

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Celebrating sectional

The Fort Recovery High School softball team, including Jackie Homan (center), celebrate Thursday night after Emma Will scored the game-winning run in the ninth inning to give the Indians their first sectional championship since 2018. Will scored on a grounder from Sophie Pearson to end the game in which Homan tossed seven scoreless innings while allowing just one hit. For more on the game, see page 8.

July 4 still the goal date

Board is hopeful tile work will allow holiday opening

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

New tiles are being installed at Portland Water Park.

Once they're sealed, they'll need about three weeks to cure.

It'll take at least another three weeks for park employees to get the pool ready to open.

Portland Park Board heard an update Thursday about the pool's projected open date and awarded bids for putting new metal roofs on buildings at Weiler-Wilson Park and Runkle-Miller Field at Portland Memorial Park.

Blakely's of Indianapolis has removed the old tiles and is in the process of installing the new tiles, explained street and parks superintendent Tom Leonhard.

He noted the company will need mostly clear weather — it can't install tiles when it's raining — in order to complete the job. (Rain is expected through the weekend, and there's another chance of showers Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.)

"It's still all dependent on the weather when they'll be done," said Leonhard.

After installation, the tiles need to cure for 21 days before water can be put in the pool. Matt Shaver of the parks department noted he'll need to begin preparing the facility following the cure time. The process includes a variety of tasks, such as pressure washing, filling the pool and testing the filtration system. He estimated the process will take at least three weeks, depending on help available and test results.

Park board's plan is still to open the pool by July 4. (The traditional opening day has been Memorial Day weekend, though that changed during the coronavirus pandemic.)

Applications also remain open for the position of pool manager. Hopes are to hire someone for the full-time position by the end of May.

See **Goal** page 2

Duke Energy to resubmit plans

By MAKENNA HALL
The Evening News and the Tribune (Jeffersonville)
Tribune News Service

Shutting down a coal-fired energy-generating facility takes much more than turning off the lights and closing a door.

Duke Energy had been working on plans to close its Gallagher Station years before it officially announced the decision in 2021.

The station was a two-unit, coal-fired generating facility that opened in 1958, according to Duke Energy's website. The station is located in New Albany off Jackson Street.

Submitted in 2016, the plans to close the six coal ash basins at the site were approved by the Indiana Department of Environ-

mental Management in 2019 and 2021.

Concern for the closure of two of those coal ash basins, North Ash Basin and the Primary Pond Ash Fill Area, arose in 2020 by the Hoosier Environmental Council (HEC), and in 2021 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The two groups stated that the two basins in question were subject to federal coal ash rules that the initial plan did not follow.

After Duke Energy received a letter from the EPA in January stating their opinion, the energy company made the decision to withdraw the initial closure plans and resubmit a new plan to the IDEM.

See **Plans** page 5

Panel subpoenas House members

By SARAH D. WIRE
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — The House committee scrutinizing the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol has subpoenaed House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-California, and four other prominent conservative representatives after they refused to voluntarily comply with its requests for information.

In an all but unprecedented move to subpoena sitting members of Congress, the committee, which is expected to begin public hearings next month, is seeking to compel the testimony of McCarthy and Reps. Scott Perry of Pennsylvania, Jim Jordan of Ohio, Andy Biggs of Arizona and Mo Brooks of Alabama. All four, who are some of former President Donald Trump's biggest backers in Congress, had been asked in letters

Kevin McCarthy is among those who have been called to testify

to speak with the committee and refused.

"Unfortunately, you declined voluntary cooperation, and we are left with no choice but to issue you this subpoena," state the letters to the representatives informing them of the subpoenas.

The committee has debated privately for months about whether to subpoena representatives who refuse to cooperate and whether it wanted to set such a precedent — particularly given time constraints, the chance of a lengthy legal battle and the strong chance that Republicans could regain control of the

House after the midterm elections.

Several of the representatives were involved in meetings and planning sessions around Trump's attempt to overturn the 2020 election results.

"These members include those who participated in meetings at the White House, those who had direct conversations with President Trump leading up to and during the attack on the Capitol, and those who were involved in the planning and coordination of certain activities on and before January 6th," the news release announcing the subpoenas states.



Tribune News Service/AFP via Getty Images/Yasuyoshi Chiba

Clearing rubble

Workers on Wednesday clean rubble atop a building destroyed by shelling a month ago in Cherkaske, eastern Ukraine amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 87 degrees Thursday. The low was 60.

Tonight's low will be 62. Showers are expected Saturday with a thunderstorm possible.

The high will be 82. There is a chance of showers and thunderstorms again Sunday with a high of 80.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available Saturday. Trailers will be open from 9 a.m. to noon in the shopping center at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, and Dunkirk City Park.

Coming up

Saturday — Photos from Indiana's Run for the Fallen in Jay County.

Wednesday — Results from Tuesday's girls track sectional at Delta.

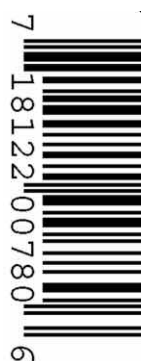




Photo provided

Funding awarded

The Don Wood Foundation recently awarded the Area 18 Cooperative more than \$1 million in funding for new advanced manufacturing equipment. The grants included \$274,280.69 for South Adams High School, which hosts advanced manufacturing classes that are open to students from Jay County.

CR almanac

Saturday 5/14	Sunday 5/15	Monday 5/16	Tuesday 5/17	Wednesday 5/18
82/61	80/56	73/51	72/51	71/54
Saturday has a 60% chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Another chance of rain and thunderstorms. Otherwise, mostly sunny.	Sunny skies are on the horizon for Monday, with a high near 73 degrees.	More sun is in the forecast for Tuesday. Rain is possible at night.	There's a 40% chance of rain. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 71.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$83 million	18-27-31-37-39-44-47-50-51-54-66-67-68-69-72-76 Cash 5: 11-12-25-28-35 Estimated jackpot: \$296,500
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$99 million	Ohio Midday Pick 3: 4-8-8 Pick 4: 7-8-9-6 Pick 5: 7-8-1-4-4 Evening Pick 3: 8-5-0 Pick 4: 7-2-3-5 Pick 5: 6-6-9-6-7 Rolling Cash: 5-18-33-37-38 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000
Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 3-4-9 Daily Four: 9-0-9-9 Quick Draw: 3-7-8-12-13-18-26-28-32-34-38-39-43-46-52-59-67-71-73-74 Evening Daily Three: 4-4-2 Daily Four: 7-0-2-0 Quick Draw: 3-4-6-14	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....7.92 June corn7.92 Wheat9.64	Wheat 10.69 June wheat..... 10.69
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....7.94 June corn7.97 July corn.....7.96	Central States Montpelier Corn.....7.74 Late May corn7.74 Beans16.35 Late May beans.....16.31 May wheat.....11.08
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....7.73 June corn7.83 Beans16.39 June beans16.44	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....7.47 June corn7.54 Beans16.29 June beans16.34 Wheat.....11.21

Today in history

In 1864, what became Arlington National Cemetery got its start when a Confederate prisoner of war was buried on the grounds of Arlington House. It now includes the graves of soldiers from every war in which the United States has participated, including the American Revolution.

