

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

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The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

High water

Water pools over Indiana 1 just south of Pennville on Sunday, causing drivers to proceed slowly through the flooded area. Jay County Highway Department ran out of high water signs that day and advised drivers through its county notification system to drive carefully.

4-H OK'd for funds

County will contribute \$70,000 to 4-H upgrades

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

After nearly half a year of fundraising, Jay County 4-H has met its goal.

Commissioners agreed to contribute \$70,000 toward 4-H building repairs at Jay County Fairgrounds. The group has raised nearly \$118,000 toward the \$185,000 project since October.

Dru Mercer, dairy barn superintendent and 4-H council vice president, requested the remaining funds from commissioners Monday.

"None of us (on the council) had ever done a project like this before," Mercer said. "(The community) has been wonderful making donations. It's been very remarkable."

Several 4-H buildings have become a safety issue with rotting or loose foundation posts, and work is needed soon, he explained.

Remodeling will include cutting off posts and adding a cement wall around the hog barn, the front half of the show arena and the cattle barn and setting the posts back in place, Mercer said. Work is also planned for the poultry barn.

He added there are plans for a separate fundraising campaign to add a new furnace and sound system to Bob Schmit Memorial Exhibition Hall.

Mercer came to then-commissioners Mike Leonhard, Chuck Huffman and Chad Aker in October requesting funding for the work.

See **Funds** page 5

Dunkirk OKs stormwater study

By ROSE SKELLY
The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — The city is completing the next step in its five-year master utility plan.

Dunkirk City Council on Monday approved a contract with an engineering firm to conduct a study that should help with future flood mitigation projects.

Larry Haag from Beam, Longest and Neff told council that an equivalent dwelling unit study would make the city eligible for federal grants because there will be a better idea of where stormwater is collecting and draining.

City council hires engineering firm Beam, Longest and Neff

"What this study will do is we will look at your pervious and your non-pervious tracts throughout the city like the parking lots, the neighborhoods," Haag said. "With that we will be able to hydraulically model and calibrate your model to know where that water's coming in, at what

rate it's coming in, how fast it comes, how fast it goes away, so that helps you to better understand where to start spending dollars."

The study is part of the stormwater utility rate process that was put into place earlier this year as the city established a \$10

per month stormwater fee for all parcels of land within the city limits. The equivalent dwelling unit study will give city officials a better idea of where stormwater is collecting and running into the stormwater system, rather than seeping into the ground.

Dunkirk Mayor Jack Robbins noted that the utility master plan started in 2019, and this is the next step in the process to improve the city.

"I'd like to really get this thing moving, we've got some relief money coming in and I'd like to see if we could use some of that for a match," Robbins said. "That's what we're going to do to try to take care of our flooding issues here in town."

Also on Monday, Christy Curts, the newest council member, was introduced.

See **Dunkirk** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Harmonious 'Universe'

Emma Rodden (left) and Ali McGraw perform "Alone in the Universe" from "Seussical the Musical" together Saturday during Harmony Players' Mother's Day Festival at Hudson Family Park in Portland.

Holcomb's veto overridden again

Bill requires health order to have approval from council or commissioners

By TOM DAVIES
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana legislators nullified on Monday any local COVID-19 restrictions tougher than those issued statewide with their vote to override the governor's veto of a bill giving local elected officials power over such public health orders issued during emergencies.

It is the second time in less than a month that the Republican-dominated Legislature has

rejected GOP Gov. Eric Holcomb's veto on measures limiting the broad authority that he and local health officials have used to impose restrictions around the state during the coronavirus pandemic.

The new law approved Monday requires elected county commissioners or city councils to vote on approving any local health orders that are more stringent than those issued by Holcomb in order for them to go back into effect. That would include mask mandates that were in place for cities including Indianapolis, South Bend, Elkhart and Bloomington since Holcomb rescinded the statewide mask order in early April.

The Senate voted 36-10 and the House 59-30 to easily achieve the simple majorities needed to override the veto issued last week by Holcomb and make the new law effective immediately.

See **Overridden** page 5

Deaths

Anthony McCowan, 57, Portland
Brett Joy, 49, Portland
James Garringer, 75, Portland
Ronald Bollenbacher, 58, Pennville
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 59 degrees Monday. The low was 32.
The forecast calls for a low of 34 tonight with frost expected. Skies will be sunny Wednesday with a high of 60.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council will meet in a joint session at 6:45 p.m. Wednesday in the commissioners' room at Jay County Courthouse. The meeting is regarding funds the county will receive through the federal American Rescue Plan Act.

Coming up

Wednesday — Run for the Fallen will honor former Jay County Sheriff's Office deputy.

Friday — Results from the JCHS baseball team's game against Bluffton.



Day was good despite rain

By DIANA DOLECKI
Special to The Commercial Review

It is pouring down rain as I write this. We are anxiously watching the puddles in the backyard, trying to decide if we should get the ark out of storage or not. If we decide to get the ark ready for another flood there is a lot of work to do. First of all we need to build it.

After we get it built it would need to be checked over for any problems. Once the ark itself is ready for a 39-day cruise there are lots of things that will need to be brought on board before we can even consider gathering the animals. We need clean lodgings for family members and a way for them to get away from their relatives. We need food and a source of clean water. We also need a way to dispose of the waste that would be generated by a boat full of animals and people.

While I am trying to figure all of this out I hear a knock on the door. My brother, Michael, and his wife, Diane, have stopped by for a visit. He looked a lot better than he did at Christmas. His doctors have advised him to drastically change his ways.

The last time he ended up in the hospital was because his blood pressure was sky high. They got his blood pressure down to a more reasonable range and advised him that he needed to change his diet.

