

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Water changes on the way for Dunkirk

City will get new meters; ordinance updates proposed

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — Even more changes are coming for the city's water department.

After informally agreeing to a water rate increase on July 22, Dunkirk City Council on Monday approved the first phase of purchasing new water meters and discussed various ordinance changes.

Council member Jesse Bivens, who oversees the water department, explained that the current water meters are about a dozen years old and have been failing. The water department has been replacing four to five per month because of malfunctions, he said.

He proposed purchasing new water meters and presented two quotes for the devices, one from Kamstrup, a Danish company with a distribution location in Indianapolis, for \$426,843 and another from Utility Supply Company of Indianapolis for \$341,722. Though Utility Supply Company's devices offered a lower cost, Bivens noted the department's preference for the equipment from Kamstrup. (There are additional costs for start-up and check valves.)

With Kamstrup, he explained, the devices would be guaranteed for 20 years. They also provide monitoring that will notify water department superintendent Brock Farmer of potential leaks.

Utility Supply Company offers a 10-year limited warranty and does not have the same monitoring system.

See **Water** page 5



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Sealing Wayne

Workers from Scodeller Construction of Wixom, Michigan, seal cracks along Wayne Street just south of Water Street near East Jay Elementary School in Portland. The work is part of an ongoing project to seal cracks in streets throughout the city. The work is largely funded via a \$153,164.10 Community Crossings grant through Indiana Department of Transportation.

Safety improvements planned

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Safety improvements are coming for pedestrians in Fort Recovery, specifically children and teenagers going to school.

Fort Recovery School Board heard about upcoming safety improvements to streets as well as other village projects Monday from village administrator Randy Diller.

He noted three different projects that will impact the school district in upcoming years. Most of

Projects include adding sidewalks and enhancing crosswalks

them, he added, come at no cost to the school.

Currently, concrete work is ongoing for enhancing crosswalks at the intersection of Center and Elm Streets. (The work should be completed by the end of the week.

Additional flashing beacons will also be installed at the intersection.)

Fort Recovery and Fort Recovery Local Schools initially agreed to split the cost of the project, with the school district's portion coming to \$30,000.

Diller noted the work ended up costing approximately \$75,000, but the village will cover the additional amount.

The village and school district were awarded \$439,589 through the Safe Routes to School program

in July for construction projects focused on safety for children walking or biking to school. The school district also received \$18,000 for a non-infrastructure project to be completed in 2025. (The funding will be used to purchase safety equipment — radios, crossing guard materials and bike storage — provide annual walking and biking safety information to students and parents and plan safety-related events, such as an interactive bike safety presentation.)

See **Safety** page 5



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

All-star sorting

Redkey All Stars team members sort through bags of candy before tossing them to parade watchers near the intersection of Railroad and High streets Saturday during the Gas Boom Days festival. Local festivals continue this weekend with Dunkirk's Glass Days scheduled for Saturday.

Trump to sue over search

By DAVE GOLDINER
New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

Former President Donald Trump is planning to sue the federal government for \$115 million over the 2022 search of his Mar-a-Lago estate, accusing the Department of Justice of unconstitutional "political persecution."

Even though the search turned up hundreds of classified documents and led to his indictment on federal charges, Trump says prosecutors improperly targeted him in hopes of damaging his campaign to win back the White House.

"The subsequent malicious prosecution are particularly egregious, showing willful, wanton, oppressive, and malicious intent by the Department of Justice and FBI," Daniel Epstein, a lawyer for Trump, wrote in a notice of claim filed with the government.

Former president accusing DOJ of 'political persecution'

Trump is demanding \$15 million in compensation for his legal costs, plus \$100 million in punitive damages.

Trump accuses Attorney General Merrick Garland and FBI Director Christopher Wray of failing to implement normal procedures for getting back the documents in order to carry out the search and humiliate the Republican ex-president.

"Garland and Wray decided to stray from established protocol to injure President Trump," Epstein wrote.

The filing sets the clock ticking on a 180-day period during which Trump and the govern-

ment can seek to work out a settlement. If no deal is reached, a federal judge will hear the case in south Florida.

Trump admits taking the documents with him to his Florida estate after leaving the White House in January 2021, but claims he had the legal right to do so.

He returned some of the documents when hit with a subpoena to give them back.

Suspecting Trump was hiding more documents, the feds asked a judge to approve a search warrant for Mar-a-Lago, which was carried out on Aug. 22, 2022.

Deaths

Joyce Morrical, 68, Portland

Johnny Morgan, 48, Portland

Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 79 degrees Monday. The low was 52.

Tonight's low will be in the lower 60s. Expect partly cloudy skies Thursday with a 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms. The high will be in the lower 80s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday at Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. The agenda includes special exception and variance requests from Pyramid Network Services.

Coming up

Thursday — Coverage of this week's Jay County Development Corporation meeting.

Friday — Details from this week's Jay County Council meeting.

Saturday — Photos from Friday's JCHS football scrimmage against Richmond.



Obituaries

Joyce Morriral

Joyce Marlene Morriral, 68, of Portland, Indiana, was peacefully welcomed into the arms of Jesus on the evening of Aug. 10, 2024, at Persimmon Ridge.

The daughter of Glen and Lena Morriral, Joyce was the youngest of three children all born in Portland. She is survived by her brother Eldon (Sylvia) Morriral of Portland and sister Reita (Don) Jones of Frankfort, Kentucky. In addition

to her siblings, Joyce is survived by four nieces as well as 10 great- and great-great nephews and nieces.

Born with cerebral palsy, Joyce lived her life with many physical and mental limitations. Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Center of Portland was her home for nearly 48 years. Joycie, as she was loving-



Morriral

ly known, was quite the VIP at the facility. Her sweet disposition, joy in those talking to her; joyful laughter; dear kisses and unconditional love were irresistible for those who took a little time to interact with her. She lived on love and she was given plenty of that by her family and her daily caregivers or second family. Even with all her limitations, God used Joycie in many ways to bless those around her.

Visitation will be held on Thursday from noon to 2 p.m. at

Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. A funeral service to honor the life of Joyce Morriral will follow at 2 p.m. on Thursday at the funeral home. Pastor Gil Alicea will officiate and burial will follow at Green Park Cemetery of Portland.

Memorials may be directed to the West Walnut Street Church of Christ, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland, IN 47371, or Everheart Hospice, 1350 N. Broadway St., Greenville, OH 45331.

Johnny Morgan, Portland, Dec. 15, 9175-Aug. 12, 2024. No services are scheduled at this time.

