

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Council asked about smell again

Residents request communication on fixing odor issue

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review
FORT RECOVERY — Local residents say the lagoons still stink.

They asked the village Monday to keep them updated on progress aimed at fixing the issue.

Fort Recovery Village Council heard again from Wabash Road homeowners frustrated about the recurring smell emanating from the village's wastewater lagoons.

Connor Rammel noted the group has approached council in years past about the problem, which he pointed out has also impacted others in the village.

"I keep seeing reports of, the numbers are getting better, they're improving, things are in range, but the numbers don't make any difference because it still smells," he said.

Rammel asked for an update regarding the village's plan.

Village administrator Randy Diller explained the village conducted a wastewater study, which suggested a long-term solution for the village's wastewater needs. The corresponding project — constructing a mechanical plant for wastewater treatment — would cost anywhere from \$8 million to \$12 million.

"(That) isn't very feasible for us to take on unless there's some sort of funding source (available)," he said.

See **Smell** page 5



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Blood drive

American Red Cross volunteer Sidney Stewart marks a donor's arm before injecting a needle into him during the blood drive Tuesday at Jay Community Center.

Holdman's carry-out bill clears House

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

A bill authored by a local legislator easily earned approval in the Indiana House of Representatives.

State Sen. Travis Holdman's Senate Bill 58, which addresses carry-out alcohol sales, cruised through the House by an 88-6 vote on third reading.

Having already passed the Senate on a 48-0 vote and with no amendments in the House, it now moves to Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb to be signed into law.

Senate Bill 58 would exempt specialty or gourmet markets with a

restaurant permit from income requirements to sell carry-out alcohol. It does so by exempting such businesses from rules regarding their percentage of gross retail income that comes from the sale of alcoholic beverages. It defines a

specialty or gourmet market as one that holds a beer retailer's permit and wine retailer's permit, sells miscellaneous specialty foods and does not sell automotive fuel.

State Rep. J.D. Prescott (R-Union City), who represents Jay, Black-

ford and Randolph counties as well as part of Delaware and Henry counties, was one of the House members to vote against the bill.

The bill has cleared its committees, the Senate and the House with little discussion or comment other than to congratulate Holdman for authoring an alcohol-related bill for the first time in his 16 years in office. He said he brought the bill at the request of Antonuccio's Italian Market of Fort Wayne, which is now located in his district.

All proposed state legislation can be reviewed at iga.in.gov.

Measure now moves to governor for signature

Award winners named

Fort Recovery Chamber of Commerce has announced its 2023 award winners.

Megan Wendel was named Citizen of the Year for her active lifestyle in the community, serving as the chair of the Fort Recovery Jubilee Committee, president of the Sawyer Overman Foundation and president of the Mary Help of Christians Ladies Sodality. She also helps with youth sports programs and volunteers at Fort Recovery Local schools, according to a press release from the chamber of commerce.

JoAnne Glentzer and Chuck Meinering received Hall of Fame awards for 2023.

Glentzer has become the "go-to person" for Fort Recovery Merchants Association's Christmas Open House and Halloween parade, according to the release. She is also treasurer of Fort Recovery Friends

Wendel selected as Citizen of the Year

of the Opera House and Fort Recovery Merchants Association and co-treasurer of Fort Recovery Community Foundation, and she hosts various meetings at her business, The Tin Cupboard.

Meinering, a former Fort Recovery business owner for more than 40 years, has "volunteered countless hours of his time and knowledge to the community," the release says. He helped with the Fort Recovery Monument and Veterans Memorial project, repaired vandalized cemeteries in Ohio and Indiana — that includes Pioneer Cemetery — and was a part of Fort Recovery Library

Board, St. Marys Cemetery Board and Fort Recovery American Legion.

Business of the Year for 2023 goes to JR Manufacturing for its continued community engagement despite the fire in April that destroyed its Fort Recovery plant. The company regularly donates and sponsors activities and community functions, according to the release, and it encourages its employees to participate as well.

Mayor Dave Kaup also announced Monday the Outstanding Community Service Award will be given to Fort Recovery Athletic Booster Club.

See **Award** page 2



Tribune News Service/Minneapolis Star Tribune/Elizabeth Flores

Mourning in Minnesota

A health care professional weeps Monday on a paramedic vehicle that has become one of three memorials in front of the Burnsville Police Department in Burnsville, Minnesota. Outside City Hall, a stream of mourners paused before three flower-strewn emergency vehicles — two squad cars and an ambulance — representing the victims: police officers Paul Elmstrand, 27, and Matthew Ruge, also 27, and firefighter-paramedic Adam Finseth, 40.

Deaths

Carla Miller, 70, Sarasota, Florida
Margaret Davis, 82, rural Bryant
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 41 degrees Monday. The low was 18.

Expect the temperature to be steady in the mid 40s tonight with a chance of rain. Thursday's forecast calls for rain with a high in the lower 50s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Fort Recovery High School's production of "The Wizard of Oz" is set for 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday, in the elementary/middle school auditorium. Tickets are \$6 for students and \$8 for adults and will be available at the door. For a story about the production, see Thursday's edition of The Commercial Review.