As I See It



If he didn't, he was sure to be admitted to the hospital again. The next time he might not be so lucky as to walk out of there on his own.

Thankfully he listened. He said he is living on salads during the week and allows himself a little more variety on the weekends. He looked more relaxed and also seemed to be happier than I had seen him in a very long time.

While they were here the rain stopped. I haven't walked across the street to see how high the river is but Michael said that from what they saw on the way to our house the water was higher than normal. Perhaps I shouldn't put the ark plans on hold after all.

After Michael and Diane left, our daughter, Beth, called. She wished me a happy Mother's Day. I asked if she was having a good day. She wasn't.

Apparently her son, Jacob, had a project due. They had it almost finished before reading the directions. They scrapped what they had done and finished it up quickly.

Then he needed to write a paper on things that had happened the year he was born. He decided to write about insects that had been discovered that year.

They were searching through Google to find the needed information. Beth happened upon a spider with an unusual name and suggested that Jacob could write about that. You would have thought that the end of the world had come. He informed her that a spider wasn't an insect. She told him that nobody cares. It's an English paper not a science one. Jacob sighed and said that the spider wasn't an insect. Beth said that nobody cares, just write about the spider. "But, Mo-om! A spider isn't an insect!" I'm not sure if he took her suggestion or not. Somehow, I doubt it.

In addition, Beth had a lot of papers of her own to do. She had trouble logging on to the correct sites and once she got to where she needed to be other complications appeared. None of the problems had anything to do with spiders or insects.

The rain has stopped. The puddles in the yard have disappeared. Thoughts of ark building have been scrapped. I can't help either Beth nor Jacob with their homework. I have faith that everything will turn out like it should.

All in all it was a good Mother's Day.

Disabled son is left off guest list

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my second husband for more than 15 years. My 30-plus-year-old son from my first marriage, who was born disabled, lives with us. He walks and talks, but cannot be left unattended. He also needs medication. He cannot read or write, but looks like he has no medical issues at all.

I have no extended family members in the state. My husband and I were invited to a family wedding. However, my disabled son was not. Bride's rule: No children allowed. I pointed out that he is older than she is. He sees this relative several times a year.

Please share your thoughts. I get very sad whenever family events come around and she is there. Life is different when you have a family with special needs. — HURT IN THE EAST

DEAR HURT: I agree, life is different for families in which someone has special needs. If you haven't already, I think you have the right to express your feelings to the bride. It would be better than silently nursing a grudge and fuming when you see her.

While it would have been nice if she had included your son in the invitation, she was within her rights to invite — or exclude — anyone if she had concerns.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend never gets off his phone — like ever! The first thing he does in the morning is wake up and grab his phone. He was off one day last week and — I'm not exaggerating — he didn't put it down for 13 hours.

He plays this one particular game, and it's all he does. It's affecting our relationship, but if I say anything about it, he laughs, gets mad or ignores me. I

Dear Abby



don't know what else to do. Help! — WOMAN VS. PHONE IN OHIO

DEAR WOMAN: Was your boyfriend always like this? If the answer is no, he may have become addicted to gaming, which, as of 2020, had become a multibillion-dollar industry. According to The Addiction Center, the "average" gamer spends six hours a week glued to his or her cellphone. That your boyfriend went on a 13-hour binge is cause for alarm. One sign of addiction is when it interferes with daily life or relationships. That he blows you off when you try to discuss it tells me he is deep in denial.

Treatment may involve private counseling or, in some cases, inpatient care. However, if this is unaffordable, On-Line Gamers Anonymous (olganon.org) may be a helpful alternative. It is a 12-step program based on the principles of AA. You will find there is a fellowship of friends and family members of gaming addicts. You might want to check it out. If you intend to continue this romance, get out of the house when he binges and do something YOU enjoy.

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.

Financial workshop scheduled for June

Jay County residents will have an opportunity to learn more about how to handle their money.

John Jay Center for Learning will host a free financial stability workshop at 6 p.m. June 9.

The event, in partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank, will cover topics including budgeting, debt, credit, cutting expenses and improving cash flow. Those interested in participating can sign up at cure-hunger.org/johnjay2021 or by visiting John Jay, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

For more information, contact Carol Bradshaw at cbradshaw@cure-hunger.org or (765) 730-0279.

Taking Note

Enrollment open

Throughout May, Ivy Tech Community College is offering Virtual Express Enrollment.

Students will be able to sign up virtually for classes that begin June 7. Those interested must RSVP and visit IvyTech.edu/EEDay for their campus's event dates and informa-

tion. Appointments will include assistance with assessment, a meeting with an advisor and registering for classes.

Offering mammograms

IU Health Jay is offering free mammogram screenings in May for women over 40.

The free screenings are available to Jay County residents or residents of adjacent counties. To be eligible, patients must be uninsured, never had implants, not had a mammogram in the past year and have no history or symptoms of breast cancer.

The schedule a screening, call (260) 726-1868.

Community Calendar

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

Today

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

THE LANDING — A 12-step program for those in sixth through 12th grade will meet at 5:55 p.m. each Tuesday at 2nd Chance at Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 703-0777 or (260) 726-5273.

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'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.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 11:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the chapel at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital.

Wednesday WEDNESDAY MORN-

ING 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 at Harmony Cafe, 121 N. Meridian St.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

STRESS AND ANXIETY CLASS — Meets each Wednesday at 2nd Chance at Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (206) 726-9625 or (260) 703-0534.

BRYANT/NEW CORYDON SENIOR CITIZENS — Will meet at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Bryant Community Center for a carry-in dinner. Meat is provided.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — For caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias, the group will meet at 6 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month at Blackford Community Hospital conference room, 410 Pilgrim Boulevard in Hartford City. For more information, call Joni Slentz or Lisa Garrett at (765) 348-1072 or (800) 272-3900.

