

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

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Rate hike OK'd on 1st reading

Portland sewer charges to go up by 34.5%

By **RAY COONEY**

The Commercial Review

Sewer rates are set to go up by nearly 35%.

Portland City Council on Monday approved an ordinance on first reading that would raise sewer rates by \$7.44 on Jan. 1 and an additional \$8.47 on April 1.

Council also learned the city and its airport have been named in a lawsuit connected to the recently completed runway extension project.

In August, consulting firm Baker Tilly presented the results of a sewer rate study and indicated that increases would be needed to pay for planned wastewater treatment upgrades. Those include a raw pump station, equalizing basin and other changes that are required as part of the city's agreed order with Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The project at that time was estimated at \$10.8 million.

Baker Tilly recommended the city seek almost that entire amount through the State Revolving Loan Fund. The rate increases are needed to pay for those bonds.

The total \$15.91 increase will take the average 4,000-gallon-per-month user to a \$61.57 monthly charge.

Council members Kent McClung, Janet Powers, Don Gillespie, Matt Goldsworthy, Mike Aker and Dave Golden approved the ordinance increasing the rates on first reading. It will be subject to vote on second reading at council's Nov. 21 meeting.

Mayor John Boggs also informed council that the city and its airport have been named in a lawsuit from Greg Whitenack against HIS Constructors of Indianapolis.

The city hired HIS for construction of the first phase of the runway extension project at the airport. HIS had a separate contract with Whitenack to take fill dirt from his property to use to level the land west of the existing runway for the extension.

Cindy Whitenack, Greg's wife, visited an aviation board meeting in November 2021 to issue a complaint that HIS did not meet the specifications of its agreement. At that time, it was acknowledged that the airport had similar issues with HIS but that because the aviation board was not part of the contract for the dirt there was little it could do to impact the situation.

"I think it's a frivolous suit," said Boggs of the city being named.

City attorney Wes Schemenaur said the issue is between the Whitenacks and HIS.

See **Rate** page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Time to vote

Janet Bantz signs in to vote at Jay Community Center this morning. Polls will be open until 6 p.m. today. Local elections include races for commissioner, sheriff, county council and school board.

Road work planning moves forward

By **BAILEY CLINE**

The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — Planning for a future reconstruction project continues.

Fort Recovery Village Council agreed Monday to pay \$48,955 to Choice One Engineering for completing the second stage of planning for reconstruction of Butler Street (Ohio 119), a project estimated to begin in 2024.

In May 2021, the village was awarded a \$1,026,000 Transportation Alternatives Program grant from Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the reconstruction,

with the total cost expected at just over \$3 million. Work will include a new water line, sidewalks, curbs and street, as well as replacing the traffic light at Wayne Street.

Per ODOT guidelines, the project needs to start — defined by at least having opened bids and

selected a contractor — by July 2024.

Diller explained the village and ODOT have been back and forth on their right-of-way approach for the project. The department is now specifying the village needs to have a right-of-way plan, which in total

would tack on about \$100,000 to the project cost.

Diller said they had previously decided to include right-of-way specifics in plans submitted at different phases of the project. The village will likely have to pay the additional fees in order

to move forward with the project.

Diller and Mayor Dave Kaup expressed their frustration with the development and said they are planning to set up another meeting with ODOT officials.

Also Monday, Diller reminded council about changes in utility rates. Previously he asked for advice from council members about adjusting rates, which are currently set at \$44 per month for 2,000 gallons of water with improvement fees. (That splits into \$22.50 for water usage and \$21.50 for sewer usage.)

See **Road** page 2

Fort Recovery continues toward reconstruction of Butler Street



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Adding a line

A crew from Miller Pipeline works Monday afternoon to install a new line along the alley that runs parallel to Main and Franklin streets connecting Commerce and Washington streets in downtown Dunkirk.

Franciscan closing ER site in Hammond

Shut down will leave city without a hospital

By **MICHELLE L. QUINN**

Post-Tribune (Merrillville)

After a century of having a hospital in its limits, the City of Hammond will no longer have emergency care services as Franciscan Hammond will close its operations there by the end of the year.

Franciscan Health Hammond, Dyer and Munster interim President and CEO Barbara Anderson announced in a release Thursday that the Franciscan Health Alliance governing bodies have voted to stop inpatient admissions at its Hammond campus and will close its emergency department by the end of the year. Franciscan will instead focus on efforts to "broaden access to primary care," she said, by moving its services to Munster and Dyer.

Power remains out to about 32K in Chicago, Maywood following

high winds reaching 60 + mph, officials say

Since Franciscan announced in 2021 that it would invest \$31 million in creating a 10-bed inpatient and Emergency Unit in Hammond while demolishing much of the 100-year-old hospital itself, a perfect storm of too few patients and a health-care worker shortage caused the boards to rethink their strategy, Anderson said.

"In the last 15 months, we have seen inpatient volume at Franciscan Health Hammond drop to an average of 2.5 patients per day," Anderson said in the release. "Of the 54 patients who present to the emergency room each day, more than 90% would be better served in a lower cost setting, such as an urgent care or primary care clinic. It is difficult to maintain operational efficiency at these volumes."

