

passed ball to give Centerville its third run.

After throwing one more inning for the Patriots, his offense reclaimed the lead to give Vasquez the win.

"(Zedrian) gave us exactly what we thought he would," Farr said. "Maybe a few more walks than we'd like, but overall he did well."

Following up Vasquez's

strong performance on the mound was Jackson Edwards. To start the sixth inning, the JCHS senior recorded an out on a fly ball to center field before striking the next two batters out.

The seventh inning was just as strong, striking out the side with only one mishap that led to a one-out triple for Centerville's Kollyn Peed. Because Edwards came into the game with only a two-run lead, the five-strikeout performance over two innings notched him the first save of the season for Jay County.

"It was definitely the off-speed," Edwards said in response to what made him so effective. "Zedrian started and he's a bit faster than me when it comes to pitching, so I threw my junk and it was working."

The Patriot offense struck first with a pair of runs in the second inning on a two-out rally. Ryne Goldsworthy began the streak of five batters reaching base with a single to left field. Grant Wendel and Cody Rowles both drew walks before Goldsworthy came around to score on a passed ball.

After Edwards walked, Wendel was plated when Drew Schemenaur got hit by a pitch to drive in a run.

The next time Jay County would score it came with a one-run deficit.

With one out in the fifth inning, Sam Myers worked a walk off of four-straight misses by Gavin Robinson. Myers quickly made his way around the bases, as three passed balls allowed him to score and tie the game during Parker Nichols' at bat.

See Together page 7

Jay track places fourth at Oak Hill co-ed relays

CONVERSE — The Patriots weren't in a conventional meet, but that didn't hurt their success.

The Jay County High School track teams combined to finish fourth at the Oak Hill Co-ed Relays on Saturday.

The Patriots tallied 79 points in the meet that combined the times or distances of two girls with two boys from each school. Host Oak Hill ended up in first place with 158 points to edge out Delta by just one. Bluffton was the only other of the ten total teams to finish ahead of Jay County with 101 points.

The Patriots took second place in two events. Adam Alig played a part in both events, setting new career bests in the process. In the 300-meter hurdles, he finished in 43.76 seconds. Kaiden Reynolds, the other boy, added a time of 49.31 seconds, while Morgan DeHoff and Makinsey Murphy had times of 52.43 seconds and 55.59 seconds to make up the girls legs.

Alig broke the 6-foot mark to lead the high jump team to a second-place finish as well. Joining him were Peyton Yowell (5 feet, 10 inches), Molly Muhlenkamp (4 feet, 10 inches) and Jenna Dues (4 feet, 8 inches).

Split with starfires

BERNE — Fort Recovery's baseball team split with the South Adams Starfires on Saturday, dropping the first game 4-1 before claiming game No. 2 by a score of 6-3.

A two-out double from Alex Dues got the senior into scoring position before Reece Wendel followed with a single to put the Indians (3-2) up 1-0 in the fifth inning of the first game.

Local roundup

The Starfires (3-2) took over in the sixth as Derek McKean drew a walk before Owen Wanner blasted a home run to take the lead. Two more runs scored in the frame on a single and a pair of doubles. Sage Wendel suffered the loss.

SAHS and FRHS traded runs over the first three innings of the second game before the Indians broke out with a 3-run fourth inning. Gavin Faller and Troy Homan both opened with singles before freshman Caden Homan's double plated Faller. Troy Homan soon scored on a wild pitch, with Caden Homan following suit two at bats later.

The teams traded runs in the fifth and sixth inning as they held on for the win.

Caden Grisez earned the win by pitching the first 4.2 innings, in which he struck out eight batters. Rex Leverette picked up his first save of the year, striking out four over the final 2.1 innings.

Tribe takes one

AYERSVILLE, Ohio — The Fort Recovery softball team took one of two games at a tournament hosted by Ayersville on Saturday. The Tribe dropped its first game to the Elmwood Royals 3-7 before beating the Edon Bombers 15-7.

The Indians (3-4) jumped on top of the Bombers (0-7) early by scoring four quick runs. Then a six-run sixth inning put them in control.

Edon answered back with six runs in the top of the fourth, but five more for FRHS in the sixth sealed the deal. Emma Will and Britney Tebbe combined for seven RBIs in the game, while Kayla Hietkamp added two on a home run. Jenna Homan earned the win with eight strikeouts despite seven runs.

Patriots all split

CHARLOTTESVILLE — The Jay County girls tennis team had two consolation victories and three runners-up at the Eastern Hancock Invitational on Saturday.

Zion Beiswanger and Chloe Ruiz picked up their first varsity wins of their careers as they beat the No. 2 doubles team from Seton Catholic smoothly 6-0, 6-0. In the championship match, they only managed to win one game as Eastern Hancock's duo won 6-1, 6-0.

Maggie Dillon beat Blue River's No. 3 singles player by a score of 6-1, 6-0 to advance to the championship, while Brenna Bailey received a bye in the No. 2 singles position.

Both fell to opponents from Eastern Hancock in the title match. Bailey lost her match 6-3, 6-2. Dillons opponent, who was the Royal's No. 1 singles player in previous seasons, pulled away for a 6-4, 6-3 victory.

Brenna Haines fell behind early in the No. 1 singles opener, leading to her losing her first match of the season 6-4, 6-4 to her opponent from Eastern Hancock.

See Roundup page 7

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