

an administration plan approved Wednesday by Auglaize County Elections Board members is meant to further safeguard the voting process. The 115-page plan addresses day-to-day issues, as well as information specific to elections, such as processing absentee and

# process absentee, provisional ballots

provisional ballots. It includes security plans, which have become an even bigger issue during the past few years, and job descriptions.

The Ohio Secretary of State's

Office required all election boards to submit a plan last fall.

"It's to make sure every county is doing things correctly, even though we may all have different methods of achieving the same

goal," Auglaize County Elections Board Director Carolyn Campbell said. "Although it was a challenge to put together, I think it

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# the can dance

By JENNIFER TANGEMAN  
Staff Writer

While the judges of "So You Think You Can Dance" may have been



Boyd

baffled about how to pronounce Wapakoneta, there was one thing

they were certain of — they wanted to see more of Kent Boyd.

The 18-year-old Wapakoneta resident and recent graduate of Botkins High School was one of four dancers to advance to Las Vegas from Chicago on Wednesday's episode of the Fox reality show.

Boyd was profiled on the show, with clips of Wapakoneta and Botkins portraying a depiction of simple, small town America. Boyd gave viewers a glimpse of Botkins High School, the local barber shop and fire department and scenes of area farmland.

Dancing a contemporary piece for his Chicago audition, Boyd received some positive feedback from the judges regarding his dancing, and even more warm response in regards to his personality.

See DANCE, Page 5A

# Farmer's Market to open

By KRISTA HAYES  
Staff Writer

The first of June marks the grand opening weekend for the Downtown Wapakoneta Farmers' Market to be held at Heritage Park throughout the summer. From 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Heritage Park will host vendors with produce, plants and flowers, baked goods, artisan-made works, crafts, jams and jellies, and a variety of other products made on the farm for sell.

"This year, the market will have Facebook updates and notices to keep customers informed on produce in season and other

special promotions," Downtown Wapakoneta Farmers' Market Committee Member Diane Dodds Knipp said. As a market friend, those interested can receive market updates by leaving their e-mail addresses with the market secretary or with advertising committee members during market hours on Saturdays."

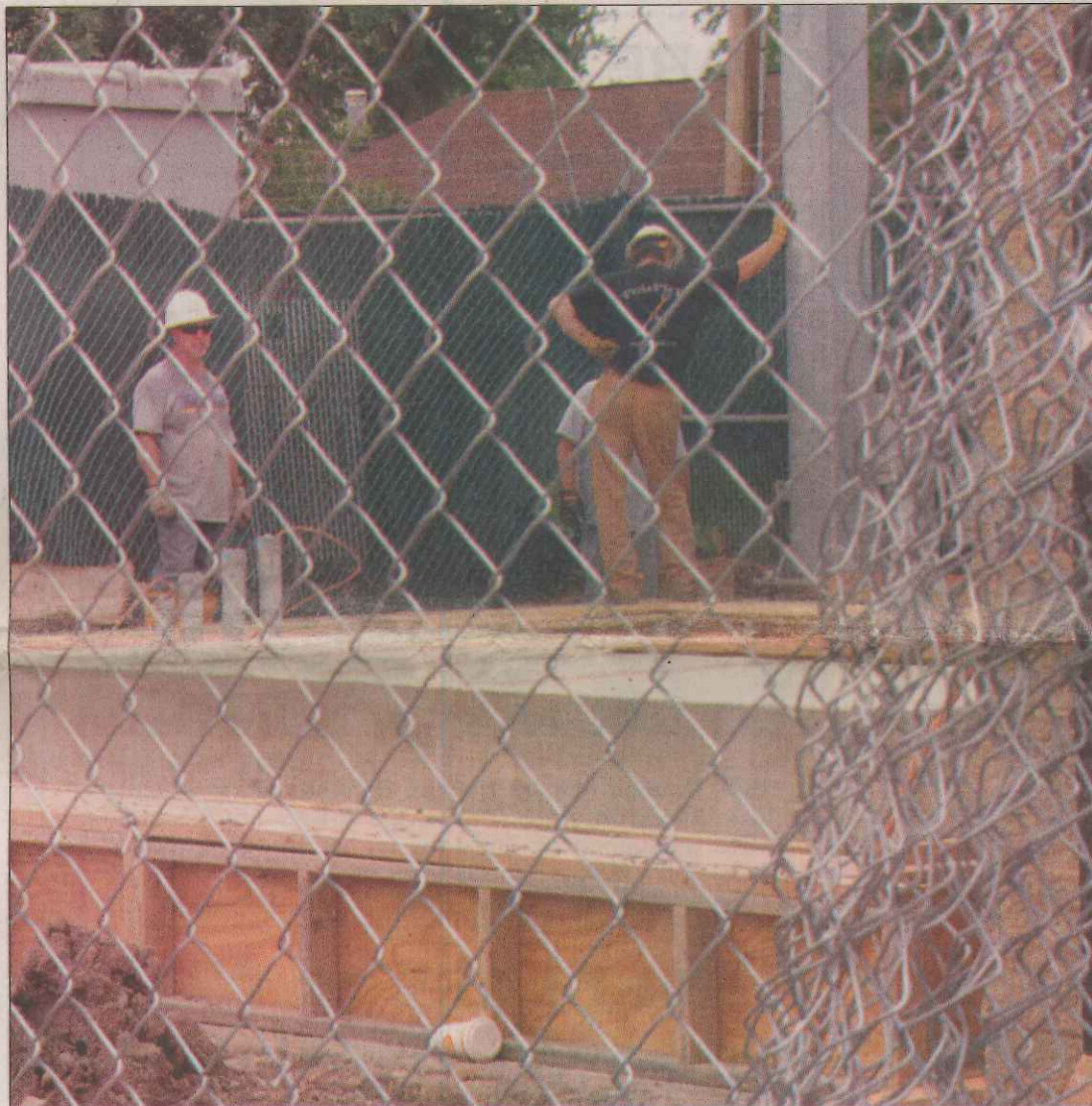
To kick-off the grand opening, several special events are to be held throughout the early hours of Saturday morning including music by folk-country band "Friday Night Special" at 10 a.m.