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

6	9	7	5	2	3	4	1	8
4	1	2	9	7	8	3	6	5
8	5	3	6	1	4	2	7	9
7	8	1	2	4	9	6	5	3
9	4	6	7	3	5	1	8	2
3	2	5	1	8	6	7	9	4
2	6	4	8	9	1	5	3	7
1	7	8	3	5	2	9	4	6
5	3	9	4	6	7	8	2	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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We have a busy schedule of special sections and pages coming up.

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Senior Citizens

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Legislature ignores its lack of knowledge

To the editor:
"A wise man understands the limits of his knowledge and seeks to overcome his ignorance. A foolish man will wallow in the pigsty of his stupidity."

The Indiana State Legislature epitomizes the proverb as stated above.

The Legislature subsumes a knowledge and understanding of the fields of epidemiology and medicine without acknowledging, or worse yet, ignoring, their very lack of knowl-

Letters to the Editor

edge and understanding of the same.

You may try with a valiant effort, to overcome stupidity, but as is illustrative of the Indiana State Legislature, choose to remain in the pigsty.

Michael S. Kinser
Portland

Seniors deserve home care option

Herald Bulletin (Anderson)
Problems riddle Indiana's system of care for seniors.

Nursing home and long-term care facilities are often understaffed.

Employees are generally paid meager wages. And state regulation and oversight is lax.

The poor care that results can lead to frustration, anxiety, health complications and premature death.

For many Hoosier seniors, a better option would be to receive care at home in a familiar, comfortable, nurturing environment.

An AARP survey shows that 75% of Americans 50 or older prefer to live at home as they age; however, just 45% of Indiana's Medicaid beneficiaries receive care at home.

In part, that's because the state's system for approving medical care at home can seem forbidding and can move at a glacial pace.

In January, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration officials revealed a series of reforms proposed to streamline the process and improve the quality of care for the state's seniors.

The four-point plan, in part, would allow more Hoosiers to receive care at home as they age.

The proposal would simplify a convoluted long-term care system that many find hopelessly difficult to navigate. Often, Hoosier seniors in need of immediate care check into nursing homes because the approval process to use Medicaid for home health care is so ponderous. Many never check out.

That system, operated by an organization or company, would be replaced by a managed care provider that would make it easy for

Hoosier Editorial

Hoosiers to access a single online portal for information about options.

Already, 25 other states administer long-term care through such a system. And in Indiana, 80% of Medicaid spending is coordinated already through managed care.

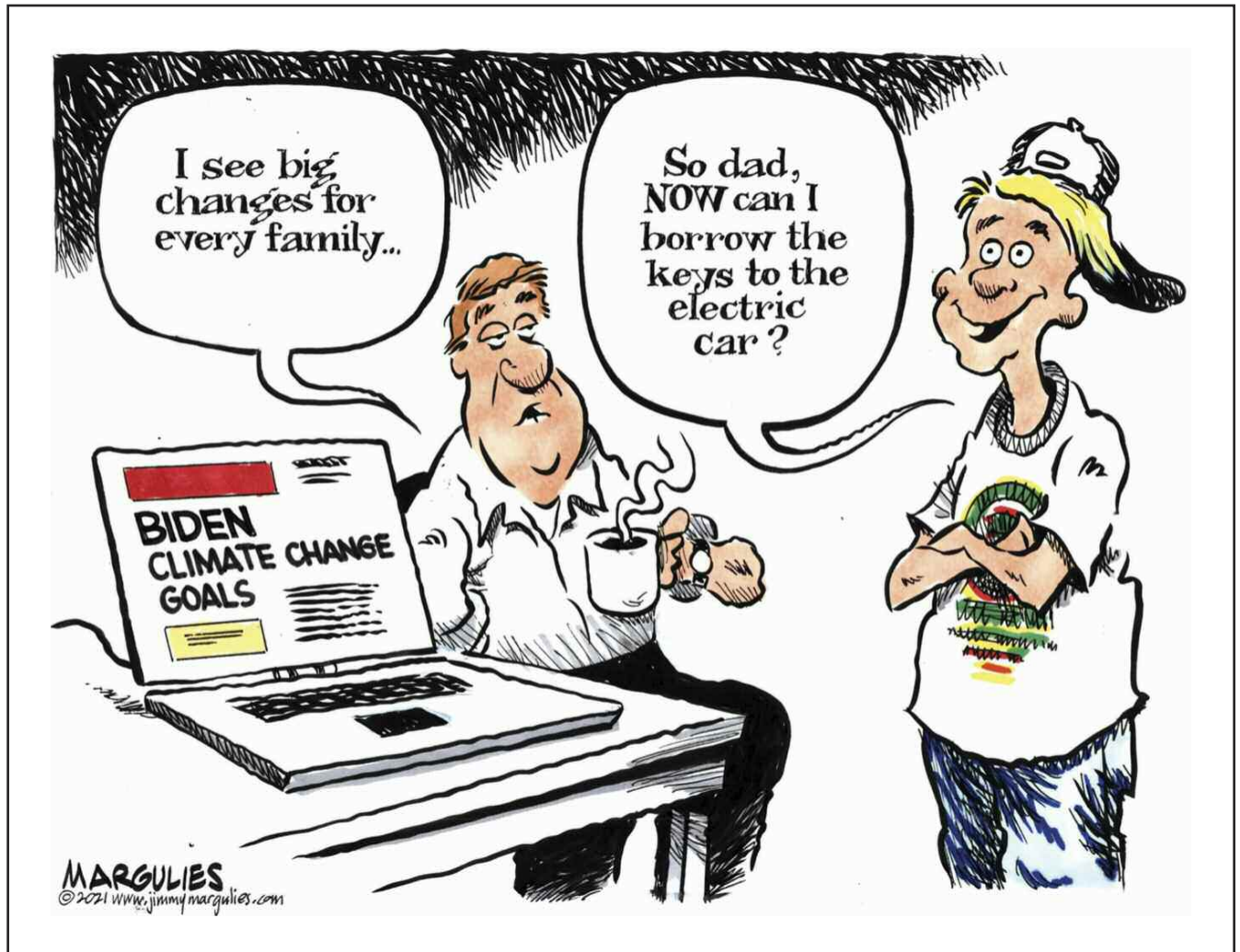
"That will make sure that they're getting the right care from the right provider in the right environment at the right time," the state's chief medical officer, Dan Rusyniak, said in January.

