

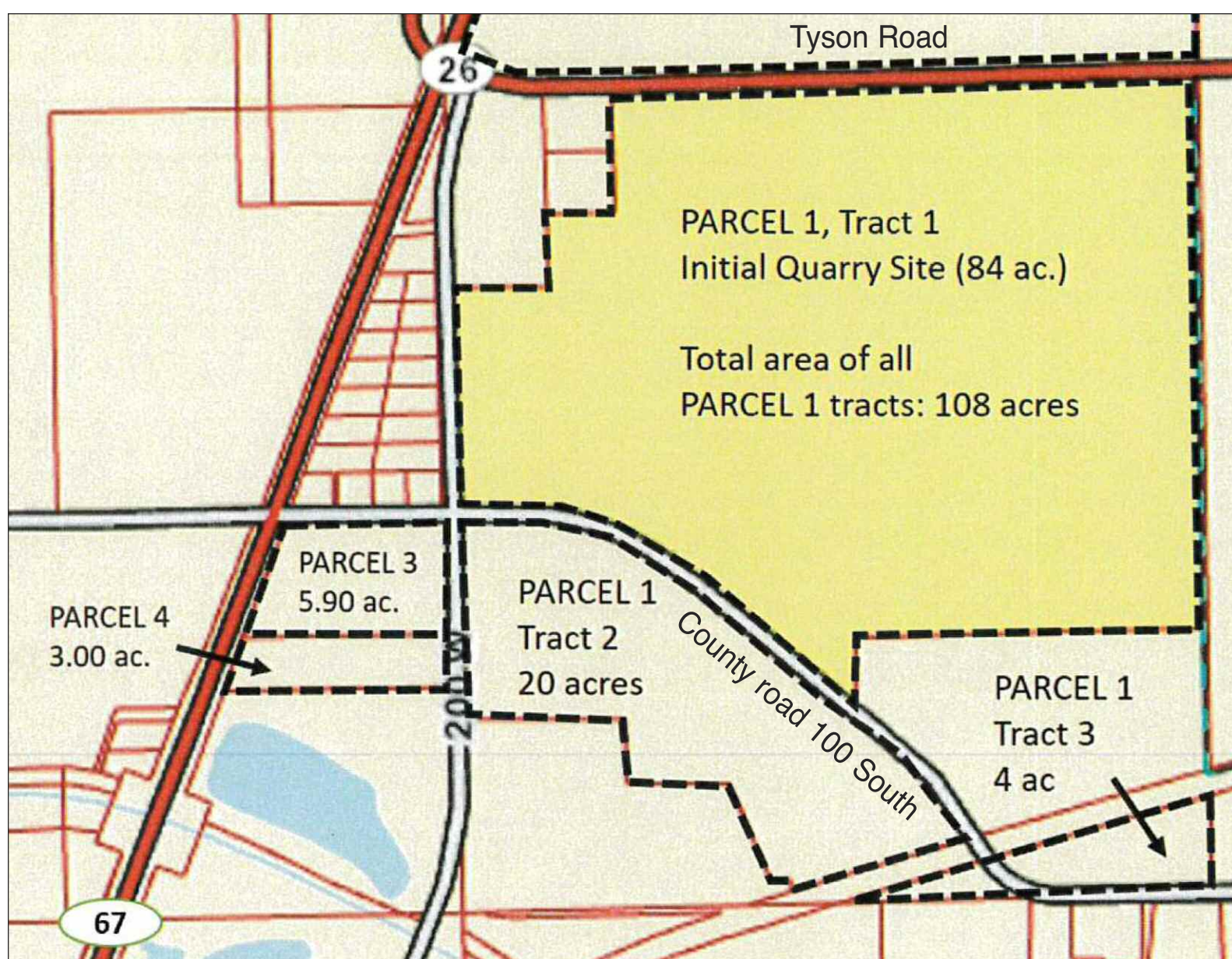
The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Quarry queries



The Heritage Group

This map provided by The Heritage Group, parent company of U.S. Aggregates, shows parcels of land the company is requesting be rezoned as the first step toward expanding its stone quarry operation north of its current site. The initial request had included additional land north of Tyson Road, but after concerns were raised by Jay-Portland Building and Planning Department, that section will no longer be part of the request. (The Commercial Review has added indicators for Tyson Road and county road 100 South to supplement the graphic.)

Commission members, residents raise questions regarding proposed expansion of U.S. Aggregates

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

The local stone quarry is hoping to expand its operation north of its current site.

Some local residents would prefer that it not be allowed to do so.

U.S. Aggregates, during a Portland Plan Commission public hearing Thursday, presented information about the proposed expansion of its quarry to land that sits between county road 100 South (Seventh Street) and Tyson Road, just east of county road 200 West. More than a dozen area residents raised a variety of concerns both in person

and via letters, saying they feel rezoning — the first step in the process — should not be approved.

The plan commission did not vote Thursday. Jay-Portland Building and Planning director John Hemmelgarn explained that he had expressed concerns about one of the four parcels, located north of Tyson Road, included in the rezoning request. U.S. Aggregates, he said, has since decided to remove that parcel from its request, with a hearing on rezoning of the other three parcels likely to be scheduled for April.

U.S. Aggregates representatives — president John Schmidt, director of sales Caleb Brown and area operations manager Eric Reynolds — presented the company's plans, which would require rezoning of three parcels of land, the bulk of which sits between Tyson Road and county road 100 South, just east of county road 200 West. The parcels combine to cover about 115 acres.

The company's intention, if the land is rezoned and other requirements are met, is to invest more than \$10 million dollars in expanding the quarry over the next three to five years.

They explained that the current quarry site has enough material to continue to operate for three to five years. They estimated the proposed expansion location would add another 30 years of operation.

The company's representatives repeatedly emphasized that the quarry has done business in the community for about 50 years — it previously operated as Meshberger Brothers before being purchased by The Heritage Group, parent company of U.S. Aggregates, in 2012 — and their feeling that they have been a good neighbor. See Quarry page 2

Tempers flare during House debate

Lawmakers were at odds over school measure

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Tempers flared among Indiana legislators during a debate Thursday when Black lawmakers were shouted down and booed by some Republicans and two House members had to be separated in a hallway.

Democratic Rep. Greg Porter of Indianapolis, who is Black, was speaking in the Indiana House against a bill allowing a rural, mostly white, St. Joseph County township to leave the South Bend Community Schools, which is about 60% Black or Hispanic, when he called the proposal discriminatory.

Several Republican members said loudly “no” and “stop,” after which Porter, who was wearing traditional African clothing in recognition of Black History Month, left the House meeting room.

The debate continued and Democratic Rep. Vernon Smith of Gary, who is also Black, called the bill racist. Smith also faced boos and some Republican members started leaving the room.

A confrontation soon erupted in a hallway between Republican Sean Eberhart of Shelbyville and Democratic Rep. Vanessa Summers of Indianapolis, another Black lawmaker, and they were separated by other legislators.

Summers said she doesn't remember what was said in the heat of the moment but admitted she “has a mouth” and may have used strong language. She said she was calling out another Republican, though, when Eberhart thought she was talking to him.

“He just went off and got mad and tried to hit me,” Summers told The Indianapolis Star. “I felt in danger for my life.” See Tempers page 2

Joining discussions

By MATTHEW LEE
AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration says it's ready to join talks with Iran and world powers to discuss a return to the 2015 nuclear deal, in a sharp repudiation of former President Donald Trump's “maximum pressure campaign” that sought to isolate the Islamic Republic.

The administration also took two steps at the United Nations aimed at restoring policy to what it was before Trump withdrew from the deal in 2018. The combined actions were immediately criticized by Iran hawks and drew concern from Israel, which said it was committed to keeping Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

Besides signaling Thursday a willingness to talk with Iran, the administration also reversed

Trump's determination that all U.N. sanctions against Iran had been restored. And, it eased stringent restrictions on the domestic travel of Iranian diplomats posted to the United Nations.

The State Department announced the moves following discussions between Secretary of State Antony Blinken and his British, French and German counterparts and as Biden prepares to participate, albeit virtu-

ally, in his first major international events with world leaders.

The announcement came a day before Biden is to speak to leaders of the Group of Seven industrialized democracies and address the annual Munich Security Conference. At both, Biden is expected to discuss his commitment to diplomacy and his desire to undo damage that Trump's positions may have caused over the previous four years.

See Joining page 5

Biden says U.S. will look at rejoining Iran nuclear deal



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Cold collection

City of Portland workers ride on the back of a truck while picking up trash Thursday morning. Trash pick-up was delayed this week, first because of the President's Day holiday and then excessive snow that fell Monday and Tuesday.

Weather

The high temperature was 25 degrees Thursday in Jay County, with a couple of inches of snow falling early in the day. The low was 14.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low of 1 with wind chills as low as minus 10 and flurries possible after midnight. Expect partly

sunny skies Saturday with a high nearly 22.

Highs are expected to climb into the 30s beginning Sunday. Rain and snow are likely Sunday evening, with less than an inch of accumulation expected.

