

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Sewer rates set to go up again

Consultant estimates increase will come in at about 20%

By **RAY COONEY**

The Commercial Review

Sewerage rates will be going up again.

How much is not quite clear.

Portland City Council on Monday approved up to a 36% sewer rate increase on first reading.

The percentage will be finalized based on recent bids for work at the city's wastewater treatment plant and returned to council for approval on second reading at its March 18 meeting.

Council members also questioned a fundraising letter that was recently distributed by Portland Police Department.

Ross Hagen of accounting and consulting firm Baker Tilly explained to council members that the version of the ordinance prepared for them Monday represented the highest amount the city may have needed to cover the \$30 million bond they have previously approved. (The bond amount was also set high to make sure sufficient funding was available for the work.)

To cover that full bond amount would have required a 36% sewage rate increase. While the numbers are still being finalized, Hagen said that based on the bids the actual increase looks like it will be about 20%. He projected the average customer's monthly bill would go to between \$72 and \$74.50 from the current \$61.53.

See **Rates** page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Show-ing off

The Jay County High School show choirs performed their competition shows in front of their home crowd Monday night. Pictured Ellie Darnell (center) performs as part of the Patriot Edition show, which tells the story of a girl running away from home. Surrounding Darnell, from left, are Tessa Miller, Ethan Garrison, Junior Blazquez and Gavin Hambrook. Patriot Edition and Just Treble will be in competition again Saturday at the Columbia City Cup.

'Bring your dancing shoes'

By **BAILEY CLINE**

The Commercial Review

Imagine prom, but for adults.

Jay County Fairgrounds is hosting its first adult prom dance from 6 to 10 p.m. March 16.

"A lot of the time, our events are kind of more family oriented," explained Jay County Fair Board president Aaron Loy. "We thought this was a great opportunity to do something just for the adults or parents,

Fairgrounds is hosting inaugural adult prom

so they could have a night out to relax and have some fun."

The Bubb building will open at 6 p.m. March 16, offering finger foods and

refreshments to prom attendees. (Alcoholic beverages will also be available to those 21 and older.) The Cold Hearts band — Portland native

Andy Frantz serves as lead guitar and harmony vocals for the group — will begin playing at 7 p.m. to get the crowd moving.

Jay County Fairgrounds opened ticket sales for the event in October, drumming up interest from a number of community members over the next several months.

Originally, plans were to utilize a DJ for the evening, but fair board member Katie Loy

explained they selected The Cold Hearts to utilize a local tie and pull a larger crowd. In January, the group added the fairground's adult prom to its list of events on Facebook.

Katie Loy said a lot of the interest she's heard for the dance stems from couples who didn't have the opportunity to attend their school's prom together.

See **Dancing** page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Fire on Main

Smoke pours from a west-facing window at 409 W. Main St., Portland, on Monday morning. Portland firefighters took about a half hour to put out the fire that was mostly contained to the kitchen. For details, see Capsule Reports on page 2.

Water plans move forward

By **BAILEY CLINE**

The Commercial Review

The village is planning ahead.

Fort Recovery Village Council agreed Monday to move forward with PMG Consulting and Shoaf Consulting for engineering work in connection with switching the village's water plant to a reverse osmosis facility. Marvin Gnagy, owner of PMG Consulting, and Rob Shoaf, owner of Shoaf Consulting, will provide a proposal for design and engineering related to changes to the water plant.

Village administrator Randy Diller explained the two companies, which are partnering for the project, were the only ones to submit a statement of qualifications for the work. Gnagy and Shoaf conducted a study for Fort Recovery last year, suggesting two potential water softening alternatives to the village's cur-

Engineering work OK'd in connection with changes to village's treatment plant

rent method. The village has been looking into shifting from its current lime and caustic soda treatment to reverse osmosis membrane softening, which would involve pumping water under pressure through reverse osmosis membrane elements (tube-shaped filters with about 15 layers).

The new softening process would decrease the village's chemical costs by an estimated \$210,000 annually, with initial construction costs estimated at \$4.35 million. Construction would

include installing 56 reverse osmosis membranes as well as locating and drilling a third well.

The timeline for the project will likely depend on whether the village receives the \$4 million it applied for through the Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program, which allows Ohio communities to apply for up to \$5 million in grants for construction projects.

If the village is awarded the \$4 million, noted Diller, it will need to act quickly.

See **Water** page 2

In review

Tickets are on sale to see barbershop quartet Instant Classic in concert at 7 p.m. March 21 at the Jay County Campus of Arts Place. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$12 for adults and are available at myartsplace.org, by calling (260) 726-4809 or by visiting Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland.

Weather

Jay County's high temperature climbed to 73 degrees Monday. The low was 54. Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the mid 30s. Expect partly cloudy skies Thursday with a high in the lower 50s and winds gusting to 20 miles per hour. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The City of Portland will hold its spring clean-up week March 18 through 22. Residents can place large trash items at the curb for pick-up with regular trash during that week. Items that will not be accepted include electronics, construction materials and tires.

Coming up

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

Friday — Collegiate Check-up looks at local athletes competing at the next level.



Water ...