The administration of Gov. Eric Holcomb has been pursuing such a comprehensive plan for the past few years. But the state legislature erected a roadblock by passing a moratorium on a managed care system.

But here's some good news: The moratorium is set to expire at the end of June, and bills drafted in the Senate and the House to extend it died in committee in January.

The state also introduced a pilot program in October that enabled several Indiana counties to approve applications for home-based health care in less than 72 hours. In the first three months, more than 600 Hoosiers used the system. Typically, Medicaid approval for home-based care in Indiana has taken six weeks or more.

Clearly, the state must move ahead quickly to facilitate easy access to these options for thousands of Hoosier seniors who would thrive if allowed to receive the care they need at home.



Congress should care about physics

By **MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG**
Bloomberg Opinion

The most extraordinary event of the year — and perhaps the 21st century — made few national headlines. But it may just alter the future of the human race, and it should lead both parties in Congress to support a major investment increase in the nation's research and development infrastructure.

The event happened in Batavia, Illinois, about 35 miles west of Chicago, at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory. Rarely does a single experiment threaten to upend the known laws of the universe. But so it was on April 7, when a group of more than 200 physicists published a paper with a deceptively modest title: "Measurement of the Positive Muon Anomalous Magnetic Moment to 0.46 ppm."

The anomaly in question could be a momentous one. Starting in 2018, researchers measured how subatomic particles called muons — heavier, more transient cousins of electrons — interacted with a strong magnetic field. They found that the muons' "precesses," or wobbles, differed from what the reigning Standard Model of physics would predict, and seemed to cohere with a similar deviation detected in 2001.

If accurate, those results would indicate that some previously unknown force or particle is acting on the muons — and suggest that the Standard Model, which physicists have relied on for half a century, could have a significant problem.

Why does this matter to anyone besides physicists — and those who dropped physics as a college major, like I did? (There was a German language requirement — I lasted three days.) Well, for starters, it might hold the key to explaining the deepest mysteries of the universe. It

Michael R. Bloomberg



could also help elucidate the nature of dark matter, inform new quantum-mechanical models, or even shed light on perhaps the biggest quandary of all: Why is there something rather than nothing? As a group of eminent particle physicists once put it, the quest to understand such questions is "a defining characteristic of the human spirit."

The question is: Can the human spirit triumph over partisanship in Washington?

To know whether the results of the experiment are earthshaking or a fluke — there's about a one in 40,000 chance of the latter — more study is needed, and that requires funding. The team has collected only about 6% of the data it intends to, while dozens of papers have already been submitted to scientific journals offering varying interpretations of the results.

More broadly, the physicists' work underscores the importance of long-term federal investment. The Fermilab results were more than 20 years in the making, and relied on facilities that had been built decades previously. That kind of open-ended commitment is what can lead to unexpected breakthroughs.

Unfortunately, federal funding for core research and technology in high-energy physics has fallen from \$361 million in 2014 to \$316 million last year. It's vital that Congress boost funding for the future — and President Joe Biden's proposal to

invest \$40 billion to upgrade federal labs is on the right track.

If the Fermilab results are borne out, it would also strengthen the case for investing in new collider technology. Plans are already underway to replace Europe's Large Hadron Collider, the biggest and highest-energy accelerator yet made. Other next-generation colliders are in the works elsewhere. Congress should heed the lessons of the Superconducting Super Collider in Texas, which Democrats and Republicans joined forces to kill in 1993 — a shortsighted decision that looks worse with each passing year. To continue leading the field, U.S. scientists will need strong and sustained funding support from Congress.

Of course, skeptics will ask why taxpayers should fund such esoteric work. One answer is that these investments have benefits well beyond the lab. They help build a highly skilled and versatile workforce, invigorate academic research, inspire young people to enter the sciences, encourage collaboration and innovation, and lead to advances in everything from medicine to computing to engineering. And then there's also the small matter of its potential to explain the universe.

If nothing else, the Fermilab experiment should be a reminder that that quest for understanding is far from over. The particles encompassed by the Standard Model make up only about 5% of the universe. Vast mysteries remain to be solved. The race is on. Our scientists are ready. Is Congress?

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Modest taper does not merit a tantrum

By **DANIEL MOSS**
Bloomberg Opinion

Rapid economic growth need not lead to significant increases in interest rates or meaningfully faster inflation. Muscular recoveries from last year's deep slump imply neither the imminent end of prolonged monetary easing nor any marked slowdown in the printing presses. Some folks are clearly having trouble digesting this break with orthodoxy.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen's relatively anodyne comment about the prospect of higher borrowing costs from a pre-recorded interview with the Atlantic rippled through financial markets Tuesday. Yellen later clarified that she wasn't predicting or recommending that the Federal Reserve pull any stimulus. I believe her: It's unlikely that someone so well versed in

Daniel Moss



Washington's ways would talk out of turn. Fed officials zealously guard their independence, as Yellen did when she was Fed chair from 2014 to 2018.