The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Thursday 8/15	Friday 8/16	Saturday 8/17	Sunday 8/18	Monday 8/19
81/66	84/66	79/62	79/60	79/57
Thursday's forecast shows a slight chance of rain, with the chance increasing at night.	There's a 60% chance of rain and thunderstorms on Friday, when the high may be 84.	Mostly sunny on Saturday, when the high will be around 79 degrees.	Sunday's forecast shows a chance of thunderstorms. Otherwise, mostly sunny.	Mostly sunny skies are in the forecast for Monday, when the high will be 79.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 9-22-57-67-68 Power Ball: 14 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$20 million	Evening Daily Three: 0-7-0 Daily Four: 2-8-2-4 Cash 5: 3-11-27-34-37 Estimated jackpot: \$85,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$435 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 8-2-2 Pick 4: 0-5-4-4 Pick 5: 1-1-4-8-0 Evening Pick 3: 3-6-1 Pick 4: 2-7-3-7 Pick 5: 0-9-1-7-5 Rolling Cash: 3-10-18-24-38 Estimated jackpot: \$177,000
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 2-4-4 Daily Four: 1-4-6-3 Quick Draw: 1-3-7-11-12-14-27-50-52-53-55-56-58-61-62-64-67-68-69-70	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....3.60 Sept. corn3.65 Wheat4.52	Sept. beans9.21 Wheat4.78
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....3.60 Sept. corn3.60 Oct. corn3.61	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.48 Sept. corn3.46 Beans9.93 Sept. beans9.65 Wheat4.84
The Andersons Richland Township Corn3.57 Sept. corn3.57 Beans9.81	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....3.57 Sept. corn3.62 Beans9.61 Sept. beans9.06 Wheat4.58

Today in history

In 1880, Cologne Cathedral was completed in Cologne, Germany. It's the largest Gothic church in northern Europe.

In 1935, president Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law.

In 1966, Halle Berry was born in Cleveland, Ohio. She's the first Black actress to win the Academy Award for best actress. She won the accolade for her role as Leticia Musgrove in "Monster's Ball."

In 2003, nearly 50 million people were impacted by a major power outage that swept out electricity across the eastern United States and parts of Canada. Some places didn't regain their power until a day later.

In 2016, sprinter Usain Bolt of Jamaica won the 100 meters at the Rio de Janeiro Games. He was the first person to win the event in three consecutive Olympics. He also won a third gold medal in the 200 meters.

In 2022, a dedication ceremony was held for the first Jay County Hometown Heroes banners that had been hung in downtown Portland. Launched by Jake Muhlenkamp's family through Jake's Little Patriot Fund, the banners honored 133 local veterans.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Tuesday 4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Board of Zoning Appeals, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St.	9 a.m. — Jay County Personnel Committee, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
Wednesday 8 a.m. — Upper Wabash River Basin Commission, Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St., Bluffton.	6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 S. Morgan Drive, Redkey.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Fab Four fans

Concertgoers wave their arms in the air during Liverpool Lads' encore performance of "Hey Jude" on Thursday during the concert at the Hudson Family Park Amphitheatre. The Beatles tribute band was a performance in Arts Place's Hudson Family Park Amphitheater Concert Series, which will conclude with Sounds of Summer: A Beach Boys Tribute at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 12.

Felony arrests

Drug possession

A Redkey man was arrested Sunday for drug possession and other charges.

Joseph A. Winget, 34, 19 N. Oak St., was preliminarily charged with two Level 6 felonies for possession of cocaine or a narcotic drug and unlawful possession of a syringe and a Class C misdemeanor for operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

He was being held on a \$4,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

Failed to appear

A Muncie woman was arrested Friday for failing to appear in court.

Laken R. Robbins, 33, 1209 W. Seventh St., is charged in Jay Superior Court with a Level 6 felony for failure to appear. She's also charged in a separate case with four Level 6 felonies for possession of a narcotic drug, possession of methamphetamine, unlawful possession of a syringe and identity deception. She was being held without bond in Jay County Jail.

Capsule Reports

Improper turning

Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000 after a Portland man's vehicle struck a Dunkirk man's vehicle while he was attempting to perform a U-turn along Indiana 67 about 4:50 p.m. Friday.

Kyle D. Hitchens, 29, Dunkirk, and Brian L. Couch, 24, Portland, were stopped at Indiana 67 construction site near county road 75 South. Both drivers told police the light had been red for about 15 minutes, and Couch told police he began following some other northbound vehicles that began driving through the stop light. Hitchens decided to make a U-turn at the same time as Couch started to pass him, causing Couch's 2020 Jeep Wrangler to crash into Hitchens' 2018 Ram 1500.

Couch's vehicle was towed from the scene. Dam-

age is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

Sideswiped car

A Union City man was arrested after his vehicle struck a parked car at the intersection of Arch and Middle streets about 10:10 p.m. Friday.

Esdras Mejia Velasquez, 22, was driving his 2010 Toyota Camry east on Arch Street. He told police he was fatigued and he hit a parked and unattended 2011 Cadillac SRX on the street.

Mejia Velasquez was booked into Jay County Jail and preliminarily charged with a Class C misdemeanor for operating a vehicle without a license. He was being held on a \$1,000 bond.

His vehicle was towed. Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

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SERVICES

Today
Alig, Marceil: 10:30 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpburg Road, Fort Recovery.

Thursday
Morriral, Joyce: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Service listings provided by
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progressiveofficeproducts.com

EMT Course Registration

Jay County Jr. Sr. High School
Sept 5, 2024 to Apr 15, 2025
Mondays and Thursdays
6pm to 10pm

Cost is \$750.

- Textbook and needed course materials
- Testing and Scheduling Software
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<https://forms.gle/eXj8uNtiu1anCETL8>
Email: jmcfarland@jaycoems.org or Call Us 260-726-2311 x101



Photo provided

Scholarships awarded

IU Health Jay and The Portland Foundation recently awarded the Judith Sipe/Doctor Eugene Gillum Memorial Scholarship. Pictured above are IU Health Jay chief operating officer and chief nursing officer Christina Schemenaur, scholarship recipients Jacqueline Bird, Monica Greyson and Tricia Ison, and Sipe family representative Ron Laux. The scholarship was established to honor and memorialize Sipe and Gillum's service to the hospital, and it assists IU Health Jay team members who have a desire to further their education in health care or other professional field.

Birth announcements

Alexander

Alton, a son, was born Aug. 3 at St. Vincent Randolph to Danielle and Micah Morris of Winchester.

He weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces. Grandparents are Tammy Green of Winchester and Nathan and Edi Morris of Modoc. His great-grandparent is Adalene Morris of Yorktown.

Bane

Kopelen Allen, a son, was born Aug. 9 at St. Vincent Randolph to Crystal and Dylan Bane of Winchester.

He weighed 8 pounds, 10 ounces. Grandparents are Tony and Naomi Hawley of Winchester and

Tom and Keely Bane of Greens Fork.