Continued from page 1
Per the grant stipulations, the project would need to be bid out by the end of the year.
“I don’t want to stop, I want to be prepared so when we do hear about (the grant), we can say, ‘All right, it’s time to go, we’ve got to get moving,’ or, ‘All right, let’s figure out how we’re going to fund this thing.’”
Diller also mentioned he and other village representatives visited Van Buren’s wastewater facility Monday. Lemna Environmental Technologies — the village is considering a \$1 million to \$2 million proposal from the Minnesota company — developed a process for

the city’s wastewater treatment.
“It has potential, is how I’ll say it so far, but we’re not talking apples to apples with them,” he said. “They don’t have any industry in there, it’s all domestic, period. They have a huge industry there, a popcorn plant, but they don’t take their waste.”
Diller noted the Van Buren lagoons had “absolutely no smell,” and he said he plans to ask to see a facility with a closer comparison to the village’s wastewater loading and volume.
In related news, he pointed out a smell has returned to Fort Recovery’s wastewater lagoons, and the village has been treating

its ponds with two different products in an effort to mitigate it.
In other business, council members Al Post, Luke Knapke, Cliff Wendel, Scott Pearson, Erik Fiely and Greg Schmitz:
•Were reminded about the real estate tax meeting scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday in the community room at Fort Recovery High School. The public is invited to attend to ask questions and learn more about the process.
•Agreed to continue two enterprise zone agreements with J&M Manufacturing for another year.
•Heard efforts to improve safety measures at the intersection of Elm and Center streets — it involves installing flashing bea-

cons and enhancing crosswalks — should be completed before children and teenagers return to school in August following summer break. The \$60,000 cost will be split between Fort Recovery Local Schools and the village.
•Amended the wage ordinance to increase Ambassador Pool assistant managers’ pay based on the number of years they’ve returned to the position. Returning assistant managers will receive 50 cents an hour raises per year. (In related news, Diller noted Aidan O’Dell of the utility department will be bumped to utility operator, a \$1-per-hour increase. O’Dell recently passed another certification test, a stipu-

lation laid out in the wage ordinance for receiving the raise.)
•Authorized Diller to execute an easement with the state for the new traffic signal being installed at the intersection of Elm and Butler streets.
•Heard the county is no longer receiving tipping fee revenues from the landfill, meaning the village and others will need to consider a few different options. Those include a fee paid by the sites receiving solid waste from Mercer County — Diller noted that will likely result in residents’ price per trash bag increasing — or charging a fee on each improved parcel in the county.

CR almanac

Thursday 3/7	Friday 3/8	Saturday 3/9	Sunday 3/10	Monday 3/11
53/41	58/43	46/31	41/28	48/33
Mostly cloudy skies on Thursday. Another slight chance of rain throughout the night.	There’s a 60% chance of showers on Friday, when the high will be in the upper 50s.	Saturday has a 70% chance of rain, with temperatures dipping to the low 30s at night.	The rainy weekend may continue Sunday, when snow is also possible. The low may hit 28.	Sunny skies are on the horizon Monday with a high in the mid to upper 40s.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 36-42-50-52-67 Power Ball: 26 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$485 million	Daily Four: 7-4-1-3 Quick Draw: 5-13-14-23-30-31-33-37-40-42-43-44-45-48-52-54-60-67-69-70 Cash 5: 5-14-29-40-44 Estimated jackpot: \$1.2 million
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$650 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 2-8-7 Pick 4: 9-5-8-0 Pick 5: 1-5-4-5-3 Evening Pick 3: 7-2-4 Pick 4: 7-5-5-2 Pick 5: 8-2-6-4-0 Rolling Cash: 6-30-32-37-39 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 6-5-3 Daily Four: 1-0-2-6 Quick Draw: 1-2-6-14-31-32-33-35-38-41-49-50-51-55-58-61-63-67-69-79 Evening Daily Three: 1-7-9	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.18 April corn4.20 Wheat4.31	April beans11.37 Wheat 5.00
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.21 April corn4.21 May corn4.26	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.02 April corn4.06 Beans11.32 April beans11.38 Wheat5.10
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.08 April corn4.11 Beans11.30	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.11 April corn4.16 Beans11.11 April beans11.15 Wheat4.80

Today in history

In 1836, San Antonio de Bexar and the Alamo garrison were recaptured by Mexican General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna from Texans after a 13-day battle. Approximately 600 Mexican soldiers died, and each of the 189 Texan soldiers on the official historic list — the true number of defenders is debated among historians — were killed.
In 1869, Dmitri Mendeleev presented the first periodic table of chemical elements to the Russian Chemical Society. The system didn’t spur interest among chemists until elements predicted by the table — gallium, scandium and germanium — were discovered in the next 15 years.
In 1899, Aspirin was registered as a trademark. The painkiller, created from acetylsalicylic acid, had been developed two years prior by German chemist Felix Hoffmann. Aspirin is now on the World Health Organization’s list of essential medicines.
In 1957, Ghana gained its independence from Britain, making it the first African country to leave colonial rule. Kwame Nkrumah served as its first leader.
— The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Thursday 5:30 p.m. — Portland Plan Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.	room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. 5 p.m. — Jay County Redevelopment Commission, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Fort Recovery Park Board, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community	

Felony arrests

Dependent neglect
A Portland woman was arrested Monday for neglect of a dependent.
Trista L. Carreno, 35, 2367 W. Indiana 26, is charged in Jay Superior Court with a Level 6 felony for the alleged crime.
She was being held on a \$5,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Failed to appear
A Hartford City woman was arrested Monday for failing to appear in court.
Cassie C. Miller, 25, 1005 W. Kickapoo St., is charged in Jay Superior Court with a Level 6 felony for possession of methamphetamine and a

Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. She failed to appear in court Sept. 12 for a change of plea hearing.
Miller was being held without bond in Jay County Jail.