Additionally, a "critical shortage of health-care workers" and a "dramatic shift" in patients choosing full-service hospitals elsewhere "makes it impossible to continue to keep an inpatient facility open that is averaging less than three inpatients per day," Anderson said. Franciscan Hammond will now divert patients needing inpatient care to its Munster and Dyer campuses as a result.

See **Closing** page 2

Deaths

William Bailey, 62, Union City
Joseph Riddell, 91, Portland
Stephen Parks, 45, Union City, Ohio
 Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 63 degrees Monday. The low was 44.
 Tonight's low will drop into the 30s. Expect a high of 68 Wednesday under sunny skies.
 See page 2 for an extended outlook.

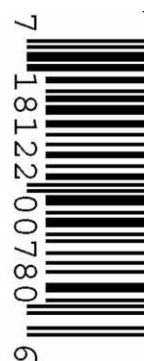
In review

Jay County High School will host a FAFSA night from 6 to 8 p.m. Nov. 17. Representatives will be available to assist with the FAFSA the filing process and help answer any questions. Parents/guardians will need to bring their 2021 tax information. Please enter through door 1.

Coming up

Wednesday — Results from today's local, state and federal elections.

Thursday — A look at local athletes competing at the college level.



Road ...

Continued from page 1
Changes are being made to account for inflation. Base rates will rise slowly, with the village implementing a \$3 increase in 2023, a \$2 increase in 2025 and a \$2.50 increase in 2027. Other changes will likely include raising the tap fee to \$500 from the current \$450, raising the sewer improvement fee from \$2 from the current \$1.50, eliminating the discounted rate for using more than 50,000 gallons per month, increasing the sewer rate by about a dollar and introducing an industrial rate for sewage from industrial facilities, charging about \$4 per thousand gallons. Diller said he would put together a

draft of the changes and do a first reading of the ordinance later this month. He also noted the village is undergoing testing today to determine the amount of sludge reduction in the wastewater lagoons. "We are definitely seeing something happen in those lagoons," he said, noting the change in water composition. Kainos Ag of Muncie has been applying product to the ponds since September and, according to Diller, would like to continue application throughout the winter. (The village paid Kainos Ag \$49,000 for sludge reduction. The company is paid based on how much sludge is reduced.)

The process is the first step in its wastewater treatment plan. Poggemeyer Design's long-term plan for the village also suggests the construction of a mechanical wastewater treatment plant. In other business, council members Greg Schmitz, Scott Pearson, Al Post, Luke Knapke, Erik Fiely and Cliff Wendel:
•Learned work on Milligan Street has been completed.
•Authorized Diller to enter into an agreement for new tax software.
•Transferred \$7,750.54 from the water revenue fund to the water bond retirement fund and \$4,000 from the loan reserve fund to the water reserve fund.

Obituaries

William Bailey
William "Bill" J. Bailey, 62, Union City, died Friday at his home in Union City. Arrangements are pending at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.
Joseph Riddell, Portland, Oct. 11, 1931-Nov. 3, 2022. Services will be held at a later date.
Stephen Eugene Parks, Union City, Ohio, a 1996 Fort Recovery High School

graduate, Jan. 17, 1977-Nov. 4, 2022. Private services will be held at a later date.
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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

Wednesday 11/9	Thursday 11/10	Friday 11/11	Saturday 11/12	Sunday 11/13
68/46	70/48	60/27	37/22	37/20
Sunny skies are in the forecast for Wednesday with a high in the upper 60s.	Another sunny day is slated for Thursday with a high of 70 degrees.	Veterans Day will be partly sunny with clear skies at night. The high may hit 60.	Partly sunny, with temperatures dropping to the high 30s during the day.	Sunday's weather looks to be mostly sunny with a high of 37 degrees.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 10-33-41-47-56 Powerball: 10 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$1.6 billion	20-27-28-33-37-41-43-44-47-49-54-62-67-70-71-79 Cash 5: 8-13-35-38-45 Estimated jackpot: \$105,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$154 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 5-4-4 Pick 4: 6-4-9-6 Pick 5: 2-2-4-3-6 Evening Pick 3: 2-8-4 Pick 4: 6-8-9-8 Pick 5: 8-1-6-3-1 Rolling Cash 5: 6-16-29-36-39 Estimated jackpot: \$130,000 Classic Lotto: 13-21-23-24-30-44 Kicker: 1-4-7-0-7-9 Jackpot: \$1.1 million
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 0-2-0 Daily Four: 3-1-1-9 Quick Draw: 2-4-7-8-12-16-18-20-30-39-42-45-46-48-53-54-60-62-73-74 Evening Daily Three: 5-4-5 Daily Four: 7-6-2-8 Quick Draw: 2-3-10-19-	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....6.82 Dec. corn.....6.87 Wheat6.94	Wheat 7.83 July wheat 8.50
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....6.76 Dec. corn.....6.86 Jan. corn.....6.84	Central States Montpelier Corn.....6.62 Late Nov. corn6.62 Beans14.35 Late Nov. beans.....14.35 July wheat.....8.48
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....6.61 Dec. corn.....6.66 Beans14.19 Dec. beans14.39	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....6.31 Dec. corn6.41 Beans14.14 Dec. beans14.19 Wheat8.03

