

Five of the seven county-owned and operated sewage treatment facilities plan to increase quarterly fees beginning with October billings.

Auglaize County Engineer Doug Reinhart, whose office is charged with operating the facilities owned by the county,

years are needed for several reasons. Fees were last increased four years ago.

The Auglaize County commissioners unanimously approved the increases this week, with the first increase to become effective in July, which would be included in the October billing, and sub-

become effective in January of 2011 and 2012.

Reinhart said as a result of several factors, annual carryovers for Arrowhead, Beverly Hills, Forest



Reinhart

increases. He said a \$4 a quarter fee increase equates to \$1.33 a month or a 4 1/2 to 7 percent increase based on current rates.

Based on that schedule, in July of this year, January 2011 and January 2012, rates would increase in increments of \$4 each time.

rowhead are now \$69 and would be \$81 by January 2012, Beverly Hills are \$56 and would be \$68 by 2012, Forest Lane's are \$80 and would be \$92 by 2012, Pleasantview's are \$75 and would be \$87 by 2012, and Sharlon's are \$89 and would be \$101 by 2012.

sanitary sewer rates by more than 65 percent and the city of Wapakoneta is currently increasing rates by 15 percent plus raising the outside rate surcharge from 15 to 25 percent," Reinhart, serving in his role as sanitary engineer,

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St. Marys teacher files suit

By MIKE BURKHOLDER
Staff Writer

ST. MARYS — A longtime mathematics teacher with St. Marys City Schools filed a lawsuit Thursday against the school district seeking reinstatement.

Attorneys for former Memorial High School teacher Tom F. Elsass, of Wapakoneta, filed the suit in Auglaize County Common Pleas Court Thursday morning. The suit names the St. Marys City School District Board of Education and Superintendent Mary Riepenhoff as defendants.

In their filing, Toledo attorneys Christine A. Reardon and Bethany German Ziviski laid out 11 reasons why Elsass should be reinstated. They include:

- Charges against Elsass were inadequate as stated to permit termination of his contract.
- Failure to present proof to sustain the charges against Elsass

See SUIT, Page 5A

Jose moves on at national bee

WASHINGTON (AP) — With a touch of "serendipity," the search for a champion speller was under way.

Fourteen-year-old Allison Black of Ider, Ala., looking just a tad nervous in her pink blouse and black skirt, stepped to the microphone Thursday morning and spelled the word correctly to kick off the oral rounds of the 83rd Scripps National Spelling Bee.

The 273 spellers, including Wapakoneta City Schools eighth-grader George Jose, are vying for the win-

See BEE, Page 4B

Wintzer building



Staff photo/William Laney

Crews from Wapakoneta-based Peterson Construction work on footers and walls for the basement and parking garage for a building which will be the new offices for G.A. Wintzer & Sons. The new offices more than double the space of the current office. The office building will match the building at 202 W. Auglaize St. and also will face West Auglaize Street.

USDA works to conserve region

By JENNIFER TANGEMAN
Staff Writer

Auglaize County has been named as a priority region for the \$6.4 million now available for conservation in the Lake Erie watershed.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has allocated the money to Ohio landowners as part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

The funds will be managed by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and made available within the Lake Erie watershed.

The Auglaize watershed is listed among 10 priority regions to receive funding in the state.

Lee Walker, soil conservationist with the Auglaize County NRCS, said local officials will not know exactly how much of the money local landowners will see.

See CONSERVE, Page 5A

Grad wants class 'to change world'

By MEGAN VEIT
News Correspondent

One local high school senior is ready for the unexpected, for the excitement and discovery of the college experience.

Wapakoneta High School graduating senior Kari Katterheinrich found the inspiration for her graduation speech in the musical "Wicked." In

the song "Defying Gravity," the lead female character goes against expectations.

"She's doing what's right, and everyone else sees it as wrong," Katterheinrich said.

She said she wants to remind the class of 2010 that in the changing world, they must stand behind what they believe

when controversy arises. Graduating in the top five in her class, Katterheinrich will be the fourth to give her speech Saturday, but the waiting is not making her nervous. "It might give me a little more time



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Kari Katterheinrich

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ODDS & ENDS

STEVENS POINT, Wis. (AP) — A digital construction sign along a central Wisconsin interstate has been flashing a rock-inspired passionate message to passing motorists. The sign near Stevens Point spelled out "Danger Danger," "High Voltage," "When We Touch," "When We Kiss," to rush-hour drivers Thursday. The words are borrowed from the song "Danger! High Voltage" by the Detroit-based rock band Electric Six. James Bierman, co-owner of Central State Signing, says a hacker must have changed the message board.

