

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

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\$1

Trump guilty on all counts

Sentencing for former president is July 11

By **MOLLY CRANE-NEWMAN** and **JOSEPHINE STRATMAN**

New York Daily News Tribune News Service

NEW YORK — Donald Trump was found guilty Wednesday of falsifying New York business records to cover up a hush money payment to porn star Stormy Daniels in a conspiracy to defraud the voting public in 2016.

The former president and presumptive Republican nominee in this year's election sat still and stone-faced as he learned his fate just after 5 p.m. on the 15th floor of Manhattan's 100 Centre Street courthouse, staring straight ahead as the foreman stood and declared him guilty on all 34 counts — each tied to his reimbursement to his former fixer Michael Cohen for paying off the adult film actress to stay silent about a seedy sexual encounter in a Lake Tahoe hotel room a decade prior.

"Members of the jury, listen to your verdict as it stands recorded. You and each of you say through your foreperson that you find the Defendant, Donald J. Trump, guilty of all 34 counts charging falsifying business records in the first degree, and so say you all. Is this the verdict?" state Supreme Court Justice Juan Merchan addressed the twelve jurors.

"Yes," the panel of seven men and five women said in unison.

See **Guilty** page 2

Puppet project



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Alex Ardizzone and Ali McGraw perform together as Marlin and Nemo, respectively, during rehearsal Thursday for Jay County Civic Theatre's production of "Finding Nemo Jr." at Jay County Campus of Arts Place. The production opens with a performance at 7 p.m. Thursday with additional shows at 7 p.m. Friday, June 7, Saturday, June 8, and Sunday, June 9.

Jay County Civic Theatre incorporates new element in production of 'Finding Nemo Jr.'

By **BAILEY CLINE**
The Commercial Review

Jason McGraw explained his initial hopes to feature a variety of puppets with cast members in "Finding Nemo Jr." had been viewed as ambitious.

Those dreams, though, have turned into reality.

Jay County Civic Theatre will be performing "Finding Nemo Jr.," the musical version of the 2003 Disney/Pixar film next week. Shows are set for 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday, June 8 and June 9 at Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland.

The hour-long show features a similar story to "Finding Nemo," following clownfish Marlin and blue tang Dory in their search for Marlin's missing son, Nemo, who also has an adventure of his own with some colorful characters.

McGraw, director of Jay County Civic Theatre's latest production, explained his vision for the show included cast members puppeteering their characters on stage.

"I couldn't see it any other way," said McGraw. "It's an opportunity for the kids to utilize

puppets where we've never utilized puppets before."

Jay County Civic Theatre has created puppets for single characters in past shows, such as Audrey II in "Little Shop of Horrors" and Olaf in "Frozen Jr.," but never with the majority of the cast.

Civic theatre members handcrafted puppets depicting sharks, fish, octopi, jellyfish and an assortment of other sea creatures. Some ocean-dwellers are being finished in the days leading up to the show.

"It exceeds my expectations by

a lot," said McGraw of the puppets created locally. "But it's what I knew they would do because they just do exceptional work."

The group has also rented several puppets for the "tank gang crew" — fish that Nemo finds himself trapped with — and turtles from Cincinnati Children's Theatre.

Moving around with puppets has given the show a new spin compared to its past performances, both for the audience and the cast members.

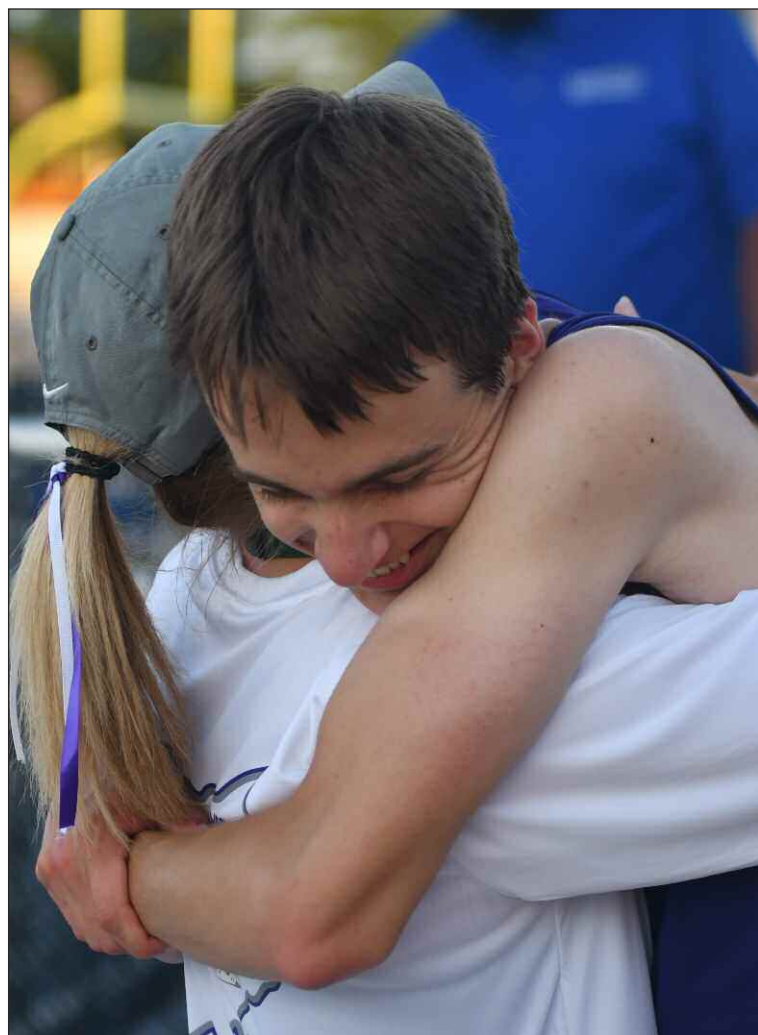
See **Puppet** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Remarkable, record

The Fort Recovery High School baseball team won the regional championship and earned a state berth Friday while Trevor Heitkamp broke a school record. Pictured above, Troy Homan waves a Fort Recovery Indians flag after the baseball team defeated Leipsic 5-1 in the regional title game at Elida. At right, Heitkamp hugs coach Christy Diller following his school-record effort in the 3,200-meter run at the OHSAA Division III Track and Field State Finals at Welcome Stadium in Dayton. For more on the game and the meet, see page 10.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Deaths

Gregory Banta, 69, Geneva
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 77 degrees Friday. Today's forecast calls for partly cloudy skies with a 70% chance of rain in the afternoon. Rain is expected tonight with a low in the lower 60s. Skies will clear Sunday afternoon with a high in the mid 70s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Arts Place's Arts in the Parks classes begin next week with offerings in Portland, Dunkirk, Redkey, Pennville, Fort Recovery and other communities in Indiana and Ohio. Classes are \$5 each with a cap of \$30 for the summer. For a complete list of classes and to register, visit myartsplace.org.

Coming up

Tuesday — Coverage of Sunday's Jay County High School graduation ceremony.

Wednesday — Results from the JCHS boys golf team at the sectional tournament.

Thursday — Coverage of next week's Portland Park Board meeting.



U.S., Germany approve strikes

By ANIA NUSSBAUM, ARNE DELFS and SAMY ADGHIRNI
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Ukrainian allies are bolstering efforts to shore up Kyiv's defenses with the U.S. and Germany authorizing attacks inside Russian territory and France assembling a coalition to send European military trainers into the country.

President Joe Biden's administration and the government of Chancellor Olaf Scholz said

they would allow some Ukrainian attacks inside Russia with their weapons as Kyiv fends off a fresh offensive in the northeast. The U.S. and Germany have until now been particularly cautious about such strikes because of the risk of a broader conflict.

French President Emmanuel Macron meanwhile is in talks to forge a coalition aimed at sending military training personnel into Ukraine, people familiar with the matter said on condition of anonymity. He may

unveil the effort at a World War II commemoration ceremony in Normandy on June 6, they said.

The new initiatives by top NATO allies mark a shift as Russia's war against Ukraine drags well into its third year and momentum has swung to the Kremlin, which has exploited Kyiv's dwindling ammunition stocks and manpower. As U.S. weaponry makes its way to the front line after months of delay, allies are keen to repel a counteroffensive by Moscow that's involved gains in Ukraine's east

and a fresh attack on the northeast.

"Together with our closest allies and in close dialog with the Ukrainian government, we are continuously adapting our support to the development of the war," Scholz's chief spokesman, Steffen Hebestreit, said in a statement on Friday.

The training assistance would initially involve a limited number of personnel before dispatching a larger group potentially numbering in the hundreds, one of the people said.

Obituaries

Gregory Mark Banta, Geneva, Oct. 27, 1954-May 29, 2024. There will be no services at this time.

.....
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

Sunday 6/2	Monday 6/3	Tuesday 6/4	Wednesday 6/5	Thursday 6/6
76/59	83/66	83/67	83/65	80/60
There's a chance of thunderstorms on Sunday under mostly cloudy skies.	Monday also has a chance of thunderstorms. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.	Tuesday's forecast also shows rain with a 60% chance of thunderstorms.	More rain is expected to fall on Wednesday, with a 70% chance of showers expected.	There's a 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms Thursday under mostly sunny skies.