Today in history

In 1861, The Trent Affair began when U.S. Navy Captain Charles Wilkes commanded the interception of British mail steamer Trent and the arrest of Confederates who were headed to Europe to rally support for their cause. Great Britain claimed violation of international law and prepared troops for conflict, but the incident ended after the release of the prisoners and an apology from Secretary of State William Seward.
In 2003, Portland native Jack Imel was the featured speaker at the 50th anniversary celebration of the Jay County Boys Club (now Jay Community Center). Imel was a featured performer on the Lawrence Welk Show.
In 2013, Super Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines, resulting in more than 6,000 deaths and leaving more than 4.1 million displaced from their homes.
In 2021, Jay County Commissioners allocated \$400,000 in economic development funds from Scout Clean Energy's Bitter Ridge Wind Farm to local municipalities, including \$100,000 each for Portland and Dunkirk and \$50,000 each for Redkey, Pennville, Salamonina and Bryant.
—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. 5 p.m. — Jay County School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., 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.



Tribune News Service/Tampa Bay Times/Douglas R. Clifford

Lining up

Voters wait in line to cast their ballots at the Gulf Harbors Civic Association today in New Port Richey, Florida. All 435 seats in the House of Representatives and 35 of the 100 seats in the Senate are being contested during today's 2022 elections.

Rate ...

Continued from page 1
The aviation board is continuing to hold back \$99,383.98 in retainage from HIS and has told the firm that property releases will be required from the two borrow pit sites — one owned by the Whitenacks and the other by the City of Portland — before those funds are distributed. Also Monday, rural Portland resident Jenny Bricker requested support for her effort to preserve the steel truss bridge on Indiana 26 over the Salamonie River on the east edge of Portland. Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is scheduled to remove the bridge beginning in April and install a new concrete structure. Bricker referred to the bridge as a "unique and architectural gem" and asked for help in working with INDOT to modify the project to keep the bridge in place. Rob Weaver of Jay County Historical Society and WPGW Radio and also spoke in support of saving the bridge. Both cited concerns regarding the planned new bridge potentially contributing to flooding issues. Council members and Boggs discussed Bricker's

request and agreed to look into setting up a meeting with INDOT officials. They also suggested she start a petition in support of her effort. In other business:
•Goldsworthy and Boggs reminded those eligible to vote in today's election.
•Boggs told council additional environmental testing is scheduled for this month at the former Sheller-Globe south property, 510 S. Bridge St. Depending on those test results, the city could be able to request permission to transfer the property to Chad Fifer. (He was selected as the winning bidder for the property in September and plans to use the site for a sawmill.) The property is currently under an environmental restrictive covenant via the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.
•Council forwarded a request from CB Development for economic development income tax (EDIT) funds to help pay for water wells for a planned condominium development by CB Development to its EDIT advisory committee. The company made a similar request to Jay County Commissioners last month. Council members

were in support of the city and county EDIT advisory committees holding a joint meeting to hear information regarding the request. •A work session was scheduled for 6 p.m. Nov. 15 to discuss the city's golf cart ordinance, which has been a frequent topic of discussion at meetings since it was passed in May. Goldsworthy suggested repealing the ordinance. •Council approved Boggs' reappointments of Rusty Inman, Reda Theurer-Miller and Joe Johnston to the city's redevelopment commission. It also reappointed Mike Simons and Dave Teeter — council has two appointments to the board while the mayor has three — on Boggs' recommendation. •Boggs announced that he has named Johnston to serve as the city's representative on East Central Indiana Regional Planning District's board. •Golden commented regarding recent park board discussions about lifeguard and manager pay. He said he'd like to see comparisons with other area facilities before making any decisions on such issues. •Powers complimented the city crews on their leaf

pick-up efforts. Residents were reminded that to have leaves picked up they should be raked to the curb (not into the road). They should not be bagged. •Boggs issued a reminder that parking on Court Street on the east side of Jay County Courthouse is restricted parking during business hours. The east side of the street is for business loading and unloading and the west side is for county employees. •Boggs encouraged Portland residents to thank a veteran Friday on Veterans Day. •Council approved the following: additional appropriations totaling \$165,400, including \$80,000 as the first half of the city's contribution to the new Jay County Humane Society animal shelter, \$49,000 for police equipment for two vehicles and \$25,000 for police gas; the creation of a fund to receive money from a national opioid lawsuit settlement, which is expected to result in \$21,772.99 for the city over a 16-year-period; the closure of Main Street between Meridian Street and the alley west of Ohio Valley Gas from 3:30 to 9 p.m. Dec. 2 for a Christmas festival.

Closing ...