Gregory

Valak Austin, a son, was born Aug. 12 at St. Vincent Randolph to Rachel Gregory of Portland. He weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces. Grandparents are Ricky and Patty Gabbard of Portland.

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.

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

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon

each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

JAY COUNTY CIVIC THEATRE — Holds its regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the boardroom at Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland.

PORTLAND EAGLES — Will meet at 6 p.m., on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Eagles' lodge, 320 N. 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. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

Thursday

STITCH AND CHATTER QUILT CLUB — Meets from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center. Show and teal is at 1 p.m. The club is open to all ages and is for anyone who wants to sew. Bring unfinished projects and a sewing machine. For more information, call Nan Weesner (260) 766-9334.

SMART RECOVERY — A group for those struggling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feelings and behavior, and living a balanced life meets at 11 a.m. each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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.

EN AVANT CLUB — Meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

ORGAN TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the IU Health Blackford main conference room.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of

the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North.

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 (765) 964-6075 or (765) 584-6452.

Church leader lies about affair

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Silas," and I have been married for 30 years. He is the deacon and Sunday school teacher at our church. (His brother is the pastor.) Silas had a two-year affair with another woman at work while he continued teaching Sunday school.

I have a hard time with this. I will never trust him again, and I don't trust him in my faith. I resigned my position as church clerk immediately after finding out what he had done. I couldn't continue my position with the mess I was about to go through. I left him. Six months later, we got back together, mainly for me to take ownership on everything I had worked for in my life. I have never returned to our church because he didn't step down from leadership, and the church didn't force him. Silas also lied and told the entire congregation, from the pulpit, that I had two affairs. How could he do this in front of the congregation of a church I've attended for 30 years? He is still not REAL in his faith or his love for me.

I have no money to start over, as I withdrew all of my 401(k) and paid off everything we owed, including our home. How do I get out now with no funds? During the six months I was gone, he didn't even want to give me \$300 a week to live and pay bills. If I leave, I leave with nothing. All I want is to be loved and happy. Please advise. — FEELING

Dear Abby



UNWORTHY IN LOUISIANA

DEAR FEELING UNWORTHY: Please accept my sympathy for this sorry situation. Contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline and ask for help to escape the financial straitjacket your husband has you in. Its toll-free phone number is 800-799-7233. Many other women have done this and succeeded, and so can you.

DEAR ABBY: I am dating a widower whose wife died three years ago. He constantly tells me he loves me. I love him, too. The problem is, every day he writes on his calendar that he loves his late wife. He also keeps her gardening shoes by his back door, and a large picture of her faces the chair he sits in. Am I making too much of this? — RANKED SECOND IN MICHIGAN

DEAR RANKED SECOND: Perhaps. It is said that true love never dies. It's possible to still love a spouse who has passed on while also loving a woman who is living. Only you can decide if his attachment to his late wife is something you can live with.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

The objective is to fill a nine-by-nine grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine three-by-three boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

The CR

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Books can transport you for free

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Aug. 12, 2009. Jack was well-traveled, both physically and through the world of books. Take his reminder from 15 years ago to make a visit to your local library.

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

Travel is expensive, and it isn't going to get any cheaper.

That's why the bookshelves of your nearest library or your favorite bookstore will always be the most affordable way to see the world.

While non-fiction and history are fine, I've always found that the best way to begin to understand a foreign culture, to begin to feel what it's like to live in someone else's skin, is through fiction.

For instance, if we were to take a trip around the world through books, you couldn't really begin to understand

Back in the Saddle



South America without sampling the works of Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

His masterpiece, "One Hundred Years of Solitude," should be required reading, but virtually all of his novels and short stories have something to offer.

By the same token, heading east from South America, any attempt to wrap one's arms around the African continent should begin with Chinua Achebe's "Things Fall Apart."

The novel has been in print for something like 40 years. I came to it relatively late in the

game and felt foolish not to have read it sooner.

Moving north into the more familiar territory of Western Europe, I always find myself recommending the work of William Trevor, my favorite Anglo-Irish writer.

Trevor's short stories show an amazing ability to assess and appreciate the depths of his characters; many of his most authentic are the women in his stories, which is pretty remarkable since he's a man well into his 80s.

Forced to recommend a single Trevor book, I'd have to pick "Two Lives," which offers two short novels in one volume. One of the novels is "Reading Turgenev," and the other is "My House in Umbria." They're strikingly different except for one thing: Both are excellent.

Not surprisingly, I've turned to fiction when trying to under-

stand the former Soviet Union. Last year, that meant Platonov's "Soul" and Bulgakov's "The Master and Margarita."

But this year I can recommend something that's much more accessible and a great read. It's called "City of Thieves" and is by David Benioff. The book reads like a thriller. Though I tend to linger over books, I gobbled this one up in a day. (I just picked up "Child 44," which covers similar territory and is also supposed to be excellent.)

Moving south and east, you'll find the backdrop for Salman Rushdie's latest novel to make its way into paperback. It's "The Enchantress of Florence," and it is a whirlwind of storytelling, mixing myth and history into a world all its own. I can't recommend it highly enough.

After Rushdie, take time to read "A Thousand Splendid

Suns" by Khaled Hosseini if you ever hope to begin to understand Afghanistan.

For an unforgettable taste of the Indian subcontinent, try Aravind Adiga's "The White Tiger." That may be too intense for some tastes, but his book of short stories, "Between the Assassinations," should satisfy any palate.

And if you're interested in the interplay of cultures in the 21st century, I'd recommend Jhumpa Lahiri's latest book of short stories, "Unaccustomed Earth."

That brings us to China, where I'd recommend the short stories of Ha Jin, those set in China. Though I enjoyed his most recent novel, "A Free Life," it's set in the U.S. and disappointed some readers.

So, there you have it. A trip around the world, and it didn't break your bank account.

We can't have rural mental health deserts

The Gazette
(Colorado Springs, Colo.)
Tribune News Service

Colorado's John Denver glamorized rural life 50 years ago, singing "Thank God I'm a Country Boy." Fast-forward to 2024, and Colorado's country residents are begging God for mercy.

A high percentage of urban voters along the Front Range, many of them transplants from large coastal metroplexes, don't understand rural people and their lifestyles. Their interaction with agriculture typically begins and ends at the grocery store.

The mostly urban Legislature and Democratic governor have demonized meat production, irrigation, local control of education, coal production, oil production, gas production, gun rights, gas- and diesel-powered equipment and just about everything else important to farmers and rural villagers.

Urban voters forced livestock- and pet-killing wolves on rural areas. As documented in a Gazette news article, the wolf kills alone are causing rural anxiety and grief.

Given all this, it's no surprise to hear of a rural mental health crisis. A recent Gazette news article cites experts calling rural Colorado — which makes up 80% of the state's landmass — a "mental health desert."