Dan's Cooker mobile kitchen is to be present to offer a full breakfast menu for country breakfast in the park, along with coffee provided by market members. In addition, raffle tickets with purchase for a basket of market products are to be available with other special offers from favorite vendors also offered.

Returning to participate yet again this

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## Electric work



Staff photo/Jennifer Tangeman

Crews with Sowards Electric, of London, work at the Middle Street Substation, which should improve delivery of electricity to residents in an eastern quadrant of the city. The electrical work is part of a \$13 million upgrade of the entire system. The next substation to be replaced is the Harrison Street Substation near the Harrison Street Bridge.

## Lotridge keeps pace in class, sports

By MEGAN VEIT  
News Correspondent

On the court or in the classroom, there's one Wapakoneta High School senior that simply will not be slowed down.

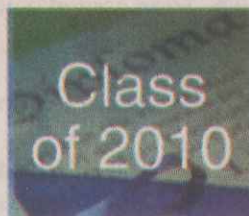
Corey Lotridge, one of the top five students at Wapakoneta High School, has varsity letters in baseball, football and tennis. When a relapse of mononu-

cleosis threatened to keep him from sports for his senior year, Lotridge could have taken a break, focus on his advanced courses.

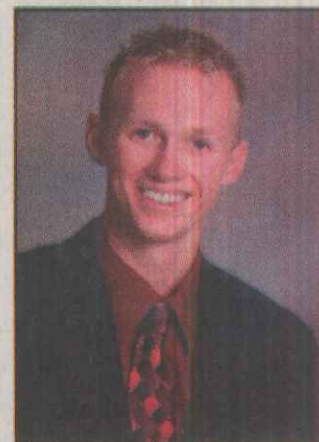
That's not his way. Instead, he decided to pick up tennis. With a new sport, he picked up the MVP title and another varsity letter and "re-

ally had fun."