Guilty ...

Continued from page 1
The 77-year-old Trump could face up to four years in prison at his sentencing on July 11 at 10 a.m., or a term of probation.

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg declined to say whether his office planned to request Trump serve time behind bars for his crimes when asked by the New York Daily News at a press conference following the stunning verdict, saying the prosecution's plans would be revealed when the former president returns to court.

"While this defendant may be unlike any other in American history, we arrived at this trial and ultimately today at this verdict in the same manner as every other case that comes through the courtroom doors: by following the facts and the

law and doing so without fear or favor," the DA said in his remarks.

Trump aggressively shook his son Eric's hand after being found guilty before leaving the courtroom. He decried the case outside.

"This was a disgrace. This was a rigged trial," Trump told reporters. "This was a rigged, disgraceful trial. The real verdict is going to be Nov. 5 by the people, and they know what happened here."

Just minutes before Merchan announced the jury had a note communicating they'd reached a verdict around 4:30 p.m., the judge announced he intended to send them home, with all in attendance expecting to return for a third day of deliberations Friday. Trump, cracking jokes at his lawyers, stiffened up upon

learning about the change of plan.

Merchan swiftly denied a motion from his attorney, Todd Blanche, requesting a judgment of acquittal based on Cohen's testimony, "knowing" that he committed perjury.

"I'm sure you misspoke when you said 'knowing.' You're not suggesting that I 'know' anybody committed perjury, right?" the judge asked Trump's lawyer.

"Correct," Blanche said.

The verdict caps the first of four criminal cases facing the 45th U.S. president. Immediately after the verdict came down, New Yorkers flooded Collect Pond Park across the street, silently watching as TV crews broadcast the news.

The jury, which got the case just before 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, took less than 12 hours to render their decision.

Capsule Reports

Lost control

Damage is estimated at more than \$100,000 after a Warren man drove a semi off county road 700 East, causing an accident about 6:56 a.m. Friday.

Brody W. Brown, 22, was driving a 2007 Kenworth W9 Series north when he

drove off the east side of the road. The semi truck he was driving entered a ditch and overturned.

Brown sustained minor bleeding on his head. The vehicle — it's registered to Schers Spreading Service of Huntington — was towed.

Puppet ...

Continued from page 1

"(The kids) get a kick out of it because they're finding it's a lot different from normal dancing, you know?" said choreographer Ric VanSkyock.

He explained the large props give different emphasis to cast members' expressions, playing on the audience's imagination.

"With the puppets, you're very limited, but that gives you a different venue or different way at looking at choreography on the stage," he explained. "Without the use of their hands fully, we're working a lot on interpretation."

The 18-and-younger cast features Jay County residents Ali McGraw and Alex Ardizzone as Nemo and Marlin, respectively, and Grace Jansen of St. Henry, Ohio, as Dory. Others in the nearly 40-member cast include Olivia Smith (Gill), Joscie LeFevre (Crush), Kenzie Huey (Bruce), Ella Littler (Bubbles) and Aubrey Millsbaugh (Coral).

Jansen performed in Jay County Civic Theatre's "A Christmas Story" in December. She has also been in several shows — those include starring as Grace Farrell in "Annie" and Cogsworth in "Beauty and the Beast" — with the theatre club at St. Henry High School. Dory, she explained, is a bubbly, ditz fish teeming with optimism.

"She's just in her own little world," she said, mentioning her parts in a few of the songs, including "Dory's Ditty" and "Just Keep Swimming," the latter of which is named after Dory's mantra.

Music director Joseph Bailey noted the largest difference from the movie is the addition of songs, which all emanate a "Disney feel," he said.

He referenced "Fish Are Friends, Not Food," which plays on a trio of sharks — Bruce, Chum and Anchor, performed by Huey and Junior Blazquez, Maley Recker and Ella Littler, and Kaylynn Clark and Inara Sanderson, respec-

tively — attempting to make friends with fish instead of eating them.

"It's really jazzy," said Bailey, pointing to the saxophone and trumpets in the song.

Ardizzone previously starred in Jay County Civic Theatre's productions of "Moana Jr." as Maui and "Frosty the Snowman." He described his character, Marlin, as a "helicopter parent."

"Nemo's the only kid that he's got, so when he loses Nemo, it's like the world shatters around him, and now he's got to go find Nemo," he said. "Marlin is definitely a character who, through the course of just an hour, goes through insane character development and emotional landscapes."

"This is a very fun show. I like the music, I like the characters, I love acting as Marlin," he added. "I'm just excited to put this on in front of an audience."

Tickets are available by visiting bit.ly/JCCT-Nemo24, calling (260) 726-4809 or visiting Arts Place. They are \$10 for students and \$12 for adults until Sunday, after which they will be \$12 and \$14, respectively.

"I hope that we can get four sell-out audiences," said Bailey. "My favorite thing, working with civic theatre, is the junior shows ... during the show process, you see them improve so much ... so it's seeing all their hard work, and I just hope that they have a really full house and a really good audience to show it off to."

Jason McGraw shared similar thoughts.

"It's about getting them an opportunity to do something new and exciting to breathe new energy into a theatrical experience for them, and giving them something different that they haven't had before," he said, noting that in this case, it had been the addition of puppets.

"I'm really excited to see the audience's reaction to how wide-scale we did this," said McGraw. "I don't think they're expecting what they're going to get."

Lotteries

Hoosier
Midday
Daily Three: 0-8-9
Daily Four: 2-8-9-9
Quick Draw: 2-3-6-7-8-11-13-19-27-29-30-32-42-46-56-58-59-60-61-63

Pick 5: 0-2-5-2-7
Evening
Rolling Cash: 8-11-20-25-26
Jackpot: \$100,000

Powerball
Estimated jackpot: \$161 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$522 million

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery
Corn.....4.34
July corn.....4.38
Wheat5.69

ADM Montpelier
Corn.....4.27
July corn.....4.29
Beans11.95
July beans11.95
Wheat6.33

Heartland St. Anthony
Corn.....4.36
July corn.....4.36
Beans11.70
July beans11.75
Wheat6.19

Today in history

In 1215, Mongols under the leadership of Genghis Khan captured Peking, now known as Beijing, in China. They proceeded to loot the city for a month.

In 1794, the Battle of the First of June was fought between England and France in the first major naval engagement of the French Revolution.

In 1831, British explorer James Clark Ross discovered the location of the magnetic north pole — where Earth's magnetic field points downward.

In 1862, Gen. Robert E. Lee took command of the Confederate army near Richmond, Virginia after Gen. Joe Johnston was injured.

In 1937, American actor Morgan Freeman was born in Memphis, Tennessee. Freeman's acting credits include "Glory," "The Shawshank Redemption" and

"Million Dollar Baby," for which he won the Oscar for best supporting actor.

In 1968, the single "Mrs. Robinson" by Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel from the movie "The Graduate" hit No. 1. It later became the first rock song to win the Grammy Award for record of the year.

In 1972, Bryant and Pennville high schools were knocked out of the sectional baseball tournament. Bryant suffered a 5-4 loss to Adams Central at Decatur while Pennville fell 8-2 to Norwell at Bluffton.

In 2021, Jay County Development Corporation executive director Travis Richards announced that Christy Shauver had accepted an offer to be the new director of Jay County Community Development. Shauver had previously been a teacher at Redkey Elementary School.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday
5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.
7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

Tuesday
4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.
5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.
7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St.
7 p.m. — Salamononia Town Council, School-house Community Center.

SERVICES

Monday

Martyne, Anthony: noon, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 506 E. Walnut St., Portland.
Downing, David: 1 p.m., Redkey Faith Ministries Church, 9811 W. Indiana 67, Redkey.

Saturday

Houser, Richard: 10 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Sunday

Snyder, Wesley: 1:30 p.m., Portland Church of Christ, 1217 W. Votaw St., Portland.

Tuesday

Ellenberger, Sheila: 11 a.m., First Missionary Church, 950 U.S. 27, Berne.

June 15

Weaver, Larry: 10:30 a.m., Akron Community Center, 815 Rural St., Akron, Indiana.
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Friendship dropped after reunion

DEAR ABBY: I am a male scientist at a large university. Four years ago, I was surprised to receive an email from someone with whom I'd been friends many years ago, when he was a postdoctoral fellow in our department. We were good friends back then, but we lost contact when he moved east and quit research. He now works in computer security. After he reinitiated contact, we resumed the friendship, with regular phone calls and emails.

Two years ago, he invited me to spend the day with him and his wife (whom I'd never met), when I visited my family on the East Coast. Since my family lives near him, I took him up on the offer and spent a very pleasant day with them at their home.

Abby, I never heard from him again! After sending several emails and a postcard thanking him and his wife for being gracious hosts, there has been silence ever since. Incidentally, we're both Jewish, as is his wife. During the years before he reconnected with me, he became Orthodox and very observant, which I am not. Any thoughts about what is going on and what, if anything, I can do about it? — **BAFFLED IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR BAFFLED: What

Dear Abby



might have happened during your visit with this old/new friend is anybody's guess. I doubt your lack of religiosity has anything to do with this. Perhaps his wife discouraged further contact. Because he never explained why he was withdrawing, you may never know. But as things stand, I don't think there's anything you can do about it. If you hear from him in another few years, feel free to ask him.