The Colorado Rural Health Center reports one mental health care provider for every 755 urban residents, compared with 1 for every 1,282 of their rural counterparts.

"All of Colorado is a mental health desert, so if you're having difficulty recruiting in an urban area, it's twice as hard in a rural location," said Michelle Mills, CEO of the Rural Health Center.

Federal regulation is also in the way, because health clinics lose certification if they allocate more than 49% of resources to mental health. It's a stupid regulation, as health providers should allocate services based on demand — not random rations dictated by Washington bureaucrats.

Fortunately, mental health care differs from surgery and other direct-contact services. Often, one can obtain counseling

Guest Editorial

and prescriptions through telehealth, which requires a patient have only a computer or a smartphone and a good broadband connection.

Broadband remains an obstacle to resolving this problem as quickly as we should. A newly formed state Connectivity Interim Study Committee, which met in July, is working on connecting Colorado's broadband deserts to the rest of the world.

The Legislature, governor and philanthropic leaders should make this effort among the highest of priorities. Get all the state connected and incentivize more telehealth options. Urban Coloradans might not understand rural society, but they need it and will suffer if people continue giving up their increasingly stressful lives of ranching, farming and mining.

Partly because of hostile economics and rural burnout, corporations are taking over farms — many of them Chinese — at an alarming rate. If food prices are too high, imagine when a handful of companies control production without the bother of competition from family operations passed down through generations.

As for the negative stigma attached to mental health care — exacerbated by the self-sufficient pride of farm country — it is time to move forward. The toughest, strongest, most resilient people seek help when they need it. That's what keeps them able to provide for themselves and others.

Besides, no one should look down on rural people for needing help in a cultural and regulatory environment increasingly stacked against them.

Colorado needs a healthy countryside, so let's get busy bringing mental health care — and all other forms of care — to the people who provide the food and energy we need to live. Let's work to restore and preserve the idyllic rural lifestyles long celebrated in music, poetry and lore.



Pass anti-gerrymandering issue

By THOMAS SUDDER
cleveland.com
Tribune News Service

A ruling last week by a Republican judge in Columbus demonstrates why Ohioans should approve this November's "Citizens Not Politicians" ballot issue, to end the gerrymandering of General Assembly and congressional districts.

At issue: A bid by opponents to overturn Republican state legislators' latest foray into bashing transsexual Ohioans, Substitute House Bill 68, passed in January, overriding its veto by Republican Gov. Mike DeWine.

Voting to override were all Republican General Assembly members present except Sen. Nathan Manning, of North Ridgeville. Also opposing the override were all House- and Senate Democrats present.

HB 68's key points: (1) It forbids physicians to provide a minor with gender reassignment surgery, and (2), amid a blizzard of legalese, forbids overseers of interscholastic athletics to let male athletes participate in female athletic competitions.

If you're wondering why General Assembly Republicans (26 of 33 senators, 67 of 99 representatives) are trying to simultaneously play family doctor and Friday night ref, the reason is demagoguery.

It's trickier than it used to be for cheap-shot politicians to beat up on non-white Americans, and on women. But these days, at least in Ohio, bashing sexual and gender minorities can be just the ticket — even with legislation such as HB 68, so ill-fated that even DeWine, a lifelong, pro-family conservative, wouldn't sign it.

The American Civil Liberties Union, its Ohio unit, and the Boston-

Thomas Sudder



based law firm Goodwin Procter sued in Franklin County Common Pleas Court on behalf of two transgender adolescents and their families to overturn HB 68 on a range of grounds, but in part because of the bill's alleged violation of the Ohio Constitution one-subject rule.

The one-subject rule, part of the constitution since 1851, is aimed against "logrolling," which the Legislative

Service Commission describes as "the combination of unrelated bills into an omnibus bill to secure 'a degree of support for the measure which it might not have enjoyed on its own merits,'" citing a 1983 study by historian David E. Bowers.

Last week, Franklin County Common Pleas Judge Michael J. Holbrook, a Republican, summarizing a central issue in the lawsuit, wrote that the "plaintiffs will have to leave ... Ohio to seek gender affirming care if [HB 68] is enforced ... and therefore will be adversely affected by its enforcement." Still, Holbrook rejected the challenge to House Bill 68, allowing it to take effect.

Twice tucked into the judge's ruling are ironic passages that illustrate one futility in today's Ohio politics. Rejecting arguments that HB 68 violates the constitution's one-subject rule — by melding transgender care and athletic regulation — Holbrook wrote that merging those topics

forms "a 'legitimate subject' for purposes of the single subject rule ... the recourse for those who object is not within the court but is instead with their vote." (Emphasis added.)

Likewise, in rejecting arguments other parts of HB 68 also breached the one-subject rule, "Recourse for those who are dissatisfied with the General Assembly's determinations [about proper observance of the one-subject rule] must be exercised through their vote as opposed to the judicial system." (Emphasis added.)

Keen advice, your honor — except for the fact that, thanks to gerrymandering, all Ohio voters aren't treated equally. As things now stand, General Assembly districts were drawn by and for Republicans. That means a state that twice voted for Bill Clinton and twice for Barack Obama has a legislature that is overwhelmingly Republican — and toils to make Ohio a backwater and sometimes a laughingstock.

In November, Ohioans will have the chance to ensure fairly drawn General Assembly districts by voting for the "Citizens Not Politicians" ballot issue, proposed by voter petition, which would create a Citizens Redistricting Commission, a panel that would exclude politicians, to draw fair General Ohio Assembly and congressional districts. No way should today's Ohio, which cast 51% of its vote for Donald Trump in 2016, and 53% in 2020, have an Ohio House of Representatives that's 68% Republican, and an Ohio Senate that's 79% GOP.

Plainly stated, last week's ruling — that only voters, not courts, may curb the General Assembly's antics — describes an Ohio that, without ratification in November of Citizens Not Politicians, doesn't exist.

The Commercial Review



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

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Water ...

Continued from page 1
Farmer noted discussions with the City of Marion, which has had the kamstrup meters for seven years and has had only two need replacement.

Bivens and Farmer suggested purchasing the new meters in phases — 50 meters, the check valves and start-up costs first followed by additional purchases of about 315 at a time. (Kamstrup agreed to lock in the price for 1,000 meters.)

City council members Christy Curtis, Dan Watson, Randy Murphy, Donna Revolt and Bivens unanimously approved \$100,000 in coronavirus relief funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act to go toward the purchase with the remaining \$57,250 to be split evening between the water and wastewater department budgets.

City employees will handle the installation of the new meters.

“I do want to say thanks because this is one of our bigger purchases and it will benefit the city,” Bivens said. “It’ll be rough starting out but I honestly believe we’ll get paid more per gallon than we are now. ...