Continued from page 1
Had Franciscan been able to predict the "dramatic decrease in volumes," administrators would've planned differently, Anderson said. Hammond Mayor Tom McDermott Jr., a vocal opponent of Franciscan Health Alliance's plans, was angry at the announcement. "For nearly a year, the City of Hammond has been enduring the proposition of their only hospital being substantially closed when Franciscan Health announced that St. Margaret's, which has been a mainstay of health services in the city for over 100 years, was eliminating most services and demolishing the majority of the health-care campus," he said in a statement. "Now, after assuring the city and mayor last year that certain important services would remain open, Franciscan has announced that it is completely shutting down operations in Hammond by the end of the year — including the Emergency Room, which will leave critical services unavailable for many residents. "This announcement has left Lake

County's largest city without a hospital for its 80,000 residents and it underscores the problem in America — an America that now has two healthcare systems — one if you are wealthy and one if you are not." And anyone who says people are "deciding with their feet" to go elsewhere is a red herring, he said. "This healthcare corporation chose to divest in Hammond. This decision directly contradicts their ministry and mission to provide assistance to the poor and most vulnerable," McDermott said, pointing out that the Franciscan Hammond Emergency room is a main drop-off point for the Hammond Fire Department. "This is not a compassionate decision. This corporate decision will place at risk anyone who needs immediate and emergency services that could result in a life-or-death situation. "I promise that I will continue to do everything in my power to seek out an alternative healthcare providers that are committed to the city and its residents and to make

sure Hammond's healthcare needs are met." Anderson said that Franciscan Health Alliance will invest \$5.3 million to renovate space for its Dr. John Lanman Clinic for the uninsured and underinsured, Fresh Start Market for the food insecure, Diaper Pantry, Prenatal Assistance Program, primary care clinic, dialysis, anticoagulation clinic, multi-specialty clinic and women's health center. They will also try to provide Hammond staff members with other jobs throughout the network, though it wasn't immediately clear how many that would be. A "qualified developer of housing for senior and disabled citizens is very interested in working with the city to renovate the two oldest and largest buildings on the campus" as well, plus a "federally qualified health-care clinic has expanded its territory into Hammond for the development of a primary clinic to serve the ongoing healthcare needs of those seeking care locally," Anderson said in the release

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Fed right to suggest slowing hikes

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

Economies are not known for being simple things to untangle. Unlike in the physical sciences, where if you do enough calculations, you can shoot a projectile into an asteroid moving at an incredible speed 7 million miles away, the so-called laws of money deal with the hazier and less predictable forces of group psychology and consumption. That's why reasonable people can disagree on the proper solutions for runaway inflation that

Guest Editorial

has been hammering U.S. families and eroding away wage gains. Most people can agree that the Federal Reserve's efforts to end an era of practically interest-free money has helped slow down demand, even though

a big part of the inflation equation is the supply chain shocks downstream from the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, factors over which the Fed has no control.

Yet as the Fed has moved aggressively ahead with more dramatic rate hikes than we've seen in decades — bringing the cost of borrowing to levels that remain historically on the low end — many, including this board, have urged a measured approach that's less likely to result in a recession that could

do more long-term damage than inflation that might already be on the road to cooling off.

When announcing another 75-base-point hike yesterday, Fed Chair Jay Powell rightly acknowledged that there are lags between the measures enacted so far and their impact, indicating that he may tap the brakes on his brake-tapping strategy and respond to changing circumstances, minimizing future hikes. Good. Even as Powell insists that a stumbling economy can easily be addressed

with a new injection of cash, we know from experience that recessions have a way of getting out of hand.

Powell and the other Fed governors should also meaningfully engage with the fact, as pointed out by the likes of the chief economist at UBS Global Wealth Management, hardly a left-wing ideologue, that soaring prices are being driven in part by corporate profiteering using natural inflation as cover. No amount of tightening demand can fix that.

Stories haunt even years later

By JOHN KRULL

The stories trickle out like tears streaming down cheeks.

Nick Schifrin, PBS News-Hour's foreign affairs and defense correspondent, describes sitting in a graveyard sobbing after he stood with a parent in Ukraine while the body of the parent's son was exhumed. Authorities needed to determine the ways the son had been tortured before he died.

Linsey Davis, weekend anchor for ABC World News Tonight, talks about reporting on the 2010 earthquake in Haiti and all the suffering, death and despair she observed there. She remembers just sitting in her car, shaken to her core, thinking, "What did I just see?"

Dave Cullen, the author of the bestselling books *Columbine* and *Parkland: The Birth of a Movement*, chokes up as he describes talking with those who lost loved ones in a school shooting.

He describes how he battled depression after reporting on the Colorado school shooting and had to struggle to lighten the darkness it brought into his life.

We've gathered at Franklin College, the school where I teach, for the Inaugural National Trauma Journalism Symposium. The recent gathering was in partnership with the Trust for Trauma Journalism.

The goals for the event are straightforward. We want to help journalists tell the stories of people who have experienced great trauma in ways that are sensitive to their pain. And we want journalists to take care of themselves as they encounter trauma as a part of doing their jobs.

That's not easy. This work takes journalists into dark places. To tell the tale of a school shooting, a natural disaster, a war or some other horror, a reporter must try to empathize with the feelings of those who have experienced that horror.