Coming up

Thursday — Results from the JCHS boys basketball game against Winchester.

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



Child well-being is up slightly

By **WHITNEY DOWNARD**
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Hoosier children are doing a bit better than they were last year, according to a national ranking of child well-being from the Annie E Casey Foundation — rising from 28th overall to 24th in the country in the latest release.

The Indiana Youth Institute broke down the individual ranking categories in a presentation of its KIDS COUNT Data Book in the House Chamber on Monday and included county-level data for the first time this year.

“To prepare Indiana’s children

and youth for what comes next, we need to better understand what they’re going through today. They are inheriting a world very different from the one we grew up in,” said Tami Silverman, president and CEO of the Indiana Youth Institute, in a release.

“There’s much to be encouraged by in the data. Compared to the country, the state of Indiana has fewer children living in poverty, fewer whose parents lack secure employment, and the number of children without health insurance is down to 6%. Most encouraging, in the Class of 2023, 88.9% of Indiana stu-

dents graduated from high school. That’s the highest rate since 2016 and the third highest since data collection began in 2012.”

In terms of education, Hoosier kids ranked 13th — its highest achievement in an individual category — followed by 16th for economic well-being. Its lowest-scoring categories included 29th for health and 31st for family & community — putting Indiana behind its peers.

“At its heart, the 2024 KIDS COUNT Data Book is a measure of how we value our children. It is really a report card for adults,” said Silverman. “It tells us

where we’re succeeding and where we’re failing. It tells us where we can do better. It’s the state of our schools, our economy, and our healthcare system. The good news is we know what works. The data shows overall improvements partly because of investments made during the pandemic. That tells us we can improve outcomes if we invest time, effort, and resources wisely.”

The 1.57 million Hoosier youth are more diverse than previous generations, with over a quarter identifying as a race or ethnicity other than white or non-Hispanic, compared to 18% of adults.

Obituaries

Carla Ann Miller, Sarasota, Florida, the wife of a Portland native, Sept. 25, 1953-Feb. 14, 2024. Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Baird-Freeman Funeral Home in Portland.

Margaret “Maggie” Ann Davis, rural Bryant, March 26, 1941-Feb. 18, 2024. Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 N. Washington St., Geneva.

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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Thursday 2/22	Friday 2/23	Saturday 2/24	Sunday 2/25	Monday 2/26
52/34	46/25	39/30	55/37	60/51
There’s a 70% chance of rain on Thursday, with the low at night dipping to 34 degrees.	Mostly sunny on Friday. Temperatures may reach the mid to high 40s during the day.	Another day of mostly sunny skies on Saturday, when the low may sink to 30 degrees.	Sunday’s weather looks mostly sunny and warm, with a high of 55 degrees.	Sunny skies are expected Monday, when the high will be around 60 degrees.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 4-23-45-50-53 Power Ball: 17 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$348 million	Daily Four: 4-7-5-6 Quick Draw: 4-14-27-28-33-34-36-43-47-50-55-56-57-60-67-70-74-76-78-79 Cash 5: 2-4-8-23-31 Estimated jackpot: \$662,500
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$493 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 8-7-6 Pick 4: 3-6-9-6 Pick 5: 5-5-4-4-6 Evening Pick 3: 3-6-7 Pick 4: 4-0-4-6 Pick 5: 1-8-3-9-9 Rolling Cash: 17-21-31-32-37 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 8-3-4 Daily Four: 8-7-8-2 Quick Draw: 8-9-18-20-22-24-37-39-40-43-44-45-47-49-50-59-63-66-70-80 Evening Daily Three: 0-4-7	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.21 March corn.....4.21 Wheat.....4.29	March beans.....11.69 Wheat.....5.19
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.21 March corn.....4.23 April corn.....4.26	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.04 March corn.....4.06 Beans.....11.71 March beans.....11.74 Wheat.....5.19
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....4.11 March corn.....4.11 Beans.....11.69	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.19 March corn.....4.30 Beans.....11.51 March beans.....10.98 Wheat.....4.89

Today in history

In 1804, Richard Trevithick’s steam locomotive made its first railway journey in Wales. It was the first full-scale machine to travel on the rails.

In 1848, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels published “The Communist Manifesto”, a founding work for the communist movement, in London.

In 1878, the New Haven District Telephone Company published the world’s first telephone book in Connecticut.

In 1940, construction began on the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland.

In 1948, the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing was founded in Daytona Beach, Florida.

In 1956, 115 people were indicted in a bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama.

In 1970, the Jackson 5 made their television debut on “American Bandstand.”