“It’ll do a bunch of good.”

Bivens also proposed several ordinance changes related to the city’s water service:

- Increasing the turn-on fee to \$75 from the current \$50. (He said it was last increased in 2012.)
- Charging temporary users based on usage with a \$50 minimum at the discretion of the water department superintendent

- Raising the charge for after-hours calls to \$50 from the current \$35
- Increasing the tampering fee to \$75 plus the cost of repairs and water usage
- Creating a fee for damage to water pits and antennas

Wastewater department superintendent Steven Gillette also proposed changing the ordinance for the level of oil/grease that can be discharged from the current 100 milligrams per liter to 25 milligrams per liter. Anything over the new limit would result in a surcharge of \$2 per milligram.

Gillette explained that some local industries are approaching the current limit and that the oil and grease are causing problems with the city’s equipment. He said his research shows most municipalities in the area set a limit of 25 milligrams per liter.

All of the proposed ordinance changes will need to be written in ordinance form and brought back to the city council for a vote. The council is also expected to vote at its next meeting (Aug. 26) on proposed 3% increases to its water and sewer rates.

Also Monday, council members unanimously approved salary

increases for the fire department’s three full-time employees at \$900/week for the chief, \$865 for the assistant chief and \$845 for the “swing.” The increases will be retroactive to July 1.

Clerk-treasurer Kara Lowe suggested the changes as the city adjusts to new federal overtime rules that set the minimum salary for overtime-exempt employees at \$844 per week. (The threshold will increase to \$1,128 beginning Jan. 1.)

Dunkirk Mayor Jack Robbins also asked the council for thoughts on the 2025 salary ordinance. He noted that health and liability insurance costs are going up.

Council members tabled the issue for further review.

In other business, council:

- Approved the following: a \$25,000 downtown revitalization loan for Firehouse BBQ and Blues; promoting city employee

Tyler Benedict to a lab tech, which involves a pay increase to \$17.73 per hour from his current \$16.08 per hour; the purchase of a new mower from Sutter Bros. of Coldwater, Ohio, for \$11,332; use of the baseball/softball diamond in Dunkirk City Park for the Spencer Calvert Memorial co-ed softball tournament on Sept. 14; and payment of claims totaling \$389,051.

•Heard from Revolt that the city’s park board has faced challenges getting quotes for installing new playground equipment for Dunkirk City Park. (The lone current quote is \$10,000 to install \$5,000 worth of equipment.) She also reported that a sink and a urinal need to be replaced in the park bathrooms. The park board will address the issues at its Aug. 24 meeting.

•Received a thank you note from Jay County 4-H for its sponsorship.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Redkey reach

Xander Poling, 8, and Lilia Poling, 7, reach for pieces of candy with other children during the Gas Boom Days parade Saturday along the intersection of Railroad and High streets in Redkey.

Safety ...

Continued from page 1
Construction projects resulting from Safe Routes to School funding include:

- Installing 625 feet of sidewalk along the east side of Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School and connecting it to Sharpsburg Road, estimated to be completed in 2026
- Building a crosswalk in front of Fort Recovery High School on Butler Street at its intersection with First Street
- Improving the visibility of markings and other enhancements at the five-point intersection of Butler, Boundary, William and Third streets

Also in the works is a multi-use trail project for pedestrians and biking traffic along Ohio 49, Sharpsburg Road and Flaler Road. The project is 90% funded through Ohio Department of

Transportation’s Systemic Safety Funding grant and planned to begin in 2026. The village’s estimated match is \$200,000.

Diller also mentioned a few other projects in the village, which include:

- A new traffic signal — it’s now operational — at the intersection of Elm (Ohio 49) and Butler (Ohio 119) streets
- An ongoing Ohio Department of Transportation project to resurface Ohio 119 and Ohio 49 in the village
- A second water tower that will be constructed on the north side of the village this year
- Reconstruction of Butler Street between Fort Site and Main streets, an estimated \$1.53 million project partially funded by Ohio Public Works Commis-

sion and planned to begin next spring

•Efforts to re-vamp the village’s water and wastewater treatment processes and make upgrades to Ambassador Pool in the future

In related news, the school board also transferred \$18,000 from the general fund to the Safe Routes to School fund. Treasurer Deanna Knapke noted the state will reimburse the school for purchases made for its non-infrastructure Safe Routes to School project.

In other business, Fort Recovery School Board members Mitch Fullenkamp, Sean Kahlig, Greg LeFevre, Nick Wehrkamp and Don Wendel:

- Heard Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School will be hosting its open building from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 19.
- Learned sixth graders through high school seniors will be utilizing wellness program Platform in health and fitness classes.
- Approved the following: a five-year contract for Knapke effective Aug. 1, 2025, through July 31, 2030; bus routes for the upcoming school year; an annual resolution declaring the school board won’t provide career-technical education to seventh and eighth graders for the upcoming school year and an annual resolution allowing juniors and seniors attending Tri-Star Career Compact to drive themselves to the program; Tony Stahl as Fort Recovery Local Schools’ representative for Mercer/Auglaize Benefit Trust.
- Hired or renewed contracts with the following: Nancy Flem-

ing, Darla Miller, Cristy Parker and Kendall Rodriguez as substitute teachers, Mindy Bubb as high school swim coach, Kylee Sutter and Abby Timmerman as volunteer high school swim coaches, Corey Gerlach and Jim Sheppard as volunteer boys bowling coaches and Alison Rosegrant and Steve Westgerdes as volunteer girls bowling coaches, Jessica Jutte as eighth grade class advisor and Jennifer Steinke as junior high football cheer advisor and junior high basketball cheer advisor.

- Accepted preschool program director, grand administrator and lead teacher Lacey Tipton’s resignation.
- OK’d Aimee Pottkotter as a van driver.
- Accepted a \$60 donation from Blackbaud Giving Fund to Fort Recovery FFA.