Lotridge is equally passionate about his academics, earning a spot in the W Club, which requires a 3.5 grade point average and graduating fourth in his class. "A lot of time man-



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Corey Lotridge

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VOLUME 104, NUMBER 130	CLEVELAND (AP) — A Cleveland nun with a baseball habit is the winner of an annual award for distinguished service by a fan of the game.	WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama's planned meeting Thursday with Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer faces a protest from opponents of Arizona's new immigration law. See Page 4B	 6:00A, 12:00N, 6:00P & 11:00P 6:00P & 11:00P 11:00P, 5:00P & 10:00P YOUR HOMETOWN LIMA STATIONS	 FRI SAT 83 81 60 66 30% 6 89076 93589 0
State/Region 2A	A group called the Baseball Reliquary says Sister Mary Assumpta Zabas has had a passion for baseball since childhood and has been a huge supporter of the Cleveland Indians, baking cookies for the players and contributing a regular TV news segment on her beloved Tribe. The 64-year-old nun is this year's recipient of the Hilda Award.	LIMA, Peru (AP) — Police in neighboring Chile are checking hotels for a young Dutchman long suspected in the 2005 disappearance of U.S. teen Natalee Holloway who is now being sought in the killing of a woman in Peru. See Page 6B		
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# Mercury falling, Ford eliminates brand

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) — Ford Motor Co. will cease production of its 72-year-old Mercury brand by the end of 2010 after years of declining sales.

Mercury's death is the latest in a string of casualties as Detroit carmakers try to cut costs and invest more heavily in fewer offerings.

By shedding a mid-range brand that was more

and more irrelevant to buyers, the automaker can focus on accelerating sales of Ford and beefing up its luxury Lincoln brand.

Ford plans to expand its Lincoln lineup to make up for lost Mercury sales and support Lincoln-Mercury dealers who will suddenly be without a brand.

Derrick Kuzak, Ford's product development chief, said Lincoln will have seven new or re-

vamped vehicles in the next four years, including the brand's first compact car.

The automaker's board of directors approved ending the brand Wednesday morning. Ford Americas President Mark Fields said the decision was made this spring as part of an annual business review.

He said Mercury's sales make up such a small percentage of North Ameri-

can market share — less than 1 percent, compared with Ford brand's 16 percent — and that the profile of Ford and Mercury shoppers is so similar, it makes more sense to focus on Ford and Lincoln.

The move should help the Ford brand. Mercury was the No. 1 brand that was also considered by Ford buyers, said Aaron Bragman, an analyst for the consulting firm IHS

Global Insight. Ford said 53 percent of Mercury shoppers consider Ford and Lincoln. Ford said it will offer discounts through the summer on Mercury vehicles to shed inventory.

Ford shares rose nearly 4 percent to close at \$11.85.

Ford has 1,712 dealerships currently selling Mercurys, although none are stand-alone

Mercury dealers. All sell either Lincolns, Fords or all three brands. Ford expects some of its 276 Lincoln-Mercury dealers will continue as stand-alone Lincoln dealerships and it will try to consolidate others into existing Ford dealerships.

All dealers will be eligible for compensation although Fields wouldn't say how much they will be offered.

## Dance From Page 1A

"I just love him," judge Adam Shankman said.

"Oh my gosh, he's so sweet," guest judge Stacey Tookey agreed.

Hostess Cat Deeley also seemed to be a fan of the local man, taking his face in her hands and telling Boyd how "cute" he is.

Boyd attempted to teach the judges how to pronounce Wapakoneta, and provided them with some history of the community.

"You know Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon? Yeah, he's from there," Boyd told the judges.

Boyd, who could not be reached for comment before this publication's deadline, told the Wapakoneta Daily News in an earlier interview that he did not want to "forget his roots, because that is what sets him apart."

That seemed to ring true on Wednesday's "So You Think You Can Dance."

All three judges commented on the dancer's warm personality, along

with bloggers and writers recapping the episode online.

"Small-town cutie-pie Kent, from Wapakoneta, Ohio, has the sort of aw-shucks charm that made Evan so popular a couple of seasons back, but with a seemingly stronger core skill set," Genevieve Koski wrote on her A.V. Club blog.

The Chicago audition is also discussed on television site TV.Grapevine.com.

"We begin with Kent Boyd, age 18, of Ohio, who has come to give it his best," the website reads. "A lot of discussion is given to his small hometown as the judges ask if he has traveled to any big cities."

Boyd earnestly answered the judges that he "gets out some" and that

he travels to Columbus.

Fox News.com describes Boyd as a "pretty sophisticated dancer for someone who's never made it past Columbus."

"His next trip? Vegas," Fox News reads.

As for his dancing, Tookey told Boyd he had "fantastic height" on his jumps and good technique.

Nigel Lythgoe told the local man he had "good potential, a great personality, some solid training."