In 1940, Winston Churchill addressed the House of Commons for the first time as British prime minister, saying "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat."

In 1989, thousands of students started a hunger strike as part of a non-violent occupation of Tiananmen Square in Beijing.

In 2013, Jay County Commissioners OK'd the purchase of a new ambulance for Jay Emergency Medical Service at a cost of \$147,051.

In 2021, the team of Allysen Fullenkamp, Mara Pearson, Marie Nachtshiem and Abbie Francis broke the 11-year-old Fort Recovery High School record in the 4x100-meter relay with a time of 51.99 seconds as the Indians hosted the Midwest Athletic Conference Championships.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday
9 a.m. — Jay County Redevelopment Commission, commissioners' room, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland.
5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St., Portland.

6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery School Board, conference room, high school, 400 E. Butler St.
7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

Wednesday
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North, Portland.

Goal ...

Continued from page 1
In other news, park board members Brian Ison, Glen Bryant and John McFarland, absent Shauna Runkle and Michael Brewster, awarded a \$15,000 project to Good-hew's Roofing Service of Ridgeville for installing new standing seam metal roofs on the dugouts, concession stand and restroom building at Weiler-Wilson Park. They also awarded a \$10,950 bid to Hatzell Bros. Standing Seam Solutions to install standing seam roofs and metal exteriors to dugouts at Runkle-Miller Field in Portland Memorial Park.

Ison noted both jobs would cost about \$1,000 more than the park board has available in the fund it planned to use for the projects.

"We understand that these are big ticket, money items. So we know this is

about the extent of our big purchases this year," said Shauver.

Ison reminded the board it has between \$18,000 and \$19,000 in economic development funds left from Bitter Ridge Wind Farm. (Jay County Commissioners gave \$100,000 to Dunkirk and \$50,000 to Redkey, Salamonia, Pen-ville and Bryant — for what most communities are using for parks or recreational work. Portland Park Board used just under \$79,000 of its amount for the new tiles at Portland Water Park.) He added the board should reserve some of those remaining funds in case more is needed for the pool as well as for matching funds to pursue a grant through The Portland Foundation.

Park board decided to move forward with the projects and supply the

remaining roughly \$1,100 using its economic development monies.

In other business, park board:
•Were reminded there are security cameras at Haynes Park. Shauver noted on April 25 vandals removed paper towels from the dispenser in the restrooms and put them into the fireplace at the center pavilion. The action left large pieces of ash around the area. A cigarette was also found jammed in the towel dispenser, which was ripped off the wall. Police found the minor responsible and have banned them from the parks for two months.
•Heard Ison has received one bid at \$60,000 from CXT Buildings for a restroom building to be constructed at Runkle-Miller Field. He noted he'll pursue one or two more bids and will be applying for a

grant through The Portland Foundation for the project.
•Gave permission to Shauver to ask Dave Weesner to roll the Pee Wee Football field at least two times for roughly \$350. Chet Franks of the pee wee football program explained the field was recently used by community members while wet, causing large ruts in the ground. Shauver agreed to put up signs that say not to play on the field when it is wet.
•Learned a deteriorating yellow shed at Runkle-Miller Park will be removed next week, before the Portland Rockets' home opener May 22.
•Discussed creating liability forms for organized sports and recreational activity organizations at the parks. The board will likely take action on the matter at its next meeting June 7.

Felony arrests

Drug possession

Two Jay County residents were arrested Wednesday for charges related to drug possession.

Lana D. Wheeler, 64, 205 W. Elm St., Bryant, was preliminarily charged with a Level 4 felony for possession of methamphetamine, two Level 6 felonies for maintaining a common nuisance and unlawful

possession of a syringe, and two Class A misdemeanors for possession of marijuana and possession of paraphernalia. She's being held on a \$22,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

Parker M. Squier, 32, 355 S. Washington St., Pennville, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for possession of methamphetamine, along with two Class A misde-

meanors for possession of marijuana and resisting law enforcement. He's also been charged in Jay Circuit Court with failure to appear, a Level 6 felony. Squier failed to appear for unlawful possession of a syringe, a Level 6 felony, and resisting law enforcement, a Class A misdemeanor. He's being held without bond in Jay County Jail.

Deeds

Tommie L. Lawhead to himself and Susan J. Lawhead, quit claim deed — Lot 3, Blaine Pike Addition
John Reynolds to Fifth Third Bank, deed affidavit — Parts of Section 13, Jefferson Township, 5.33 acres
Edna R. and Joe J. Schwartz to David J. Graber, warranty deed — Parts of Section 9, Greene Township, 2.43 acres
Doris and Tom Zimmerman to BEM, warranty deed — Lots 7 and 8 and Part of Lot 6, Block 19, original plat of Portland
Marvin J. and Patricia R. Post to Leon D. and Linda S. Muhlenkamp, warranty deed — Part of Section 19, Wabash Township, 30 acres
Gregory A. Sheffer to Gregory A. Sheffer Revocable Trust, warranty deed — Part of Section 21, Noble Township, Lot 20, Bellfountaine
William L. Horn Revocable Living Trust and Margaret A. Horn Revocable Living Trust to Margaret

A. Horn, trustee deed — Section 15, Wabash Township, 32.62 acres
Bonita D. and Robert L. Frazee Jr. to Erika E. and Kyle R. Frazee, warranty deed — Parts of Section 25, Greene Township, 5.586 acres
Freda and Gary Rohrer to Roberta L. Spare, warranty deed — Part of Lot 20, Hawkins Addition
Chris B.H. and Nancy M.B. Schwartz to Esther U.H. and Henry B.H. Schwartz, warranty deed — Part of Section 3, Jackson Township, 15 acres
Tamer Samuel to Ron W. May and George O. Lopez, quit claim deed — Lot 1, Block 16, original plat of Bryant



Swiss Village

JOB POSTING: RESIDENTIAL SERVICES UNIT MANAGER

Swiss Village is now seeking a Unit Manager for Residential Services! The Unit Manager will be responsible for the overall nursing care of the residents in Independent Living, Residential Living, and Assisted Living. This position is responsible for supervising the admissions, transfers, and discharges of residents, consulting with physicians, performing assessments, and coordinating the resident's care over all three shifts.