That means not just witnessing but taking in their fear, their grief, their sense of desolation.

As we start the symposium, Dr. Frank Ochberg, a psychiatrist who is a pioneer of both trauma journalism and the study of trauma itself, warns those attending that the discussions to come could trigger painful memories.

He's right. As the two days of discussions proceed, I find my thoughts dragged back to my newspaper days — particularly one period nearly 30 years ago.

It was a time when guns and drugs formed a dread-

John Krull



ful partnership in cities across the country. Drive-by shootings became a common occurrence.

My editors discovered that victims, their families, their friends and other survivors would talk with me. Again and again, I was sent to a funeral or to the home of grieving parents.

At one, I talked with a father whose teenage son had been gunned down. The boy wasn't even the intended target, just an innocent bystander who caught a stray bullet.

As the father talked with me about his son, his face twisted in grief as he struggled to fight back tears. He failed. The sobs rolled over him like a wave. He fell forward and I caught him, then held him as his weeping wracked his entire body.

Difficult as that moment was, it wasn't the one that hit the hardest.

That one, in theory, should have been a happier story. It didn't involve a death. I went to the hospital to talk with a little boy who had been clipped in another drive-by.

His mother and grandmother were with him. He was a third-grader, small for his age. He looked lost in the hospital bed.

When I asked how he was doing, he stared at me. "I got shot," he said. "Somebody shot me."

Behind me, I could hear his mother and grandmother try to stifle sobs.

When I left the hospital, I sat outside for a long time, wondering what kind of world we lived in, thinking of that small boy and the memories he would carry throughout his life.

I got shot. Somebody shot me. After I turned my story in, I asked my editors to not send me out to cover any more shootings for a time. They agreed.

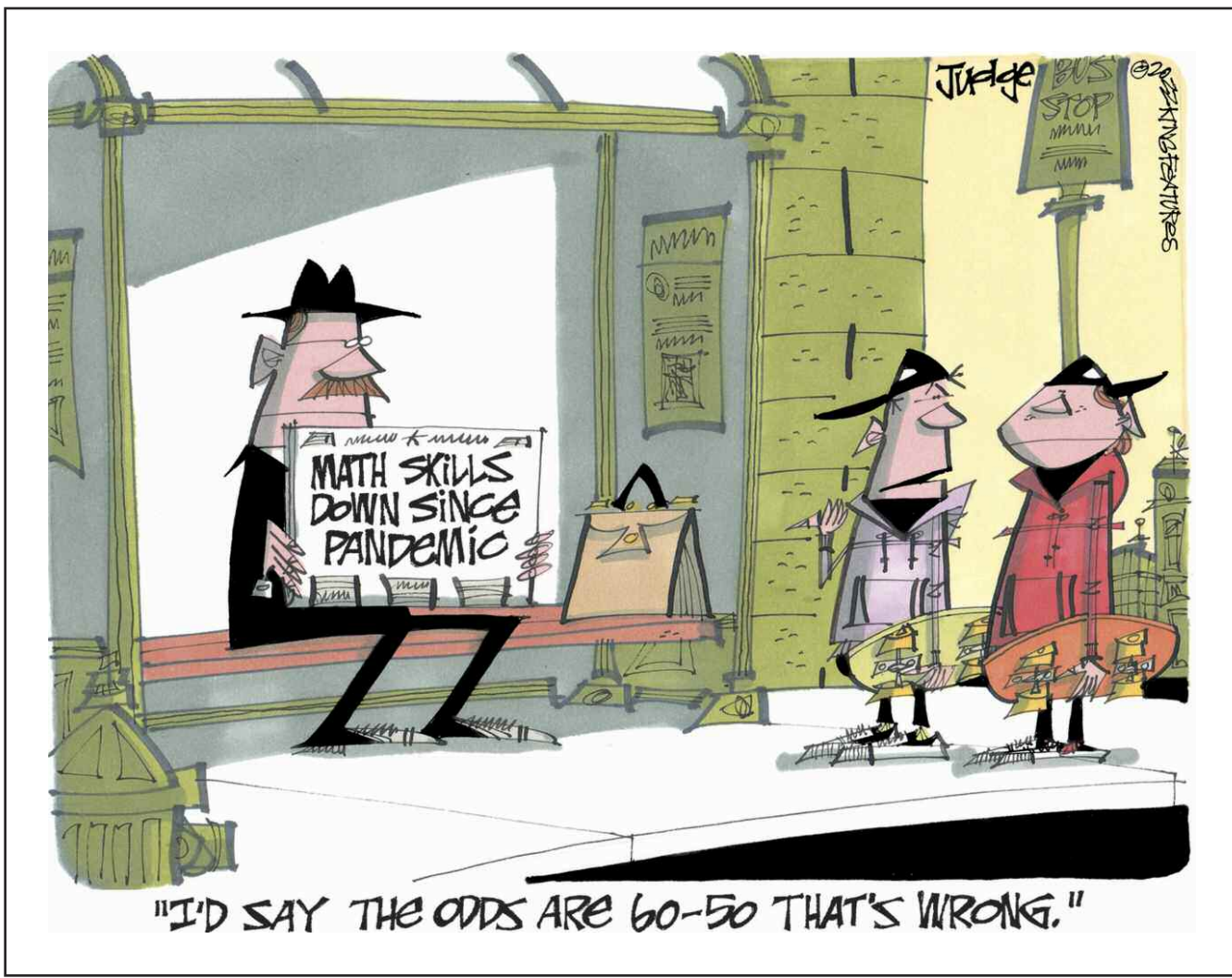
For a time. Now, at the symposium, I listen to a former student of mine. She's the news editor at the local paper. She talks about what she saw, what she experienced, while covering a mass shooting just up the road.