Capsule Reports

Kitchen fire
A Portland household’s kitchen caught on fire Monday morning.
Portland Fire Department responded to a call about a fire at 409 W. Main St. about 8:14 a.m. Monday. Two fire trucks and 16 firefighters arrived on scene, putting out the flames by 8:41 a.m.
Fire damage was mostly contained to the kitchen, with the flames snaking up along the west side of the home through a window. There was some water damage in the area as well as smoke damage throughout the house.
Homeowners Christopher and Jennifer Nibarger had four dogs and four cats die from the accident.

Ambulance accident
A Jay Emergency Medical Service ambulance struck a Redkey man’s car and injured one passenger on Indiana 67 about 3:44 p.m. Sunday.
Tony A. Dalrymple, 50, Portland, was driving a 2019 Ford E-450 ambulance southwest on the highway with the emergency lights and sirens on.

Alexis A. Herman, 18, slowed her 2006 Ford Fusion to let the ambulance pass her. The ambulance’s box collided with the driver’s side of Herman’s vehicle, causing Herman’s car to go through a fence on the west side of the road and stop in a ditch.
Elijah B. McNeil, 22, Indianapolis, a passenger in Herman’s vehicle, was trapped in the vehicle and sustained a lower leg injury. Herman was cited for driving without insurance.
Both vehicles were towed, with damage estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

Intersection crash
A Portland man crashed his car into a Geneva man’s vehicle, causing a chain reaction and hitting two other cars along Third Street in Portland about 5 p.m. Sunday.
Oscar J. Hernandez, 44, was driving his 2007 Ford Edge west on the road and crossed its intersection with Meridian Street. That’s when he struck a 2010 Dodge Challenger driven by 23-year-old Melvin Mendez — Mendez told police he was attempting

to turn north onto Meridian Street — and subsequently slammed into a parked 2004 Ford F-150. The momentum from the crash caused the Ford F-150 registered to Pedro S. Vargas of Portland to strike a parked 2014 Chevrolet Spark in front of it.
Mendez’s car is registered to Carmen A. Garcia of Portland. Both Hernandez and Mendez’s vehicles were towed, with damage estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

Voting is open
Voting for the Indiana Transportation Innovators People’s Choice Award is open.
The award is a partnership between Indiana Department of Transportation and Indiana Local Technical Assistance Program to highlight innovations in transportation. It is focused on improving safety, efficiency, quality, accuracy and streamlining transportation operations.
To vote, visit bit.ly/ITIPeoplesChoice2024. The deadline is March 12.

Felony courts

Child solicitation
A Portland man was sentenced to prison for child solicitation.
Brenton B. Witt Jr., 20, 6521 S. 600 West, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to the Level 5 felony. He was sentenced to 36 months in Indiana Department of Correction with 28 months suspended and given credit for time served.
Witt was placed on probation, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 sexual assault victims fee.

Child pornography
A man was sentenced to two years in prison after pleading guilty to possession of child pornography, a Level 5 felony.
Jeffrey Cosner, 55, was sentenced in Jay Circuit Court to two years in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for time served. He was assessed \$189 in court costs. As part of his plea agreement, a Level 6 felony charge for possession of methamphetamine was dismissed.

Intimidation
Two Indiana residents were sentenced to prison for intimidation.
See page 7



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SERVICES

Thursday

Osborne, Charles: 2 p.m., Portland First Church of the Nazarene, 920 S. Shank St., Portland.

Service listings provided by
PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS
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Portland, Indiana 47371
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progressiveofficeproducts.com

Scholarship is now open

Taking Note

Applications are open for the Indiana Education Scholarship Account for the 2024-25 school year.

The account is open to parents of children with disabilities who may be eligible for funding to help customize their education to meet their individual needs. Funding can include options such as private education, at-home learning and other non-public educational settings.

"Having walked this journey with my own family, we know how crucial it is for parents to have options and support to meet their children's unique education needs that come with disabilities," said Indiana Treasurer of State Daniel Elliott in a press release.

To apply, visit in.gov/tos/inesa/home. The deadline is Sep. 1.

ly Marsh Nature Preserve. Reservations for lunch cost \$5 and must be paid in advance.

The program is offered the first Thursday of each month.

Solar show

Charles W. Brown Planetarium is offering special presentations about solar eclipses this month along with its other free shows.

In preparation for the April 8 solar eclipse, the Ball State University amenity is showing "Eclipse: The Sun Revealed," at 6:30 p.m. March 22 and March 23. Participants will learn how solar and lunar eclipses happen and about scientific discoveries supported by total solar eclipse. All ages are welcome.

To see a full list of the planetarium's free public shows, visit bsu.edu/web/planetarium.



Photo provided

Character Counts

East Elementary recently awarded students for being caring. Pictured above are second graders (front row) Bryson Rines, Manuel Hernandez and Eli Michael. In the back row are Alannah Price, Emma Robinson and Adalyn Overla.

Wife pressured to dress provocatively

DEAR ABBY: My husband wants me to wear more revealing clothing. I've always enjoyed dressing attractively, and have never felt behind the times or like a frump, but I do have my opinion about what is appropriate. For example, if I'm wearing leggings, I wear a long top to cover my bum. My outfits are attractive and not ultra-conservative by any means, but I'm not a crop top, low-cut, skin-tight kind of gal.