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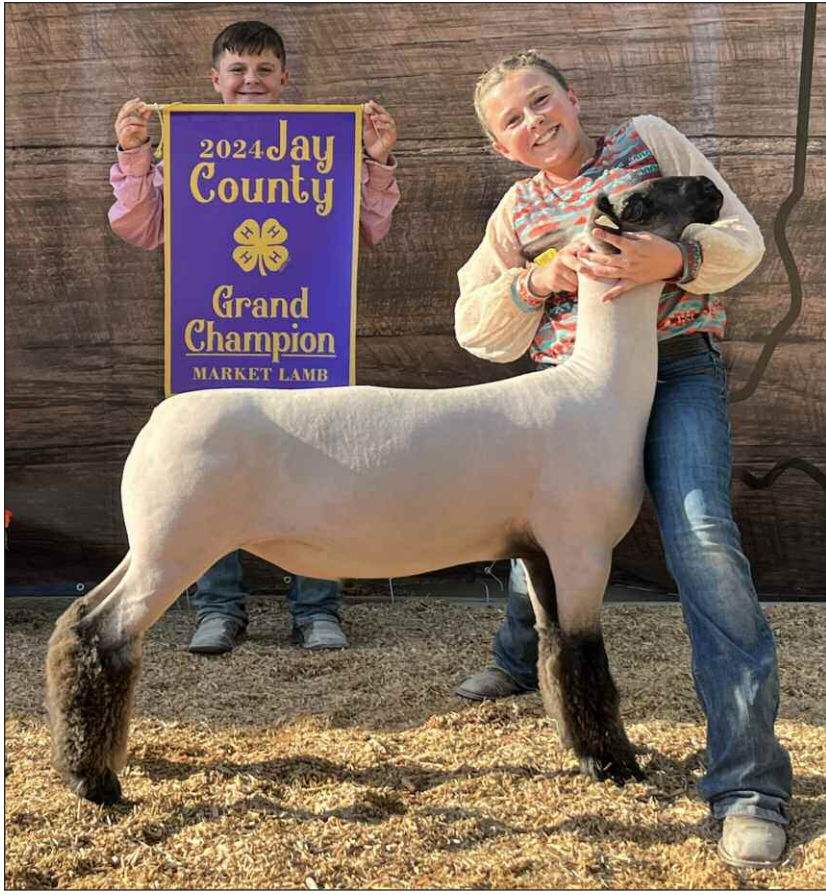
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Kylinn Myers showed the grand champion Market Lamb (left) and the grand champion breeding ewe (right) on July 10 during the Jay County 4-H sheep show at the Jay County Fair.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Myers sweeps her way through sheep

Kylinn Myers dominated the sheep show this year. Myers showed the grand champion ewe and grand champion market lamb at the 4-H Sheep Show on July 10. Her commercial blackface ewe took the grand champion title, and her hamp and shrop market lambs earned the grand champion and reserve grand champion awards, respectively. Her brother, Bryson Myers, took home the reserve grand champion ewe award for his commercial blackface ewe. Kylinn Myers was also the reserve champion senior showman. Her accomplishments follow her performance from 2023, when Kylinn Myers also showed the grand champion market lamb. Other results were as follows:

- Ewe Dorset Champion: Ella Stockton Reserve champion: Levi Willmann
- Dorset advantage Champion: Levi Willmann
- Hamp Champion: Bryson Myers Reserve champion: Tinley Walker
- Natural-colored Champion: Jenna Walker
- Shrop Champion: Tinley Walker
- Southdown Champion: Levi Walker Reserve champion: Levi Walker

- Commercial blackface Champion: Kylinn Myers Reserve champion: Bryson Myers
- Class 9 1. Kylinn Myers 2. Elizabeth Link 3. Ella Stockton 4. Luke Fugiett
- Class 10 1. Bryson Myers 2. Tinley Walker 3. Luke Fugiett
- Pair of breeding ewes Champion: Walker family
- Market lambs Hampshire Champion: Kylinn Myers Reserve champion: Bryson Myers
- Class 13 1. Kylinn Myers

- 2. Bryson Myers 3. Madi Paxson 4. Madi Paxson 5. Jenna Walker
- Natural-colored Champion: Kylinn Myers Reserve champion: Ty Paxson
- Class 14 1. Kylinn Myers 2. Ty Paxson 3. Trevin Dunnington
- Oxford Champion: Bryson Myers Reserve champion: Tinley Walker
- Shrop Champion: Kylinn Myers
- Southdown Champion: Jenna Bricker Reserve champion: Ty Paxson

- Class 17 1. Jenna Bricker 2. Ty Paxson 3. Levi Willmann
- Blackface cross Champion: Bryson Myers Reserve champion: Kylinn Myers
- Class 18 1. Levi Willmann 2. Dillon Dunnington 3. Gavin Dunnington
- Class 19 1. Bryson Myers 2. Kylinn Myers 3. Ella Stockton
- Class 20 1. Elizabeth Link 2. Kenzly Blunk 3. Madi Paxson
- White face cross Champion: Levi Willmann Reserve champion: Bryson Myers

- Class 21 1. Levi Willmann 2. Bryson Myers 3. Trevin Dunnington 4. Luke Fugiett
- Rate of gain 1. Dillon Dunnington 2. Trevin Dunnington 3. Luke Fugiett
- Pair of market lambs Champion: Walker family Reserve champion: Paxson family
- Showmanship Beginner: Bryson Myers Junior: Jenna Walker Intermediate: Tinley Walker Senior: Elizabeth Link
- Reserve showmanship Beginner: Gavin Dunnington Intermediate: Dillon Dunnington



Photos provided

During the Jay County 4-H dairy show on July 10 at the Jay County Fair, Elise Mercer (left) showed the grand champion dairy heifer. Courtney Harris (right) had the supreme grand champion dairy cow.

Mercer wins again, Harris shows top cow

Another year, another win for Elise Mercer. Mercer showed the grand champion dairy heifer and Courtney Harris showed the supreme grand champion dairy cow at the Jay County 4-H Dairy Show on July 10. Mercer showed the supreme junior champion and the reserve supreme grand champion at the show in 2023. This year, Mercer earned the grand champion dairy heifer title as well as the reserve supreme grand champion dairy cow award. She was also named advanced and senior showman. Harris showed the grand champion registered holstein and reserve junior champion registered holstein. Additional results were as follows:

- Jersey 1. Bailey Muhlenkamp
- Winter calf Milking shorthorn 1. Nevaeh Brower
- Grade holstein 1. Paul Dirksen 2. Job Dirksen 3. Carson Broering 4. Adalyn Broering
- Registered holstein 1. Porter Clamme
- Jersey 1. Bailey Muhlenkamp
- Fall calf Ayrshire 1. Elise Mercer
- Brown swiss 1. Karyssa Denney
- Grade holstein 1. Veronica Dirksen 2. Adalyn Broering
- Registered holstein 1. Veronica Dirksen 2. Corey Emery
- Milking shorthorn 1. Elise Mercer

- Summer yearling Ayrshire 1. Ava May
- Guernsey 1. Elise Mercer
- Grade holstein 1. Eli Dirksen 2. Henry Dirksen
- Registered holstein 1. Henry Dirksen
- Milking shorthorn 1. Nevaeh Brower
- Spring yearling Registered holstein 1. Courtney Harris
- Jersey 1. Kelsey Muhlenkamp
- Winter yearling Milking shorthorn 1. Nevaeh Brower
- Guernsey 1. Elise Mercer
- Registered holstein 1. Eli Dirksen
- Jersey 1. Kelsey Muhlenkamp