This position requires an active Indiana LPN or RN license. Seeking candidates able to work M-F 7:00am-3:30pm with a weekend and holiday rotation required. Must possess skills necessary to lead and direct staff in coordination with nursing leadership. Must also possess strong teamwork skills.

Apply in person, online at www.swissvillage.org, or send Resume to:

Taylor Lehman, VP of HR
Swiss Village
1350 W. Main St., Berne, IN 46711
Or e-mail: careers@swissvillage.org

SERVICES

Saturday
Schwieterman, Jerome: 10 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharp-sburg Road, Fort Recovery.
Anderson, Clark: noon, Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

Service listings provided by
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'Moana Jr.' tickets are now on sale

Jay County Civic Theatre's latest production is less than a month away. Tickets are now available.

The production is adapted from the 2016 Disney film, "Moana."

Shows are scheduled for 7 p.m. June 9, 10 and 11 and 2 p.m. June 12 at Jay County Campus of Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland. Advance tickets are \$8 for students or children and \$10 for adults.

To purchase tickets, visit Arts Place, call (260) 726-4809 or go to myartsplace.org.

Cheerleaders named

The cheerleaders have been named.

Jay County High School recently held tryouts for its

Taking Note

junior varsity and varsity cheerleading squads.

Making the varsity squad were Lilly Rogers, Cash Hollowell, Karci Hopkins, Erin Ring, Coryn Blalock, Adriene Denney, Jocelyn Haggard, Jordyn Hutzler, Paisley Fugiett and Kayla Jetmore.

Junior varsity cheerleaders for the 2022-23 school year will be Mikaylee Hoffman, Sydney Huftel, Faith Faulkner, Emma Hatzel and Katie Rowles.



Photo provided

CYO donates

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church of Portland's Catholic Youth Organization recently donated \$500 to Pregnancy Care Center. It raised funds through its fish fry and work at local recycling trailers. CYO members pictured from left presenting a check to Patti Johnston of Pregnancy Care Center are Gretchen Link, Maria Hemmelgarn, Madison Dirksen and Holly Hemmelgarn.

Dislike of brother-in-law finally comes to light

DEAR ABBY: My sister and I have always been close. She's married to a man I have always thought is domineering and arrogant. I also suspect that he's emotionally abusive from things she has confided over the years. These include days of the silent treatment, refusing to celebrate her birthday because he doesn't believe in it and discouraging her from taking a job she was interested in. He refuses to go to counseling and says whatever problems there are between them are her fault. I hold my tongue and try to tolerate him because she has chosen to stay with him.

He recently participated in a marathon and was connected to us and many others through

Dear Abby



social media so we could follow the entire two-day event from start to finish. After a day of constant "dinging" on my phone, I found his need for attention over the top and stopped following. My sister was very upset about it. She said she was embarrassed and hurt. When she asked why I stopped, I told her the truth.

Now our relationship is dam-

aged. I apologized and tried to smooth things over, but she's now fully aware of my true feelings about him after seeing and hearing how he has treated her over the years. Should I have "kept the peace," as my dear departed mother always said, and continued to keep my mouth shut, or should I have been honest about my feelings? — PROTECTIVE OF SIS

DEAR PROTECTIVE: Because you say you and your sister are close, I am surprised you held your tongue about her husband's behavior for so long. You did nothing wrong by tuning out of the marathon updates. You should not have been expected to be held

hostage for two days because your brother-in-law's ego needed bolstering. You were honest with your sister and, in my opinion, did nothing that requires an apology.

DEAR ABBY: My partner and I have been in a long-distance relationship for about a year. After I did some casual social media stalking, I learned he still lives with his ex-boyfriend, in spite of the fact that he continually complains to me about his "roommate," whom he never refers to by name. On top of that, we made a commitment over the last year to phone each other at least once a day. For the past three weeks, there are times I haven't heard

from him at all, despite seeing him active on social media (especially on weekends). It's to a point where I stay awake until all hours, hoping to hear from him. Should I approach him about this, or is this just the end to the "honeymoon phase"? — WAITING BY THE PHONE IN CANADA

DEAR WAITING: Not only is it the end of the "honeymoon phase," but it may also be the beginning of the end of this romance because it appears your "partner" isn't as eager to contact you as you are to hear from him. Long-distance relationships can be challenging, and you may be happier if you couple up with somebody local.

Community Calendar

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

Reunions

Bryant High School graduates will hold an alumni banquet on May 14. Honor classes this year are the classes of 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1970, 1971 and 1972.

Madison High School's alumni banquet is scheduled for May 14 at Asbury United Methodist Church. To register, call Dennis Theurer at (317) 999-0429 or (317) 654-5184, or send mail to 14429 E. 196th St., Noblesville, IN 46060.

Graduates of Portland High School will host an alumni banquet on June 18 at Jay County High School. Honor classes are

from the years 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967 and 1972. All Portland High School graduates are welcome. For more information, call Judy or Neil Medler at (260) 726-7209.

Jay County High School Class of 1997 will hold its 25th reunion at 7 p.m. June 11 at Jay County Event Center.

Saturday

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.

Monday

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

BRYANT AREA COM-

MUNITY CENTER — Walking from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

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

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

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy 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 accepted.

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.

PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 5:30 p.m., with the meeting at 6 p.m., in the fellowship hall at Evangelical Methodist Church, 930 W. Main St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5312.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6 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.

PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.

Tuesday

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

7	9	5	2	6	8	3	1	4
6	4	2	1	3	9	8	7	5
8	3	1	7	4	5	9	2	6
5	6	3	9	8	7	1	4	2
9	2	7	5	1	4	6	3	8
4	1	8	3	2	6	5	9	7
2	5	4	8	9	1	7	6	3
1	7	6	4	5	3	2	8	9
3	8	9	6	7	2	4	5	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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Legion riders appreciate support

To the editor:
Earlier this year, in February, an event was put on here in Portland at Jay Community Center.