I want to be attractive to my husband, but I am growing really annoyed by his pestering me to wear things in public that make me feel like I'm oversharing. He says he's a guy and he would know if it's inappropriate. I conceded a few times, but it just felt showy and uncomfortable. Your thoughts? — STINGY WITH THE GOODS IN MAINE

DEAR STINGY: My thought is: Do nothing that makes you feel self-conscious. Your husband may be a "guy" and think he knows what is appropriate attire, but the "bottom" line is that YOU must be comfortable and not feel embarrassed by what you are showing when you are out in public.

Dear Abby



DEAR ABBY: My wife has immersed herself in politics to the extreme. She believes the other side is wrong no matter what. We are in the same political party, but I don't paint as broad a brush as she does on various issues. I try to change the subject if politics arises. I try to keep an open mind until I get all the facts, whereas she listens to nothing that could be positive about the other side. You guessed it — our discussions always turn into fights and anger with each other. Any suggestions? — TIRED OF TALKING POLITICS

DEAR TIRED: In the interest of saving your marriage, because talking about politics causes fights and lingering anger, agree to defer listening to news broadcasts together and engaging in those conversations until after the next election.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter is being married. My wife is demanding that I tell her that my stepdaughter, "Gia" (my wife's only daughter), must take part in the wedding. Gia, who is several years younger, is self-absorbed and has made no effort to be close to her older siblings. My wife has indulged and catered to Gia's every whim since she was a little girl.

My daughter wants a short ceremony, and she doesn't want her stepsister to have a role. She has chosen her close friends since high school to be her bridesmaids. My wife thinks it's my daughter's "duty" to include Gia in her wedding. Is my wife right? — EXASPERATED HUSBAND

DEAR HUSBAND: No rule of etiquette requires your current wife's self-centered daughter to play a role in your daughter's wedding.

If you are arm-twisted into allowing your wife to insert Gia into the wedding as more than a guest, have her stand by the guest register to ensure everyone signs in. That way she'll be away from the altar and out of the picture.

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.

SINGLES AND SEPARATES SUPPORT GROUP — For anyone who's lost a loved one or has a spouse living in long-term care or suffering from an illness, the group will meet at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday

of each month in the Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion in Berne. For more information, call Sarah Conrad at (260) 589-4496.

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.

Portland Lions Club — Will meet the first Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765)

964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

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.

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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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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The News Times — **\$120**

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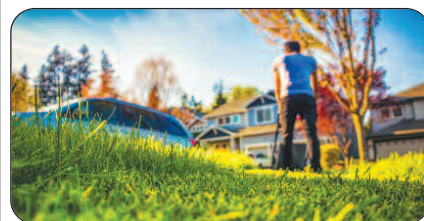
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Parking turned into an adventure

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from March 5, 2008. Jack always had wild stories to tell of Hoosier State Press Association job fairs in days gone by. He was also notorious for leaving his cell phone off, and often locked in his vehicle's glove compartment. This story combines job fair and cell phone adventures, but at least it didn't end with him having a conversation with Ball State University Police.

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

Think of it as "an adventure in parking." That's what I keep telling myself.

It was mid-day on Saturday. The sun was shining. The snow was melting, and all was right with the world.

Except on the campus of Ball State University.

We'd gone to Muncie to combine a couple of errands. Connie wanted to attend a job fair; she's finishing up her thesis and will be re-entering the employment market after she receives her

Back in the Saddle



master's degree in natural resources and environmental management in May. As for me, I had some shopping to do at Jack's Camera downtown.

The plan was simple: I'd drop her at the Arts and Journalism Building, zip down to Jack's, come back to campus, call her on her cell phone, then pick her up. Piece of cake, right.

The first few steps went smoothly. I pulled into a bus stop and let her out at the right building, and we discussed options for two different lots with parking meters. Then I headed down to the camera store.

Not long after that, with my wallet significantly lighter and a

package in the back seat, I headed back to campus.

Meanwhile, things had started to go awry almost as soon as Connie got out of the car.

Turns out, the job fair wasn't in the Arts and Journalism Building. That facility was crowded with people dropping off arts portfolios and kids on hand for a science fair. It took some searching on her part before she found out that the job fair was about a block away in an entirely different building.

Blissfully unaware of the change in circumstances, I headed back to campus. My sense of time had gotten away from me; I was thinking more about the new camera in the back seat than about the clock.

And when I pulled into the metered parking lot, I knew I was in trouble. Cars were everywhere. Not only were all but the handicapped parking spots filled, there were cars and vans in the fire lanes.

Where, I wondered, were the

Ball State traffic cops who so effectively give me a parking ticket for the slightest infraction. I made a loop around the lot. Nothing. I ventured up a dead-end alley. Still nothing.

So I called my wife on her cell phone.

And got nothing. I left a message, saying that I was going to try another lot.

There, near the Printing Services building, I found a spot. Four quarters bought me 45 minutes. Not much of a bargain, I thought. Maybe it was "parking meters redefined" to use the latest BSU buzzword.

I called again. Still no answer. So I left another voice mail.

At that point, I remembered Connie turning off her phone the night before, prior to the Tommy Sands concert at Arts Place. Had she forgotten to turn it back on?

For awhile, I contented myself reading the camera's owner's manual. But soon that had me hopelessly confused.

With about 20 minutes left and only one more quarter in my pocket, I left a third voice mail and began to wonder why we had not developed a Plan B.

That's about the time my phone rang. Connie's phone had been on, but it had been tucked in her purse and the job fair had been so noisy she hadn't heard it.

We agreed to meet where I had dropped her off, but because the job fair was in a different building, I got to the spot first.

It was then that I noticed a sign warning people not to park and drop people off in the bus stop.

And as I saw my wife making her way across the campus to my illegally parked car, I saw the silhouette of a police car in my rear view mirror.