Investors zeroed in on Yellen's line that rates may have to rise "somewhat" to ensure the economy doesn't overheat. More telling, however, was her statement that any increases could be "very modest." Those words point to the extremely incremental nature of what might transpire in bond yields or the Fed's

benchmark rate. If anything happens at all.

Central banks in most countries have practically taken to hiring planes towing banners proclaiming that rate hikes aren't worth fretting about. Even if the International Monetary Fund projects the global economy will grow 6% this year, the most since at least 1980, inflation is a long way from being problematic.

Policymakers worry much more about deep scars from last year's disaster. They are very keen to talk about jobs, jobs, jobs. Wage rises are good. There should be more of them. Inflation is quiescent. At least two developments in Asia this week underscore the new paradigm. The Reserve Bank of Australia raised its growth outlook Tuesday and

forecast a nice decline in unemployment. The policy implications? Far from signaling a peeling back of accommodation, the RBA intimated that quantitative easing is likely to be extended. Conditions warranting an increase in rates are unlikely until 2024 at the earliest. Inflation is nowhere near the bank's 2% to 3% target. "The board places a high priority on a return to full employment," Governor Philip Lowe said in a statement.

In South Korea, inflation picked up to the fastest pace since 2017 in April, but hardly anyone batted an eyelid. Consumer prices rose 2.3% from a year earlier, the government reported Tuesday, exceeding the Bank of Korea's 2% target. The central bank has said it's prepared to look beyond numbers

that seem big relative to last year's collapse in activity. Governor Lee Ju-yeol said last month that inflation will moderate after fluctuating around 2% this quarter.

One nation that has begun to taper is Canada. Last month, the central bank pared the amount of bonds it will buy and brought forward its estimate for the timing of rate increases to late next year. While this initially caused a bit of a stir, the impact on stimulus will be "incremental," the Bank of Canada said.

If this is what hawkishness looks like these days, doves should embrace it. Yellen, very modestly, would have to agree.

Moss is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering Asian economies.

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

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Pfizer OK'd for 12- to 15-year-olds

By LAURAN NEERGAARD and CANDICE CHOI
Associated Press

U.S. regulators on Monday expanded the use of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine to children as young as 12, offering a way to protect the nation's adolescents before they head back to school in the fall and paving the way for them to return to more normal activities.

Shots could begin as soon as Thursday, after a federal vaccine advisory committee issues recommendations for using the two-dose vaccine in 12- to 15-year-olds. An announcement is expected Wednesday.

Most COVID-19 vaccines worldwide have been authorized for adults. Pfizer's vaccine is being used in multiple countries for teens as young as 16, and

Canada recently became the first to expand use to 12 and up. Parents, school administrators and public health officials elsewhere have eagerly awaited approval for the shot to be made available to more kids.

"This is a watershed moment in our ability to fight back the COVID-19 pandemic," Dr. Bill Gruber, a Pfizer senior vice president who's also a pediatrician, told The Associated Press.

The Food and Drug Administration declared that the Pfizer vaccine is safe and offers strong protection for younger teens based on testing of more than 2,000 U.S. volunteers ages 12 to 15. The agency noted there were no cases of COVID-19 among fully vaccinated adolescents compared with 16 among kids given dummy shots. More

intriguing, researchers found the kids developed higher levels of virus-fighting antibodies than earlier studies measured in young adults.

The younger teens received the same vaccine dosage as adults and had the same side effects, mostly sore arms and flu-like fever, chills or aches that signal a revved-up immune system, especially after the second dose.

Pfizer's testing in adolescents "met our rigorous standards," FDA vaccine chief Dr. Peter Marks said. "Having a vaccine authorized for a younger population is a critical step in continuing to lessen the immense public health burden caused by the COVID-19 pandemic."

Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech recently requested

similar authorization in the European Union, with other countries to follow.

The latest news is welcome for U.S. families struggling to decide what activities are safe to resume when the youngest family members remain unvaccinated.

"I can't feel totally comfortable because my boys aren't vaccinated," said Carrie Vittitoe, a substitute teacher and freelance writer in Louisville, Kentucky, who is fully vaccinated, as are her husband and 17-year-old daughter.

The FDA decision means her 13-year-old son soon could be eligible, leaving only her 11-year-old son unvaccinated. The family has not yet resumed going to church, and summer vacation will be a road trip so they do not have to get on a plane.

"We can't really go back to

normal because two-fifths of our family don't have protection," Vittitoe said.

President Joe Biden said Monday's decision marked another important step in the nation's march back to regular life.

"The light at the end of the tunnel is growing, and today it got a little brighter," Biden said in a statement.

Pfizer is not the only company seeking to lower the age limit for its vaccine. Moderna recently said preliminary results from its study in 12- to 17-year-olds show strong protection and no serious side effects. Another U.S. company, Novavax, has a COVID-19 vaccine in late-stage development and just began a study in 12- to 17-year-olds.

Tension, fighting continues in Gaza

By FARES AKRAM and JOSEF FEDERMAN
Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — A confrontation between Israel and Hamas sparked by weeks of tensions in contested Jerusalem escalated Tuesday. Israel unleashed new airstrikes on Gaza, killing a number of militants and civilians, while militants barraged southern Israel with hundreds of rockets, killing two Israelis.

Since sundown Monday, 26 Palestinians — including nine children and a woman — were killed in Gaza, most by airstrikes, health officials there said. The Israeli military said at least 16 of the dead were militants.

Two women were killed by rockets fired from Gaza that hit their homes in the southern city of Ashkelon — the first Israeli deaths in the current violence. At least 10 other Israelis have been wounded since Monday evening.