In 2017, Jay County Commissioners agreed to switch to AccuMed, a Michigan firm, for the county’s emergency medical service billing. The change had been recommended to reduce costs and improve billing efficiency. (In January 2022, commissioners agreed to switch to MedBill of Indianapolis for the same service.) —The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Today 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North. 6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, community Resource Center, 118 courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	Thursday 5:30 p.m. — Jay/Portland Building and Planning Inter-local Joint Board, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.
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Dog breeding, pet store bill passes Senate

By **WHITNEY DOWNARD**
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

A bill establishing care standards for dog breeders and pet stores that would simultaneously strike local ordinances banning dog sales moves back to the House after passing through the Senate on a 31-18 vote on Monday.

Sen. Blake Doriot, the chamber sponsor, described the measure as a proposal to establish some of the “strictest standards in the country” for retail stores and breeders, which must register with the State Board of Animal Health and follow Purdue University’s Canine Care Certified Program.

“House Bill 1412 is also, and mainly, a commerce issue, not a local control issue,” said the Goshen Republican, who has a family background in breeding. “There have been 21 local units that have adopted ordinances that restrain or, in some cases, completely prohibit the retail sale of dogs. They’ve stepped out of their lane and encroached on the state’s authority.”

“... This would be no different than a local unit of government telling a grocery store, ‘You can sell bread. You can sell meat. You can sell mayo. But you can’t sell cheese,’” Doriot continued.

Doriot said this action — which has been adopted by municipalities like Indianapolis, Bloomington and Columbus — goes against free market principles and limits consumer choice, driving up prices for preferred

breeds and harming customers.

In committee, the powerful Petland corporation spearheaded testimony in support of the bill alongside Amish breeders who say the bill would protect their livelihoods.

Critics say the measure, which failed last year, strips them of local control and protects so-called puppy mills at the expense of crowded animal shelters.

Sen. Fady Qaddoura, an Indianapolis Democrat, said local government units made choices that aligned with the values of their constituents to ban sales from puppy mills and breeders. He noted that even Republican-controlled cities, like Carmel, had instituted their own ordinances.

“If this was an egregious case by which a local government went far off from what the state has empowered them to do, I will definitely respect and support your argument. But this is not one of those cases where you had a radical policy position by a community that requires a correction by the State of Indiana,” Qaddoura said. “It’s not radical for a community to have their own policy preferences on regulating these issues.”

He noted that breeders who testified in support of this weren’t banned from selling dogs outright and could still sell directly to consumers.

In response, Doriot noted that local governments would still retain control over issues like zoning a dog breeding facility or utilizing health department inspections.

Felony arrests

Drug possession
A Portland woman was arrested Monday for possession of a narcotic drug.
Janessa C.S. Guntle, 23,

310 E. Elder St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 5 felony.

She was being held on a \$10,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Award ...

Continued from page 1
The honor is for its completion of the LeFevre Family and Softball Complex, which was used throughout the sports season.

Beautification award recipients include:
•Jack and Edna Heitkamp — Most Improved Dwelling
•Chris and Heidi Duhamel — Most Improved Property
•Mike and Jill Walter — Most Improved Landscaping

Allison Knapke will receive the chamber’s annual scholarship.

An awards banquet honoring winners will be hosted at 6 p.m. March 10 at the auditoria in Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School. Tickets are available at Fort Recovery Insurance Agency, Mercer Savings Bank, Park National Bank, First Financial Bank or Fort Recovery Village Hall, or by calling (419) 375-4041.

SERVICES

Today
Dorris, Richard: 1 p.m., Marion National Cemetery, 1700 E. 38th St., Marion.

Thursday
Miller, Carla: 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Sunday
Davis, Margaret: 2 p.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

March 2
Meier, Nancy: 4:30 p.m., Kuhn’s Den, 442 E. Line St., Geneva.

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6347



Photo provided

New leaders

Jackson Champs 4-H Club recently elected new leadership. Pictured above are (from left) treasurer Madi Paxson, vice president Lizzy Brunswick, president Ty Paxson and secretary Gabe Pinkerton.

Father weighs health disclosure

DEAR ABBY: I am a gay man who came out late in life. I have three grown, married children and five grandchildren. They are my world, and we are all very close. I've had one partner. My family readily accepted and welcomed him because he made me happy. Unfortunately, it didn't work out.

I have been seeing another person, and our connection is very strong. We have lots in common. I think I'm falling in love, and I envision a future with him. He is HIV-positive. I am on PrEP, or pre-exposure prophylaxis, the most effective medication to prevent contracting HIV. We have not been intimate, but I'm aware of all the literature about the extremely low risk of transmission.

My kids are bright, intelligent and "enlightened." I wonder if I should tell them about my boyfriend being positive. A part of me says that's his truth and he should tell them if he feels compelled. I will not reveal it without his

Dear Abby



approval. Another part of me says it's not my children's business because it applies only to intimate situations. But I've always been completely upfront with my kids about practically everything.

So now I'm torn about what to do — tell them (or he tells them) and risk getting a negative reaction, or I keep it a secret, no matter how uncomfortable that is for me. Please advise. — HOW HONEST IN THE EAST

DEAR HOW HONEST: If there were a compelling reason for your adult children to know your friend's HIV status, I would urge you to tell them. However, because none of them are likely to have sex with this person, I see no reason to share that information.