"Get in," I urged her, feeling a bit like Clyde Barrow picking up Bonnie after a bank heist, "let's get out of here before I get a ticket."

And we pulled out into traffic, our crime spree behind us.

Navalny's funeral says thirst for freedom still alive

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

Attending funerals generally is an act of compassion. On Friday in Moscow, attending the funeral of Aleksei A. Navalny, the Russian dissident widely assumed by international governments to have been murdered at the direction of Vladimir Putin, was an act of extraordinary courage.

Most of us have sacrificed a half-day of work to pay our respects to someone who was part of our lives. The thousands of Russians lighting a candle for Navalny, even as security officers prowled and newly installed security cameras watched, were risking their entire livelihoods and maybe even their lives. Friday's extraordinary events in and around the aptly named Church of the Icon of the Mother of God Soothe My Sorrows, which took place in defiance of a plethora of official warnings, should not go unnoticed nor unadmired. Even from 5,000 miles away.

They are a reminder that all tyrants, and Putin is a bear of one, must keep looking over their shoulder. They may have useful fools to aid in propaganda and the benefit of a state apparatus that conveys the illusion of omnipotence and arms against accountability. But they always have decent, courageous people to fear. And while you can eliminate the head of any body, the corpse they think they've sent firmly into the ground has a way of sprouting new arms and legs.

William Shakespeare understood this: "Unnatural deeds do breed unnatural troubles," prescribes the doctor in "Macbeth."

Try as she might, Lady Macbeth could not wash away the blood staining her hands, however far she walked in horror of her own deeds. Richard III, haunted by the ghosts of those he had killed, awoke with a start: "Give me another horse; bind up my wounds. Have mercy, Jesu!"

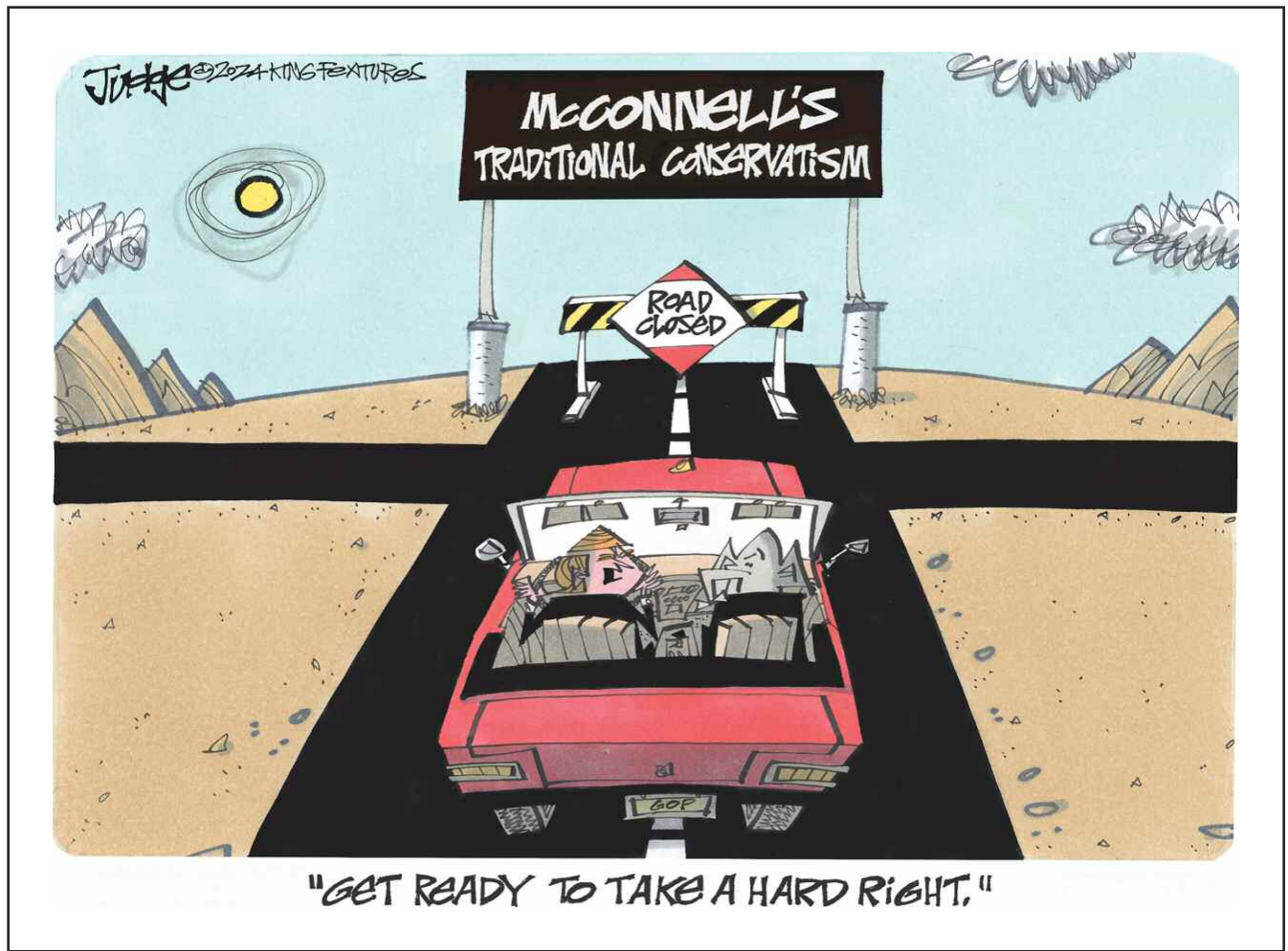
Guest Editorial

Friday's extraordinary events in and around the aptly named Church of the Icon of the Mother of God Soothe My Sorrows, which took place in defiance of a plethora of official warnings, should not go unnoticed nor unadmired.