The event was in support of helping out a young lady who was diagnosed with cancer.

It was very overwhelming the response and support this young lady was given by this community during the event.

The event had a basketball tournament, cornhole tournament, free-throw contest, 50/50 raffle, a four-wheeler raffle and a bounce house.

A very special thank you to Jay Community Center for the use of their wonderful center; Post 211 American Legion Riders for heading this wonderful event up.

Letters to the Editor

The following businesses and individuals who donated items for the silent auction:

Cuervos Tacos II, Jeff Hall, Nesha Anderson, Sarah Farris, Cryo Beauty and Wellness, Renegade Customs, Cindy Denney, Ashley Hopkins, Jay County Hospital registration, the Wiggins family, All Weather Heating and Cooling, Fear Powersports, Chet and Amy Franks, Subway, Aman-

da May, Jo Ann Lazer, El Camino Real, Pit's Cocktail Lounge, Krista, Holly, Kortney, Courtnee and Teresa Taylor; All Circuit Electrical, Kenzie Keen, Abby Brockman, the Denney family, Cook's Nursery, Connie Fear, the Flower Nook, Anna Zarate, Abby Brockman, Kenzie Keen, Union Chapel Ministries, Laura Ferguson, Randon Huffel, Glenda Votaw, Angie Byrum, Auto Zone, Wings and Rings, Hometown Hardware (Erin Davis), Jay Beverage, Goodrich Brewery, Deer Park Boutique, Jay Community Center, Greek's Pizzeria, Jean Ann Poole, Amanda Knight, Brit-tany Vance, Crafty Customs, Emily Tarter, El Carreton, Jessi-ca Kerrigan, Display Craft, M&M

Market, Jenny VanSkyock, Chrissy Martin, B&D Transport, U.S. Aggregates, Dr. David Fullenkamp, RC Automotive, Craven Nutrition, Rollin' J Lanes, Pizza Hut, Angie Schlechty, J&C Apparel, Chelsea Aker, Accelerated Curing, Just 4 Paws, East of Chicago Pizza, Arby's, Abby Hullinger, Sue Burke, Wildflower Beauty Lounge (Magan Douglas), Bizy Dips, Diana Franks, True Value, Cassie Alexander, Schmit Chiropractic, Steve Schlechty, Tracy Winn, Amy McAbee, Night and Day Creation, Troyer's, Eme Lennartz, Pizza King, Maria Trent, Mrs. Wick's Restaurant & Pie Shop, Bloom's Discount, Locker's Touch of Country, Jeff and Terry

Burk, Brewster Jewelry, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Tiffany and Mark Albers, Clear Choice Chiropractic, Patriot Fitness, Gourmet Cupboard, Greg Ashley, Jay County Therapeutics, Kerri Fosnaugh, Kelsey Castillo, Annie Frantz and Charlene Theurer.

Thank you.
To everyone who helped by your support in time, donating toward purchasing items, thank you. To all the teams, both corn-hole and basketball, thank you also.

In closing, on behalf of the family and friends of Alysia Mann, we say thank you.

Jeff Burk
Post 211 American Legion Riders

Wordle cult casts its spell

By **BUD HERRON**
(Columbus) The Republic

My wife, Ann, Wordles. I am not exactly sure what Wordle is, but she takes part in its rituals every morning as soon as she wakes up. Best I can figure, it is some sort of a cult.

She evidently is part of at least two Wordle covens. Converts of each coven communicate via text on their cell phones. Her phone begins beeping with incoming Wordle traffic as early as 5 a.m. some days. The last of these texts sometimes doesn't beep in until nightfall.

All the while these texts are coming in, Ann focuses on a tiny grid on her cell phone — five squares wide and six squares deep. She frantically places letters in the squares while other members of her covens rush to fill out theirs and transmit the results to her. (Whatever she is doing, the cult is not of Christian origin, judging from the blue expletives she sometimes releases in the process.)

Several times she has tried to recruit me to the cult, but I have resisted.

I still recall the early days of our marriage when she became addicted to an exercise cult headed by Jane Fonda and spread via video cassette tapes. She lured me into joining with promises of a homemade chocolate pie and a silk night gown (for her, not me) from the Sear's catalogue.

Following the first meeting of our two-person exercise coven, my lower back locked up and I had to crawl up the stairs to our bedroom — proof enough for me that Fonda was the communist traitor rightwing critics claimed her to be. I am not about to be enticed into another cult.

However, judging by the number of people I now know to be embracing this cult, the number of Wordle converts is growing faster than COVID-19. No vaccine can prevent it and masking is of no use.

Christianity took more than 300 years to become the official religion of the Roman Empire. According to statistics posted on the internet, Wordle appeared in October 2021 and by Nov. 1 had 90 converts.

By the end of December, 300,000 people had joined the cult. Another 1.7 million people worldwide were Wordling by Jan. 8.

Today, statisticians cannot keep up with Wordle's growth. Estimates of daily participation in cult rituals are as high as 25 mil-

Bud Herron



... judging by the number of people I now know to be embracing this cult, the number of Wordle converts is growing faster than COVID-19.

lion in the United States alone.

Such growth indicates Wordle is quickly moving from the world of cults into the realm of mainstream organized religion. Whether it will continue to flourish is anyone's guess.

Other cults have appeared in my lifetime, seemed to be moving toward mainstream religion then faded before the faithful even had the chance to buy t-shirts, jewelry, tattoos or bumper stickers declaring membership.