And I wonder how long those ghosts will follow her.

That's the thing about this work. The ghosts linger.

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Krull is director of Franklin College's Pulliam School of Journalism and publisher of *TheState-houseFile.com*.



NASA study is worthwhile

By ADAM FRANK
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

NASA announced last month that its new panel to study Unidentified Aerial Phenomena — i.e. UFOs — was staffed up and ready to get working. The panel is impressive, including planetary scientists, astrophysicists, experts from the Federal Aviation Administration, data scientists and a celebrated astronaut. I have worked with a few of these scientists, and the group represents a stellar collection (pun intended) of smart, creative people with high scientific integrity.

But what, exactly, are these scientists supposed to be doing in the contentious domain of UFOs? More importantly, is this really something that NASA should give time and money, potentially risking the agency's credibility?

The truth is, this group's nine-month study is unlikely to determine conclusively what these phenomena are. But NASA's pursuit can provide a transparent case study of how science is done on a subject full of unknowns. And the discussion can highlight the remarkable progress being made in the scientific search for life on distant planets.

The last few years have brought enormous public attention to Unidentified Aerial Phenomena. In 2020, the Department of Defense caused a stir when it released three videos of Navy jets encountering these phenomena. A preliminary, controversial government report released last year claimed the Navy had seen a variety of UAPs and most could not be easily accounted for. Congress added an amendment to the last defense budget to create a UAP office, which the Pentagon launched this year.

This UFO furor reflects a longer-term cycle of public interest, government attention and eventual lack of clear resolution that's played out many times since the first widely reported UFO sighting in the U.S. in 1947. Back then the Air Force was concerned that UFOs might be Cold

Adam Frank



War technology that could be used against us, and the CIA worried that fears of UFOs could be used to drive mass hysteria. In all these cycles deeper exploration showed mundane explanations for most sightings. Those few sightings that couldn't be explained rarely had the kinds of data that might support firm conclusions about what happened. This, along with the conspiracy-theory inclinations of many UFO enthusiasts, is why most scientists steer clear of the subject.

So what, if anything, has changed now?

The last few decades have seen a revolution in the science of astrobiology, the study of life in the universe. It was led by the discovery of exoplanets, alien worlds orbiting distant stars. When I began my graduate work in the late 1980s, we did not know if any other star hosted even one planet. Now, thanks to spectacular advances in telescope technology, we know that almost every star in the sky is home to a family of worlds. Since life needs planets to form and thrive, this knowledge significantly increases the possibilities of life beyond Earth.

Even better, the new technologies enable probes of those distant worlds. The search for biosignatures — signs of a biosphere, the parts of a planet where life exists — and technosignatures — signs of intelligence — is taking off. NASA's James Webb Space Telescope, which launched in December, is only the first among new observatories that will vastly expand the data we collect from worlds light-years away. But any claim that alien life has been found will have to pass through a gauntlet of stringent tests and strident skepti-

cism before the scientific community could accept it.

It's against this extraordinary progress we've made in our scientific search for life that the new NASA panel should be viewed. Its work can demonstrate how science goes about answering questions, especially ones with such high stakes. Given the panel's short tenure, its chief job — and the first job of any scientific investigation — will be to ask what kinds of data are available. Are that data up to the task of answering the question posed? If not, what kinds of data are needed and what kind of effort is required to get it?

This is how science works. This quest for data that meet tough standards of evidence is the process that gave us cellphones, safe jet travel and drugs that cure formerly intractable diseases. NASA's panel can begin to lay out what a rational investigation of UFOs looks like without assumptions about what UFOs are. Is a network of Earth-observing satellites required, or upward-looking ground stations? These are some of the questions it may take on.

I would wager that most scientists — including me — overwhelmingly doubt that UAPs have anything to do with life beyond Earth. But a UAP panel can tackle the subject and demonstrate that most beautiful aspect of science: the ability to withhold judgment in favor of evidence. And it can do so with a broader lens than the Pentagon and congressional investigations, which focus on UAPs as a defense issue.

At their best, these efforts can seize upon an issue of great public interest to offer a master class in how science works. For a nation awash in science denial, that would be no small thing. And by creating a blueprint of what evidence is demanded by a question as extraordinary as whether we're alone in the universe, the panel can show the equally extraordinary progress science is making toward answering it.

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Frank is an astrophysicist and professor at the University of Rochester.