Birth announcements

Cline
Stevie Ray, a daughter, was born Feb. 16 at St. Vincent Randolph to Colby and Haley Cline of Portland. She weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces. Grandparents are Tracy and Vir-

ginia Cline of Portland, Kacey Jenkins of Portland and Russ Marsh of Jefferson, Virginia. Great-grandparents are Floyd and Vi Cline of Portland and Ruth Gregory of Munhall, Pennsylvania.

Friend
William Michael, a son, was born Feb. 17 at St. Vincent Randolph to Brandon and Kimberly Friend of Union City. He weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces.

Community Calendar

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

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

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

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

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.

Thursday
CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at

10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday 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.

LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES — Free and confidential consultations with a lawyer are available from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics including divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant/landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating should sign up in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 5:30 p.m. at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Centre, 200 N. Park St., Portland.

Friday
PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

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.

Sunday
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 Sunday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday
PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.
PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

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

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

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free 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.

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

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

Tuesday. The public is welcome.

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.

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

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Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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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Assange appeals U.S. extradition

By KATHARINE GEMMELL
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Lawyers for Julian Assange will make one last attempt to block his extradition to the U.S., where he faces decades in prison over spying charges in the long-running battle that's spanned more than a decade.

The WikiLeaks founder asked a London judge for permission to appeal the U.K.'s 2022 decision to extradite him to the U.S. where he's charged with criminal espionage for leaking classified documents. His lawyers argue that sending him to the U.S. would breach his human rights while other supporters say it would

be an attack on free speech.

Lawyers for Assange said in court on Tuesday that exposing state criminality is a political act of opinion that should prevent him being sent to the U.S.

The U.K. approved his transfer to the U.S. in 2022 after a court signed off on the decision. A previous judge initially blocked his extradition over con-

cerns he would kill himself if sent to a high security prison.

Assange, 52-years-old, has been in prison or in the Ecuadorian embassy in London since 2012, as he fought attempts to send him to face charges first in Sweden and then in the U.S.

The Swedish case against him was dropped, but the U.S. government in 2019 charged him

under spying laws for his role in releasing hundreds of thousands of pages of classified documents via WikiLeaks, with the help of U.S. Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning.

"There could not be more at stake in a single court case than there is in the Julian's case," Stella Assange, his wife, said in a statement. "Journalists must have the right to

report the facts that governments and corporations want to hide, otherwise a truly free press is impossible."

Supporters including politicians, several human rights and press freedom groups, have argued that the ruling leaves questions about the media's ability to report from classified sources. WikiLeaks published diplomatic cables and emails includ-

ing a video that showed a U.S. air strike that ended up killing a member of the Reuters news staff in Baghdad.

Should the latest court bid fail all legal avenues will have been exhausted.

Lawyers for the U.S. government asked the judge to dismiss the appeal as they are points that have already been litigated at previous hearings.

Smell ...

Continued from page 1

An alternative short-term solution, dredging the lagoons in order to remove the sludge buildup, is estimated at \$842,250. The village recently submitted an application to the Ohio Department of Development's Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program, which provides dollars to "improve access to clean drinking water and wastewater infrastructure," according to its website.

If funded, Diller said, the dredging process could happen this year.

One resident asked about the last time the lagoons had been dredged, with Diller explaining the lagoons have never been dredged since they were first created in 1971.

Diller noted dredging won't solve the other issue the village is currently facing, which is meeting Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's upcoming limits for phosphorus, ammonia and E. coli levels in wastewater.

Currently, the village is not required to meet limits for phosphorus, ammonia or E. coli. The

village is expected to meet the new limit for E. coli — 284 colonies per 100 milliliters, or a monthly average of 126 — by January 2028, and limits for phosphorus and ammonia — officials expect weekly limits of 1.5 milligrams per liter or monthly averages of 1 — by August 2028.

One solution would be to convert to a mechanical plant. Diller said he's looking into a more cost-effective potential solution offered by Lemna Environmental Technologies, a Minnesota company that has suggested a process that would utilize the wastewater lagoons while adding in some mechanical aspects. The project is estimated at \$1 million to \$2 million.

In the meantime, Kainos Ag will be applying products to the wastewater lagoons in an attempt to help with the smell.

Rammel said the company's products have not eradicated the smell from the lagoons.

Wastewater lagoons usually have a smell when they "flip over" as the weather changes, noted Diller. With the village's 6-

foot "shallow" ponds, he continued, they may "flip over" multiple times when the weather constantly fluctuates.

Lemna Environmental Technologies' potential solution would include deepening the lagoons by another 6 feet. Part of its solution also involves covering the lagoons throughout the winter, he said, keeping the water temperature at 50 degrees and preventing the lagoons from "flipping over."

Rammel asked if the village would be setting up a standard moving forward in relation to dredging the lagoons. Lemna Environmental Technologies' process, Diller said, would involve monitoring the sludge.