For an extended outlook, see page 2.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday across from Pennville Fire Station and 9 a.m. to noon in the parking lot at 220 Lincoln St., Portland.

Coming up

Saturday — Results from today's opening round of the wrestling state finals.

Tuesday — Coverage of Monday's Dunkirk City Council meeting.



Lawmakers seek to expand vouchers

By TOM DAVIES and CASEY SMITH
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — More than one-third of the proposed state funding hike for Indiana schools could go toward the state's private school voucher program under a Republican-backed plan that could boost the program's cost by nearly 50% over the next two years.

The estimated \$144 million cost for the voucher expansion and a new program allowing

parents to directly spend state money on their child's education expenses is included in legislative budget projections — but is more than double what House Republicans discussed in releasing their state budget plan last week.

Republicans tout their proposal as giving parents more choices over how to educate their children, while Democrats and other opponents argue that it further drains funding from traditional school districts while they are

struggling to find ways to boost the state's lagging teacher pay.

Overall, House Republicans propose increasing the base funding for K-12 schools by 1.25% during the first year and 2.5% in the second year of the new budget that would start in July. That would mean about \$378 million more for total school funding over the two years — with about \$200 million going to traditional public schools that have about 1 million students.

"Lawmakers are prioritizing expanding school choice that benefits a small percentage of students in Indiana, and it's at the detriment of adequate funding for public education," said Terry Spradlin, the Indiana School Boards Association's executive director.

Three former state education superintendents have additionally spoken out against expansion plans which they say divert "adequate and equitable funding" away from public schools

and open the door to "unacceptable practices."

The private school voucher changes approved by the House this week would raise income eligibility for a family of four from the current roughly \$96,000 a year to about \$145,000 in 2022. It also would allow all those students to receive the full voucher amount, rather than the current tiered system that limits full vouchers to such families with incomes of about \$48,000.

CR almanac

Saturday 2/20	Sunday 2/21	Monday 2/22	Tuesday 2/23	Wednesday 2/24
22/13	35/31	35/29	38/31	39/29
Warmer at night. Mostly sunny during the day. Wind chill values as low as -10. No snow is projected.	Warmer with a 70% chance of rain/snow in the late afternoon. Otherwise mostly cloudy.	Similar temperatures as Sunday under mostly cloudy skies. No snow is projected.	Mostly sunny with temperatures peaking above freezing during the day.	Warmer temperatures with mostly cloudy skies. No snow is currently projected.

Quarry ...

Continued from page 1
They noted the tens of thousands of tons of stone that Jay County Highway Department gets from the quarry each year and that if the quarry were to shut down, it would result in increased costs to truck in stone from other quarries for local projects.

U.S. Aggregates officials emphasized to plan commission members Kyle Cook, Don Gillespie, Steve McIntosh, Lee Newman, Kent McClung, Janet Powers, Bart Darby and Ron Laux that they feel the company has been a good partner in the community and follows a variety of government regulations to make sure that the operation runs safely and does not damage nearby properties.

"It's key that we do this in a responsible manner," said Reynolds.

Before turning over the session for public comment, plan commission members raised several concerns, including noise, impact on wildlife, increased traffic (specifically in regard to nearby Jay County Junior-Senior High School), dust and the shift of the operation closer to the city.

The majority of the discussion with the plan commission focused on potential future plans to vacate a section of county road 100 South and constructing a new road to run north and intersect with Tyson Road. U.S. Aggregates officials explained that such a request is only a potential future plan and the expansion of the quarry does not require such a change. (If such a change would be implemented, it

would require a separate approval process.)

Concerns from members of the public, addressed in letters read by Hemmelgarn and in-person comments, echoed some of the concerns raised by plan commission members and generally focused on the following issues:

•Blasting — That the blasting required for mining the stone could lead to damage to homes and to underground sewer and natural gas lines. Also that it could occur at any time and disrupt life in the area.

•Traffic — That it would increase in the area, especially causing problems when traffic is already heavier at the beginning and end of the school day and during school events.

•Dust — That there would be excessive dust from blasting and crushing stone, potentially leading to health problems.

•Water quality — That the availability of water, via wells, and its quality would be negatively impacted by the presence of a mining operation.

•Property values — Residents indicated that they believe their property values will go down because of proximity to a stone quarry. Other concerns mentioned included that such an operation would be an eyesore, have a negative impact on wildlife in the area and contribute to soil erosion.

The letters included one from Jay School Corporation superintendent Jeremy Guley, who asked that any vote on the rezoning be delayed until there has been more time to review information about the proposal. Joe Acker, plant manager of Tyson Mexican

Original in Portland, said the company would also like additional to determine its position on the project and that it has concerns about the impact dust could have on its filtration systems.

Kevin Inman, who lives nearby on Tyson Road, expressed trust in the plan commission to evaluate the proposal and make a good decision.

Having previously heard concerns from some residents, U.S. Aggregates had already addressed some of them during its presentation.

On blasting, Reynolds noted that blasting occurs only two to three times a month, typically around noon. He said the company provides pre-blast notification for residents who request it. He added that blasts are regulated by the U.S. Bureau of Mines sets regulations for vibrations per square inch and that Indiana's restrictions are even more strict.

Addressing traffic, Reynolds indicated that U.S. Aggregates does not plan to use Indiana 67 or Tyson Road. Rather, it is hoping to rehabilitate a county road 200 West bridge over the Salamonie River that is now closed. The bridge would provide direct access from the proposed new quarry site to its current location.

Reynolds added that mining operations are regulated by various federal and state agencies regarding water, air and dust. He answered the aesthetics concern by pointing out that an earthen berm a minimum of 100 feet wide would be built around the new quarry site.

In addition to the con-

cerns about the quarry itself, several of those in attendance were unhappy that they had not been notified of the potential project.

Addressing that concern, Hemmelgarn noted that the building and planning department — not the company — is required by state statute to send notices to adjoining property owners.

Newman called the meeting to a close after two hours of presentation and questions. He suggested that U.S. Aggregates address the concerns raised at Thursday's meeting via public forums and other outreach. (The Commercial Review plans to set up a meeting with representatives of the company to discuss the various issues that were brought up at the meeting.) U.S. Aggregates has also scheduled a presentation for March 2 — the location has yet to be finalized — for the firm that handles its blasting to explain its process and answer questions.

The rezoning request is just the first step in the process toward potentially allowing a mining operation on the land in question. If plan commission approves the rezoning, it would then need to also be approved by Portland City Council. U.S. Aggregates would then need to seek a special exception for mining through the city's board of zoning appeals.

Also Thursday, the board re-elected Newman as its president, Darby as its vice president and McClung as its secretary. The board appointed Pati McLaughlin as its recording secretary and Bill Hinkle as its legal counsel. It named Laux as its representative on Jay County Plan Commission.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$78 million
Estimated jackpot: \$95,000

Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$20 million
Ohio Midday Pick 3: 4-9-8 Pick 4: 5-4-5-3 Pick 5: 0-5-5-8-0

Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 6-2-8 Daily Four: 4-0-6-4 Evening Daily Three: 4-1-0 Daily Four: 3-6-8-8 Quick Draw: 3-6-8-10-19-20-24-29-37-43-45-49-52-55-57-58-61-70-75-77 Cash 5: 16-23-25-29-40
Evening Pick 3: 9-4-6 Pick 4: 2-0-8-3 Pick 5: 1-8-8-2-8 Rolling Cash: 13-19-25-28-30 Estimated jackpot: \$430,000

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery

Corn.....5.58
Wheat6.22

POET Biorefining Portland

Corn.....5.63
March corn5.59

The Andersons Richland Township

Corn.....5.43
March corn5.48
Beans13.91
March beans13.91
Wheat6.57
March wheat6.57

Central States Montpelier

Corn.....5.38
March corn5.41
Beans13.78
March beans13.78
Wheat6.41
March wheat6.43

Sunrise St. Anthony

Corn.....5.20
March corn5.23
Beans13.63
March beans13.69
Wheat6.31
March wheat.....6.31

Today in history

On Feb. 19, 1942, during World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which paved the way for the relocation and internment of people of Japanese ancestry, including U.S.-born citizens. Imperial Japanese warplanes raided the Australian city of Darwin; at least 243 people were killed.

In 1807, former Vice President Aaron Burr, accused of treason, was arrested in the Mississippi Territory, in present-day Alabama. (Burr was acquitted at trial.)

In 1878, Thomas Edison received a U.S. patent for "an improvement in phonograph or speaking machines."

In 1945, Operation Detachment began during World War II as some 30,000 U.S. Marines began landing on Iwo Jima, where they commenced a successful month-long battle to seize control of the

island from Japanese forces.

In 1968, the children's program "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," created by and starring Fred Rogers, made its network debut on National Educational Television, a forerunner of PBS, beginning a 31-season run.

In 1971, the Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team racked up its 19th consecutive victory 74-64 over Mississinawa Valley.

In 1976, President Gerald R. Ford, calling the issuing of the internment order for people of Japanese ancestry in 1942 "a sad day in American history," signed a proclamation formally confirming its termination.