After those deaths, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said officials decided to "increase both the strength and rate of the strikes" against militant groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip.

"Hamas will receive blows now that it didn't expect," he said.

Egypt was trying to broker a cease-fire, but the cycle of violence was gaining momentum. Even before the two Israeli deaths, the Israeli military said it was sending troop reinforcements to the Gaza border and the defense minister ordered the mobilization of 5,000 reserve soldiers.

The barrage of rockets and airstrikes was preceded by hours of clashes Monday between Palestinians and Israeli security forces, including dramatic confrontations at Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, a sacred site to both Jews and Muslims.

Funds ...

Continued from page 1
All three voiced support of 4-H but suggested seeking local grants, such as those offered through The Portland Foundation.

As of May, the group has received more than half its goal of about \$185,000.

That amount includes a \$40,000 grant from the Portland Foundation and a \$2,500 grant from Friends of Agriculture as well as donations from the community.

Although the group only needs about \$67,000 to finish its goal, Mercer requested an extra \$3,000 to account for rising material costs.

"I know when you guys came last year, it was kind of a shock, what the price was going to be," Aker said Monday. "I'm just thrilled how much you guys have raised so far."

Commissioners Brian McGalliard, Rex Journay and Aker approved the 4-H request unanimously.

They also agreed to give \$10,000 toward Jay County 4th of July festivities. George Patterson of the Jay County 4th of July Committee said the group spends an average of \$22,000 per year on the event. Last year, the committee decided to forego the celebration because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"This year, I'm going full blast," Patterson said, noting the parade will likely start an hour later in respect to churchgoers because July 4 lands on a Sunday this year.

Core Facilities Inc. president Matthew Stechly

brought three bids to the meeting for the installation of new video equipment at Jay County Jail. Commissioners hired Stechly in March to seek bids and supervise the installation process in order to prevent unnecessary charges to the county.

He explained prior to opening the bids there would be four prices listed on each bid: a base amount for the cameras only; option A, which adds door controls and intercoms with a new software platform; option B, which adds fob access control; and a total amount for all three of the options.

For the camera installation alone, Stanley Security of Fishers bid about \$316,000, Security Automation Systems of Indianapolis bid just over \$333,300 and Tech Solutions of Fort Wayne bid \$370,400. After Stechly opened the bid from Tech Solutions, he saw the company had noted if the county decided to decrease the video footage to seven frames per second, it would take \$60,000 off the cost.

Totals after the door controls, intercoms and fob access were just over \$403,700 for Stanley Security, about \$521,300 for Security Automation Systems and \$635,600 or \$576,600 for Tech Solutions, depending on the frames per second.

All three companies bid for six months of video storage at 15 frames per second. Commissioners took the bids under advisement.

Also Monday, commis-



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Core Facilities president Matthew Stechly shares three bids for new security cameras at Jay County Jail with commissioners Monday. The lowest base bid for the cameras alone — without door access controls or new software and at seven frames per second — came in at \$310,400. Commissioners agreed to take the bids under advisement.

sioners tabled a decision on moving forward with work on county road 900 North (the Jay/Adams county line).

Adams County highway supervisor Brad Yoder explained the Wabash River snakes along the road just west of county road 350 East and the road has started to slip off into the river. Yoder requested the county give the OK to move forward with the project. He noted the road would need to be closed during construction, and he requested Jay County contribute about half of the estimated cost of just over \$286,200.

McGalliard suggested commissioners review the information Yoder present-

ed Monday before making a decision.

Also, commissioners signed an ordinance establishing a fund for incoming American Rescue Plan Act monies. The county will be receiving nearly \$3.9 million, and usage of that funding will be discussed after more funding guidance is released.

In other news, commissioners:

- Agreed to enter into a two-year, 2.44%-interest loan from First Financial Bank for a \$207,000 chip spreader. The loan will be used to pay for the machine the highway department purchased after receiving approval from commissioners last year.
- Heard from Aker the

cemetery board will pay to put in a new drive at Liber Cemetery on the east side of the property leading to county road 200 South.

• Selected the following quotes for equipment purchases: a \$1,599 shredder from Four-U Office of Celina and \$9,375 in computer equipment from Computer Systems Inc. of Fishers for Jay County Recorder's Office, a \$3,154 copier and fax machine from Ricoh USA for the highway department; a \$2,453.60 shipment of copier paper for all county offices from Progressive Office Products of Portland.

• Signed a quarterly claim and accepted a \$1.7 million Indiana Department of Transportation grant for Lifestream Services.

• OK'd Jay County Drug Coalition to distribute about \$20,000 in drug and alcohol countermeasure fees from Jay County courts.

• Heard from John Hemmelgarn, director the Jay County Building and Planning Department, that from the beginning of January through the end of April, 81 permits and applications were issued, 31 of which were in Portland. Six new-home permits were also issued. In total, there was just under \$7.8 million in total declared construction value. Despite the pandemic, Hemmelgarn said, the amount of building projects hasn't decreased much.

• Signed several vehicle titles going to the county auction slated for 10:30 a.m. May 22.

Overridden ...

Continued from page 1
Republican legislators say the proposal is meant to provide a "check and balance" protecting the rights of business owners following complaints about COVID-19 orders closing or limiting businesses over the past year.

Republican Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray said local officials have had plenty of time to anticipate the new step.

"To the extent they want to keep some policy in place that they would need to meet and approve, I think most of them are probably ready to do that or at

least they should be at this point," Bray said.

Holcomb said in his veto message that he didn't want to jeopardize the flexibility of local health officials as work continues to vaccinate more people against COVID-19. Indiana has one of the country's lowest vaccination rates against the disease that health officials say has killed more than 13,500 in the state and largely was to blame for an increase of at least 16% in statewide deaths during 2020 from the year before.