- Junior 2-year-old Brown swiss 1. Elise Mercer
- Grade holstein 1. Wyatt Alley
- Milking yearling Registered holstein 1. Courtney Harris
- Aged cow Registered holstein 1. Porter Clamme
- Dry cow Ayrshire 1. Corey Emery 2. Karyssa Denney
- Showmanship Junior: Adalyn Broering Intermediate: Veronica Dirksen
- Junior champion ayrshire Champion: Elise Mercer Reserve champion: Ava May
- Junior champion guernsey Champion: Elise Mercer Reserve champion: Elise Mercer

- Junior champion brown swiss Champion: Karyssa Denney
- Junior champion grade holstein Champion: Paul Dirksen Reserve champion: Veronica Dirksen
- Junior champion registered holstein Champion: Porter Clamme Reserve champion: Courtney Harris
- Junior champion jersey Champion: Bailey Muhlenkamp Reserve champion: Kelsey Muhlenkamp
- Junior champion milk-shorthorn Champion: Elise Mercer Reserve champion: Nevaeh Brower
- Grand champion dairy heifer Reserve champion: Porter Clamme

- Grand champion brown swiss Champion: Elise Mercer Reserve champion: Karyssa Denney
- Grand champion ayrshire Champion: Corey Emery Reserve champion: Elise Mercer
- Grand champion guernsey Champion: Elise Mercer Reserve champion: Elise Mercer
- Grand champion grade holstein Champion: Wyatt Alley Reserve champion: Paul Dirksen
- Grand champion registered holstein Champion: Courtney Harris Reserve champion: Porter Clamme
- Grand champion milk-shorthorn Champion: Elise Mercer Reserve champion: Nevaeh Brower

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Impossible, but true

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 10 8 2
♥ J 8 3
♦ 9 7 5
♣ Q 8 5 2

WEST
♠ A K J 9 5
♥ K 5
♦ A 6 4 2
♣ K 4

EAST
♠ 6 3
♥ A Q 10 7 6
♦ K Q J
♣ A J 10

SOUTH
♠ Q 7 4
♥ 9 4 2
♦ 10 8 3
♣ 9 7 6 3

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

Opening lead — king of spades.
This deal occurred about 60 years ago in a team match in England. Although the story might seem incredible, it actually happened. South was the type who liked to stir things up with a psychic bid every now and then. On this occasion, he was unable to resist the impulse to open the bidding with one spade, despite being vulnerable. West had doubts that this contract would be made but passed to await developments. After North also passed, East doubled for takeout. South ran to two clubs, fearing that West would leave the double in. West doubled, and this became the final contract. West led the king of spades and shifted to the king and another heart. East cashed the A-Q of hearts and led the king of diamonds, on which West played the deuce. East then returned his remaining spade, allowing West to score the A-J. West exited with a low diamond to East's jack and overtook the queen-of-diamonds return with the ace. Nine tricks had been played thus far, and the defense had won them all. South in the meantime had been reduced to the four trumps in his hand and the four in dummy. West now led his last diamond. Dummy trumped low, and East overruffed with the ten. East returned a heart, trumped by West with the king. East still had the A-J of clubs over dummy's Q-8, so declarer lost all 13 tricks. Down eight — 2,300 points!

This result didn't turn out to be as horrendous as it might seem. At the other table, South's teammates bid seven hearts with the East-West cards and made the grand slam when the hearts broke evenly for a score of 1,510. The team's net loss was thus "only" 790 points. But the first result strikes us as being far more remarkable, as that East-West pair made their grand slam in clubs with only five trumps!

Tomorrow: An insurance policy.
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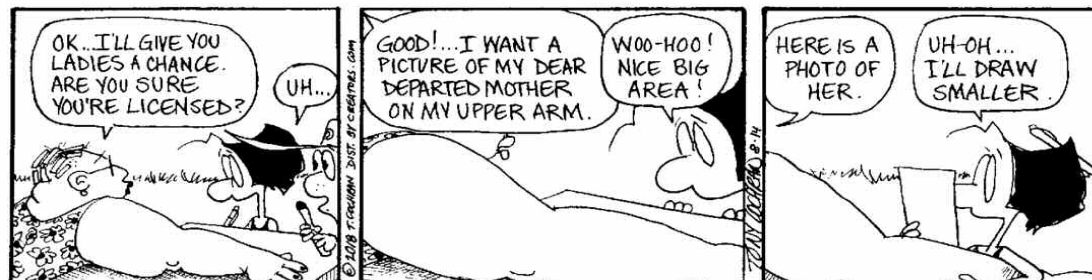
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



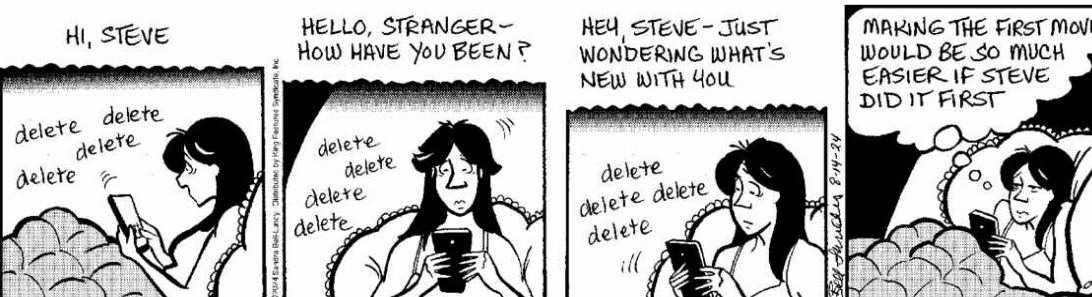
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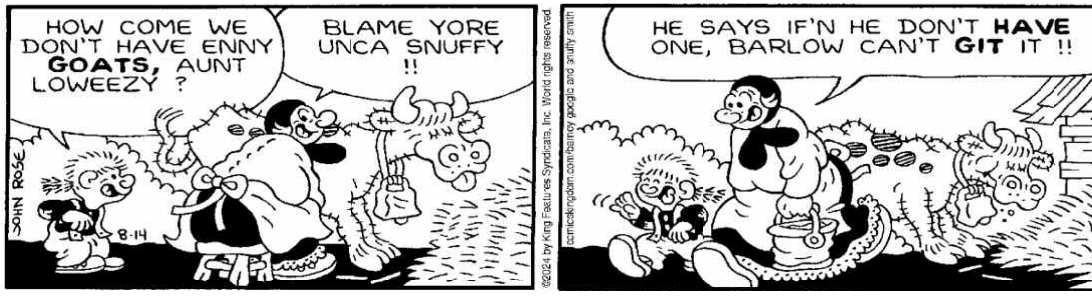
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