In 2008, an ailing Fidel Castro resigned the Cuban presidency after nearly a half-century in power; his brother Raul was later named to succeed him.

—AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday
9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
3:30 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, district office, 5948 W. Indiana 67, 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.

Tuesday
5 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.

Tempers ...

Continued from page 1
Eberhart said he was called a racist and verbally attacked by Summers.

"I was confronted by Vanessa (Summers) and accused of being discriminatory and racist toward people in general," Eberhart said. "That's totally not factual. I don't have a racist bone in my body."

The Republican-dominated House narrowly approved the school district bill on a 52-43 vote as 14 Repub-

licans joined Democrats in voting against the proposal.

Republican House Speaker Todd Huston later urged all legislators to show respect for each other and not question the motives of others.

"We're going to disagree. That's part of the process," Huston said. "But we're going to do it in a respectful way. I'm going to enforce our rules in a more strident manner."

Summers, a House member since

1991, said relationships between Republicans and Democrats feel different this session, fueled by debates over racism following last year's deaths of George Floyd and other unarmed Black people at the hands of police.

"Everybody over there is racist and discriminatory," Summers said of House Republicans. "Those that aren't and are not standing up for what's right, they've got white privilege and they're racist, too."

INDOT set to study U.S. 30

By LISA ESQUIVEL LONG
Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly

The Indiana Department of Transportation will begin a much fought for environmental study needed to turn the U.S. 30 corridor from Valparaiso to the Ohio state line into a limited access freeway.

The study, known as a Planning and Environment Linkages study, is a faster process developed under the Trump administration to speed up the permit process.

New roads require full environmental impact studies, but this will be a less extensive one.

"It's fast, it's lots less expensive" than the original \$25 million study that regional business leaders had been advocating for, said Bill Konyha, CEO and president of the Regional Chamber of Northeast Indiana.

The project is expected to improve safety and advance the economy of the region and the state.

According to an INDOT analysis, it will reduce the number of accidents along the corridor by 323 per year, reduce the number of fatalities by four per year, create 10,000 new jobs and add \$900 million in real personal income growth.

SERVICES

Saturday

Wolters, Lavern: 10:30 a.m., Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 120 E. Main St., Coldwater, Ohio.
Alsip, Maurice: 11 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.
Teeter-Fox, Lauranna: 4 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

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FR charities raise \$16.7k

Charities in Fort Recovery raised more than \$16,700 last year.

Fort Recovery Combined Charities recently released its campaign report for 2020, showing \$16,741 total in donations. That is a decrease of about \$2,900 from 2019.

The Center for Neurological Development received the most donations at \$2,357. Other charities listed in the report included Mercer County Right to Life (\$1,977), State of the Heart Home Health and Hospice (\$1,853.50), The Cancer Association of Mercer County (\$1,797), The Fort Recovery Community Foundation (\$1,540), Fort Recovery Friends of the Library (\$1,408.50), Project Recov-

Taking Note

ery (\$997.50) and Fort Recovery Historical Society (\$972.50).

Also included were the following charities: Fort Recovery Academic Boosters (\$677), Our Home Family Resource Center (\$671), Fort Recovery Girl Scouts (\$592.50), Fort Recovery Boy Scouts (\$523.50), Fort Recovery 4-H Club (\$510), Fort Recovery Ministerial Association (\$441) and M.A.V. (Mercer, Auglaize and Van Wert counties) Youth Mentoring (\$423).

Turtles saved by Navy pilots

By ALEX HORTON

Special to The Washington Post

Will Bellamy spotted two injured birds along the Texas coast earlier this week, and the self-described animal lover delivered them to conservationists for care. But the conservationists had a message themselves, he said: watch out for distressed sea turtles.

The deadly winter storm that swept across Texas and parts of the South knocked out power and water for millions. It also created a catastrophe for animals statewide — including for sea turtles prone to freezing in frigid waters.

Bellamy, an Army and Marine Corps veteran who served in Iraq and Haiti, spotted some turtles Tuesday with his son Jerome. But he needed help. He alerted Capt. Christopher Jason, the commander of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi in southeastern

Texas, and his wife, Cheryl Jason. The commander grabbed his kayak, paddled into the cold waves and retrieved a lapful of cold-shocked turtles.

But the next day, on Bellamy's turtle patrol, the situation became far more urgent, he said, and one that would require a lot more hands.

"It was like an apocalypse of turtles littered on the beach," Bellamy told The Washington Post in a phone interview Thursday.

More than 800 turtles have since been plucked from Laguna Madre by a ragtag group of about 50 Navy pilots and flight students, military spouses, family members and military retirees, said Biji Pandisseril, the Navy installation's environmental manager. More turtles are still coming in, he said, and some have died.

Green sea turtles, listed as a

threatened species, feast on grasses found in the waters of Laguna Madre, but in winter weather, the chilling shallow water zaps strength from the cold-blooded reptiles. They become immobile and unable to power their fins to warmer, deeper waters, putting them at risk of dying of predation or exposure, according to the National Park Service. Some wash ashore like driftwood.

Rescuing "cold-stunned" turtles has become an annual routine in Texas, with dozens or hundreds aided in a typical year, Sanjuana Zavala, a spokeswoman for the conservation group Sea Turtle Inc. told The Post.

But with the weather so much more severe, thousands of turtles have been rescued in the larger effort this week. Many could die if facilities that care for them don't get power soon, the group has said.

Grandmothers refuse to give practical gifts

DEAR ABBY: Our 11-year-old has learned to lie, and we feel terrible about it. Because she has a sensory processing disorder, clothes are a useless gift because the seams and fabric are often uncomfortable for her. We have repeatedly asked family and friends not to gift her clothes, but her grandmas are in denial and often do it anyway.

Our sweet daughter has decided that sparing their feelings is more important than asserting her own, and I'm worried this behavior will teach her that her feelings are less important than other people's. How do we teach her to be polite and honor her own feelings and wishes without offending well-meaning relatives who cannot understand that she doesn't appreciate or value these gifts? — MAMA BEAR IN TEXAS

DEAR MAMA BEAR: Of

Dear Abby



course your daughter should be taught that her feelings — and opinions — are important. But accepting gifts graciously is proper etiquette. It is considered rude for a recipient to tell folks their gifts are unwelcome or unwanted.

It would not be rude, however, for YOU to run interference by reminding these clueless grannies about your daughter's problem and telling them what has been happening to their impractical gifts — that they are given away, donated, etc. because she cannot wear

them. A far more welcome gift would be something she's interested in or a gift card to a store that carries items she might like. Then suggest an area of interest of hers they may be unaware of. Also, for "insurance," request a receipt be included with the gift.

DEAR ABBY: I've been dating my boyfriend for two years. We're in our 40s. I moved to the city he lives in, but he's currently working in a different state, and he has been extremely stressed these last few weeks. He's paying rent and utilities in our state as well as the state he's working in.

He says he is overwhelmed and wants to take a break — from me! He also said he's too emotionally unstable right now to continue our relationship. I'm devastated. I know he and his family have depression

issues, but I love him so much. He's unwilling to take any financial assistance from his family.

I don't know what to do. I don't want to end our relationship, but he's refusing to talk to me or discuss it. — OUT OF OPTIONS IN OHIO

DEAR OUT OF OPTIONS: After two years of dating and a life-changing move to his city, I can only imagine the turmoil you are feeling at this turn of events. The problems that are stressing him out are real. Because he's unwilling to talk to you, and you can't force him, there is nothing you can do to fix them.

If you plan to remain there hoping things will change, set a realistic time limit and stick to it. If the deadline passes and he still feels the same, then realize how important it is for you to live someplace where you have

the strongest emotional support as you rebuild your life. Write him a letter. Tell him you will always be there if he needs to talk, and encourage him to check back in with his doctor to address the depression.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Community Calendar

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

Today
CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will meet at noon Friday, Feb. 19, at Harmony Cafe in Portland. Members are encouraged to wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Saturday
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. upstairs at True Value Hardware, Meridian Street, Portland. For more information, call (260) 729-2532.

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third

Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is museumofthesoldier.com.

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

BRYANT AREA COMMUNITY CENTER — Walking from 9 to 10 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

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

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian

St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

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

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

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

THE LANDING — A 12-step program for those in sixth through 12th grade will meet at 5:55 p.m. each Tuesday at 2nd Chance at Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 703-0777 or (260) 726-5273.

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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.

BREAKING NEWS

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Valentine's came with a countdown

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Valentine's Day is a commercial holiday.

It's all about the "tokens of love." Get your valentine the richest chocolates, the biggest stuffed animals and the largest bouquets so they know your love is real, the advertisements imply.

It's goofy, but I still think it's fun to celebrate with family, friends and, if you've got one, a significant other.

When I was younger, my mom always set out candies and little goodies for me and my brother on Valentine's Day mornings before she left for work. Our aunt and grandmothers still send us a card or little gifts. Even if neither of us have a romantic valentine for the season, at least we have our families.