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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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With malice aforethought

West dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ 8 7 4 3
 ♥ K 4
 ♦ Q 7 3
 ♣ 10 6 2

EAST
 ♠ 6
 ♥ Q 10 7 5 3 2
 ♦ A 8
 ♣ J 7 5 4

SOUTH
 ♠ A K J 10 2
 ♥ A 9 6
 ♦ 6 5 4
 ♣ Q 8

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

Opening lead — king of clubs.

Endplays take all kinds of forms, but the general idea is always the same. Declarer arranges to put one of the defenders on lead at a time when that defender must hand declarer a trick he might not have gotten otherwise. Such situations are usually brought about by design. A declarer is fortunate indeed if the setting occurs naturally; in most cases, the sequence of plays must be carefully planned and executed in order to arrive at the winning position. Consider this deal where West led the K-A and another club against three spades. Declarer ruffed, drew trump and continued with the K-A of hearts and a heart ruff. With the clubs and hearts having been eliminated from both hands, South was now in position to cut his three natural diamond losers to two. So, he crossed to his hand with a trump and led a diamond, rendering the defense helpless. West did as well as he could by playing the 9, but declarer, sizing up the situation perfectly, ducked in dummy. It did not matter what East played on this trick. If he allowed the nine to hold, West could do no better than continue with a diamond, whereupon East would take the ace and be forced to yield a ruff-and-discard. Similarly, if East overtook the nine with the ace and returned a diamond, dummy's queen would become a trick, and South would again emerge victorious. It is true that the contract could have been defeated had West led a diamond at either trick two or trick three. This would have allowed the defense to score two club tricks and three diamond tricks. But once West had failed to do this, South could not be stopped from getting home safely with proper play.

Tomorrow: Perseverance pays off.
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Peanuts

Rose is Rose

Agnes

Hi and Lois

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Snuffy Smith

Beetle Bailey

11-8 CRYPTOQUIP

NUMUSQHYUO OWRNI RWLJWLJ
 JQITA XCIRU GUGSUQR HMM
 XUHQ EHQUQR' ITYEWYR:
 YCU YWMMHJU AUIAMU.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHICH PART OF EACH WEEK SHOULD FOLKS SET ASIDE TO SUBMIT PAYMENTS ON THEIR BILLS? DUES-DAY.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals G

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 And others (Lat.)
 5 Mother of Helios
 9 Govt. loan agcy.
 12 Actress Turner
 13 Optimum
 14 A gazillion years
 15 Chicken stew
 17 East ender?
 18 Strike callers
 19 Sill
 21 Clubs (Abbr.)
 24 Fish feature
 25 Actress Perلمان

DOWN

35 Monster
 36 During
 37 Travel papers
 38 Namely
 40 Earth (Pref.)
 43 The Volunteer State
 48 Buddhist sect
 49 Writer
 50 Desire
 51 URL ending
 52 Specks
 53 Motel amenity
 21 Multitude
 22 "Scram!"

Solution time: 22 mins.

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

40 Tizzy
 41 Singles
 44 "Xanadu" band
 45 "No seats" sign
 46 Swelled head
 47 Sushi fish

Yesterday's answer 11-8

30 LOST, STRAYED OR FOUND

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40 NOTICES

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER. Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Plan now to attend November 24, 2022, 1:00 pm. Asbury UM Church. All Jay County welcome. No charge for the meal.

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Patriot girls opener has been rescheduled, see Sports on tap

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Sports

Mixed emotions

Fort Recovery girls are 13th at cross country state finals with Brunswick 33rd; Heitkamp finishes 35th in boys race

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

OBETZ, Ohio — The Indians were left with that odd feeling that can come along with competing at the highest level.

They were proud to be competing amongst the best. But they also felt they could have done better.

Fort Recovery High School's girls team finished 13th in Saturday's OHSAA Division III Cross Country State Finals at Fortress Obetz and Memorial Park with Natalie Brunswick's 33rd-place effort leading the way. Trevor Heitkamp was 35th in the boys race.

"I thought all around we had really solid races," said FRHS coach Christy Diller. "Everybody showed up and ran."

"I think the girls all did well tonight. ... They fought the whole time. To finish 13th — we came in ranked 15th — it's a good day."

The Indians scored 312 points, finishing 22 behind 12th-place McDonald and four ahead of 14th-place Fredericktown.

Minster, the Tribe's Midwest Athletic Conference rival, totaled 76 points to repeat as state champion for its sixth state title in the last seven years and a record 15th overall. (No other girls team has won more than seven.) Fort Loramie was a distant second at 119.

Brunswick, the only FRHS runner competing Saturday who had not been to the state finals previously, was 25th after the first quarter-mile. By the time the runners returned to the stadium at Fortress Obetz she was at the front of a



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Fort Recovery High School's Natalie Brunswick (center) runs toward the mile mark at Fortress Obetz during Saturday's OHSAA Division III Girls Cross Country State Finals. The junior closed her first season of cross country with a 33rd-place finish, leading the Indians to 13th place as a team.

pack alongside Mogadore's Katie Lane and hit the mile mark in 31st place.