.....

DEAR ABBY: I have been in my relationship for almost five years and believe that "nothing is constant but change." My partner has caviar taste with tuna fish money. They like expensive things but can't afford to maintain them. They rob from Peter to pay Paul, make purchases with high-interest charge cards and complain constantly they don't have any extra money. They are

presently looking for another job to make more money to spend.

I live on a fixed income. I'm trying to control spending but end up in arguments about not having money to do things. My partner has mastered the art of spending other people's money, including mine, which I think is selfish. Any suggestions about how to work out these money issues? — **ALL ABOUT THE MONEY**

DEAR ALL ABOUT THE MONEY: You and your partner have very different values when it comes to finances. **THEY AREN'T GOING TO CHANGE.** This is one of the subjects that most frequently causes couples to break up. (Others include politics, sex, religion and child rearing.) My suggestion: End the relationship before this person causes you to go bankrupt.

.....

DEAR ABBY: My friend had back surgery that has left her walking with a walker or a cane. We go out to eat quite often. When the hostess takes us to our seats, they often take us to a table that is far from the door, bypassing many empty tables. Sometimes, we have even had to go up or down some steps.

I know they have a system for seating in a restaurant, but it sure would be nice if they'd recognize her difficulty in maneuvering and seat us closer to the entrance or exit. I'm sure many people have this issue. I would say something, but my friend says it would embarrass her. How do others solve this problem? — **BETTER ACCESS NEEDED IN IOWA**

DEAR ACCESS: Others resolve the problem by informing the restaurant at the time the reservation is made that a member of the party has a disability and needs easy access not only to the entrance and exit, but also to the table. If you and this friend are walk-ins with no reservation, discreetly inform the host where you need to be seated. It would be to the restaurant's advantage to avoid the potential liability of a trip and fall by not forcing this guest to maneuver through an obstacle course.

.....

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Reading programs begin Monday

Jay County Public Library is challenging the community to read 5,000 hours this summer.

All ages are invited to visit the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, starting Monday to pick up reading bookmarks. Once bookmarks are completed, they may be returned to the library to be entered into a prize drawing. Each completed bookmark counts as one entry. Children 12 years old and younger will also receive a free book for each completed bookmark.

Reading festivities will go through July 20. Plans are also to celebrate reaching the community reading goal with free popcorn and cookies at the library from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. July 25.

Fort Recovery Public Library's summer reading program, "Adventure Begins At Your Library," also starts Monday.

Students and adults may check out books at the library, 113 North Wayne St., for chances to win prizes and to participate in library programs, events and activities. (For a list of events, visit fortrecoverylibrary.org.) The reading program ends July 10 with a pool party at Ambassador Pool for participants and their families.

Community Calendar

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

Today

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

ROAD RIDERS FOR JESUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month in the West Walnut Church of Christ fellowship hall, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland. (Please enter from the door facing the alley on the north side of the building.) For more information, call (260) 726-8463.

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRI-

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

Monday

PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Portland Place, 430 W. Lafayette St. For more information, call (800) 589-1121.

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free preg-

nancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins are welcome.

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

Tuesday

COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday.

A BETTER LIFE - BRI-ANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For

more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

Wednesday

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

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

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

SINGLES AND SEPARATES SUPPORT GROUP — For anyone who's lost a loved one or has a spouse living in long-term care or suffering from an illness, the group will meet at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in the Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion in Berne. For more information, call Sarah Conrad at (260) 589-4496.

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

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

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

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GRAPHIC PRINTING
NEWSPAPERS

Rates do not apply to special sections. Ads must run in June.

Measure needs bipartisan support

The Seattle Times
Tribune News Service

Washington has made great strides in addressing the opioid crisis over the past few years. The Legislature has passed laws to educate students on the dangers of opioids, and the state, counties and cities have made Naloxone more accessible.

The state is now on the cusp of leading the nation in the fight against opioid abuse and addiction.

U.S. Sens. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., and Bill Cassidy, R-La., introduced a bipartisan bill that would expand a Washington-developed low-barrier fentanyl

Guest Editorial

treatment pilot program across the United States.

The Fatal Overdose Reduction Act would allow existing and future organizations to become certified as Health Engagement Hubs. The hubs provide a one-stop shop where substance abuse patients can receive immediate treatment with buprenorphine

and access primary care, harm reduction care and other social services without an appointment. They are to function as a patient-centered medical home by offering high-quality patient care, including wound care.

Since the opioid crisis knows no party affiliation and has impacted individuals, families, the working class and the wealthy, all of Washington's congressional delegation should support this bill in theory. However, a cost analysis has yet to be done on the bill.

The hubs were set up across the state as part of a pilot program that provided immediate care and

links to housing, transportation and other support services.

The pilot was part of a study by the University of Washington School of Medicine research professor Caleb Banta-Green, whose team reports drug trends across the state. According to UW, the study showed a 68% reduction in fatal overdoses under the pilot program.

Cantwell introduced the bill after holding a series of roundtables across the state over the last year. Should the findings reflect what could be possible nationally, the bill would create a major pathway toward reducing overdose deaths.

King County experienced a record number of overdose deaths from opioids in 2023. Many of these deaths were young people who took what they thought was Percocet. Some were people who struggled with addiction for years. Nationally, 107,900 drug overdose deaths were reported in 2022, 73,838 of which involved synthetic opioids.

Now is the time to put even more focus on the problem locally and nationally. Washington and other states have introduced innovative programs to address the crisis. A national approach based on sound research is indeed needed.

We need a farm bill that boosts farmers

By JIM TURNER
The Charlotte Observer
Tribune News Service

Climate change is disrupting farmers' planting schedules, and within this decade soil loss and extreme weather could threaten the adequacy of food supplies worldwide. But the House of Representatives is considering a farm bill that would reduce American farmers' opportunities to adopt practices that help the climate.

There is a waiting list of farmers who need support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to adopt enlightened practices, such as planting cover crops that feed soils' microorganisms after cash crops are harvested and reduce erosion. It's also important that farmers shift to minimum tillage that avoids disrupting bacteria and fungi that deliver soil's nutrients to roots of green plants, making them more resistant to disease and pests. And excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, which break down the complex biological structure of rejuvenated soil, must be avoided.

Often, farmers start those practices on one corner of their farms. But they need cost-sharing grants from the USDA during the transition while soils adapt to these smarter farming methods. Innovative farmers have shown that, once established, these farming methods reduce input costs and provide net incomes comparable to what they experienced under conventional farming practices that have been dominant since 1950.

The Inflation Recovery Act of 2022 provided almost \$20 billion to the USDA to support adoption of those and other innovative practices.

But the farm bill currently being proposed by the House would reallocate that funding to the general conservation fund, which remains largely committed to the usual practices that don't help the climate.

How those Inflation Recovery Act funds are spent matters to steer agriculture back to a healthy balance with nature. The USDA has excessively promoted heavy production of corn and soybeans, resulting in low feed costs to raise livestock. The House's insistence that 50% of conservation grants must go toward livestock activities would create further advantages for meat producers. Large livestock confinement facilities want to get even larger to qualify for grants to install methane-extraction modules, but that immediate atmospheric benefit

Guest Opinion

would be overwhelmed by further growth of the corn-soybeans-meat axis that strains the Earth's carrying capacity.

The House's farm bill would have USDA pay a larger share of the premiums for crop insurance, which pays farmers' claims not only for weather damage to crops, but also for losses because of drops in market prices. It also would establish higher crop reference prices, a key factor in calculating crop subsidies, with most of the benefits going to the largest farmers. These changes would further incentivize large farmers to continue their heavy use of soil tillage, chemical fertilizers and pesticides. These allocations would further serve to maintain the dominance of corn and soybeans in the agriculture industry — keeping too much marginal land under cultivation, which would sequester carbon better if kept in grasslands or forest. Incentives for more corn planting in western Kansas raise concerns about increased overdraws of water from the Ogallala Aquifer.

In contrast, the Senate's version of the farm bill would keep \$20 billion of IRA funds available for adoption of climate positive, soil-regenerating practices, and provide extensive new language for their administration. Some of these grants would be available to small farmers who can get their start in agriculture by raising fruits and vegetables for sale locally and regionally. This diversity of crops would not only help to regenerate the soil, but also would help to diversify peoples' diets, making for better public health.

The Senate's farm bill has many other helpful aspects. For example, one would correct a set of rules that make farmers ineligible for crop insurance claims if they have departed from traditional cultivation practices and have adopted methods that regenerate the soil.

Congress should adopt the Senate's text of the farm bill, not the one that vested interests have coaxed out of the House Agriculture Committee.

.....
Turner is director and a member of Sierra Club's Food and Agriculture Team.



Allow time for self-reflection

By MARLEE BUNCH
The Kansas City Star
Tribune News Service

As we recently celebrated the landmark case of Brown vs. Board of education, it is important to reflect upon the work we must continue to do to make equal and accessible education a reality for all. Poet and author Gwendolyn Brooks once said, "We are each other's harvest, we are each other's business, we are each other's magnitude and bond." Navigating increasing demands in the classroom, we need resources to support and help existing and aspiring educators create classrooms that embrace culturally relevant teaching, so that all students can see themselves there and thrive.