The judges encouraged Boyd to bring more of his personality to his performance, and sent him to choreography before giving him a ticket to Las Vegas.

**His combination of stunning technique and small town boy charm is going to be a force to be reckoned with if he makes the top 10.**

— Abbey Simmons

Boyd has studied dance locally for most of his life. He has been part of the competition teams at The Dance Centre in Wapakoneta, for the past 14 years, and in his previous interview credited his instructors for their training and support.

"At The Dance Centre, they not only create well-rounded dancers, but well-rounded human beings," Boyd said.

While Boyd's future on the Fox reality show is not for certain, TV websites and spoilers predict the Wapakoneta man will compete in the Top 10.

"His combination of stunning technique and small town boy charm is going to be a force to be reckoned with if he makes the top 10," Abbey Simmons, senior writer for Buddy TV, wrote.

"So You Think You Can Dance" airs again tonight on Fox for auditions in Dallas and Nashville.

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## Market From Page 1A

was very helpful because it made us think about things that we may have been doing just because they were always done that way."



Campbell

She said the plan also serves as a good reference tool.

"No specific outline was given to the counties other than what had to be included, so every county has a different plan," Campbell said. "Larger counties with a large number of employees may have a more detailed plan and smaller counties may submit a very basic plan."

Changes and updates are required to be made by election boards and then resubmitted to the state.

"I think it ensures consistency throughout the state," Campbell said. "One thing that has changed a lot is security."

"We now have a paper trail for all of the Election Day equipment as well as seals on ballots and machines that are recorded," she said.

Voted ballots are returned on election night by two people of opposite parties, which wasn't required several years ago she said.

"It's not that we don't trust our poll workers but it's the perception that someone could possibly tamper with ballots or equipment after leaving the polling place," Campbell said. "Security has been a very important part of Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner's pledge to ensure fair, free and honest elections in Ohio."

In addition, Campbell said if someone new were to take over it would help minimize questions about how things are done locally and what is expected by the state.

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## Pace From Page 1A

agement" has gotten the Octagon Club and Fellowship of Christian Athletes member through it all.

"A couple of tests in one week — final exams — it all comes down on you at once," Lotridge said. "It's been good practice."

He believes his AP English and college-credit biology experience will serve him well.

He'll need that practice when he heads to Ohio Northern University (ONU) in Ada next fall to start six years of pharmaceutical school.

"I was between that or a doctor," Lotridge said.

His summer volunteering in Lima Memorial's

pharmacy showed him that "there's so much you can do with it."

Lotridge gives a slight chuckle at the thought of keeping up athletics on top of the rigorous college course load.

"I definitely want to do intramural sports," Lotridge said.

ONU awarded \$20,000 Lotridge for each year of his studies, with an additional \$2,000 for the first four years from their annual entrepreneur competition.

The competition was open to high school seniors attending ONU. Lotridge had to develop a program that would im-

prove the world, present it to faculty at Wapakoneta Senior High School and then to representatives of ONU.

His ship that removed garbage from the ocean for recycling was selected from applicants across the state.

Lotridge isn't slowing down for the summer. He'll volunteer for a second summer at Lima Memorial Hospital and work as a lifeguard at the pool.

Before setting to work, he will address the class of 2010 at commencement on Saturday. Lotridge hopes to make his speech "more serious, with some life lessons."

Lotridge doesn't want to take the summer too seriously. He's balancing his work with a senior trip and time with friends and family.

He is the son of Marsha and Chris Lotridge. He has a younger brother, Quinn, who is in the seventh grade.

Those extra times spent together are what Lotridge said he'll miss most. He's heading to ONU without friends or familiar faces, and he's looking forward to "starting fresh" at college.

"It will be a long six years," Lotridge said, "but once I'm done it'll be worth it."

## In brief

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F	NYSE CONSL	FORD MOTOR CO	11.85	+0.44
GE	NYSE CONSL	GENERAL ELEC CO	16.35	+0.37
GT	NYSE CONSL	GOODYEAR TIRE	11.84	+0.44
HPQ	NYSE CONSL	HEWLETT-PACKARD	47.27	+1.69
HD	NYSE CONSL	HOME DEPOT INC	33.87	+0.33
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MOT	NYSE CONSL	MOTOROLA	6.85	+0.15