The junior slipped to 37th at the 2-mile as the field thinned out, but was able to gain back

four spots to post a time of 19 minutes, 46.6 seconds, for her 33rd-place finish.

"It was OK," said Brunswick, who was seeded 36th based on regional times but had hoped

to make a run at the top 20. "I definitely felt like I could have done a little bit better after I finished, which that sucks because obviously there's nothing you can do about it

once you're done. I went out there, still had a good race, still competed pretty well. It's still pretty good. I'm happy with myself."

See Mixed page 7

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Jay third in opener

NEW PALESTINE — The Patriots have been among the leading groups in an emerging sport.

They plan to continue that pattern.

Jay County High School's girls wrestling team opened its season Saturday with a third-place finish in the New Palestine Dragons Invitational.

The Patriots' 126 points were just one behind Franklin Central and Lake Central, with the former winning the event based on criteria. Warren Central was a close fourth with 120 among 31 scoring teams.

The result came without defending 160-pound state champion Mallory Winner, who is out after breaking her leg in the offseason. Several other wrestlers also missed the tournament because of injuries.

Kiley Williams and Katie Rowles won championships for JCHS, which had the fourth-most wrestlers advance to the Indiana High School Girls Wrestling State Finals last season. (Girls wrestling is not yet an IHSAA sport, but in the spring was added as an "emerging sport.") To hold an IHSAA state tournament, at least 50% of member schools must participate.)

Williams had her toughest match in the opening round of the 195-pound bracket, edging Jasmine Hollins-Rowie of Warren Central 11-9. She made quick work of Kokomo's Marli Redfern in the semifinals with a pin in 29 seconds and then pinned Leah Mitchell, also of Kokomo, in 2:39 in the championship match.

In the 106-pound A bracket — it was for wrestlers who weighed in at less than 100 pounds — Rowles recorded pins over Warren Central's Essence Austin (1:37), Franklin Central's Savana Garner (55 seconds) and New Albany's Callie Walker (30 seconds).

Lina Lingo matched Williams in point scoring for JCHS — they each had 24 — as she placed second at 126 pounds. She recorded three consecutive pins, two of which came in the first round, before falling by pin to Phoebe Dowty of Indian Creek in the championship match.

Adding third-place finishes were Jayla Huel-skamp at 120 pounds, Dakota Chowning at 126 pounds and Haley Ride-nour at 152 pounds.

Saturday takes over

By GEORGE BREMER
The Herald Bulletin (Anderson)
Tribune News Service

INDIANAPOLIS — One of the more surreal days in Indianapolis Colts history was capped Monday night with a bizarre stream-of-consciousness news conference led by owner Jim Irsay.

At times defiant and combative, Irsay defended his unprecedented move to hire long-time center Jeff Saturday as the team's interim head coach after firing Frank Reich midway through his fifth season in charge.

Since taking control of the franchise

in 1995, Irsay never before had fired a head coach during a season.

But he said the time was right with the Colts (3-5-1) riding a three-game losing streak and fading from playoff contention.

"Well, you know, things change," Irsay said. "In 27 years, I never had a quarterback retire on me at age 29 in his prime. Things change. You change the way you move out to try to deal with each situation, and you never like to make a change — much less during the season. It's not ideal."

See Saturday page 7

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Thursday
Jay County — Girls basketball at Fort Wayne South Side — 6 p.m.

TV sports

Today
2:30 p.m. — Soccer: Bundesliga — Werder Bremen at Bayern Munchen (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Ohio at Miami (Ohio) (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NHL hockey: Edmonton Oilers at Tampa Bay Lightning (TNT)
8 p.m. — College football: Ball State at Toledo (ESPN)
10 p.m. — NHL hockey: Nashville Predators at Seattle Kraken (TNT)

Wednesday

2:45 p.m. — Soccer: League Cup —

Leeds United at Wolverhampton (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — NBA basketball: Denver Nuggets at Indiana Pacers (Bally Indiana)
7 p.m. — College football: Buffalo at Central Michigan (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: New York Knicks at Brooklyn Nets (ESPN)
7:30 p.m. — NHL hockey: Pittsburgh Penguins at Washington Capitals (TNT)
10 p.m. — NBA basketball: Los Angeles Lakers at Los Angeles Clippers (ESPN)
10 p.m. — NHL playoffs: Minnesota Wild at Anaheim Ducks (TNT)

Local notes

FR tickets available
Season tickets for Fort Recovery boys and girls basketball are available now. Tickets can be purchased from 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays in the high

school office. They are \$55 for adults and \$35 for students.
All-sport passes are also available for \$150 for adults and \$50 for students. Senior citizen passes are \$30, junior high adult passes are \$25 and junior high student passes are \$10.

Wrestling registration set
A sign-up session is scheduled for kindergarten through second graders who would like to be part of Jay County Wrestling Club.

The club's Little Patriots Program is for those in kindergarten through second grade and focuses on wrestling basics. The registration fee is \$80.
Sign ups will be at 6 p.m. Nov. 22 and 6 p.m. Nov. 29.

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