Culturally relevant teaching means understanding that our student populations are diverse, and as this diversity increases, we must work to ensure that students' various backgrounds, cultures and lived experiences are celebrated. In doing so, students and children can learn empathy and appreciation, and have a richer learning experience in the classroom.

As an educator of many years who has taught in both Missouri and Kansas, I recognized the need for a teaching framework that provided actionable ways for teachers to center students, incorporate the expertise of past educators and find collaborative approaches to ensuring best practices in our schools. My research involved conducting oral history interviews with educators who taught from 1950 to 1970, pre- and post-desegregation. These lessons coupled with the feedback of my former students is essential in understanding the experiences of our elders and the perspective of those I had in the classroom years ago.

My students (some of whom I taught more than 15 years ago and who truly inspired my teaching) shared what was effective for them in the classroom. I asked them two primary questions: What are some of the things you recall from the class-

Marlee Bunch



room that were effective for your academic learning? And what are some things I did to help you build relationships with yourself or others?

I received an overwhelming response, as students shared their recollections, feedback, and thoughts. Here are a few of the themes that emerged:

•Time to write, journal and self-reflect is an important part of learning, as it allows students to analyze, work through concerns and consider what shapes their identity and beliefs.

•Every student mentioned the importance of class discussions, or Socratic seminars. This was a way for students to have autonomy, share their lived experiences, connect real world issues to content and listen to others.

•Students want to be valued and respected. Many mentioned that small acts of acknowledgment, showing genuine interest in their lives, and affirming and believing in them, went a long way to motivate and inspire them. It builds relationships with students and families.

•Make learning enjoyable and establish a classroom of tolerance and respect. Students shared that having clear expectations and community agreements, coupled with fun learning activities, helped create balance. For example, using art and poetry in the classroom allows for students to practice inquiry and analysis through many learning modalities.

Learning from our students and from the lessons of historic educators and activists is one way to begin building a culturally responsive classroom. When creating lessons,

consider the following principles when implementing new lessons or assessing existing curriculum: uniting for collective change and naming our positionality (our lens and perspective), centering marginalized and unknown histories, unlearning, using stories in the classroom, and working toward healing are all what I have found to be foundational to sustain and build culturally competent spaces.

Additionally, the lessons learned from the educators I interviewed provided meaningful information. Some themes that emerged from those oral histories included the collective power of community and coalitions, the important role that teachers play as mentors and the positive impact of teaching to the whole child.

These lessons all helped expand my understanding of culturally responsive teaching and inspired me to write a new teaching guide to share these lessons with current and future educators. Culturally responsive teaching is about inclusive learning, celebrating one another's cultures and histories, sharing stories and perspective taking. It requires a commitment to be consistent and to intentionally learn about yourself and others. To be culturally responsive one must be willing to listen, to learn, unlearn and relearn, and to self-reflect and self-assess. It also means being in community with others, collaborating, and most important, listening. It means centering students and showing them the possibilities of reaching their highest potential.

Ultimately, if we want to create change, it will be through the work and learning of all of us. As Gwendolyn Brooks' poem so beautifully reminds us: "We are each other's business. We are each other's harvest. We are each other's magnitude and bond." I hope we all work toward doing just that to create a bright future for our students and children.

.....
Bunch is a Kansas City native and educator.

The Commercial Review



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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.

"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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and mobile homes.

40 NOTICES

INVITATION FOR BIDS
Notice is hereby given by
the board of Aviation of
the City of Portland, that
sealed bids will be
received at City Hall, 321
North Meridian St. Port-
land, IN 47371 until 4:00
P.M. Wednesday, June
12, 2024, for the follow-
ing: Annual cash rent of
26.28 tillable acres of
farmland at the airport;
under a three-year farm
lease. Such rental shall
be paid to the City of Port-
land in two installment.
The first being due April
1st and the second shall
be due November 1st.
Bid forms and a map can
be picked up at City Hall,
321 North Meridian St.,
Portland 8:00 a.m. to 4:00
p.m. Bids will be opened
at 4:00 p.m. on the June
19th, 2024 by the Board
of Aviation at the airport,
661 W. 100 N., Portland.
The Board of Aviation
reserves the right to
reject any and all bids or
to waive informalities in
bidding due to errors.

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more than one days
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90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 5216 N. Morris-
son Rd.
Muncie IN
Saturday Morning
June 8th, 2024
10:00 A. M.
**HOUSEHOLD GOODS -
OLD ITEMS**
Maytag Dryer; Minneso-
ta sewing machine;
Huffy bicycle; HARLEY
DAVIDSON: clock, hel-
mets, pins, patches,
bags, and other items;
sofa; loveseat; recliner;
bookcases; gold clubs;
children's books; pic-
tures; and many other
items not listed.

**CAR - MOTORCYCLE -
TRUCKS - TOOLS**
2009 Chevy Traverse LT
2 wheel drive utility vehi-
cle with 126,000 miles;
2004 Harley 1200 Sport-
ster motorcycle with
17,417 miles; 2002
Chevy S10 Truck (as is);
1979 Chevy Flair side
bed truck; Magna Force
5hp - 60 gallon vertical
air compressor; Cole-
man Power Mate 60 gal-
lon - 7hp air compres-
sor; Power Back 5500
watt generator; Crafts-
man drill; Kennedy tool
box; Century 80 - 110
wire feed welder; MW
front tine roto tiller; Dyna
Mark snow blower;
Craftsman wrenches;
Craftsman 1/2" torque
wrench; Stanley &
Craftsman screwdrivers;
26' aluminum extension
ladder; Mikata 3/8" drill;
motorcycle jack; and
many other items not
listed.

**DENNIS BRUCE HAT-
FIELD ESTATE**
By James & Jama Hole,
PR
Loy Auction
AC#31600027
Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer
AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Woman's Buld-
ing Jay County Fair-
grounds, 806 E. Votaw
St. Portland, IN
Saturday Morning
June 1st, 2024
9:30 A. M.

**HOUSEHOLD GOODS -
OLD & COLLECTORS
ITEMS - COINS - MISC.**
Cico scooter; Juke box
with records; large
Replogle Globe Compa-
ny globe on stand; Trek
8000 bicycle; Trek Jet
Twenty bicycle; Got-
tlieb's Super Soccer pin
ball machine; 2 pc.
china hutch; hammered
copper farmhouse sink;
Rinnai tankless water
heater; large copper
weathervane; Schwinn
bicycle; Sheffield Silver
Co ice bucket; Teeter
900 LX Inversion table;
French style easel; Oak
commode with towel
bar; Oak dresser with

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from Jail

90 SALE CALENDAR

mirror; #5 Red Wing
crock with handles; #3
Bee Sting Crock; CAN-
NING JARS: Ball,
Mason, Crown, Atlas,
Kerr, Presto, Perfect
seal, Swazee, Root to
name a few; oil lamps;
COINS: 1923 Peace Sil-
ver Dollar, Walking Lib-
erty Half Dollars, 1838 &
1861 Sealed Half
Dimes, 1840 & 1891
Seated Liberty Dimes,
Barber, Mercury & Roo-
sevelt Dimes, Replica of
\$20 gold piece made of
24k, Eisenhower Dol-
lars, and many others
not listed. Sinclair dog
and apple; Bose radio;
Kenwood stereo and
speakers; sewing cabin-
et; Art Glass; quilts;
fishing poles; small
kitchen appliances;
antique baskets; Murano
clown; Evinrude 25
motor; Skil belt sander;
and many other items
not listed.

NOTES: Doors will open
at 8:00 a.m. day of auc-
tion for preview.
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AC#31600027
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Gary Loy AU01031608
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AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112

PUBLIC AUCTION
SATURDAY JUNE 1ST,
2024
TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: Bob Schmit
Memorial Building - Jay
County Fairgrounds E
Votaw St.
Portland, IN.
**COINS-GOLD JEWEL-
RY**

1795 and 1796 Silver
dollars; (4) 1oz Silver
bars; (5) 1oz slugs; Sil-
ver quarters and proofs;
2007 10oz silver dollar;
Mercury dimes; Buffalo
and war nickels; Coin
collector books; Indian,
wheat, and steel pen-
nies; Red seal \$2 bills;
Chicago Bears and
other gold rings; 2.5
gram gold necklace; 12k
pageant necklace.
**ANTIQUES-HOUSE-
HOLD-GARAGE ITEMS**
Arrow heads; stamp col-
lection; 1997 Alaska
State Fair belt buckle;
JD toys and gas pump;
Mitsubishi baby grand
piano; JD LX 172 14HP
mower with 38" cut;
Craftsman 24" snow-
blower; Craftsman 7.5"
table saw; Fishing poles
and tackle. Several
items not mentioned.
OWNER: Rose Snow
and Shreves Family
TERMS: CASH-GOOD

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

NOTICE OF SALE
The following items which
were left for storage with Paul Wick-
leman, 1800 S 300 W, Portland,
Indiana 47371 will be sold at
public auction on the 15th day
of June, 2024 at 10:00 A.M. at
Pete Shawver Auctioneer, 788
E300 S, Portland, Indiana 47371
unless they are redeemed prior
to the sale. There are no manu-
facturers' identification num-
bers on the trailers.