On the Line



In high school and college, my boyfriend Justin would show up armed with boxed chocolates and fluffy stuffed animals. I found one such teddy bear not too long ago while organizing the house and felt a warm stirring in my heart.

"Hey, remember getting this for me?" I called to him from across the room.

"Nope," he called back lovingly.

Something I treasure in our

relationship is the goofiness we share. Last year, instead of a card, Justin bought me a book intended for 5 year olds. The title reads, "I Love You More Than ..." and, as you can probably guess, it compares all the things your significant other supposedly loves you more than. According to the book, Justin loves me more than puppies.

So, that's definitely true love. (We'll pretend he isn't a cat person.)

We usually go to the movies for dates, but this year, Justin and I decided to travel a bit further. We visited Otherworld, an immersive art museum in Columbus, Ohio. With as many hands-on exhibits the surreal place has, I was surprised to see it still open despite the coronavirus pandemic. It

seems like the building would be difficult to sterilize.

After walking through four rooms filled with bright colors and bizarre sculptures, I noticed a hand sanitizer stand beside a doorway.

"Hey, look! Hand sanitizer," I exclaimed to Justin, running my hand under the sensor.

"You mean the stand that's in every room?" he gestured to the station in the next room.

Observation is not always one of my strong suits.

We took turns posing in photos with everything from a swamp monster to a room full of mirrors. Each room had some type of interaction for visitors, with one of our favorites being the control center. We toyed around with the cameras and spoke into microphones attached to other

rooms. Justin then noticed a big red button with a countdown.

We watched it count to zero, and the word "ready" appeared on the screen.

Hesitantly, I pressed the button.

That's when a video of Rick Astley appeared on all screens across the control center. Astley's hit single, "Never Gonna Give You Up," began blaring through the speakers for a solid 10 seconds. I've never been more excited to be Rick-rolled.

After we left the museum, we agreed it may be a fun place to bring our kids someday, years from now. If we decide to get married and have children, that is.

"If I can put up with you for that long," I teased Justin.

"If," he repeated.

Want electric? Raise the gas tax

The Washington Post

General Motors has promised to switch from being a manufacturer of gas-burning pickups and SUVs today to producing electric vehicles only by 2035. For climate change, this could be a step in the right direction, given that light-duty vehicles accounted for about 17% of U.S. carbon emissions in 2018. To be sure, fulfilling what GM itself carefully designated an "aspiration" presents technological and economic challenges. GM itself has wasted precious time and resources on recent mistakes — its attempt to partner with Nikola, a troubled start-up in hydrogen-fueled trucks, and its now-abandoned backing of Trump administration attempts to end California's tougher fuel-economy standards. As a GM official told the Detroit Free Press, "This is going to take the effort of a lot of people and a lot of governments to get there."

That allusion to "governments" sounds like a pitch for EV subsidies — vehicle purchase tax credits, investments in charging infrastructure and the like. But it can and should be interpreted to include other incentives for motorists to drive the already-existing 270 million petroleum-burning SUVs, pickup and cars less — and switch to gas-sipping alternatives sooner. The most powerful such incentive would be higher taxation of gasoline. It's hard to think of a single measure that would do more, more quickly, to create a market for the electric cars GM and others are promising. A 2018 study by Energy Innovation, a San Francisco-based firm, suggested that a 25-cent per gallon increase in federal gas taxes would result in about 1.2 million additional electric vehicles on the road by 2050.

The United States cannot logically pursue both a cheap gas policy and a pro-EV policy, yet that is roughly the status quo. The federal gas tax has been 18 cents a gallon since 1993, which means it has shrunk 44% in real terms since then. It would take a 14-cent per gallon increase to offset that erosion; and there is room for more without unduly

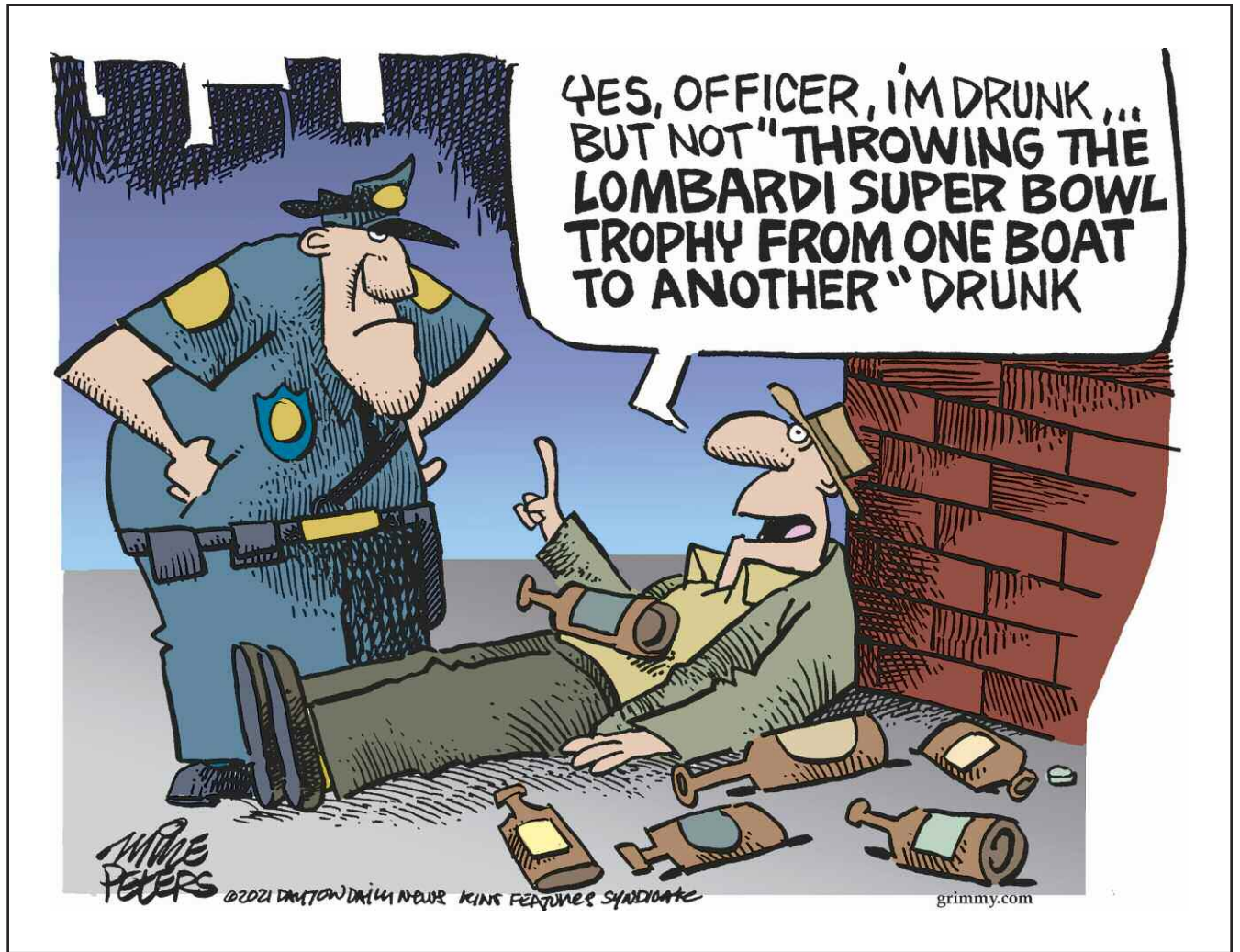
Guest Editorial

The United States cannot logically pursue both a cheap gas policy and a pro-EV policy, yet that is roughly the status quo.

burdening consumers. Even a 50-cent per gallon increase would only restore the total price of an average gallon of regular gas to where it was in 2009, adjusted for inflation, according to the federal Energy Information Administration. Each five-cent increase in the gasoline tax reduces U.S. gasoline consumption by 1.3% in the short-run, according to a 2012 study for the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Thus, a 50-cent increase could cut consumption by 13%, with all the carbon-reduction benefits that provides. Making such a tax permanent, and adjusting it for inflation annually, would create a permanent market signal.

Many states have recently adopted higher gas taxes to pay for highways, refuting the conventional wisdom that such policies are politically toxic. Like all excise taxes, gas taxes are regressive and should come with measures to protect the poor; but the higher new-car prices and nontransparent income transfers that result from current fuel-economy regulations and electric vehicle tax credits are regressive, too, and not transparent.

Too often, climate policy proposals imply Americans can enjoy a free lunch on the way to sustainability. Gas taxes are more honest.



'Fixed' income has its blessings

By MARK FRANKE

One thing we geezers, I mean senior citizens, are not so lovingly known for is constantly whining, I mean commenting, about being on a fixed income. Every time the price of gas goes up at the pump or groceries seem to cost more at checkout, an irritating choir of voices is heard about the unfairness of having to live on a fixed income.

Back when inflation was a real concern, there was some truth to this. Pensions, social security and other retirement incomes lagged by a year in giving cost of living increases and what did come was typically viewed as too little, too late. Of course the other problem was the questionable accuracy of the federal consumer price index in calculating what the typical household paid in prices for its so called market basket of goods and services. Given that retirees purchase different items on different frequencies than a young family, this could work against seniors. At least we all thought it did.