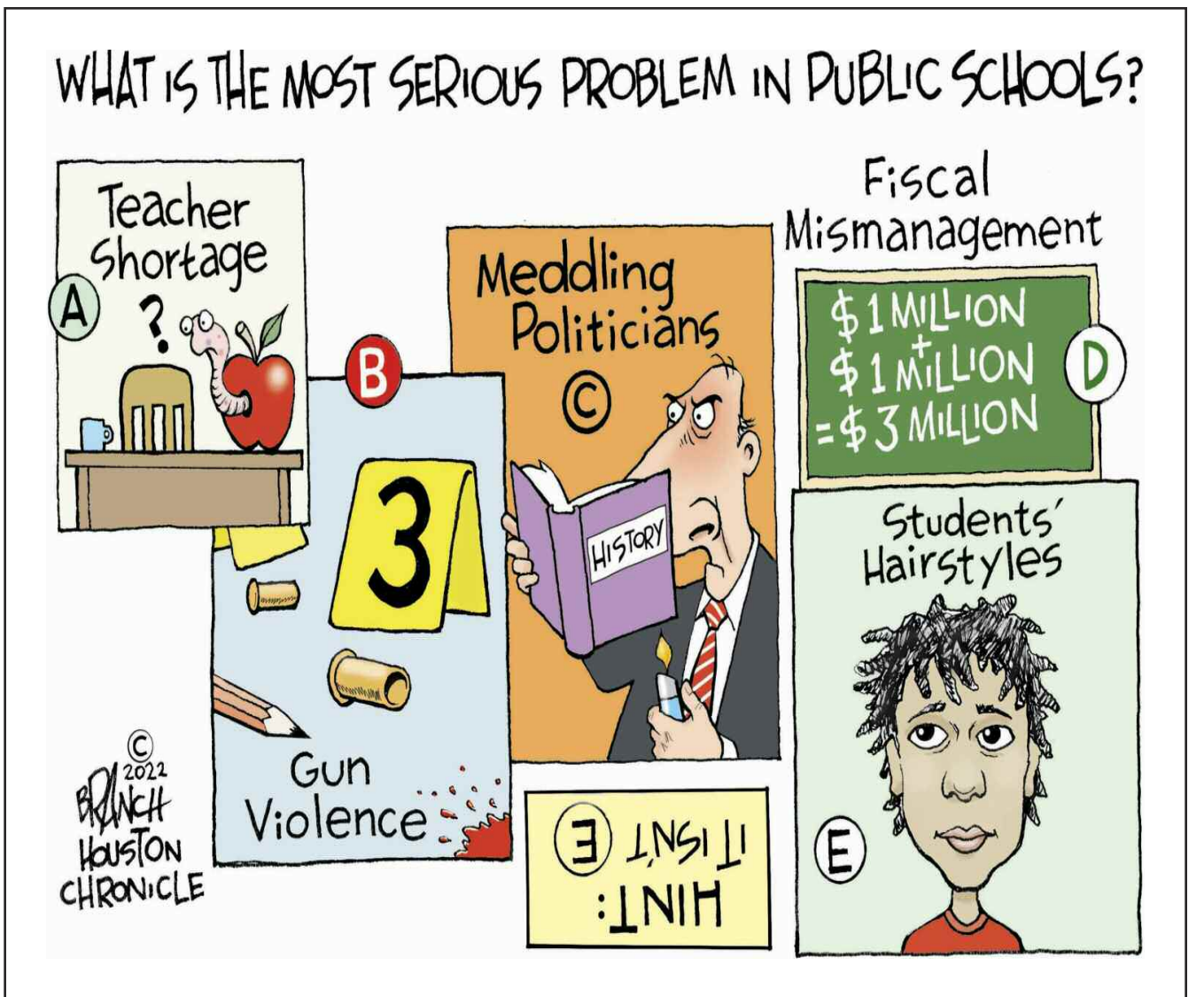
Today, few people under 50 even remember Hula-hoopism, or Beaniebaby-ism, or Petrockism.

Rubikscubeism still has a few followers, but also has fallen back from religion status to being a mere cult — as indicated by the scarcity of people on the street wearing gold Rubik's Cubes on chains around their necks.

Meanwhile, the Wordle beeping goes on. Where it will lead us is anyone's guess. While I refuse to join the cult, I will not actively oppose it or make any effort to rescue Ann from its clutches.

I simply request that her fellow cult members don't Wordle with her before about 8 a.m. The cell phone beeping is disturbing my sleep.

.....
Herron is a retired editor and newspaper publisher who lives in Columbus. He served as publisher of The Republic from 1998 to 2007.



Bridging gap is essential

By **JERALD MCNAIR**
Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

When I was young, I couldn't wait for the grass to grow so I could take my lawn mower out and cut some of my neighbors' yards. The days it snowed were great opportunities for me to get out my shovel, walk around the neighborhood and seek out members in the community who wanted their snow removed. A few of my friends, on occasion, and I would easily make \$25 to \$30 a day after school. What I realized was that it wasn't just the money that really benefited me; it also was the relationships I developed with my neighbors, many of whom were either middle-aged or elderly.

Nowadays, in far too many communities, summers and winters come and go, and we rarely see our youth canvassing the neighborhoods, asking to cut grass, rake leaves or remove snow. Unfortunately, in many cases, these are lost opportunities for our youths and senior citizens to get acquainted. These unrealized moments affect far too many communities and may speak to why crime is so rampant in some places.

What is causing this estrangement? Is it fear? Or is it a lack of understanding? Data from Statista Research shows that people between the ages of 20 to 24 are more likely to commit a violent crime, such as homicide, than any other age group. Those 17 to 19 represent the third largest group committing these acts. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recorded its highest number of gun-related deaths in 2020.

We read about acts of violence being committed by youths that we never thought possible. People are now more guarded and worried about their safety. If a young person shows up at the front door and offers to cut

the grass or shovel the snow, it's conceivable that the young person will receive a resounding "no."

The pandemic exacerbated this schism as people had to stay in their homes for the sake of safety. If the elderly and the young are not communicating and having those shared experiences, how do we bridge the gap? How do we bring the generations together? How do we build trust between Generation Z and the baby boomers?

The death toll of COVID-19 is staggering. But one thing that is getting overlooked is the pandemic's social and psychological impact on the elderly. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, an estimated 20% of U.S. adults live with a mental illness. Social isolation makes this issue worse, especially for the elderly.

When race is considered, Black and Hispanic people are overrepresented when it comes to mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression.

These conditions make it more challenging for generations to connect and communicate, even among family members, let alone others who are not a part of a family. To bring calm to communities that are dealing with high rates of crime, a concerted effort must be made to bring the generations together to combat fear, mistrust and miscommunication.

Community leaders, community members and families need to rec-

Jerald McNair



ognize that shared experiences between our youths and the elderly result in the development of better relationships. So much is made about hiring more police officers and finding social programs that work. But some of the answers can come from within the community. Residents know who lives in isolation; they know the young people who would like to do odd jobs; they know what the needs are in the community. They can help bridge the gap better than others.

The need is greater now than ever before. AARP data shows that the number of older Black adults will nearly triple, and the number of older Hispanic adults will quintuple over the next few decades. That means many communities will have older residents living alone and often in isolation. If efforts are not made to mitigate the fear that many feel, the mistrust will worsen.