1. Semi-trailer with a number 4532 on the trailer; E - Z.
2. A Strick semi-trailer with a number 68 on the trailer.
3. An Evans/Monon Semi-trailer with a number 651042 on the trailer.
4. An Evans/Monon Semi-trailer with a number 651044 on the trailer.
5. A Capeo Semi-trailer with a number 65039 on the trailer.
6. A Semi-trailer with a number 583499 on the trailer.

There is further personal prop-
erty which includes filing cabi-
nets, cabinets, swing set for
adults, tires, moving blankets,
two water pump, church bell,
scale, baby stroller, salamander,
electric heater, car ramps, bull
horns, miscellaneous paints
and cleaners, awnings, lawn-
mower, saddle, hobby horse,
desk, animal cage wicker chair,
loveseat, storage containers,
moving cart, 2 loading ramps,
bread rack, 6 fans, 9 hand carts,
plastic tubs, baby crib, garden
tiller, fan, ladder, tub, fishing
poles to hold video, and other
miscellaneous and assorted
personal property.
The total amount of storage on
each vehicle is \$1500.00. The
storage on all personal property
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90 SALE CALENDAR

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260 PUBLIC AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION

Located at 5216 N Morrison Road, Muncie Indiana on Saturday Morning

JUNE 8, 2024

10:00 A.M.

HOUSEHOLD GOODS - OLD ITEMS

32" flatscreen TV; Maytag dryer; Minnesota sewing machine; Huffy bicycle;
HARLEY DAVIDSON: clock, helmets, pin, patches, bags and other items;
table with 4 chairs; sofa; loveseat; recliner; bookcases; desk; fans; golf clubs;
children's books; **BLOW MOLDS:** Santa, Pumpkin, etc; children's books;
stuffed animals; lighted outdoor decorations; luggage; games; picnic baskets;
pet carrier; oil lamp; roller skates; wagon; doll carriage; old books; horseshoes;
globe; pictures; and many other items not listed.

CAR - MOTORCYCLE - TRUCKS - TOOLS

2009 Chevy Traverse LT 2 wheel drive utility vehicle with 126,000 miles, VIN # 1GNER23D79S133661; 2004 Harley 1200 Sportster motorcycle, 17,417 miles, VIN # 1HD1CLP114K411542; 2002 Chevy S10 Truck (as is), VIN # 1GCDT13W32K167197; 1979 Chevy Flair side bed truck, VIN # CKL149J146240; Countyline 25T - 6 1/2 hp log splitter on wheels; Magna Force 5 hp - 60 gallon vertical air compressor; Coleman Power Mate 60 gallon - 7 hp air compressor; Power Back 5500 watt generator; Campbell Hausfeld 1800 PSI power washer; Yard Machine rear tine 5 hp tiller; Yard Man 18 hp - 46" riding lawn mower with front blade; Craftsman drill press; Black Max Power gas power washer; Craftsman 5 hp shop vac; Kennedy tool box; Craftsman 6" bench grinder on stand; 1 1/2T floor jack; Craftsman Sawzall; Craftsman 2 pc. tool box; Craftsman angle grinder; Century 80 - 110 wire feed welder; Craftsman scroll saw; Craftsman 2 door tool cabinet; Agfi Fab 8 hp vac on wheels; MW front tine roto tiller; Dyna Mark snow blower; 2T shop crane; set of acetylene torches with cart; welding helmets; channel locks; pipe wrenches; Craftsman vise; sockets; pliers; Craftsman wrenches; Craftsman 1/2" torque wrench; drill bits; hydraulic punch driver; conduit bender; air impact, ratchet, and shears; Sears battery charger; deep well sockets; Stanley & Craftsman screwdrivers; metal car ramps; shovels; rakes; C clamps; indexers; levels; pry bars; 3/4" plywood; axes; lawn roller; 26' aluminum extension ladder; wood ladder; pull type broadcaster, aerator and yard sprayer; crimping tool; Mikata 3/8" drill; jacks; blow torch; hatchets; wire connectors; motorcycle jack; 6' step ladder; small air compressor; winch; and many other items not listed.

AUCTIONEERS NOTE: This is only a partial listing of the many items that will be sold.

DENNIS BRUCE HATFIELD ESTATE

By James & Jama Hole, PR
LOY AUCTION AC#31600027
AUCTIONEERS

Gary Loy AU 01031608 Aaron Loy AU11200112
Travis Theurer AU 11200131

CR 6-1-2024

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FR offense keeps rolling

Indians hit double digits again in regional semifinal win

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

ELIDA, Ohio — Crooked numbers. They're not something the Indians were known for during the regular season.

They scored three or fewer runs a dozen times.

They averaged two runs over a five-game stretch before closing the regular season with an 11-1 blowout of a struggling Spencerville squad.

Really the only crooked number associated with the team heading into the state tournament series was its district seed — No. 6. Even in the sectional, it totaled just seven runs over two games.

An offensive explosion now has the Indians one win away from state.

Fort Recovery put up double-digit runs for the third consecutive tournament game Thursday, trouncing the Montpelier Locomotives 14-4 in the Division IV high school baseball regional semifinal at Elida's Ed Sandy Field.

"As a team, we've really been coming together," said senior starting pitcher Alex Dues, who was the beneficiary of the runs Thursday and in the Tribe's 12-8 district semifinal win over Parkway. (FRHS also beat Marion Local 11-3 in the district championship game.) "And our hitting has definitely, definitely improved. If someone had told me our hitting would be winning us games at the end of the season, I would have laughed at them."

The Indians (14-12) advance to Friday's regional championship game to take on Leipsic (25-2). The Vikings, who were the No. 1 seed in their district, rolled to victory in their regional semifinal earlier Thursday, finishing off fellow top seed Riverdale 10-0 in five innings.

Friday's winner will advance to state, with the state semifinal scheduled



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Fort Recovery High School's Mason Diller celebrates with Reece Wendel (99) after both scored on a double by Caden Grisez during the fifth inning of the Indians' 14-4 regional semifinal victory over Montpelier on Thursday at Elida.

for 4 p.m. June 8 at Canal Park, home of the Akron RubberDucks.

"It's crazy, 'cause no one thought we were going to do anything coming in (9-11)," said senior second baseman Sage Wendel. (The Indians added a game against Coldwater after the tournament began, losing 4-2 to the Cavaliers who will also be playing for a regional title Friday in Division III.) "We're here to keep on making noise. ... We've been hitting everything. We've just got to clean it up a bit and I think we can make it to state."

Fort Recovery (14-12) posted single tallies in each of the first two innings but fell behind when the Locomotives chugged their way to three runs in the bottom of the second. Another one-run inning tied the game in the fourth before the Indians

recorded their first of three consecutive crooked numbers.

Senior center fielder Troy Homan, who started 0-for-2, sparked the rally with a single up the middle and Reece Wendel reached base on an error that allowed Homan to advance to third base. Caden Homan followed with a grounder that discombobulated Montpelier shortstop Landon Fackler. He first looked to throw home in an attempt to cut down Troy Homan before deciding against that idea. Then he turned to third, where there was no force out. Fackler ultimately held on to the ball, leaving Reece Wendel on second base and Caden Homan on first while the Locomotives were still looking for their first out of the inning.

Following a successful Alex Gaerke sacrifice bunt,

Caden Grisez ripped a two-run double to center field. RBI singles by Gavin Faller and Riggs Tobe completed a five-run inning that put the game firmly in the Tribe's control.

"When we took the lead on them I thought that we were going to stay competitive," said Montpelier coach Toby Hutchinson. "I think once they scored those runs we kind of packed it in. Usually we're a pretty resilient team, but I think we got down and never came back."

Fort Recovery added two runs in the sixth inning and three more in the seventh for the 10-run victory.

Seven players recorded hits for the Indians, with all three from Troy Homan coming in the final three innings. (He also scored in the fifth, sixth and seventh.) Faller had three hits and two runs,

and Grisez notched a couple of hits to go along with four RBIs. Reece Wendel scored four times as he reached base on a single, a walk, an error and a hit-by-pitch.

Thursday's offensive outburst provided Dues more than enough support. While he allowed four runs on six hits and two walks, only one of them was earned. He recorded two strikeouts, fanning Jaxson Stahler for the final out after Grisez and Sage Wendel turned a 5-4-3 double play.

"It made me feel a lot more comfortable on the mound, a lot more laid back," said Dues of the five-run lead following the top of the fifth inning. "I wasn't as stressed. I knew I could just fill up the strike zone, let the guys behind me make some plays."

Fort Recovery and Leipsic have two common opponents on the season. The Indians beat Crestview 2-1 in the sectional championship game while the Vikings topped the Convoy squad 3-1 during the regular season. Both teams blew out Spencerville.

Leipsic's only losses this season came against Division IV No. 7 Lincolnview — it avenged that defeat in the district semifinal — and Division III No. 3 Liberty-Benton.