Holcomb's coronavirus-related executive orders over the past

year have allowed local officials to establish tougher regulations — an authority he frequently cited in defending his decisions lifting various statewide travel, crowd size and business restrictions.

"I would have hoped that such sweeping change could wait until we gathered all the relevant experts and stakeholders to strike the right balance regarding local health authority during emergencies and avoid discouraging laudable service in the field of public health," Holcomb said in a statement after Monday's votes.

The Indianapolis City-County

Council was expected to vote Monday night on extending the city's mask mandate and capacity limits on restaurants and bars, a council spokeswoman said. But county commissioners in northern Indiana's Elkhart County have said they don't intend to endorse the tougher rules ordered by the county health officer.

Legislative Republicans voted last month to override Holcomb's veto of another bill giving themselves more authority to intervene during statewide emergencies declared by the governor.

New CEO selected

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Children's Museum of Indianapolis has named a 29-year veteran of the attraction to be its new president and CEO.

After Jeffrey Patchen notified museum staff of his retirement from those positions Friday, Jennifer

Pace Robinson was named Saturday to succeed him, effective immediately. She had been the museum's executive vice president since earlier this year.

Robinson joined The Children's Museum in 1992, the Indianapolis Business Journal reported.

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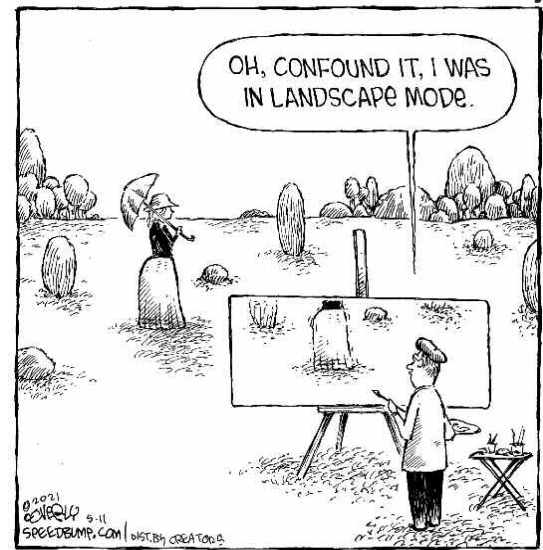
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By Bil Keane



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Bern Developers, LLC & Others, Owners. Rob Green 260-589-8474 See www.soldongreen.com for details, photos, and flyers.

Rob Green AU19500011 Bill Liechty AU01048441

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90 SALE CALENDAR

E & M BLACKSMITH SHOP 10th Annual Consignment Auction Saturday, June 5, 2021 8:30 a.m. 2404W 350S, Berne, IN Horses; Ponies; Horse-Drawn Machinery; Produce Equipment; Buggies; Harness Carts; New Tack Saddles; Shop Tools; Lawn/Garden Tools; Sausage Grinder/Stuffers; New/Used Furniture; Washing Machines; Hay, Straw, Firewood.

Accepting consignments every evening that week from 4pm-8pm and all day Thursday, June 3rd/Friday, June 4th from 7am-8pm. Auctioneers John P. Troyer AU10900141 Lonnie Miller AU10300135 Also with J. S. Auctions AU10700049

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Monday, May 17th, 2021 Time 6:00 P.M. Located: Take US Highway 27 to County Road 100N on the North edge of Portland, head West 1/4 miles to the farm (south side of road) 2 LAND AUCTIONS HELD ON SAME SITE - SAME DAY & TIME FARM ONE 45 Acres located in Section 18 of Wayne Twp in Jay County with 42 acres of tillable land; the balance consisting of open ditch and road frontage. Road frontage is along County Road 100 N.

Owners: Dave & Susan Schrock FARM TWO 18.2 Acres with 8 acres of tillable and 10 acres of wooded land. Property access is via an easement off of County Road 100 N, and can also be accessed by the property listed in Farm One above.

Owners: Howard & Martha Ontrop Terms on Real Estate: Cash With 10% Non-Refundable Deposit Day of Auction. Balance due at closing. Sale is not subject to buyer obtaining financing. Arrange financing if needed prior to Auction. Land sold subject to owner confirmation. Statements made sale day take precedence over written ad. Shawver Auctioneering & Real Estate AC31800004 Pete D. Shawver AU19700040 260-726-5587 Zane Shawver AU10500168 260-729-2229 More photos available at www.auctionzip.com & www.auctionsoft.com

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solution time: 22 mins.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-53.

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Sports

Patriot girls take second

HAGERSTOWN — In a tune-up before the conference meet, the Jay County High School girls track team was the runner-up Saturday in the Tiger Booster Invitational.

Host Hagerstown scored 131 points for the championship. Jay County totaled 126 points for second, and Centerville was a distant third with 85.5 points.

Hagerstown's boys also took first with their total of 145 points. **Jay Co. roundup**

Vernon (Fortville) scored 97.4 points for second and Oldenburg Academy was third with 72.4 points. Jay Count was ninth with 45 points.

Kinsey Shannon was the lone winner for the JCHS girls, beating the field in the 400-meter dash with her time of 1 minute, 2.2 seconds.

Abby Benter (100 hurdles), Natalie Wehrly (200 dash), Cash Hollowell (long jump) and Kylie Klopfenstein (shot put) were each the runner-up in their respective events.

For the boys, Aaron Funkhouser ran a career-best 51.71 seconds to win the 400 dash. Jean Pieterse was second in high jump for the Patriots.

Jay County travels to Bluffton tonight for the Allen County Athletic Conference championships, and the postseason begins next week.

Baseball drops two

HAGERSTOWN — Jay County's baseball team dropped a pair of games to the Hagerstown Tigers on Saturday, 5-0 and 7-3.