I will refrain from using that tired term, the new normal, but the times they are a'changing. Inflation is little more than an unpleasant memory, at least for most things. My cable TV and internet bill somehow goes up every six months or so and our local mayor wants to increase the food and beverage tax by a full percentage point, but I will stop there with the grousing.

Rather, I think this is a great time to be on a fixed income.

Think of the people who work in the restaurant, hospitality and

Mark Franke



tourism industries. Most are trying to live on significantly reduced incomes and many have lost their jobs, perhaps permanently. Then there are those who work for companies such as food wholesalers and equipment manufacturers which supply these hard-hit businesses. Which, in turn, affects those they buy from and those they buy from and so forth.

A friend who manages an American Legion post told me that he was able to bring all his employees back after the mandatory shutdown last spring but he estimates that their annual income was reduced by 20-25 percent due to lost hours and reduced tips after reopening to limited seating. Other posts, he said, permanently reduced staff and several never reopened. While this is not an empirical study on my part, one can easily extrapolate that across a large swath of the U. S. economy.

Sure, there were forgivable loans offered to employers and stimulus checks sent to workers and non-workers alike. A lucky group was able to collect unemployment benefits in excess of their regular wages, thanks to the economic geniuses who write laws in Congress. Americans who weren't suffering income loss responded by donations to charities and helped where and when they could.

My small part has been to tip 30 percent when at a restaurant or picking up carryout. That may seem like a lot, especially when my wife insists on going to up-scale places rather than the not so up-scale places I prefer like that American Legion post I mentioned above. It only costs me a few dollars a week but it can mean a lot to the struggling employees at these establishments.

I am not nominating myself for sainthood or a presidential citation since I just admitted that this hasn't cost me much. Think, though, how much it would do for these workers if everyone increased tipping by even a dollar each visit?

Many are, as evidenced by a story in my local newspaper, which quoted a waitress as thankful that her customers were tipping as much as 20 percent. This, she said, compared to her normal tip of only 10 percent. We Hoosiers are frugal, and I can think of several less complimentary terms for it, but we can and do respond when we see our neighbors in need. As well we should.

We seniors can share the blessing of a fixed income during a time when so many others deal with a reduced and uncertain income.

And then there has been those unexpected stimulus checks that most of us seniors received. So much for a fixed income.

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Franke is an adjunct scholar of the Indiana Policy Review and was previously an associate vice chancellor at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.

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In review

Back in

The United States officially returned to the Paris global climate accord today, and U.S. leaders declared the nation could not afford to ever sideline the growing climate crisis again.

“Climate change and science diplomacy can never again be ‘add-ons’ in our foreign policy discussions,” Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement, in what was expected to be a day of Biden administration outreach to global and domestic audiences touching on the U.S. recommitment to cutting climate-damaging fossil fuel emissions.

“Addressing the real threats from climate change and listening to our scientists is at the center of our domestic and foreign policy priorities,” Blinken said. “It is vital in our discussions of national security, migration, international health efforts, and in our economic diplomacy and trade talks.”

Appealed

HARTFORD, Conn. — Several former pro wrestlers who claimed in lawsuits that World Wrestling Entertainment failed to protect them from repeated head injuries are taking their case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

A lawyer for the former wrestlers filed a request late Wednesday asking the Supreme Court to hear appeals of lower court rulings that dismissed the lawsuits, saying they were filed after the statute of limitations expired. The WWE says the lawsuits are without merit and believes the appeals will not succeed.

The plaintiffs include William “Billy Jack” Haynes, Matthew “Luther Reigns” Wiese and others.

Awarded

LONDON — Uber drivers in Britain should be classed as “workers” and not self-employed, the U.K. Supreme Court ruled today, in a decision that threatens the company’s business model and holds broader implications for the so-called gig economy.

The ruling paves the way for Uber drivers to get benefits such as paid holidays and the minimum wage, handing defeat to the ride-hailing giant in the culmination of a long-running legal battle.

The Supreme Court’s seven judges unanimously rejected Uber’s appeal against an employment tribunal ruling, which had found that two Uber drivers were “workers” under British law.

—Associated Press

Power returns; water woes rise

By PAUL J. WEBER and ACACIA CORONADO
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Many of the millions of Texans who lost power for days after a deadly winter blast overwhelmed the electric grid now have it back, but the crisis was far from over in parts of the South, with many people lacking safe drinking water.

More than 190,000 homes and businesses remained without power in Texas according to poweroutage.us this morning, down from about 3 million two days earlier, though utility officials said limited rolling blackouts were still possible.

The storms also left more than 330,000 from Virginia to Louisiana without power and about 71,000 in Oregon were still enduring a weeklong outage following a massive ice and snow storm.

The snow and ice moved into

the Appalachians, northern Maryland and southern Pennsylvania, and later the Northeast as the extreme weather was blamed for the deaths of at least 58 people, including a Tennessee farmer trying to save two calves that apparently wandered into a frozen pond and 17-year-old Oklahoma girl who fell into a frozen pond.

A growing number of people have perished trying to keep warm. In and around the western Texas city of Abilene, authorities said six people died of the cold — including a 60-year-old man found dead in his bed in his frigid home. In the Houston area, a family died from carbon monoxide as their car idled in their garage.

Utilities from Minnesota to Texas used rolling blackouts to ease strained power grids. But the remaining Texas outages were mostly weather-related, according to the state’s grid manager,

the Electric Reliability Council of Texas.

Federal Emergency Management Agency acting administrator Bob Fenton said today that teams were in Texas with fuel, water, blankets and other supplies.

“What has me most worried is making sure that people stay warm,” Fenton said on “CBS This Morning,” while urging people without heat to go to a shelter or warming center.

Rotating outages for Texas could return if electricity demand rises as people get power and heating back, said Dan Woodfin, the council’s senior director of system operations.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott warned that residents “are not out of the woods,” with temperatures still well below freezing statewide, south central Texas threatened by a winter storm and disruptions in food supply chains.

Adding to the misery: The

weather jeopardized drinking water systems. Authorities ordered 7 million people — a quarter of the population of the nation’s second-largest state — to boil tap water before drinking it, following the record low temperatures that damaged infrastructure and pipes. In Abilene, a man who died at a health care facility when a lack of water pressure made medical treatment impossible.

Water pressure dropped after lines froze and because many people left faucets dripping to prevent pipes from icing, said Toby Baker, executive director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Abbott urged residents to shut off water to prevent more busted pipes and preserve municipal system pressure.

President Joe Biden said he called Abbott on Thursday evening and offered additional support from the federal government to state and local agencies.



Bloomberg/Matthew Busch

Refinery challenges

Oil drilling rigs sit idle in the snow at a lot Feb. 13 near Midland, Texas. Four of Texas’ largest refineries are discovering widespread damage from the deep freeze that crippled the state this week and expect to be down for weeks of repairs, raising the potential for prolonged fuel shortages that could spread nationwide.

Joining ...

Continued from page 1

He’s expected to address the U.S. stance on the 2015 multilateral Iran nuclear deal, the war in Afghanistan and the economic and national security challenges posed by Russia and China.

In a statement, State Department spokesman Ned Price said the U.S. would accept an invitation from the European Union to attend a meeting of the participants — the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and Germany, along with Iran — in the original nuclear agreement.

“The United States would accept an invitation from the European Union High Representative to attend a meeting of the P5+1 and Iran to discuss a diplomatic way forward on Iran’s nuclear program,” he said. The U.S. has not participated in a meeting of those participants since Trump withdrew from the deal and began steadily ramping up sanctions on Iran.

Such an invitation has not yet been issued but one is expected

shortly, following Blinken’s talks with the British, French and German foreign ministers.

In Iran, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said today the Biden administration action meant that the U.S. had acknowledged moves made under Trump “had no legal validity.”

“We agree,” he added, urging the Biden administration to lift U.S. sanctions “imposed, reimposed or re-labeled by Trump. We will then immediately reverse all remedial measures.”

In Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office expressed worry, saying it believes that “going back to the old agreement will pave Iran’s path to a nuclear arsenal.” It said in a statement today that it remains “committed to preventing Iran from getting nuclear weapons” and was in close contact with the United States on the matter.

Meanwhile, at the United Nations, the Biden administration notified the Security Council that it had withdrawn Trump’s Septem-

ber 2020 invocation of the so-called snapback mechanism under which it maintained that all U.N. sanctions against Iran had been reimposed. Those sanctions included a conventional arms embargo against Iran that had been set to expire.

Trump’s determination had been vigorously disputed by nearly all other U.N. members and had left the U.S. isolated at the world body. Thus, the reversal is unlikely to have any immediate practical effect other than to bring the U.S. back into line with the position of the vast majority of U.N. members, including some of its closest allies.

Acting U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Richard Mills sent a letter to the Security Council saying the United States “hereby withdraws” three letters from the Trump administration that culminated in its Sept. 19 announcement that the United States had reimposed U.N. sanctions on Tehran due to its “significant non-performance” with its obligations.