In Putin's Russia, funerals are one of the few remaining avenues to express dissent, albeit at a heavy risk, given that to Putin's goons, the enemy conveniently is showing itself all at once. On Friday, even the hearse and mortuary operators reportedly had faced threats that burying this one, dead man meant being targeted as an insurrectionist.

But thousands took that opportunity, such as it was, on Friday.

They mourned the leader they had lost. They declared love to be stronger than fear. They called for freedom for Russia. They were an inspiration.



Today's GOP wouldn't welcome Reagan

By EDWIN G. OSWALD
InsideSources.com
Tribune News Service

How did Ronald Reagan's party become Donald Trump's party? That is a question asked by many of the GOP faithful. Although Reagan was the first MAGA president (recall that in 1980 he ran on the slogan "Let's Make America Great Again") I don't believe that he would be welcomed in today's Republican Party.

Moreover, given the GOP's cultish — some say cowardly — embrace of Trump in 2024, a candidate with a civil conviction for sexual assault who is now confronting 91 felony charges in four jurisdictions, Reagan would be a man without a party. The brand of Reagan's GOP is no more.

For starters, Reagan's policies on immigration were far more liberal than those of today's GOP. Reagan issued a "Statement on United States Immigration and Refugee Policy," announcing his intention to continue the American tradition of welcoming immigrants. He also called for millions of undocumented "illegal immigrants" then living in the United States to be offered a path to legal status. On Nov. 6, 1986, he signed into law the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, which, among other provisions, granted what Reagan called "amnesty" to 3 million immigrants.

For Reagan, immigration was a unique cornerstone of American vitality and renewal and central to his own origin myth.

In contrast, when Trump

Edwin G. Oswald



announced his candidacy in June 2015, he attacked immigrants by stating, "When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best ... they're sending people that have lots of problems. ... They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people."

After being sworn in as president, Trump signed an executive order banning travel from seven predominantly Muslim countries to the United States for 90 days and later instituted a "zero tolerance" policy at the southern border that separated children from parents of immigrants arrested while attempting to enter the United States. Unlike Reagan, today's GOP has used immigration to divide Americans and to make immigrants the scapegoats for a range of domestic ills, including income inequality.

Reagan, a defender of the NATO alliance, took office after four decades of the Cold War with the former Soviet Union. Impatient with the slow-grinding nature of the post-war containment policy, Reagan turned his foreign policy on a redefinition of America's stance toward the Soviet Union. He believed the Soviet Union was

an "evil empire," as he called it in his speech on March 8, 1983. Later, in 1987, in Berlin, Reagan challenged then-Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to "tear down this wall."

Russia's invasion of Ukraine initiated the largest armed conflict in Europe since the end of World War II. Reagan would be shocked by Republican resistance to send aid to Ukraine to fight Russia. Likewise, he would be incredulous at the flirtations with Moscow by some GOP members, such as recent statements by Sen. Tommy Tuberville regarding Putin's acumen. "You can tell Putin's on top of his game," Tuberville noted while addressing Russia's posture on the Ukraine war.

Then, there is candidate Trump, who referred to Putin's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine as "smart" and "genius." At a campaign rally on Feb. 10, Trump encouraged Russia to do "whatever the hell they want" to NATO members that Trump believed do not spend enough on defense.

Reagan — a proponent of immigration, a cold warrior, the man who gave that eloquent speech on defending freedom at Pointe du Hoc on the 40th anniversary of D-Day — would say, as he once said about his prior affiliation with the Democratic Party years ago, "I did not leave the Republican Party; the Republican Party left me."

Oswald is the co-author of "From Ronald to Donald: How the Myth of Reagan Became the Cult of Trump."

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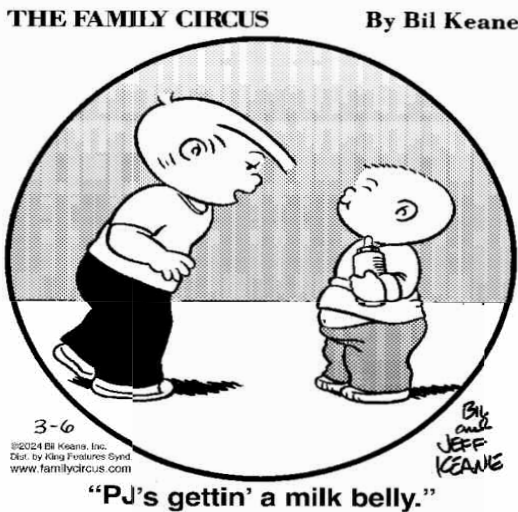
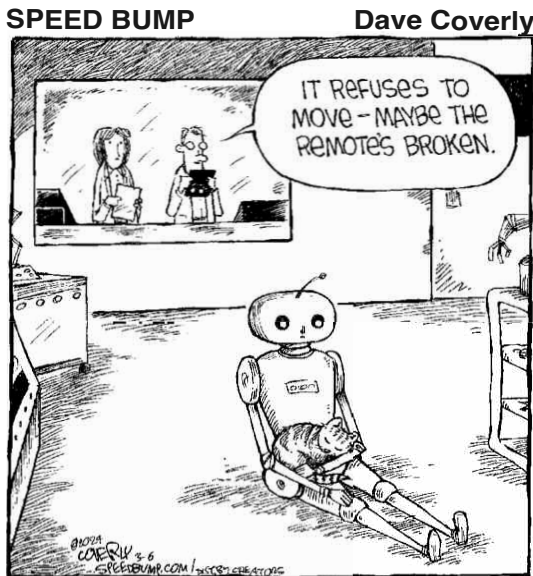
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—Thomas Jefferson