"Two pretty good hitting teams coming in tomorrow and two pretty good pitching teams," said FRHS coach Kevin Eyink. "It's going to be a battle, I think."

"(We need to) continue doing what we're doing — really good at bats from everybody and getting the ball in play. Caden (Grisez) has got to throw strikes and we've got to play a little better defensively. We'll give ourselves a chance, I think."

The opportunity in front of the Indians is to earn their first trip to the state finals since going back-to-back nearly a decade ago. FRHS beat Cincinnati Country Day 11-9 to win

Box score							
Fort Recovery Indians vs. Montpelier Locomotives							
OHSAA Division IV Regional semifinal							
at Elida							
Fort Recovery (14-12)							
	ab	r	h	bi			
THoman cf	5	3	3	1			
RWendel lf	3	4	1	0			
CHoman dh	4	0	1	2			
Diller pr	0	1	0	0			
Gaerke ss	3	2	1	1			
Grisez 3b	5	1	2	4			
Faller 1b	5	2	3	1			
Evers rf	2	0	0	0			
Leverette ph	1	0	0	0			
Tobe c	2	1	1	2			
Dues p	4	0	0	0			
SWendel 2b	4	0	0	0			
Totals	33	14	12	11			
Montpelier (13-10)							
	ab	r	h	bi			
Coolley c	4	0	0	1			
Smeltzer p	4	0	1	1			
Fackler ss	4	0	0	0			
Smith cf	4	0	1	0			
Richmond	3	0	1	0			
Stahler 2b	3	0	1	0			
Hartssock 3b	3	2	1	0			
Bass rf	3	1	1	0			
Plourde lf	2	1	1	0			
Totals	30	4	7	2			
FRHS	110	152	4	— 14			
Montpelier	030	001	0	— 4			
LOB — Fort Recovery 8, Montpelier 8, 2B — Fort Recovery 3 (THoman, Gaerke, Grisez) Montpelier 1 (Richmond), SB — Fort Recovery 2 (RWendel, Evers).							
IP H R ER BB SO							
Fort Recovery	Dues	7	7	4	1	2	2
Montpelier	Smeltzer	5+	8	10	9	3	2
	Fackler	2	3	4	0	1	2

the regional title in 2015 and Kalida 11-1 to repeat in 2016.

Troy Homan remembers being a bat boy for both of those teams and is excited about what the Indians could accomplish Friday, but took a businesslike approach as he left the field Thursday night.

"We've got a job to do tomorrow," he said with ice wrapped around his arm. "I have no doubt these guys are going to come out ready to go. This community deserves it. This team deserves it. Coach Eyink deserves it and we're gonna be ready to go ... I don't have any doubt in that."

Productive prelims

Fort Recovery moves on in three events at state track and field tournament

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

DAYTON, Ohio — Anna Roessner, Paige Guggenbiller and Kiana Matsuda built a lead for the Indians' anchor, Mara Pearson, in the 4x100-meter relay.

Matsuda handed Pearson the baton just before Trinity's Courtney McCray shuffled hers off to Iniya Charlton. All the senior needed to do was hold onto the lead to secure a spot in the finals.

She did just that.

The Fort Recovery High School girls track team competed in the OHSAA Division III track and field state prelims at Dayton Public Schools' Welcome Stadium on the University of Dayton's campus on Thursday. Fort Recovery moved onto the finals in three of their events.

The Indians advanced to the finals in three events and distance runners Trevor Heitkamp and Natalie Brunswick joined them to give FRHS six total events. For more on the finals, check out the story on page 10.

"It was a really solid day," said FRHS coach Christy Diller. "A really good day. It's hard to complain about anything."

The highlight of Fort Recovery's day came during the 4x100 relay. The Indians were seeded third and ran in the same heat as second-seeded Trinity.

Roessner got off to a strong start and Guggenbiller held onto the lead. Matsuda extended the advantage during the third leg before Pearson finished off the race. FRHS wound up with a time of 49.52 seconds to beat the Trojans — who's regional time was 0.02 seconds faster than Fort Recovery — by 0.32 seconds.

"It was awesome," Pearson said. "I didn't realize their anchor would be as crazy as it was. But I was just like 'keep my

head up. Don't look back. Just keep running. Stay consistent."

"That was my big thing to focus on us and focus on now to get across that finish line."

Right after the race, Pearson needed to head over to the long jump pit to start warming up as the first flight was nearly ready to start. The effort she exerted on the track ended up hurting her in the field event.

"It was hard," Pearson said. "They ran about 15 minutes late, so I was there panting, out of breath and doing my two run throughs quick. That's when I was max warm and by the time I was jumping, I was not as warm anymore. That was a big adjustment for me, but it happens."

Pearson's first jump resulted in a foul before she hit a mark of 15 feet, 7.75 inches, on her second. She fouled again in her third attempt, leaving her out of the finals for the first time in her high school career. (She reached the finals but didn't medal as a freshman, placed seventh as a sophomore and was the state runner-up as a junior.)

"The first (foul), I reached," Pearson said. "My last one I just wanted to focus on speed. My second jump I didn't have a lot of speed. I had to rewarm my legs back up, which is something I've never had to do. ... I wanted to leave it all out there."

"It's awesome to finish out at state. ... I still have (the 4x100 relay) so on to the next and let's get that gold."

Pearson needed a jump of at least 16 feet, 7 inches, to match the mark of Jameson Pillifant from Columbus School for Girls for the ninth and final spot in the finals. Coldwater's Izzy Zahn took home the state crown with a jump of 18 feet, 7.75 inches.

Roessner joined the 4x100 in the finals Friday.

The sole junior for Fort Recov-



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Fort Recovery High School's Mara Pearson crosses the finish line first in the 4x100-meter relay during the preliminary race for the OHSAA Division III state track and field tournament on Thursday at Welcome Stadium in Dayton. The Indians earned the second seed in the event, only trailing West Liberty-Salem by 0.41 seconds.

ery at the state tournament ran a career-best and broke her own school record with a time of 24.6 seconds in the 200 dash to remain as the fourth seed. Zahn broke the state record with a 24.06 seconds.

Earlier in the afternoon, Roessner finished with the sixth-fastest time in the 100 dash at 12.15 seconds to secure her spot in the finals.

"The 100 is really close, so I'm

not counting anybody out and it can be anybody's race on any given day," Roessner said. "In the 200, I'm happy with a lifetime best. Either way, I qualified and I think that's fun."

Matsuda ran her last 300 hurdles of her high school career.

She entered the day as the No. 15 seed after earning an at-large bid. Matsuda fell short of South Central's Gracelyn Lamoreaux (46.85 seconds) for the last spot

in the finals, but her time of 47.59 seconds propelled her to a 13th-place finish.

"I'm very proud of myself," Matsuda said. "I felt like my start was very strong and I got out the way my coaches told me to. My first couple of hurdles were going very great. I get to that curve where I can struggle, but I pushed through it for 12th. Overall, I'm very proud of myself and I like my results."

Rolls ...

Continued from page 10

“We saw that flag all game and we said, ‘We’re going to win this thing. We’re going to wave that flag.’ And that’s exactly what we did.”

The Indians (15-12) advance to the OHSAA Division IV Baseball State Finals to be contested next weekend at Canal Park in Akron. Making their first trip to the state finals since going back-to-back in 2015 and ’16, they will play fellow unranked squad Hillsdale (19-11) in the state semifinal at 4 p.m. Saturday, June 8. (The Falcons won their regional title Friday with a 3-0 shutout of John F. Kennedy Catholic.)

The other state semifinal pits top-ranked Berlin Hiland (25-5) against No. 4 Russia (27-4), with the winners to play in the Division IV state championship game at 7 p.m. Sunday, June 9.

“I couldn’t be more proud of these guys,” said FRHS coach Kevin Eyink, whose team was 9-11 entering the postseason and now finds itself two wins away from a state championship. “We believed in each other. They believed in each other. They put it together at the right time.”

Fort Recovery set the tone immediately against the Vikings (25-3) with Homan drawing a leadoff walk. He advanced to third on a pair of wild pitches and gave his team a lead it would never relinquish on a single by Caden Homan, who later scored on a Caden Grisez double.

Troy Homan was hit by a pitch to start the third and again took second on a wild pitch to start another two-run frame that included two Leipsic errors and a Gavin Faller single.

“That’s huge,” said Troy Homan. “We’ve been able to do it against Marion. We’ve been able to do it against Montpelier. And we did it again today in the first inning.

“From someone who’s



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Caden Grisez, a junior at Fort Recovery High School, hurls a pitch during the Indians’ 5-1 victory over Leipsic in the OHSAA Division IV regional finals on Friday. Grisez went the distance on the mound for the Indians and struck out five batters in a row over in the first and second innings.

been on the other side of that, when someone scores in the first inning like that, it kills a lot of energy. So when we can do that ... it’s huge for our team.”

That support was plenty for Grisez, who at one point struck out five batters in a row. He didn’t allow a runner past second base until the Vikings loaded the bases with no outs in the sixth inning.

Eyink visited the mound after the first two

hitters reached base in the sixth and sent Rex Leverette to warm up following Grisez’s walk of Trent Siefker to load the bases. But Leverette was never needed as Grisez induced a fly ball from Zac Lammers, gave up the only Leipsic run on a ground out to Alex Dues at shortstop and got a pop up from Nick Schroeder to third baseman Alex Gaerke to escape the threat.