Trump’s move had been

ignored by the rest of the Security Council and the world, and the overwhelming majority of members in the 15-nation council had called the action illegal because the U.S. was no longer a member of the nuclear deal.

At the same time, officials said the administration has eased extremely strict limits on the travel of Iranian diplomats accredited to the United Nations. The Trump administration had imposed the severe restrictions, which essentially confined them to their U.N. mission and the U.N. headquarters building in New York.

The top Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Rep. Michael McCaul of Texas, quickly denounced the steps. “It is concerning the Biden Administration is already making concessions in an apparent attempt to re-enter the flawed Iran deal,” he said. “The Trump Administration created leverage for President Biden on Iran — we should not squander that progress.”

NASA rover lands on Mars

By MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A NASA rover streaked through the orange Martian sky and landed on the planet Thursday, accomplishing the riskiest step yet in an epic quest to bring back rocks that could answer whether life ever existed on Mars.

Ground controllers at the space agency’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, leaped to their feet, thrust their arms in the air and cheered in both triumph and relief on receiving confirmation that the six-

wheeled Perseverance had touched down on the red planet, long a deathtrap for incoming spacecraft.

“Now the amazing science starts,” a jubilant Thomas Zurbuchen, NASA’s science mission chief, said at a news conference, where he theatrically ripped up the contingency plan in the event of a failure and threw the document over his shoulders.

The landing marks the third visit to Mars in just over a week. Two spacecraft from the United Arab Emirates and China swung into orbit around Mars on successive days last week.

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SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

You are South, neither side vulnerable. The bidding has been:

West	North	East	South
1♦		Dble	Pass

- What would you bid with each of the following four hands?
- ♠A983 ♥A983 ♦6 ♣Q986
 - ♠J84 ♥Q72 ♦KJ83 ♣A96
 - ♠9♥1642 ♦8653 ♣AQ87
 - ♠KJ87532 ♥10♦J4 ♣954

1. **Two diamonds.** Assume you have this hand and your partner, the dealer, opens the bidding with one spade, one heart or one club. You would presumably drive the hand to at least a game — even if you were by nature an underbidder.

The fact that an opponent opens the bidding first should not alter your assessment of a hand after partner doubles, indicating support for the unbid suits and the values for an opening bid. In this case, you should certainly feel your side has a game, and the only question is how to reach it.

Rather than try to guess which suit to jump to game in, it is better to cuebid diamonds and force partner to choose a suit. You can then raise to game in whatever suit he names.

2. **Two notrump.** You don't often hold 11 points when partner makes a

takeout double, but when you do, you must show them by making a jump-response (or by cuebidding the opponents' suit, as in the previous problem). Here, the most illuminating bid you can make is two notrump, showing a balanced hand of 10 to 12 points with the opponents' suit stopped. Partner can then pass or bid on as he chooses.

3. **One heart.** Here you're a trifle short for a jump-response, so the only problem is whether to bid one heart or two clubs. One heart is better largely because the doubler is nearly always more interested in hearing about a major suit than a minor suit. This is readily understandable, since it is easier to make a 10-trick game than an 11-trick game.

The heart response will lead to a sound game far more often than a two-club response, despite the great difference in the quality of the two suits.

4. **Three spades.** This is not a strength-showing bid; it merely says you have great spade length. It is a preemptive bid similar to an opening three-bid. Partner can pass with minimum values for his double or carry on to game with a bit extra. Strength-showing responses would be two spades (invitational), four spades or a cuebid of the opponents' suit.

Tomorrow: The percentage play.
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2-19

CRYPTOQUIP

BZOD MK XKY ZONT RU XKY

REDTEHTVX ZODT RD BZTE

GTKGVT KNTAYHT DYAEH KU

GZAOHT? RMRKP KMRYP.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: LONGTIME CARTOON CHARACTER WHO HAS AN UNUSUAL OBSESSION WITH PARTING HIS HAIR: COMBER SIMPSON.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals P

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	33 Ump's call	55 UFO fliers	20 Witch Caspian Sea feeder
1 Pac. counterpart	34 Dundee denial	DOWN	1 Totals
4 "Stay" singer Lisa	35 ACLU issues	2 Decorate	24 Karate level
8 Postal delivery	36 Boston team, for short	3 Comic Jay	25 Morays
12 Dad on "Black-ish"	37 — clock	4 Endured	26 French seat
13 Bullets	39 Male cat	5 Nebraska city	27 Maui meal
14 Hotel chain	40 Year in Madrid	6 Flightless bird	28 Power co. supply
15 "Jurassic Park" creature	41 Puts into law	7 "Prince Igor" composer	29 Gloomy guy
17 Video-streaming brand	45 Mentor	8 Blockhead	32 Substituted (for)
18 Free of bumps	48 Sound of a ringing bell	9 I love (Lat.)	33 Hit the roof
19 Discoverer's call	50 On the Baltic, say	10 Squid squirt	35 Harry Potter pal
21 "Isn't — bit like you and me?"	51 Furniture brand	11 Lucy of "Kill Bill"	36 Party dances
22 Vienna's river	52 Boy king	16 Reacted to a light show	38 Island of Hawaii
26 Run in the wash	53 Big rig		39 Doctrine
29 Band's booking	54 Trawler gear		42 Refer to
30 R&B singer Des—			43 Threaded fastener
31 "— Lang Syne"			44 LAPD ranks
32 Baltimore paper			45 Ozone, for one
			46 Employ
			47 "The One I Love" band
			49 White House nickname

Solution time: 25 mins.

R	U	N	G	A	R	A	B	A	B	S	
I	T	A	L	N	E	M	O	U	R	I	
P	I	N	O	T	N	O	I	R	H	A	N
A	L	A	S	K	A	E	V	E	N	S	
S	O	K	I	R	O	V					
D	E	F	Y	C	A	M	N	O	A	H	
E	M	I	U	T	A	I	D	O			
B	U	L	B	R	I	C	O	R	Z	O	
M	A	T	T	E	E	L					
K	E	N	Y	A	W	A	I	V	E	D	
I	S	O	R	E	S	E	R	V	O	I	R
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O	U	R	S	L	A	T	S	E	E	M	

Yesterday's answer 2-19

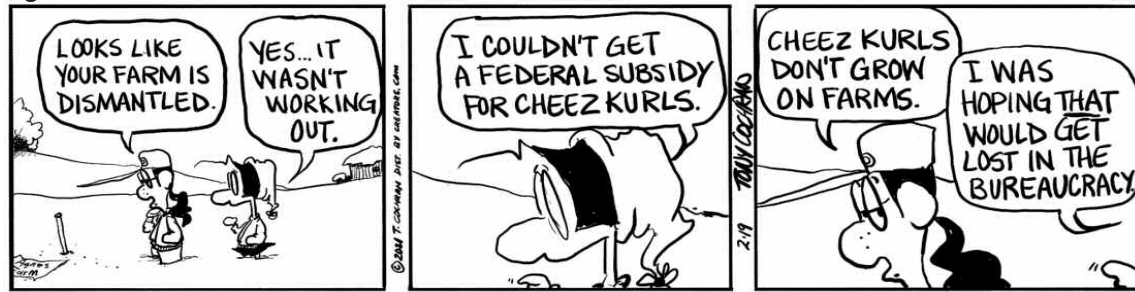
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



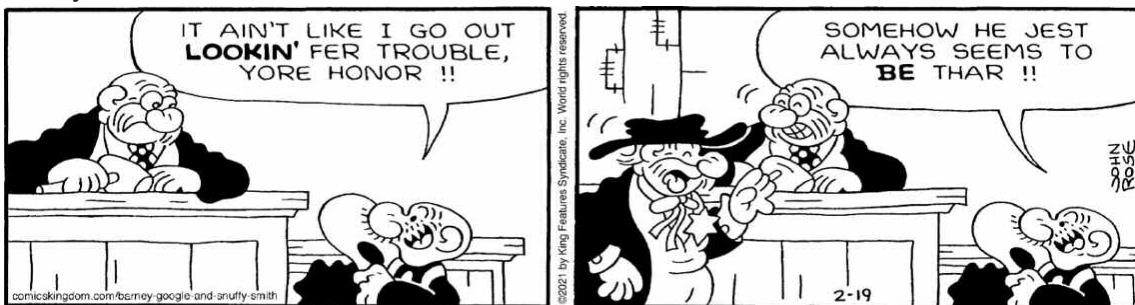
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Trounces ...

Continued from page 8
Fort Recovery had seven players with at least two points at intermission, including 10 from Alli Vaughn and eight from Kierra Wendel. Whitley Rammel had six points in spite of the fact she picked up two first-quarter fouls on the same possession.

After the Indians switched to their zone, the Polar Bears committed six consecutive turnovers in the third quarter. The FRHS offense was more potent this time, scoring 18 straight points as their 36-19 advantage ballooned into a 54-19 lead.

Paige Fortkamp and Rammel had six points each in the run, while Mara Pearson chipped in four and Vaughn added two.