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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

The philosophy of defense

North dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ Q 10
 ♥ K 8 5
 ♦ K 10
 ♣ K Q J 9 6 4

WEST
 ♠ 6 5 3
 ♥ Q 4 3 2
 ♦ 9 7 5 2
 ♣ 10 5

EAST
 ♠ A 4
 ♥ J 10 7 6
 ♦ A Q J 3
 ♣ 8 7 2

SOUTH
 ♠ K J 9 8 7 2
 ♥ A 9
 ♦ 8 6 4
 ♣ A 3

The bidding:
 North East South West
 1 ♣ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
 2 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass
 4 ♣

Opening lead — two of diamonds.
In the normal course of events, a player will be declarer in one deal out of four, dummy one deal out of four, and a defender two deals out of four, which means that a player is on defense twice as often as he is on offense. Despite this obvious fact of bridge life, the role of a defender does not receive anywhere near the attention it deserves. To defend well is surely as important as playing well as declarer.
 Consider this deal, which illus-

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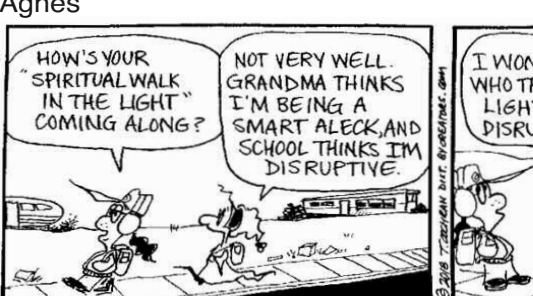
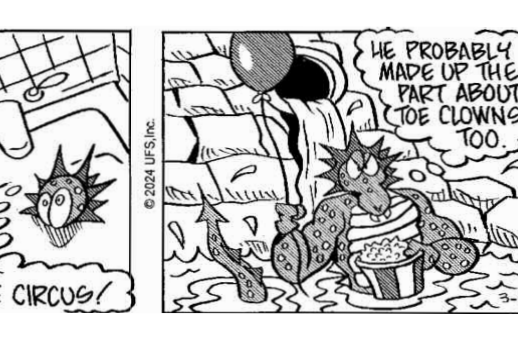
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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HIT TUNE ABOUT A HOOTING FOREST BIRD WHO IS MIGHTY TIRED OF BEING ALONE: "OWL BY MYSELF."
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals S

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Stinger
 5 "Terriff"
 8 Crime lab item
 12 Smoothie berry
 13 GI's address
 14 Swiss river
 15 "Don't worry about me"
 17 Radius neighbor
 18 Stokes
 19 Knocked down
 21 Greek vowels
 24 Old Olds-mobile
 25 Witticism
 28 NYC gallery
 30 Born as
 33 Blue
 34 Wine grape
 35 Cave flier
 36 "A Chorus Line" song
 37 Tennis score
 38 Memory unit
 39 Egyptian cobra
 41 Novelist Caleb

DOWN

1 Raga-muffin
 2 Rights advocacy
 3 Red-tag event
 4 Pal of Pooh
 5 Blubber
 6 NYPD alert
 7 "Cheers" barman Woody
 8 Chef's creation
 9 Dionne Warwick hit song
 10 "Alfred" composer
 11 Rosary unit
 16 Superlative suffix
 20 Part of Q.E.D.
 22 During

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Yesterday's answer 3-6

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Table with columns: Local Fund Number, Local Fund Name, Beg. Cash and Inv. Bal. Jan 1, 2023, Receipts, Disbursements, End Cash and Inv. Bal. Dec 31, 2023. Includes Governmental Activities and WASTE WATER sections.

Public Notice

Noble Township, Jay County, Indiana Cash & Investments combined Statement - 2023

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Sports

Patriots dominate Braves

The girls took 11 events. The boys topped 12.

Both teams dominated. The Jay County Junior High School swim team dominated the Belmont Braves on Monday, as the Patriot boys swept to win 148-87 while the girls only dropped one event en route to a 194-95 beatdown.

Seven Patriots ended as dual-event winners. Cooper Glentzer was the first Patriot to notch a pair of victories, as he took the 50-yard freestyle in 25.83 seconds and two events later he claimed the 50 butterfly in 29.1 seconds.

Three more tankers from the boys team took two for Jay County. Carson Westgerdes accomplished the feat by winning the 100 freestyle (59.3 seconds) and the 100 breaststroke (1 minute, 18.15 seconds).

Raif and Rocky Beiswanger were the other multi-event winners for the boys. Raif Beiswanger came out on top of the 200 freestyle (2:22.24) and 100 backstroke (1:09.91) while Rocky Beiswanger captured the 100 individual medley (1:11.64) and 400 freestyle (5:07.59).

Brooklynn Byrum was the first Patriot to put two wins on the board for the girls team. Early on, she topped the 200 freestyle with a time of 2:24.44, and later pulled away with the 100 freestyle in 1:01.24.

Elly Byrum followed both of Brooklynn's events with victories in the 100 IM (1:11.22) and the 400 freestyle (5:03.54).