Poor relationships among residents opens the door for more crime. Too many of our senior citizens are becoming invisible to the young. They are being overlooked and devalued in far too many communities. Yet what they have to contribute is priceless.

Communities should bring the generations together. Youths bring life while the elderly bring wisdom. When they work together, they can achieve harmony. Coretta Scott King once said: "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." When there is caring and understanding among citizens, crime does not have place to roam.

.....
McNair is a school administrator at South Holland School District 151 in suburban Chicago.

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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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Plans ...

Continued from page 1
Not all of the basins still hold water, including the North Ash Basin and the Primary Pond Ash Fill. Because they do not impound water and haven't in a long time, Duke Energy spokesperson Angeline Protogere said they did not believe they were subject to the federal coal ash rules.

While Protogere said that they respectfully disagree that the two basins are subject to these rules, they are complying with the EPA in the interest of closing the plant in a timely manner.

In the letter the EPA stated that it has a different interpretation of what is considered to be a Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR) surface impoundment. CCR refers to coal ash.

"The definition of a CCR surface impoundment does not require that the unit prevent groundwater from flowing through the unit, but merely requires that the unit be 'designed to hold an accumulation of CCR and liquid,'" the EPA letter states.

Groundwater simply refers to the water underneath Earth's surface. The U.S. Geological Survey reported that groundwater is the source of about 37% of the water that county and city water departments use to supply households and businesses.

In 2020, the Hoosier Environmental Council (HEC) filed an administrative appeal, saying that IDEM should not have approved the original closure plans.

The Office of Environmental Adjudication rejected HEC's claims and approved the plan, according to Duke Energy's notice of withdrawal sent to IDEM. HEC filed a petition, and the parties are awaiting a hearing.

The EPA's letter stated that Duke Energy will need to implement engineering measures to remove groundwater from the unit before installing the final cover system; Duke Energy will also need to ensure that the basins are closed in a manner that will minimize infiltration of liquids and release of CCR to the maximum extent feasible.

The new plan that Duke Energy is looking to implement is not a foreign concept. In fact, the same plan was already in place for the other four basins at the Gallagher site.



Photo provided

Sportsmanship winners

Jay County Robotics team 1193B won the Sportsmanship Award at the VEX World Championships held Sunday through Tuesday in Dallas. The team, which is made up of Callie Houck, Madi Paxson, Jacob Kellog, Joseph Boggs, Max Klopfenstein and Brennan Chrisman, finished 20th in qualifications, earning it a spot in the finals. It marked the first time a middle school team from Jay County had advanced to the finals.

Champions ...

Continued from page 8

Pearson's bouncer to Demange came on an 0-1 count and the shortstop never had a chance to gun down the speedy Will as she zipped home with the game-winning run.

"It was a little bit stressful," said Pearson. "I was thinking, should I bunt here, should I not? But I just knew that a powerful swing would do just as much as a bunt. And then ... nothing felt better than getting (Will) across home plate."

The Indians trailed 1-0 through five and a half innings before Guggenbiller nearly tied the game in a single swing, blasting an Ashlyn Bohman pitch to center field to lead off the bottom of the sixth inning. But it hit the fence about a foot and a half from the top, leaving her with an extremely long single.

No matter. Guggenbiller stole second base,

sliding wide to the outfield side of the bag to slip behind Damange's tag. And when she took third on a delayed steal, the throw from catcher Paige Bruggeman sailed high and just over third baseman Aliyah Arling's glove. The error allowed Guggenbiller to hustle across the plate with the game-tying run.

"I was trying to delay, but she ended up catching across her body," said Guggenbiller. "So I went, because across your body you can't really throw very well."

FRHS coach Ryan Thien noted that during the early part of the season he had been using a courtesy runner for his catcher, but Guggenbiller had urged him to let her run.

Taking that advice paid off. "She is the best, smartest base runner we probably have on the team," Thien said.

The Flyers (7-11) had taken the lead in the third inning when Cameron Swain hit a two-out single to left field, stole second base, took third on a passed ball and scored on an RBI single to center from Demange. They likely would have added another run, but FRHS center fielder Kensey Gaerke made a running catch to take away a hit from Allison Dirksen to end the inning.

The grab started a run of 14 straight outs as Pearson sat down Marion Local in the fourth inning and then Jackie Homan, who tossed the first two innings, returned to retire the side in order in the fifth, sixth and seventh. The Flyers' only baserunner over the final six innings came on a one-out error in the eighth.

"When we played them in the regular season, Homan kept us off

balance too," said Marion Local coach Mindy Puthoff of the senior who earned the win as she went seven scoreless innings while giving up just one hit. "So whatever she does, keep doing it. They were playing solid defense behind her and we just couldn't quite get that second or third hit to score more runs."

Fort Recovery will play sixth-ranked and top-seeded Minster in the first of two district semifinal games at 4 p.m. Tuesday. The Wildcats clobbered 11th-seeded Spencerville 15-1 in their sectional championship game Thursday.

No. 10 seed New Bremen, which upset second-seeded Crestview 4-2 Thursday, and third-seeded Lincolnview will follow in the other district semifinal. The district championship game is slated for 5 p.m. May 20.

Roundup ...

Continued from page 8

Heritage took the lead with a run in the third inning before JCHS tied it in the fourth. The visiting squad then scored twice in the fifth inning and held the host Patriots scoreless the rest of the way.

Taylor Brown took the loss, going the distance and allowing the three runs on five hits while striking out six.

Angel Clairday, Makaylah Brainerd, Briana Zorn and Brown each had a hit for Jay County. Madi-

son Reier drove in the only run on a ground out.

DeHoff leads

Cody DeHoff set the pace for the Jay County junior high golf team Thursday in a 128-160 victory over Monroe Central.

DeHoff shot 29 to lead the Patriots in the six-hole match. He was the medalist, recording one par in his round.

Jacob Monroe, Syllas Wenk and Jensen Avery each shot 33. Dawson Goldsworthy's

34 did not factor in the team score.

Cook's wins

Cook's Nursery edged Pioneer Packaging 7-6 in Portland Junior League Rookie baseball Thursday. Also in Rookie action, Matt's Garage defeated Pak-a-Sak 14-12.

In other games Thursday, Inman U-Loc and Portland Optimist tied 8-8 and Portland Lions Club beat PG-14 10-6 in Willie Mays baseball, and Kiwanis knocked off Flame-spray 7-6.