“Just take a step back, try to keep composed,” said Grisez, who finished with seven strikeouts, reflecting on his mindset. The pitcher helped his cause by going 2-for-3 with a double, a walk and an RBI. “I know their fans, they were getting into it, thinking they were going to come back. Stay composed, one out at a time, strike by strike.”

Reece Wendel singled, stole second base, took

third on a wild pitch and scored on a Caden Homan single to add an insurance run in the top of the seventh inning. Grisez then sat the Vikings down in order in their final at bat, with the fly ball to Troy Homan ending the game and setting off a celebration.

The Indians were not expected to make it out of the sectional, let alone be a threat for a state championship. They entered

Box score					
Fort Recovery Indians vs. Leipsic Vikings					
OHSAA Division IV Regional championship					
at Elida					
Fort Recovery (15-12)					
	ab	r	h	bi	
THoman cf	2	2	0	0	
RWendel lf	4	1	1	0	
CHoman dh	4	1	2	2	
Diller pr	0	0	0	0	
Gaerke 3b	4	1	1	0	
Grisez p	3	0	2	1	
Faller 1b	4	0	1	1	
Evers rf	3	0	0	0	
Tobe c	3	0	1	0	
Siegrist cr	0	0	0	0	
Dues ss	3	0	0	0	
SWendel 2b	0	0	0	0	
Totals	30	5	8	4	
Montpelier (25-3)					
	ab	r	h	bi	
QSchroeder c	3	0	2	0	
Offenbacher 1b	2	1	2	0	
Ziesloft 3b	3	0	1	0	
Siefker ss	2	0	0	0	
Lammers cf	3	0	0	0	
Niese rf	3	0	1	1	
NSchroeder p	3	0	0	0	
Camareno 2b	3	0	0	0	
Paris dh	3	0	0	0	
Bryan lf	0	0	0	0	
Totals	25	1	6	1	
FRHS	202	000	000	1 — 5	
Leipsic	000	001	001	0 — 1	
LOB — Fort Recovery 7, Leipsic 6. 2B — Fort Recovery 1 (Grisez), SB — Fort Recovery 1 (RWendel).					
IP H R ER BB SO					
Fort Recovery					
Grisez	7	6	1	1	7
Montpelier					
NSchrdr	2.2	2	4	2	2
Dewar	4.1	6	1	1	0

the tournament series as the No. 6 seed in the Northeast 3 District with a 9-11 record and squeaked past Crestview 2-1 in their sectional championship game.

Fort Recovery trailed Parkway 4-2 in its district semifinal before scoring 10 runs in the bottom of the sixth inning. Since then, it has topped Marion Local, Montpelier and Leipsic by a combined 30-8 to advance to the state final four.

“Everyone’s doubted us all year,” said Caden Homan, who went 2-for-4 with two RBIs and a run. “Halfway through the year, everyone’s doubting us thinking we don’t have a chance and this is what we do. We’re going to Akron next week. Unbelievable.”

Sprinting ...

Continued from page 10

“It’s crazy,” Roessner said. “Last year, I didn’t expect to be running anywhere near these times or even be at state individually. It’s been a lifetime goal just to get here individually, so it’s super cool to see the hard work paying off and the results that can come from it.”

Roessner’s top finish came in the 200 dash. After running two events earlier in the day, Roessner found enough gas in the tank to finish in 25.09 seconds and claim third place. Coldwater’s Izzy Zahn took the top spot in 24.48 seconds while Iniya Charlton of Trinity finished as the runner-up in 24.99.

The FRHS junior placed fifth in the 100 dash after running a 12.34. Charlton claimed the state title in the event with a 11.95, while Alex Kessen of St. John’s followed with a 12.15. (Roessner’s preliminary time would have tied Kessen.)

“It mainly just makes me really excited to put the work in again and see if I can still be dropping time and unlock my full potential,” Roessner said. “You never know what you can do until you do it. It’ll be fun and I’m excited.”

Roessner, Paige Guggenbiller, Kiana Matsuda and Mara Pearson claimed fourth

in the 4x100 with a time of 49.67 seconds. West Liberty-Salem earned the top spot with a 49.1.

In 2023, the Indians made the state finals after putting the 4x100 team together quickly for the district meet and climbing their way up. They got disqualified for an early start, keeping them from a medal last year but made the podium on the comeback tour.

“It’s been a redemption tour this year and we’ve had so much fun,” Pearson said. “Whatever happened we just wanted to come out on top.”

“It feels unreal to be here,” Guggenbiller added. “Last year it felt like a privilege even to step foot at regional finals so it’s crazy to be back here.”

While Heitkamp didn’t earn a medal, he accomplished three of his other goals. He came in looking to beat his 13th and 14th placements from the previous season, set a new career best and break school records.

In the 1,600 run, the senior sat near the back half of the runners through the race before finishing 11th in 4 minutes, 24.44 seconds.

He knew he wanted more for his final event.

Determined to end his career strong, Heitkamp smashed his

own school record by nearly six seconds to finish ninth in the 3,200 run with a 9:32.08.

“It feels amazing,” Heitkamp said, “After that mile, I was happy with how I did, but I knew it wasn’t what I wanted. This is my last time wearing this uniform, representing my school and it just means so much to go out there and break a school record in my last race.”

Heitkamp needed to run 2.79 seconds faster to match Mount Gilead’s Parker Bartlett for the final medal.

Natalie Brunswick also got to compete as an individual for the first time. The senior ran a time of 5:24.71 to finish 17th in the 1,600 run.

Brunswick, Guggenbiller, Heitkamp, Matsuda and Pearson are all seniors, leaving Roessner as the only Indian set to return next year. Diller, who has coached many of the athletes since middle school, had some time to reflect on their journey amid the post-meet celebrations.

“I was getting sappy about it already this morning,” Diller said. “They’re just good people and not to mention hard workers and all that. I have a soft spot for them and it’ll be hard to see them go.”



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Trevor Heitkamp leads a group of runners in the 1,600-meter run at the state finals on Friday. Heitkamp finished 11th in the race, but the highlight of his day came in the 3,200 run when he broke his own school record by nearly six seconds and climbed up to ninth place.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today

Portland Rockets at Grand Lakes Mariners — 6:30 p.m.

Monday

Jay County — Boys golf sectional at Hickory Hills Golf Course — 9 a.m.

TV sports

Today

5:30 a.m. — National Rugby League: Canberra Raiders at Dolphins (FS1)

10:15 a.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Enjoy Illinois 300 (FS1)

12 p.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Series: Pacific Office Automation 147 (FS1)

12 p.m. — UFC: Jailton Almeida vs. Alexandr Romanov (ESPN2)

1:30 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: Toyota 200 (FOX)

2 p.m. — UFL: Birmingham Stallions at Michigan Panthers (ESPN)

3 p.m. — LPGA Tour: U.S. Women’s Open (NBC)

3 p.m. — IMSA SportsCar Champi-

onship: Detroit Grand Prix (USA)

4 p.m. — UFL: St. Louis Battlehawks at San Antonio Brahmas (FOX)

4:30 p.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Series: Pacific Office Automation 147 (FS1)

5 p.m. — International friendly women’s soccer: Korea Republic vs. United States (TNT)

5:30 p.m. — PGA Tour: Canadian Open (CBS)

7 p.m. — College softball tournament (ESPN)

7:15 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Chicago Cubs (FOX)

8 p.m. — NHL playoffs: New York Rangers at Florida Panthers (ABC)

12 p.m. — UFC fighting (ESPN2)

8:30 p.m. — NBA playoffs: Minnesota Timberwolves at Dallas Mavericks (TNT)

9 p.m. — USL Championship: Oakland Roots at Colorado Springs (FS1)

9:15 p.m. — CONCACAF Champions Cup: Columbus Crew vs. Pachuca (FS1)

Sunday

12 p.m. — UFL: D.C. Defenders at

Arlington Renegades (ABC)

12:30 p.m. — IndyCar: Detroit Grand Prix (USA)

1 p.m. — Tennis: French Open (NBC)

2:15 p.m. — PGA Tour: Canadian Open (CBS)

2:20 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Chicago Cubs (Bally Indiana)

3 p.m. — College softball tournament (ABC)

3 p.m. — LPGA Tour: U.S. Women’s Open (USA)

3:30 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Enjoy Illinois 300 (FS1)

4 p.m. — LPGA Tour: U.S. Women’s Open (NBC)

4:45 p.m. — MLS: Charlotte at Atlanta United (FOX)

7 p.m. — UFL: Memphis Showboats at Houston Roughnecks (FOX)

7 p.m. — MLB: St. Louis Cardinals at Philadelphia Phillies (ESPN)

8 p.m. — NHL playoffs: Dallas Stars at Edmonton Oilers (TNT)

ment (ESPN)

2:30 p.m. — College softball tournament (ESPN)

7 p.m. — College softball tournament (ESPN)

8 p.m. — NHL playoffs: Florida Panthers at New York Rangers (ESPN)

8:40 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Colorado Rockies (Bally Indiana)

9:30 p.m. — College softball tournament (ESPN)

9:40 p.m. — MLB: San Francisco Giants at Arizona Diamondbacks (FS1)

Tuesday

8 p.m. — International friendly women’s soccer (TNT)

8:30 p.m. — NHL playoffs: Edmonton Oilers at Dallas Stars (TNT)

8:40 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Colorado Rockies (Bally Indiana)

Local notes

Date set

The 42nd annual Cancer Association of Darke County/Annie Oakley Golf

Tournament is set to take place on July 22 at Turtle Creek Golf Course in Greenville, Ohio.