Maria Laux ended as the only other Patriot to claim two individual events in 50 butterfly (32.03) and the 100 backstroke (1:18.35).

Other victories came from:
 •Boys 200 medley relay team (2:02.10)
 •Girls 200 medley relay team (2:14.65)



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Raif Beiswanger of Jay County Junior High School swims the 200-yard freestyle during Monday's meet against Belmont. Beiswanger won the event with a time of as well as the 100 backstroke en route to a sweep of the Braves.

•Boys 200 freestyle relay team (1:56.67)
 •Girls 200 freestyle relay team (1:56.08)
 •Boys 300 freestyle relay team (2:55.22)

•Kaitlyn Fisher in the 50 freestyle (30.14 seconds)
 •Gillian Keller in the 1-meter diving (92.3 points)
 •Tony Beiswanger in the diving (92.5 points)

•Gabrielle Gibson in the 100 breaststroke (1:26.81)
 The only event Belmont won was the girls 300 freestyle relay, in which they dominated Jay County's top team by 21.15 sec-

onds. Later this week, Jay County will host the ACAC tournament on Friday. The final meet of the year will be held at Blackford on March 11.

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Melvin requires Giants to stand during anthem

By JASON MASTRODONATO
 Bay Area News Group
 Tribune News Service

Bob Melvin, in his first year as Giants skipper, made a new team rule that's been turning heads on a national scale.

The Athletic reported last week that Melvin is requiring his entire team – from the bullpen coaches, to the non-roster invitees, to the batboys and the trainers – to stand on the field for the national anthem.

After the USA Today ran a similar story over the weekend, Melvin's rule has become a talking point in major media outlets, with his decision earning headlines on both Fox News and CNN, among others, over the last 48 hours.

Melvin explained last week that the mandate to stand during the anthem is “all about the perception that we're out there ready to play. That's it. You want your team ready to play and I want the other team to notice it, too. It's really as simple as that.”

While standing during the anthem may be a simple thing to Melvin, it's been anything but simple since 2016, when 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick took a knee before a preseason game as a way of silently protesting racial injustice. His protest drew national attention and became a frequent talking point from politicians, including former President

Donald Trump, who said players should be fired for protesting during the anthem.

MLB players and managers have taken turns finding their own ways to protest. And in 2020, former Giants manager Gabe Kapler took a knee during the anthem for several games after the George Floyd killing. Following the 2022 mass shooting at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, that killed 21 people, Kapler made the decision to regularly stop standing on the field during the anthem.

He explained on his personal blog that he didn't feel like standing was appropriate.

“We thoughtlessly link our moment of silence and grief with the equally thoughtless display of celebration for a country that refuses to take up the concept of controlling the sale of weapons used nearly exclusively for the mass slaughter of human beings,” he wrote. “We have our moment (over and over), and then we move on without demanding real change from the people we empower to make these changes. We stand, we bow our heads, and the people in power leave on recess, celebrating their own patriotism at every turn.”

Melvin insists his decision to require all players to stand isn't political. He told USA Today on Friday that it's about bonding a group of new players.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Thursday
 Jay County — Junior high wrestling ACAC tournament at South Adams — 5:30 p.m.

TV sports

Today
 3 p.m. — UEFA Champions League: FC Kobenhavn at Manchester City (CBS)
 6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Villanova at Seton Hall (FS1)
 7 p.m. — NHL: Buffalo Sabres at Toronto Maple Leafs (TNT)
 7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Tennessee at South Carolina (ESPN2); Northwestern at Michigan (BTN)
 7:30 p.m. — NBA: Memphis Grizzlies at Philadelphia 76ers (Bally Indiana); Los Angeles Clippers at Houston Rockets (ESPN)
 8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: UConn at Marquette (FS1)
 9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Indiana at Minnesota (BTN)
 9:30 p.m. — NHL: Detroit Red Wings at Colorado Avalanche (TNT)
 10 p.m. — NBA: Milwaukee Bucks at Golden State Warriors (ESPN)
 10:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Fresno State at New Mexico (FS1)

Thursday

1 p.m. — MLB spring training: Atlanta Braves at Boston Red Sox (ESPN)
 7 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at New Jersey Devils (ESPN)
 7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: UAB at Temple (ESPN2); Rutgers at Wis-

consin (FS1)
 7:30 p.m. — NBA: Miami Heat at Dallas Mavericks (TNT)
 7:30 p.m. — NBA: Boston Celtics at Denver Nuggets (TNT)
 9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Washington at Washington State (FS1); Colorado at Oregon (ESPN2)
 9:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Arizona at UCLA (ESPN)
 11 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Cal at Stanford (ESPN2); Arizona State at USC (FS1)

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.

Midwest Walleye Challenge

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.

Registration open
 Registration for the Dunkirk co-ed softball league is now open.

The league will start on April 7, and will cost \$250 for each team to register. First and second-place teams win a payout of \$400 and \$200, respectively.
 To register, call Brock Farmer at (765) 209-4289.

Challenge set
 The Adams County 5K Run/Walk Challenge for the 2024 season will begin April 20, where participants 19-years-old or older can compete in a total of eight races within Adams County.

The cost to register for the challenge is \$150 and will enter participants in all eight races, with five needing to be completed for the Challenge Series award.

Challengers don't need to be from Adams County, but only the first 100 entries will compete. Participation in individual events is available as well.

To sign up or for more information, visit www.adamscounty5kchallenge.com.

To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@theocr.com.