In all-star softball contests, the Portland 8-and-younger team split with Monroe Central, losing the opener 9-8 before winning game two 11-3.

Ranly led Cook's to its victory, going 3-for-3 with a triple, a double and two RBIs. Jaxon Gannon added three hits, a run and an RBI.

Matt's Garage going 4-for-4 efforts with three RBIs apiece from Lexton Dakin, Luke Jellison and Liam Ridenour.

In the tie game, Varen Ridgway had a double,

two walks and two RBIs for Optimists while Tyce Foreman drove in two runs for Inman. Bryce Richie led Lions to the win over PG-14 with two hits and two RBIs.

Kiwanis got 2-for-3 efforts at the plate from Karson Schilling, Brady Millspaugh and Jace Vance, with Vance driving in three runs and Millspaugh scoring three times.

Maggie Westgerdes and Kenzlea Bentz each had five hits on the night for the all-star softball team.

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Sports

CHAMPIONS IN 9

Pearson grounder brings Will home with game-winning run to give Fort Recovery the sectional title in extra-inning thriller

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — Emma Will was standing on third base for the third time.

She was stranded there in the fifth inning.

She was stranded there again as the potential game-winning run in the seventh.

With one out in the bottom of the ninth, she was again 60 feet away from delivering the Indians a sectional title.

Sophie Pearson provided her ticket home.

Pearson's ground ball to short-stop Olivia Damange was enough to get Will across the plate and give the Fort Recovery High School softball team a 2-1 victory over the Marion Local Flyers in Thursday's Division IV sectional championship game.

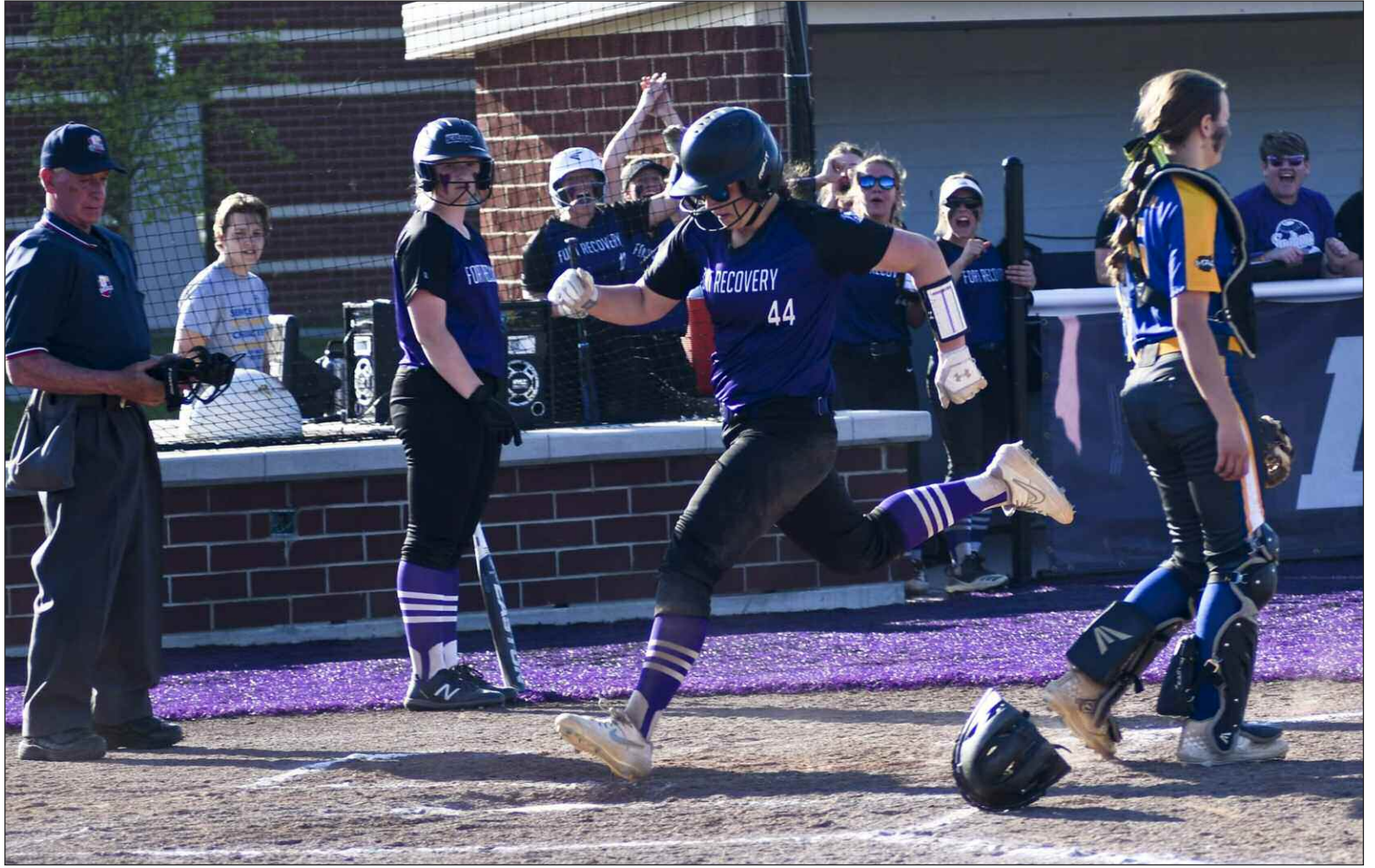
"Awesome," said Pearson. "I've never felt anything better."

It was the second win for the Indians over Marion Local this season following a 6-5 victory April 19 and sends them to the district tournament at Wapakoneta.

Fort Recovery's last sectional title came when it beat Perry 10-2 in 2018. Since then, it had lost 8-6 to Marion Local in the 2019 final, had the 2020 season canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic and fell 9-2 to Lincolnview in last season's championship game.

"It's crazy," said junior Maddie Guggenbiller, who scored the game-tying run in the sixth inning. "We as a Fort Recovery softball team, I think that we've kept on improving. But in years past we've had a hard time struggling to get (the sectional title)."