Rammel and others at the meeting asked Diller to keep them updated on information regarding the wastewater lagoons moving forward.

"I think what we're trying to get after here is just open communication," he said.

Also Monday, village council authorized an application for Ohio Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School Funding.

If awarded, the village will be conducting several infrastructure projects, which include building a crosswalk in front of Fort Recovery High School along First Street, improving visibility of markings at the five-point intersection of Butler, Boundary, William and Third streets, and constructing a sidewalk from Fort

Recovery Elementary/Middle School to Sharpsburg Road to match with the upcoming sidewalk project for the front of the school. The infrastructure projects would be 100% covered by the grant.

As required for the funding, Fort Recovery created its School Transportation Plan in July after a nine-month planning process with school, community, local government, health, public safety and other representatives. The plan identifies several construction projects and new programs as goals for increasing safe pedestrian and bike travel to school.

Council also heard mayor Dave Kaup is hosting an informational meeting at 1 p.m.

March 9 in the community room at Fort Recovery High School to discuss recent increases to real estate taxes and to answer questions about tax assessments, how taxes are calculated, how tax money recipients are impacted and where the funds are spent. Kaup asked residents to call the village at (419) 375-2530 or email frinfo@fortrecovery.org if they plan on attending in order to make sure the venue size will be adequate.

In other business, council members Al Post, Luke Knapke, Cliff Wendel, Scott Pearson, Erik Fiely and Greg Schmitz:

•Authorized a contract with utility aggregation group Priority Power Management. The company purchased Affordable Gas and Electric, which has had an agreement with the village for several years regarding aggregation programs.

•Learned Kaup has selected Fort Recovery Athletic Boosters Club as the recipient of the 2023 Outstanding Community Service Award through Fort Recovery Chamber of Commerce. (See related story.)



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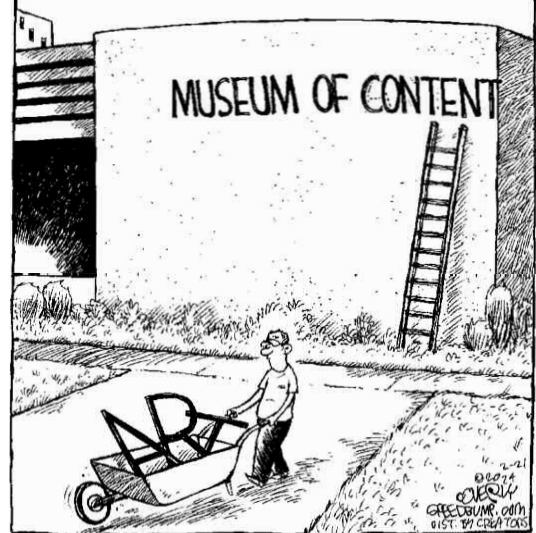
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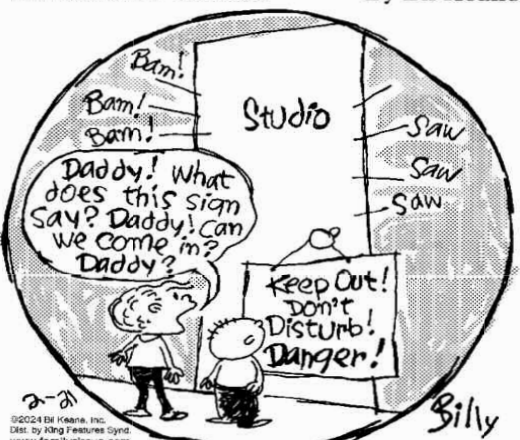
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SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



While Daddy renovates his home studio, 7-year-old Billy draws this week's cartoons.

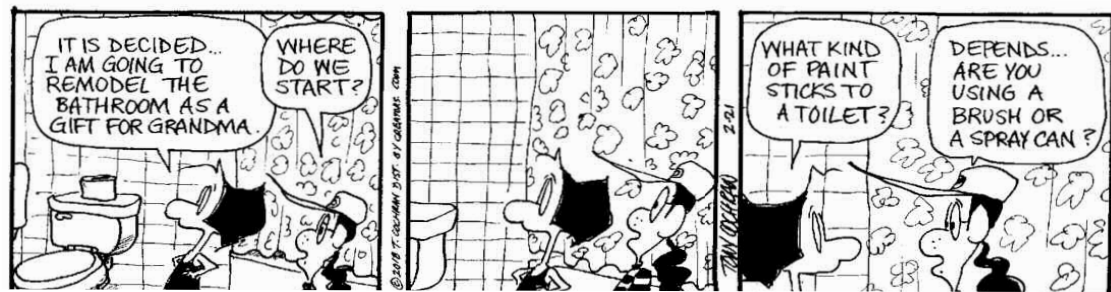
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Hot potato

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A 8
♥ A K Q J
♦ Q 2
♣ K Q 5 4 3
WEST
♠ Q J 10 7 2
♥ 4 3
♦ A J 10 9 8 6
♣ —
EAST
♠ 9 6 4
♥ 10 9 8 5
♦ 7 3
♣ A 9 6 2
SOUTH
♠ K 5 3
♥ 7 6 2
♦ K 5 4
♣ J 10 8 7