CRYPTOQUIP

FRSH CRBC KSAANF JHSSTSP
BKCSL GNHJZEDHI B PNTSH
NL JN HZCJ, FS GNZAP RSBL
RDE IN "GB-JRSF!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF THE HERO OF "THE LION KING" BRINGS GREAT FORTUNE, ONE COULD CALL HIM A SIMBA OF GOOD LUCK.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals G

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
44 Spy org.
1 That fellow
4 Monumental
8 Unspoken feeling
12 GI entertainers
13 Japanese soup
14 Hibernia
15 Day-paint
16 Katharine Ross role of 1969
18 Nymph pursuer
20 Twitch
21 Pet food brand
24 Metric measures
28 Wherever
32 Sea predator
33 Middling grade
34 Pub projectiles
36 "Nasty!"
37 Tide type
39 Lose
41 Goof
43 British pianist
Hess

DOWN
4 Green gem
5 Deep hole
6 Follower (Suff.)
7 Nail polish layer
8 Zipper substitute
9 Lyricist Gershwin
10 Pen name
11 Compass dir.
17 Glutton
19 Shriek bark
22 Polite address
23 Curtain fabric
25 "Tosca" debating solo
40 Chou En-tai
42 Tear orders
47 Designer Spade
48 Dutch export
49 Swift jets
50 Zing
51 Oklahoma city
52 Rock's Ocasek
53 Shapiro of NPR
54 Half-coffee mix

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-14

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Sports

Indians shoot down Flyers

Midwest Athletic Conference play is officially underway and the Indians couldn't have had a better start.

The Fort Recovery High School girls golf team dominated the Marion Local Flyers for a 197-221 victory on Monday morning at Portland Golf Club.

All six Indians shot better scores than the Flyers. Eva Kahlig finished with the high for FRHS (2-2, 1-0 MAC), shooting a 53 which was one stroke better than the MLHS low of 54. Both Haley Everman and Elise Mescher ended with 54s for Marion Local.

Three of the Indians' golfers kept their score under 50, including match medalist Olivia Knapke. The junior started off the day with a 15-foot putt to make par on the 275-yard, par-4 first hole, and added another par on hole No. 6, a 401-yard, par-5, en route to a 48.

Georgia Wenning had a career day out of the No. 5 position to score a 49, tying the Indians' No. 2 golfer, Emma Will. Wenning hovered around a double-bogey on each hole, while shooting three bogeys and a par on the eighth hole to start the match. Will's round consisted of a pair of parrs on the second and ninth holes and three straight bogeys from hole No. 3 to No. 5.

Evvie Briner also had a career day, shooting a 51 to contribute the final score for Fort Recovery and score for the first time on

FRHS dominates Marion Local with top six golfers in the match

varsity. A birdie on the first hole, followed by a par on the second ended up being the highlight of her round.

Despite putting up their best matches of the season, Mallory Evers' and Kahlig's scores of 52 and 53 did not impact the final, but netted them extra MAC points.

The junior varsity team also pulled out a win, beating the Flyers 230-231.

Layla Armstrong shot the low of 54 for the JV, while Rylee Bubb's 58 was the low among the golfers to play a full nine holes. (Only the No. 1 and 2 golfers from each team played all nine holes, while the other five played eight to save time.)

Other scores came from Liza Knapke (56) and Macy Kaffenberger (62). Other scores include Emily Boeckman shooting a 69 over nine holes and Kyra Brunswick with 64 and Brooklyn Wycuff with a 69 both through eight holes.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Georgia Wenning of Fort Recovery High School hits her iron on the sixth hole at Portland Golf Club on Monday morning. Wenning shot a 49 to help the Indians to a 197-221 victory over Marion Local.

Contact Lindsey at L.Cochran@the-cr.com or (260) 726-8141

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Jay picks up first win against ACAC opponent

FORT WAYNE — Maddy Snow didn't have the start she would have wanted in the first two invitationals of the year.

The senior didn't waste any time getting back into form in the first dual match of the season.

Snow claimed match medalist honors, shooting a 47 to lead the Jay County High School girls golf team to a 224-229 victory over the Heritage Patriots on Monday at McMillen Golf Course.

Snow's performance included the only par from any player, as she completed the 315-yard sixth hole in just four strokes.

She also led JCHS (1-0, 1-0 Allen County Athletic Conference) with five bogeys on holes No. 1, 2, 5, 7 and 8.

Brooklynn Bright added the second-best score for Jay County, shooting a 56 to tie Heritage's top performers of Aubree Rebeck and Morgan Comment. Bright shot a pair of bogeys on the second and eighth holes.

Three strokes behind Bright was freshman Bailey Towell with a 59. Towell made bogey once on the 110-yard, par-3 first hole.

Erin Aker rounded out the scoring with a 62.

In their varsity debuts, Jacee Rowles and Jenna Bricker both shot 66s, not impacting the final score.

Local roundup

Tribe earns MAC win

CELINA, Ohio — The Fort Recovery boys golf team got one step closer to climbing the Midwest Athletic Conference rankings Monday by taking down the Marion Local Flyers 174-182 at Mercer County Elks.

MLHS claimed the match medalist as Grant Kramer shot a 40, but the Indians (2-1, 1-0 MAC) got a trio of low rounds to drive their score. Reece LeFevre, Keegan Muhlenkamp and Caleb Smith all finished with 43s to lead FRHS.

Muhlenkamp had a pair of birdies to propel his round on the first and eighth holes (both par-5s). LeFevre also had a birdie, while making par four times to support it. Smith played a more even round with three pars, five bogeys and only one double-bogey.

Eli Lennartz, Riley Grieshop and Colson Post all shot 45s to provide the last score for Fort Recovery. All three players beat out the Flyer's second best score of 46 from Ryan Schweiterman.

U.S. loses appeal for Chiles' medal

By ILIANA LIMON ROMERO and THUC NHI NGUYEN

Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

USA Gymnastics' latest appeal to keep Jordan Chiles' Olympic bronze medal was denied, but the organization pledged to keep fighting on her behalf.

In a statement posted on X, USA Gymnastics announced the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) notified the organization Monday that "rules do not allow for an arbitral award to be reconsidered even when conclusive new evidence is presented."

Hours after the International Olympic Committee ruled that the Chiles should return her medal because of a score change, USA Gymnastics submitted its appeal with CAS video evidence showing Chiles' coach submitted her appeal of the judges' scoring error was within the time limits required — and not four seconds late as CAS had originally determined.

USA Gymnastics stated the appeal process was far from over.

"We are deeply disappointed by the notification and will continue to pursue every possible avenue and appeal process, including to the Swiss Federal Tribunal, to ensure the just scoring placement, and medal award for Jordan."

See Loses page 9

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