"Just to see this win tonight has shown that the growth that we've had is incredible. And I



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Maddie Guggenbiller of Fort Recovery High School reaches the plate to tie the score in the bottom of the sixth inning during Thursday's sectional championship game. Guggenbiller singled, stole second, stole third and took home when the throw in an attempt to catch her sailed high and got past Marion Local third baseman Aliyah Arling.

think that our team has just grown so close to each other that we know that we each are capable of pulling out this win. So we have trust. I think that's a big part of why we won this today."

When the Indians (13-7) got

Will on base by way of an error to lead off the ninth inning it was nothing new. They had runners on base in every inning, but struggled to get them around to score. They stranded 11 runners in total, including leaving the

bases loaded in the second inning.

But Chloey Grisez made sure Will would keep moving, laying down a sacrifice bunt on the right side of the infield. As Will reached second base she saw no

one was covering third and scampered there to put herself in position to end the game on a deep fly ball, a squeeze bunt or, as it turned out, a well-placed grounder.

See **Champions** page 5



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Golfers 2nd at WVGC

GENEVA — The Patriots got a good look at their conference rivals Thursday.

They will need to find a way to shave some strokes to have a shot at the league title next weekend.

Jay County High School's boys golf team finished second in a four-team Allen County Athletic Conference event at Wabash Valley Golf Club, scoring 180 to trail Heritage by 13 strokes.

South Adams was five behind JCHS while Woodlan was last with a 203. (All of those squads, along with Adams Central, Southern Wells and Bluffton, will meet again May 21 in the ACAC Tournament at Celina Lynx.)

Caleb DeRome paced Jay County, recording three consecutive pars in the middle of his round. He finished at 42, which is 6 over par.

Seth Roop of Heritage was the medalist with a 39.

Brock DeHoff followed DeRome with a 44, including a birdie on the 410-yard, par-4 fifth hole. Kyle Sanders and Liam Garlinger recorded matching 47s to round out the team score, and Gage Sims shot 58.

ACAC slips away

MONROEVILLE and BLUFFTON — The Jay County baseball team dropped Allen County Athletic Conference games on back-to-back nights, falling 6-3 Thursday to Heritage after an 8-6 loss Wednesday to Bluffton.

JCHS (9-7, 2-3 Allen County Athletic Conference) was up 3-2 against Heritage before giving up four runs in the bottom of the fifth inning. Crosby Heniser took the loss, allowing six runs — four earned — on seven hits and three walks in 4 1/3 innings. Kess McBride paced the offense,

Local roundup

going 2-for-4 with a double, a run and an RBI.

The Patriots rallied with three runs in the seventh inning Wednesday against Bluffton but their comeback effort fell short. Sam Myers was the losing pitcher, going five innings and giving up seven runs on seven hits. Ryne Goldsworthy and Heniser each had a pair of hits.

Hits hard to find

FORT RECOVERY — Wapakoneta shut down Fort Recovery's baseball team Thursday, handing it a 12-0 defeat in five innings.

The visitors took control with a five-run fifth inning. They scored once in the fourth and six times in the fifth as they finished the game early.

Wyatt Bihn took the loss as he gave up five runs on three hits and three walks in 1 1/3 innings.

Cale Rammel recorded the only hit for the Tribe, which fell to 10-8 on the season.

Fort Recovery will seek to rebound tonight when it makes a visit to Franklin Monroe.

Heritage tops

In a battle of Patriots, the Jay County junior varsity softball team suffered a 3-1 loss Thursday to Heritage.

See **Roundup** page 5

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
 Jay County — Girls tennis at Adams Central — 5 p.m.; Softball at Heritage — 6 p.m.; JV baseball vs. Union City — 5 p.m.; JV softball at Norwell — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high track Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament at Bluffton — 5:30 p.m.
 Fort Recovery — Track in Midwest Athletic Conference Championships at Minster — 4:30 p.m.; Baseball at Franklin-Monroe — 5 p.m.; JV softball at St. Henry — 5 p.m.; JV baseball vs. St. Henry Red — 5 p.m.

Saturday
 Jay County — Girls tennis at Lapel Invitational — 9 a.m.; Softball doubleheader vs. Hagerstown — 10 a.m.; Baseball doubleheader vs. Fort Wayne South Side — 10 a.m.; JV track at Huntington North — 11 a.m.; JV baseball doubleheader at Norwell — 10 a.m.
 Fort Recovery — Baseball vs. St. Mary's Memorial — 5 p.m.

ference semifinals — Boston Celtics at Milwaukee Bucks (ESPN)
 6:35 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Cincinnati Reds at Pittsburgh Pirates (Bally Indiana)
 7:05 p.m. — College baseball: Xavier at Connecticut (FS1)
 8 p.m. — USFL football: Tampa Bay Bandits at Michigan Panthers (USA)
 10 p.m. — NBA playoffs: Western Conference semifinals — Memphis Grizzlies at Golden State Warriors (ESPN)

Saturday
 2 p.m. — USFL football: Tampa Bay Bandits at Michigan Panthers (USA)
 2 p.m. — Auto racing: ARCA Menards Series — Kansas 150 (FS1)
 2:15 p.m. — Major League Baseball: San Francisco Giants at St. Louis Cardinals (Bally Indiana)
 3 p.m. — Golf: AT&T Byron Nelson (CBS)
 3 p.m. — USFL football: New Jersey Generals at New Orleans Breakers (FOX)
 4:05 p.m. — Major League Baseball: San Diego Padres at Atlanta Braves (FS1)
 4:30 p.m. — NHL playoffs: Boston Bruins at Carolina Hurricanes (ESPN)
 6:35 p.m. — Major League Baseball:

Cincinnati Reds at Pittsburgh Pirates (Bally Indiana)
 7 p.m. — NHL playoffs: Tampa Bay Lightning at Toronto Maple Leafs (TNT)
 7:30 p.m. — UFC Fight Night: Blachowicz vs. Rakic (ESPN2)
 8 p.m. — Auto racing: NASCAR Camping World Truck Series — Heart of America (FS1)
 10 p.m. — NHL playoffs: Los Angeles Kings at Edmonton Oilers (ESPN)

Local notes
Boomer registration is open
 Registration is now open for Jay Community Center's Boomer T-Ball and Coach Pitch.
 The program is open to boys and girls ages 3 through 6. Games will be played Saturdays at Portland Junior League fields.
 Cost is \$55 before May 16, and registration includes t-shirt, hat and practice ball. Multiple child discounts are available.
 For more information, contact Jay Community Center at (260) 726-6477.
 To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@theocr.com.

TV schedule

Today
 Noon — NBA playoffs: Eastern Con-