The bidding:
South West North East
Pass 1♣ Dble Pass
1 NT 2♦ 3♦ Pass
3 NT

move when he led a diamond instead of a spade. Declarer won with dummy's queen and returned the three of clubs. East could have settled declarer's hash then and there had he grabbed the ace and returned a diamond. But East played low, and declarer won with the jack as Belladonna discarded the queen of spades!
South realized he would surely go down if he persisted with clubs, so he shifted his attention to hearts, cashing the A-K-Q-J. Belladonna had to make two discards and threw a diamond and the deuce of spades.
Declarer's only chance for a ninth trick was to endplay West. So he cashed the A-K of spades, planning to put Belladonna on lead with a third spade and force him to concede a diamond to the king.

But on the A-K of spades Belladonna dropped the J-10, retaining the seven. When declarer then exited with a spade, East won with the nine and returned a diamond to put the contract down one.

At the other table, the Italian North-South pair also got to three notrump, but when West chose the queen of spades as his opening lead, declarer had no difficulty making 10 tricks after driving out the ace of clubs.

Tomorrow: Good card-reading pays off.
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2-21

CRYPTOQUIP

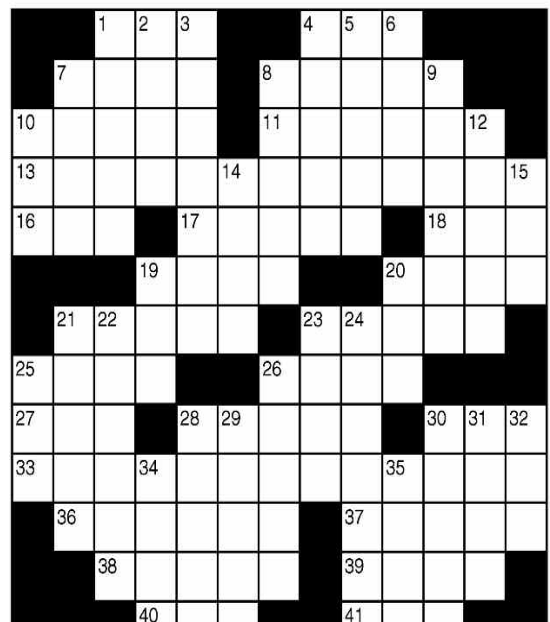
OT PMC FZCLW XSVVUWL
YZMYTL LWVO PC NSLP ZCSAEW
YXCSP PRBCSERCSP PRW VYT
OYIUAE FBCAT NCIWL.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I THINK THE LAST SINGER IN THAT BIG TALENT SHOW WAS A BANGKOK RESIDENT, SO IT ENDED IN A THAI.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals J

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 26 Turns sharply
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4 NASCAR advertiser
7 Chianti, for one
8 Backed (away from)
10 Category
11 Body art
13 Super-helpful
16 6 on a phone
17 Soprano Fleming
18 Belfry critter
19 Sand formation
20 — -Seltzer
21 Planet circler
23 Jason's wife
25 Diplomacy

DOWN 10 Tiara sparkler
12 Tennis great
14 Sawbucks
15 JFK info
19 Speck
20 Billboards
21 Shopping centers
22 Book size
23 Artist Chagall
24 Brainiac
25 — chi
26 Regions
28 Fish organs
29 Chowhound
30 Tether
31 "Woe —!"
32 — Moines
34 Piano supports
35 Big fair, for short

Solution time: 23 mins.
Yesterday's answer 2-21



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William Byron wins NASCAR's Daytona 500

By MATT BAKER

Tampa Bay Times
Tribune News Service

William Byron withstood a pair of late wrecks to win Monday's Daytona 500.

Hendrick Motorsports teammate Alex Bowman finished second, and Joe Gibbs Racing's Christopher Bell was third.

The field for the NASCAR Cup Series' season opener couldn't even make it five full laps without a wreck as the angst started earlier than usual. A third, middle lane formed, with Harrison Burton charging to lead it. But John Hunter Nemechek's No. 42 Toyota drifted into Burton, starting a chain reaction that collected seven cars, including former 500 champions Jimmie Johnson and Austin Dillon.

It was the only notable incident in the first two stages, unless you count the electrical

issues that forced 2021 race winner Michael McDowell to drop out of contention.

The green flag racing featured 14 different leaders in the first 130 laps. They included some unlikely names: rookie Josh Berry; Noah Gragson — who replaced Tampa's Aric Almirola at Stewart-Haas Racing — led only two laps in his first 39 races; and Todd Gilliland had led only 11 laps entering this weekend but paced the field for 16 laps through the first two stages.

Chase Elliott won the first stage, while Ryan Blaney won the second after dipping low to pass teammate Austin Cindric in the closing moments.