Lunch will be served at 11:15 a.m., with a shotgun start to follow at 12:15 p.m.

All proceeds will go to the Cancer Association of Darke County.

For additional information or an entry form call (937) 548-9960 or email director@cadinfo.org.

Races coming up

The Adams County Challenge has two races scheduled for June.

On June 8 at 8 a.m., the Youth for Christ 5K will start at Ceylon Covered Bridge outside of Geneva. Participants can register online at bigjawsfc.org/event/5k for \$20. A t-shirt is included for those who register before June 1.

The Superhero Fun Run for those 12-and-under will be held at 8 a.m. with a 5K following at 8:30 a.m. on June 15. Both races will begin at 141 N First St., Decatur.

Registration costs \$15 and will also include a t-shirt if done before June 1.

Outing scheduled

The annual City of Portland Mayor’s Golf Outing has been scheduled for Friday, June 14, at Portland Golf Club.

Registration for the event will be held from 11 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. on the day of the outing. A meal will also be provided for the four-person teams at this time. Registration is limited to the first 20 teams and must be completed by June 10 and submitted to 321 N. Meridian St., emailing mayor-soffice@thecityofportland.net or calling (260) 726-9395.

Golfing will begin with a shotgun start at noon. Those interested can also sponsor the event. It cost \$150 to sponsor a hole, \$200 to sponsor a team and a meal or \$300 for to sponsor a team, a meal and hole sponsorship.

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To have an event listed in “Sports on tap,” email details to sports@thecr.com.

Sports

Sprinting to podium

Indians earn medals in three events at Division III state finals

By **ANDREW BALKO**

The Commercial Review

DAYTON, Ohio — The Indians sent five seniors and a junior to the state tournament.

Two of them qualified as individuals for the first time in their careers.

One of those Indians brought back two individual medals and one relay medal back to the town.

Anna Roessner led the Fort Recovery High School girls track team to a 16th-place finish at the OHSAA Division III Track and Field State Finals tournament on Friday at Welcome Stadium in Dayton while making it to the podium in three different sprinting events.

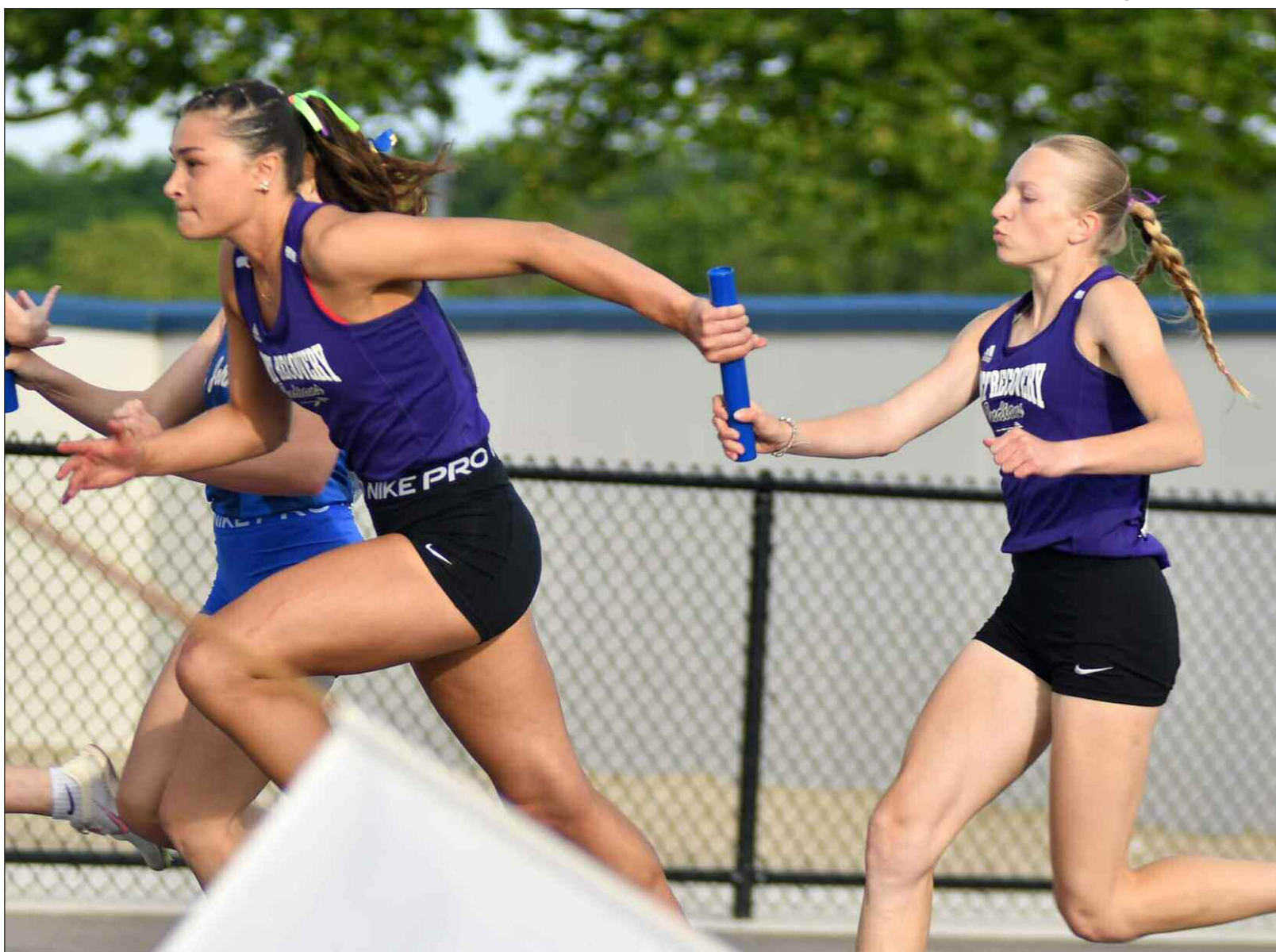
Roessner made the podium in third, fourth and fifth place in the 200-meter dash, 4x100 relay and 100 dash, respectively, to tally 15 points for the Indians. Smithville took the top spot with 50 points in the state. Other top Midwest Athletic Conference finishes included Coldwater (33 points) in second, St. John's (22) in sixth and Minster (17) in 13th.

Trevor Heitkamp, who represented the boys team at state, didn't manage to score but accomplished other goals he set for himself.

"It was such a great day," FRHS coach Christy Diller said. "I think every kid, when they got done, was smiling. That's a great place to be at the end. To finish their season at state, we can't ask for more than that."

Last year, Roessner competed in the state tournament as one of the middle legs of the 4x100 relay. While reprising a role on the relay team — she now leads it off — she also got to run in two individual events.

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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Fort Recovery High School sprinters Paige Guggenbiller (left) and Anna Roessner execute the first exchange during the 4x100-meter relay at the OHSAA Division III state track and field tournament at Welcome Stadium in Dayton on Friday. The Indians completed their redemption tour with a podium-worthy finish of 49.67 seconds to take fourth-place after being disqualified from the state finals for an early start in 2023.

The Commercial Review presents
 Jay County Civic Theatre's Production of
 Disney • PIXAR
FINDING NEMO JR.
 Book, Music and Lyrics by **Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez**
 Book Adapted by **Lindsay Anderson**
 Music and Orchestrations Adapted and Arranged by **Myrna Conn**

Based on the 2003 Disney/Pixar film Finding Nemo written by Andrew Stanton, Bob Peterson, David Reynolds and directory by Andrew Stanton

Disney's Finding Nemo JR. is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International, New York, NY 212-541-4684 mtishows.com

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FRHS rolls on to state

Indians handle Leipsic in regional title game

By **RAY COONEY**

The Commercial Review

ELIDA, Ohio — Between innings, Fort Recovery students were running up and down waiving a purple and white flag.

The Indians wanted that banner.

They knew what they needed to do to get it.

Fort Recovery jumped on top early and built a four-run lead. It squelched the only real Viking threat in the sixth inning.

Moments after he caught a fly ball off the bat of Quin Schroeder to end the game, fans handed the flag over the fence to Troy Homan. He rejoined his teammates and let out a mighty yell while ferociously waving the flag.

He and his fellow Indians will be taking it with them to Akron.

Fort Recovery continued its improbable tournament run Friday night, scoring first and riding another strong effort from Caden Grisez on the mound to a 5-1 victory over the Leipsic Vikings in the Division IV high school baseball regional championship game at Elida's Ed Sandy Field.

"It's awesome," said Homan, who scored twice. "Best fans in the area, without a doubt. I might be biased, but best fans in the area."

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