The sweep drops the Patriots, who travel to Southern Wells tonight, to 6-6 on the year.

Jay County managed just three hits in the game-one loss. It got a double from Quinn Faulkner and singles from Austin Curts and Dusty Pearson.

Pearson suffered the loss, his first of the season, by allowing four unearned runs on five hits in 3 1/3 innings. He struck out seven and walked a pair.

Sam Myers doubled and hit a pair of singles in game two, with Pearson hitting a double and driving in a run as well. Crosby Heniser, Blake Caldwell and Faulkner each singled. Heniser and Caldwell both had an RBI.

Heniser took the loss, giving up seven runs — five earned, on five hits. He struck out eight and walked five in 4 2/3 innings.

Golfers first

BLUFFTON — The Jay County boys golf team fought through soggy conditions to beat both Bluffton and Southern Wells on Monday at Timber Ridge Golf Course.

The Patriots shot 188 for the double win, with Bluffton (195) seconds and Southern Wells (204) third.

Caleb DeRome paced the Patriots with his score of 45, one stroke ahead of Griffin Mann. Simon Pryor shot 48, and Brock DeHoff completed the team score with 49.

Kyle Sanders also competed, but his 50 did not factor into the team total.

Bats silent when needed

Jay County softball can't rally again in 7-4 loss to New Castle

By CHRIS SCHANZ

The Commercial Review

Offense finally came for the Patriots in the fifth inning.

When they needed it again, they weren't able to string much together.

The Jay County High School softball team tied the game with four runs in the fifth inning but as it fell behind an inning later it wasn't able to keep the offense going in a 7-4 loss to the New Castle Trojans on Monday.

"They come and played hard," said JCHS coach Trisha Green, whose team is in the midst of a stretch of 11 games in 11 days. "It's hard to win when you only score one inning. (New Castle pitcher Madi Moffitt) threw a great curveball. We couldn't get our bats going. We'd get someone on then we wouldn't score them."

"Just took us a while to come alive, then we couldn't fight back."

Down 4-0 heading into the bottom of the fifth inning, Jay County (10-5) was finally able to string together some offense to break the shutout. Riah Champ, who earlier had



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Jay County High School first baseman Renna Schwieterman reaches for a catch while Chloe Vaughn of New Castle touches the bag before Schwieterman can make the grab during the top of the seventh inning Monday at JCHS. The Patriots scored four times in the fifth inning to tie the game but weren't able to rally in a 7-4 loss to the Trojans.

to be taken out after going head first into the fence in right field attempting to catch a foul ball, started things off for the Patriots with a single. After a fielder's choice, Mady Fraley doubled to score Champ, and after another out Rieleley Brewster hit an RBI single. Renna Schwieterman singled

through the right side for her third hit of the day before Olivia Bright blooped a two-run double into shallow right field.

"Momentum," Green said of what was the difference in the fifth inning as compared to the previous four. "They get fired up. They had some great hits. ... She was throwing some curves and I

think the girls were just off hitting. It wasn't a bad game, it just happened."

An RBI from Kayla Burns and a JCHS error allowed New Castle (5-14) to retake the lead with two runs in the top of the sixth inning, and they added one more in the seventh.

See **Silent** page 7

Tribe gets two MAC wins

NEW BREMEN and SYDNEY, Ohio — The Indians shut out a conference opponent on the road.

Then they went another 15 miles to win again.

Fort Recovery High School's softball team shut out the New Bremen Cardinals 3-0 Saturday morning, then went and beat the Lehman Catholic Cavaliers 11-3 later the same day.

The Indians, who host Ridgmont in the Division IV sectional semifinal tonight, moved to 16-9 (4-2 Midwest Athletic Conference).

Sophie Pearson and Ava Schoen each had a single and an RBI in the win against New Bremen, which was rescheduled from Thursday. Jackie Homan doubled, and Chloey Grisez also singled.

Against Lehman Catholic, Cali Wendel paced the offense with a double, two singles and two RBIs, and Brenna Homan contributed three singles. Allison Knapke, Maddie Guggenbiller, Jackie Homan and Grisez had two hits as well. Kensey Gaerke, Jackie Homan and Pearson all had two RBIs.

Jackie Homan struck out six Cardinals while allowing just five hits. Pearson also struck out six Cavaliers, while walking three and allowing three runs — two earned — on five hits.

Three straight losses

FORT RECOVERY — Fort Recovery's baseball team lost three games

Fort Recovery roundup

recently, including a pair of conference matchups on Saturday.

The Indians (6-15, 3-6 Midwest Athletic Conference) dropped an 8-4 game Saturday to the Marion Local Flyers before falling to the New Bremen Cardinals 5-2 later that same day in a contest that was resumed after being postponed because of rain Thursday.

Monday, the Indians fell to the Ansonia Tigers for their third consecutive loss.

Fort Recovery scored two runs each in the second and third innings for a 4-0 lead over Marion Local before the Flyers struck for six runs in the top of the fourth and never gave up the advantage.

Ryne Post led the Indians with two hits, and Daniel Patch drove in two runs on one hit. Cobe Wendel, Brock Dues, Landon Post and Alex Dues all singled as well.

Brock Dues finished with two hits and an RBI against the Cardinals, while Landon Post knocked in a run on a single. Patch was responsible for the loss, allowing four earned runs on five hits in five innings. He struck out seven without giving up a walk.

Against Ansonia, the Tigers plated two runs in each of the first two innings and added another in the third for a quick 5-0 lead. Fort Recovery plated a pair of runs in the home half of the third, but weren't able to score again until the seventh but the rally fell short.

Cobe Wendel and Brock Dues each had a single and an RBI.

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