Elliott and Blaney were among the six former series champions trying to win their first 500. Another, Kyle Busch, was in the mix to break through, but his left front tire wasn't secured proper-

ly during the pit stop before the final stage. His No. 8 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet had to pit again. Seventeen laps later, Busch was in the lead.

It didn't last long. Corey LaJoie and Tampa-born Denny Hamlin passed him as the top of the pack remained fluid. Joey Logano seemed to take control of it midway through the final stage.

Ross Chastain inherited the lead after the final cycle of pit stops and was still in first when the inevitable major crash took place. It happened not far behind him on Lap 191, when Bowman got into Byron. Byron nudged Brad Keselowski, and the big one was underway. More than half the 42-car field (23 cars) was involved, including Hamlin, Logano, Kyle Larson and Martin Truex Jr.

"We were making the pass for

the lead to win the Daytona 500; that's about all you can ask for with eight laps to go," Keselowski said. "It just didn't work out."

It did, however, work out well enough for Byron, whose No. 24 Chevrolet escaped major damage. That gave him a chance to win the final, four-lap shootout.

But that was cut short thanks to another big, predictable crash. Byron, the 26-year-old North Carolina native, drifted high to block Chastain as the lead pack charged toward the final lap. When Chastain cut low to try to take the lead, he clipped Cindric to trigger the wreck. NASCAR checked and determined that Byron took the white flag before the caution came out. The race was over.

It was Bowman's 11th career Cup win and the ninth Daytona 500 triumph for Hendrick Motorsports.

Monday was the crowning achievement for one of the most fascinating rises in recent sports history. While most drivers start in go-karts and work their way through the ranks, Byron started racing digitally in a platform called iRacing. Without iRacing, he told the Tampa Bay Times four years ago, he would have been sitting behind a desk at college somewhere.

But after 104 virtual wins, Byron convinced his parents to let him race for real. Seven years after his first pixelated race, he was making his Cup debut as the successor to Jeff Gordon's famed No. 24 Chevrolet. And four years after that, he's a championship contender and a winner of NASCAR's biggest race.

"He was already a superstar," Gordon said. "He just went to another level..."

Offseason ...

Continued from page 8
On the positive side, Indianapolis took another step closer to its desired eight-man rotation to keep fresh legs chasing the quarterback for all 60 minutes.

Ten players were involved in multiple sacks, and four finished with eight or more.

On the down side, the Colts still lack the standout difference maker on the edge who keeps opposing offensive coordinators awake all night during game week.

In fairness, those guys are hard to acquire, and this offseason might be no exception.

The draft is expected to be deep in edge rusher tal-

ent, but it's thought to lack the kind of high-end disruptor that would cause a sea change on Indy's defense.

And those types of stars rarely reach free agency, all but eliminating that avenue.

Though the team has yet to confirm the move, multiple reports suggest Indianapolis has hired former University of Pittsburgh defensive line coach Charlie Partridge for the same role in the NFL.

Partridge has a reputation for getting the most out of players and helped develop three consensus All-Americans for the Panthers during seven seasons in his most recent stint at the school.

This is Partridge's first shot in the pro game, but he's coached at the college level since 1996, rising as high as head coach at Florida Atlantic from 2014-16.

Perhaps his detail-oriented style will give the unit the push it needs to get over the top?

"We took our lumps, took our lumps at times, but I think it's going to pay off down the line for them," general manager Chris Ballard said of the defense as a whole. "I think we had five or six new starters on defense. We did do some good things now. It's not like it's all bad. The points do need to come down. We'll continue to have long discussions

about where we're going and how we'll get that done.

"But saying that, we had some new starters on defense. We did do some good things, too. We got after the passer pretty good. I think it's got to be a little better, but 51 sacks is pretty good. Took the ball away — we need to be a little better there in that area, and we have to take away explosives. But I would expect us to take another jump here this year on defense."

Samson Ebukam was among the new starters who made a major impact. He led the team with 9.5 sacks and added 10 tackles for losses and three forced fumbles.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Thursday

Jay County — Junior high wrestling vs. Woodlan - 5:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Swimming state at McKinley in Canton - 5 p.m.; Girls basketball sectional opener at Wayne Trace - 7 p.m.

TV sports

Today

2:30 p.m. — Premier League: Luton Town at Liverpool (USA)
3 p.m. — UEFA Champions: Barcelona at Napoli (CBS)
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Illinois at Penn State (BTN)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Duke at Miami (ESPN); Florida at Alabama (ESPN2); St.