"I thought we played a lot of unselfish basketball," Gann said. "We were willing to constantly keep making that extra pass. Ball movement was there, we were cutting, we were very confident ... Everybody just got a turn and we were very unselfish in that manner."

"We played as a team, we won as a team and defensively that won the game."

Rammel had a game-high 14 points, and Vaughn finished with 12 points. Fortkamp added 11 points to go with her game-high eight rebounds, and Pearson joined them in double figures with 10 points.

Katie Good and Grappy led Hardin Northern with seven points each.

Up next for the Tribe are the Cardinals, who the Indians held off for a 44-40 victory when they met back on Dec. 3. Fort Recovery had a double-digit lead before New Bremen put up a rally on its home court.

"I think when we get



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Fort Recovery High School junior Whitley Rammel goes up for a shot in front of Hardin Northern defender Maddie Grappy during the first quarter of the Division IV Wapakoneta District sectional semifinal on Thursday at Fort Site Fieldhouse. Rammel was 5-of-8 from the floor and made three of her four free throws on her way to a game-high 14 points in the Indians' 63-26 win against the Polar Bears.

that lead we're just going to have to hold that lead, stay composed and execute down the stretch," Gann said. "As always,

ball pressure defense is going to be it for us. We need to be able to contain the people we know we need to contain."

Box score

No. 15 seed Hardin Northern Polar Bears at No. 4 seed Fort Recovery Indians					
Division IV Wapakoneta District sectional semifinal at Fort Recovery					
Girls varsity summary					
Hardin Northern (6-13)					
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS		
Martin	1-2	0-0	2		
McCoy	1-5	0-0	2		
Wilson	2-5	0-0	6		
Good	3-7	0-0	7		
Grappy	3-15	0-0	7		
Lenhart	0-0	0-0	0		
Obenour	0-0	0-0	0		
Perkins	0-0	0-0	0		
Legge	0-1	0-0	0		
Clem	1-1	0-0	2		
Ebling	0-0	0-0	0		
Duncah	0-0	0-0	0		
Totals	11-36	0-0	26		
	.306	.000			
Fort Recovery (15-6)					
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS		
Homan	0-6	3-4	3		
Fortkamp	4-9	1-1	11		
KWendel	4-8	0-0	8		
Vaughn	6-12	0-0	12		
Rammel	5-8	3-4	14		
Pearson	5-7	0-0	10		
Hwendel	1-3	0-0	2		
Guggenbiller	0-2	2-2	2		
Gaerke	0-0	0-0	0		
Leuthold	0-0	1-2	1		
Alig	0-0	0-0	0		
CWendel	0-1	0-0	0		
Totals	25-56	10-13	63		
	.446	.769			
Score by quarters:					
HNHS	8	9	7	2	—26
Fort Rec.	18	16	22	7	—63
3-point shooting:					
Hardin Northern	4-15	(Wilson 2-4, Grappy 1-8, Good 1-2, Legge 0-1).			
Fort Recovery	4-15	(Fortkamp 2-4, Rammel 1-1, Pearson 1-1, KWendel 0-2, Vaughn 0-2, Guggenbiller 0-2, Homan 0-1, HWenel 0-1, CWendel 0-1).			
Rebounds:					
Hardin Northern	26	(Martin 6, McCoy 4, Wilson 4, Good 4, Grappy 4, team 4).			
Fort Recovery	29	(Fortkamp 8, Rammel 4, Homan 3, Guggenbiller 3, Pearson 2, HWendel 2, KWendel, Vaughn, Gaerke, Leuthold, Alig, CWendel, team).			
Assists:					
Hardin Northern	5	(McCoy 2, Good 2, Grappy).			
Fort Recovery	15	(Vaughn 5, Fortkamp 3, KWendel 2, Rammel 2, HWendel 2, Guggenbiller).			
Blocks:					
Hardin Northern	1	(Good).			
Fort Recovery	4	(Fortkamp, Rammel, Pearson, Guggenbiller).			
Personal fouls:					
Hardin Northern	11	(McCoy 4, Grappy 3, Martin, Wilson, Obenour, Perkins).			
Fort Recovery	8	(Vaughn 3, Rammel 2, Pearson 2, Fortkamp).			
Turnovers:					
Hardin Northern	27				
Fort Recovery	10				

Trade ...

Continued from page 8
Press Taylor, an offensive assistant coach with the Eagles during Wentz's tenure, also has joined Reich's staff.

The Colts are turning to their fourth starting quarterback in Reich's four years. Andrew Luck retired abruptly before the 2019 season and Jacoby Brissett took over. Philip Rivers led the team to the playoffs in his only season in Indianapolis in 2020. After Rivers retired, Wentz became an ideal replacement for the team.

Brissett is about to become a free agent and the only other quarterback on the roster is Jacob Eason, who never took a snap last season as a rookie.

Wentz's new teammates are already welcoming his arrival. "Let's get to work!!! Welcome to Indy! Can't wait to see what the future holds in the 317," two-time All-Pro linebacker Darius Leonard wrote on his social media account, citing the city's area code.

Receiver Parris Campbell was even more succinct on Twitter: "LET'S WORK!!!"

Wentz is entering the first season of a four-year, \$128 million contract extension he signed in June 2019. The Eagles will absorb a significant salary cap hit of \$33.8 million in dead money on their 2021 cap. Indy started the offseason with the second-most room under the projected cap.

The Eagles traded up twice in the 2016 NFL draft to select Wentz with the No. 2 overall pick. He started all 16 games as a rookie and had a breakout sophomore season before he tore two knee ligaments in Week 14 and watched Nick Foles lead the Eagles to a Super Bowl win over New England.

A back injury ended Wentz's season early in 2018 and Foles led the Eagles to a playoff victory.

Wentz started every game in 2019 and helped the Eagles win the NFC East with an excellent four-game stretch in December.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Wrestling state finals at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis — 6 p.m.; Boys swimming sectional (diving) — 6 p.m.; Boys basketball tripeheader vs. Norwell — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball vs. New Bremen — 6 p.m.

Saturday

Jay County — Wrestling state finals at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis — 9 a.m.; Boys swimming hosts sectional finals — 9 a.m.; Boys basketball vs. Seton Catholic — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball sectional final vs. TBA — 7 p.m.

Monday

Jay County — Junior high swimming vs. Norwell — 6 p.m.

Tuesday

Jay County — Boys basketball at Winchester — 6 p.m.

Thursday

Jay County — Junior high wrestling at Woodlan — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls basketball district semifinal vs. TBA at Wapakoneta — 5:30 p.m.

TV schedule

Today
7 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: Saint Louis at Dayton (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Chicago Bulls at Philadelphia 76ers (ESPN)
8 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Dallas Mavericks at Houston Rockets (ESPN)
9 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: Toledo at Buffalo (ESPN2)

Saturday

10 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: Utah State at Boise State (FS1)
10 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: Utah Jazz at Los Angeles Clippers (ESPN)

Sunday

Noon — Men's College Basketball: Michigan State at Indiana (ESPN)
1 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: UConn at Villanova (FOX); Kentucky at Tennessee (CBS)
2 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: Texas Tech at Kansas (ESPN); Missouri at South Carolina (ESPN2)
3 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: West Virginia at Texas (ABC)
4 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: Auburn at LSU (ESPN)
5:30 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: Purdue at Nebraska (BTN)
6 p.m. — Men's College Basketball: Oklahoma at Iowa State (ESPN2)

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION

Saturday, February 27th 10:00 pm
4-H Building, at Jay Co. Fairgrounds Portland, IN
Alsip Auctioneering will be selling the estate of Morris Alsip due to a sudden illness. Our intent was to hire a third party auction service because of the personal nature of the sale. However, I know my father would want me to handle this for him. I became an auctioneer at the age of 20 and he has been by my side every step of the way. I want to thank the Auctioneers and the ones who have asked to help with set up. The weather is making set up more difficult so pictures will be added on a day to day basis prior to the sale.

We have a large amount of Antique smalls including Jewelry, Silver and Gold, Advertising Signs, Furniture, Toys, Guns and a lifetime of tools.

There is also a car hauler trailer and a corn pellet stove. We are not sure what we will find and this is just a start to the listing. Make sure to check back for updates. This will be a great sale we hope you can attend.

Terms Cash, good checks, and credit cards (3% Service Fee)

Maurice Alsip Estate
Chad Alsip, Auctioneer
AU19400112

Terry Drake, Auctioneer
AU10600020

Chad Briker, Auctioneer-
AU11600027

All Statements made day of the auction take precedent over any written materials.

90 SALE CALENDAR

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Located: 3413 W 100 S, Portland, IN
Saturday, March 6, 2021 10:00am
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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

The Jay County Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals will meet Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. in the Jay County Courthouse Auditorium, 120 North Court Street, Portland, Indiana. The board will consider any appeals of property tax assessments for assessment year 2020, exemption applications and any other business properly brought before the Board.