John's at Georgetown (FS1)
7:30 p.m. — NHL: Philadelphia Flyers at Chicago Blackhawks (TNT)
8 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Belmont at Drake (Bally Indiana)
8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Nebraska at Indiana (BTN)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: DePaul at Marquette (FS1); Kentucky at LSU (ESPN); Ole Miss at Mississippi State (ESPN2)
10 p.m. — NHL: Boston Bruin at Edmonton Oilers (TNT)
11 p.m. — Men's college basketball: UNLV at Air Force (FS1)

Thursday

3:10 p.m. — MLB spring training: Los Angeles Dodgers at San Diego Padres (ESPN)
6 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Ohio

State at Penn State (BTN)
7 p.m. — NBA: Detroit Pistons at Indiana Pacers (Bally Indiana)
7 p.m. — NHL: Washington Capitals at Tampa Bay Lightning (ESPN)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Rutgers at Purdue (FS1); SMU at Florida Atlantic (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Phoenix Suns at Dallas Mavericks (TNT)
8 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Ohio State at Minnesota (BTN); St. Thomas at North Dakota State (ABC)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Washington at Arizona State (ESPN2); Michigan at Northwestern (FS1)
9:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Utah at UCLA (ESPN)
10 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Lakers at Golden State Warriors (TNT)

11 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Washington State at Arizona (FS1); Oregon at Stanford (ESPN2)

Local notes

Tournament scheduled

The Fort Recovery High School volleyball program is holding its annual alumni volleyball tournament on Friday, March 22. Teams can consist of former players or anyone living in Fort Recovery, and don't need to be from the same graduating class. Entry costs are \$10 per player, with all proceeds going to the FRHS volleyball team. For more information, contact Travis Guggenbiller by March 20 by emailing guggenbiller@fortrecoveryschools.org

Indiana anglers are invited to participate in the 2024 Midwest Walleye Challenge, a virtual fishing tournament.

The tournament begins March 30 and ends June 30, with walleye, sauger and saugeye counting. Contestants need to utilize the MyCatch mobile app to submit photos of their catches with a measuring device. Participants can enter for free for the chance at the grand prize or pay a \$25 fee to be eligible for biweekly cash prizes. Those interested in participating can register by visiting AnglersAtlas.com/event/769 or by using the MyCatch app. For further information, visit on.IN.gov/walleye.

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Sports

Colts offseason preview

Defensive ends took step forward in 2023

By **GEORGE BREMER**

The Herald Bulletin (Anderson) Tribune News Service
INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts' 51 sacks in 2023 represented a franchise record since the move from Baltimore in 1984.

Defensive ends accounted for 32 of those sacks, providing the pressure from the edge so often missing in recent years.

So why is the position often looked at as a potential upgrade candidate this offseason? The answer is somewhat complicated.

In the simplest terms, it's about consistency.

The Colts' pass rush tended to be an all-or-nothing proposition last season. But that doesn't fall solely on the defensive line.

A young secondary rode the expected roller coaster throughout the season, and the ups and downs on the back end directly impacted the men up front.

See **Offseason** page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Sole stroke

Jay County High School sophomore Matthew Fisher swims the 100-yard backstroke Saturday as the sole finalist for the Patriots at the IHSAA sectional swim meet hosted at Jay County. Fisher finished the race in 1 minute, 6.12 seconds, to take eighth place, the second highest of any Patriot in the sectional after Bryden Carter's fifth-place finish in the 1-meter diving.

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Patriots split with Norwell

OSSIAN — The Patriots claimed victories in 17 of the 24 events.

Yet only one of the teams walked away with a win on their record.

The Jay County Junior High School boys swim team took down the Norwell Knights 99-84, while the girls team fell just short in a 96-89 loss on Monday.

Jay County's boys team (3-1) won 75% of the competitions (9-of-12) and the girls (3-1) matched that mark despite falling.

The Knights depth carried the Norwell girls to victory, as they placed second in every event they didn't win, and

swept second through fourth in four events. The Patriot boys bolstered their win by having swimmers secure second in four of the events Jay County won to prevent Norwell from getting extra points.

Six Patriots — three boys and three girls — were dual event winners.

Cooper Gentzer dominated the 200-yard freestyle (2 minutes, 6.99 seconds) and 400 freestyle (4:41.63).

Raif and Rockland Beiswanger both won a freestyle event with the former winning the 50 freestyle (27.42 seconds) and the latter the 100

freestyle (1:03.45). Raif Beiswanger also earned the top spot in the 100 breaststroke (1:19.59) while Rockland Beiswanger handled the 100 backstroke (1:15.45).

Maria Laux swam a 28.55 to top the 50 freestyle and a 1:26.23 time in the breaststroke.

Ely and Brooklynn Byrum were dual winners as well. The former won the 200 freestyle (2:25.91) and 100 backstroke (1:13.67) while the latter championed the 100 individual medley (1:12.92) and 100 freestyle (1:02.07).

Other individual victories came from Carson Westgerdes (100 individ-

ual medley), Kali Wendel (400 freestyle), and four relays.

Both the girls 200 medley relay and 300 freestyle relay were made up of Wendel, Laux, Ely Byrum and Brooklynn Byrum. The boys took both freestyle relays with lineups that featured Westgerdes, Glentzer, Raif Beiswanger and Rockland Beiswanger.

Norwell swept the 1-meter diving, and the boys team took the 200 medley relay and the 50 butterfly. The girls team complimented the early win with victories in the 50 butterfly and the 200 freestyle relay.

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