Robin Alberson
Jay County Assessor
CR 2-19-2021 HSPAXLP

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

Noble Township, Jay County, Indiana
Cash & Investments combined Statement - 2020

Local Fund Number	Local Fund Name	Beg. Cash and Inv. Bal. Jan 1, 2020	Receipts	Disbursements	End Cash and Inv. Bal. Dec 31, 2020
1	Fire Fighting	\$34,595.65	\$15,388.26	\$9,881.00	\$40,102.91
2	Rainy Day	\$3,676.18	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,676.18
3	Township	\$56,945.90	\$12,953.06	\$11,451.28	\$58,447.68
4	Township Assistance	\$48,610.86	\$5,095.42	\$0.00	\$53,706.10
5	Total All Funds	\$143,828.41	\$33,436.74	\$21,332.28	\$155,932.87

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

Noble Township, Jay County, Indiana
Detailed Receipts 2020

Fund/Category/Vendor Name	Amount
Governmental Activities	
Fire Fighting	
General Property Taxes	\$7,745.92
County Adjusted Gross Income Tax (CAGIT)	
Certified Shares	\$5,348.00
County Adjusted Gross Income Tax (CAGIT)	
Property Tax Replac	\$1,323.00
Local Income Tax (LIT) for Levy Freeze	\$694.00
Vehicle/Aircraft Excise Tax Distribution	\$251.34
Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax Distribution (CVET)	\$26.00
Total Fire Fighting	\$15,388.26
Township	
General Property Taxes	\$10,875.59
Local Income Tax (LIT) for Levy Freeze	\$1,613.00
Vehicle/Aircraft Excise Tax Distribution	\$370.02
Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax Distribution (CVET)	\$49.42
Earnings on Investments and Deposits	\$45.03
Total Township	\$12,953.06
Township Assistance	
General Property Taxes	\$4,929.23
Vehicle/Aircraft Excise Tax Distribution	\$146.61
Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax Distribution (CVET)	\$19.58
Total Township Assistance	\$5,095.42
Noble Township, Jay County, Indiana	
Disbursements by Vendor 2020	
Fire Fighting	
Services and Charges	
Salamonia Volunteer Fire Dept Inc	\$9,881.00
Fire Fighting	\$9,881.00
Township	
Personal Services	
Virginia L. Cline	\$5,500.00
Tracy J. Cline	\$1,750.00
Eldon Campbell	\$583.33
Jerrey Overholser	\$583.33
Emily Daugherty	\$583.33
United States Treasury	\$960.97
Coldren, Frantz & Sprunger	\$100.00
CNA Surety	\$120.06
Boyce Forms	\$159.90
The Graphic Printing Company	\$110.42
Dennis Chenoweth	\$1,000.00
Township	\$14,451.26

By virtue of a certified copy of Decree of Foreclosure to me directed from the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Jay County, Indiana, in Cause No. 38CI-2010-MF-000012 wherein The Farmers & Merchants State Bank is Plaintiff, and Gerald L. LeMaster and Markie D. LeMaster are the Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and costs, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder on the 11th day of March, 2021 at the hour of 10:00 a.m. of said day at the Jay County Sheriff's Department, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Jay County, Indiana:

A PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 22 NORTH, RANGE 15 EAST, SECOND PRINCIPLE MERIDIAN MADISON TOWNSHIP, JAY COUNTY, INDIANA; COMMENCING AT A CORNERSTONE AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 22 NORTH, RANGE 15 EAST; THENCE NORTH ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SOUTHWEST QUARTER A DISTANCE OF FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY THREE AND THIRTY-FIVE ONE HUNDREDTHS (423.35) FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 03 MINUTES 25 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID WEST

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Any prospective bidder should obtain their own title evidence before making any bid on any properties subject to this sale.

Dwane Ford, Jay County Sheriff
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Thomas B. Trent
Rothberg Logan & Warsco, LLP
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Sports

Tribe D trounces Polar Bears

Fort Recovery forces 27 turnovers in semifinal rout

By CHRIS SCHANZ
The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — The Indians forced the Polar Bears into a turnover on their first defensive position.

It was a sign of things to come.

Fort Recovery High School's girls basketball team forced 27 turnovers and had a balanced attack offensively on its way to a 63-26 thrashing of the Hardin Northern Polar Bears in the Division IV Wapakoneta District sectional semifinal on Thursday at Fort Site Fieldhouse.

"I just think the biggest thing to take away from (the defense) was that we executed," said FRHS coach Holly Gann. "We knew coming in that ball pressure and pressure in general was going to cause them fits.

"But the neat thing about that, it's easy when it's one-on-one, that man-to-man defense. But then we went into a zone and got more turnovers. So I think it's really nice when we come in with a solid plan, the girls executed exactly what we wanted and we were able to get the W, which at this point in the



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Brenna Homan, right, a Fort Recovery High School senior, fends off Hardin Northern's Maddie Grappy for a steal during the fourth quarter of their Division IV sectional semifinal on Thursday at Fort Site Fieldhouse. Homan and the Indians forced the Polar Bears into making 27 turnovers during a 63-26 victory.

game that's what it's all about."

Fort Recovery (15-6), which is the district's fourth seed, will host Midwest Athletic Conference rival and fifth-ranked New Bremen Cardinals for the sectional final at 7 p.m. Saturday. The Cardinals defeated Waynesfield-Goshen 67-32 in their respective semifinal.

Although it turned the ball over on its first possession, Hardin Northern (6-13) actually had a 6-4 lead thanks to 3-pointers from Bella Wilson and Maddie Grappy.

That's when things began to unravel for the Polar Bears. They committed seven turnovers in the first quarter

while trailing 18-8 at the break. Then the Indians came up with a dozen turnovers — 11 of them consecutively — in the second quarter.

The Tribe managed just eight points off of those giveaways and led 30-13 before taking a 34-17 lead into halftime.

See **Trounces** page 7

Colts trade for QB Wentz

By ROB MAADDI
AP Pro Football Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Carson Wentz helped steer the Philadelphia Eagles to the franchise's only Super Bowl title and later received the richest contract in team history.

He's already gone before that deal even kicked in.

The Eagles agreed to trade Wentz to the Indianapolis Colts, according to a person familiar with the deal. Philadelphia receives a third-round pick in this year's draft and a conditional second-round pick in 2022 that can turn into a first-round pick if Wentz plays 75% of the snaps this year or 70% and the Colts make the playoffs.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Thursday because the deal hasn't been announced.

Wentz is coming off the worst season of his five-year career and was benched for rookie Jalen Hurts after 12 games. He finished third in NFL MVP voting in 2017 when he led the Eagles to an 11-2 record before a knee injury ended his season and Philadelphia went on to win the Super Bowl.

The deal reunites Wentz with Colts coach Frank Reich, who served as Philadelphia's offensive coordinator his first two seasons in the league.

See **Trade** page 7

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DEADLINE FEB. 12

The Commercial Review

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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School's Griffin Mann competes in the breaststroke leg of the 200-yard medley relay Thursday during the preliminary round of the boys swimming sectional meet at JCHS. Mann earned the No. 5 seed in the 100 breaststroke for Saturday's sectional finals.

Seven make finals

The Patriots will swim in the finals of seven events.

The returning champions are the top seed in the same number of races.

Jay County High School's boys swim team had two individuals make the final heat in two events apiece and had all three relays qualify as well during the IHSAA swimming sectional preliminaries on Thursday.

The top eight places from preliminaries advance to the championship heat, while those finishing ninth through 16 will swim in the consolation finals as the meet resumes at 1 p.m. Saturday. The diving portion of the sectional will begin at 6 p.m. tonight.

Delta, which has won six consecutive sectional championships, earned the top seed in seven events.

Kyle Sanders earned the best individual seed for the Patriots, taking second in the 200-yard freestyle with his time of 1 minute, 54.96 seconds. Delta's Sam Arnold is the top seed in 1:52.86. Sanders will also be seeded fourth in the 100 freestyle in 50.69 seconds. Bluffton's Caleb Geimer had a time of 49.72 seconds for the top seed.

Griffin Mann, a senior, will be seeded fifth in the 100 breaststroke as he posted a time of 1:06.54. Justin Xia of Burris earned the No. 1 seed at 1:00.41. Mann's time of 23.84 seconds will be eighth in

Mann, Sanders to swim in finals of two events, while Jay's three relays also make final heat

the 50 freestyle. Delta's Brady Samuels set the sectional record with a time of 20.86 seconds.

Nick Lyons, Aaron Funkhouser, Mann and Sanders will be seeded sixth in the 200 medley relay. Sam Crump, Mann, Sanders and Funkhouser earned the No. 7 seed in the 400 freestyle relay, while Konner Sommers, Ralph Link, Wyatt Kunkler and Lyons will be seeded eighth in the 200 freestyle relay.

Swimming in the consolation finals will be Wyatt Kunkler (14th - 200 freestyle), Timo Minnich (16th - 200 freestyle), Josh Monroe (ninth - 100 breaststroke, 14th - 50 freestyle), Lyons (15th - 100 backstroke), Ralph Link (16th - 100 breaststroke), Funkhouser (16th - 50 freestyle) and Sommers (16th - 100 butterfly).