QUICK LOOK

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan's paper trail is about to get a lot longer. See Page 6A

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Cadmium has been discovered in the painted design on "Shrek"-themed drinking glasses being sold nationwide at McDonald's, forcing the burger giant to recall 12 million of the cheap U.S.-made collectibles while dramatically expanding contamination concerns. See Page 6A

HOMETOWN

Your News Now

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World From Page 1A

to calm down," Katterheir-
rich said.

She said she also is excited to share her message with her peers.

"Having more people there makes me nervous," the daughter of Deb and Wayne Katterheinrich said of the friends and family that will fill the bleachers.

For Katterheinrich, "doing what's right" is a principle close to the heart. This summer, she will again volunteer at the Equestrian Therapy Program at a facility outside of Cridersville. The program helped her choose the degree she will pursue in college.

"It was a lot of fun and really interesting," Katterheinrich said.

Her time was dedicated to the children that participated in the program.

Katterheinrich, who plans to attend Miami University in Oxford, intends to study psychology. For now, she wants her options open.

"I don't know if I want to do counseling — possibly clinical psychology," the National Honors Society member said.

Katterheinrich surprised herself when she chose Miami University.

"I didn't think I'd want a campus that big," said Katterheinrich, who noted on her visit, she felt at home.

She is also keeping herself open to other possibilities.

The long list of programs at the university was another reassuring factor that Miami University is where she's meant to be.

Katterheinrich will be a student of the Honors College, providing a smaller feel on a campus that is bigger than she expected.

"You're not necessarily

stuck in some of the larger lecture classes," Katterheinrich said.

The honors curriculum includes more in-depth, discussion-based classes. Her studies will culminate in a capstone experience

that she can create based on her studies.

Katterheinrich said she will continue to work part-time at Lincoln Family Practice for part of the summer before preparing for the move.

"I'll probably just take July and do my volunteering and be with my family," Katterheinrich said.

She noted she has watched two siblings head off to college and feels prepared.

"I'm ready for it. It's going to be a lot different," Katterheinrich said. "I'm still nervous, but it's not

as bad."

There will be a few familiar faces at the university, but Katterheinrich said she is excited to start meeting new people and finding new interests.

There's one old interest that she hopes to carry over to college.

"I'd like to do accompaniment with soloist," the pianist and violinist said.

She started piano lessons in first grade and decided to pick up the violin in eighth grade.

"I know it helps if you start younger, but since I already knew piano, it wasn't as bad," Katterheinrich said.

She noted she has been interested in the instrument for years prior to starting and has enjoyed the challenge.

Katterheinrich is also enjoying her final stretch with those familiar faces that will be her audience this Saturday.

"It's great. We've been counting down to graduation."

Conserve From Page 1A

According to a news release from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS will be focusing its efforts on addressing non-point source pollution, farmland preservation and critical wildlife habitats within Ohio.

Walker said the funds are being used through existing NRCS conservation programs and named three programs in particular — the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) and the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP).

"EQIP, for example, lets farmers implement cover crops in fields or gives them assistance with the building of a manure dry-stack building, and other practices," Walker said.

WHIP is fairly self-explanatory, the soil conservationist said. The intent of the conservation program is to increase the number and variety of wildlife in the area. The program concentrates on wildlife habitat like grasses or farmland.

As for FRPP, Walker said not many landowners partake in the program locally. Conservation efforts through FRPP include the opportunity to put an easement on a plot of ground, so the ground cannot be developed for a

Watershed efforts:
NRCS Conservationist: Walker said local landowners can apply to take part in the conservation efforts by calling the Auglaize County NRCS office at 419-738-4016. Landowners can apply until July 1, and must have up-to-date records of their land through the Farm Service Agency.

certain number of years. Walker said the restoration initiative stems from an algae bloom in the Great Lakes.

"These conservation programs will help to eventually clean up the lakes," Walker said.

NCRS State Conservationist Terry Cosby explained the importance of clean water in the Great Lakes.

"NRCS is pleased to have a role in this initiative to protect the Great Lakes," Cosby said. "Water in the Lake Erie watershed provides drinking water for 11 million people. Over \$10 billion is spent on recreation and tourism in the Lake Erie region every year. Obviously, the water quality in this watershed has a major impact on the lives of Ohio residents, both from a health and economic standpoint."

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Suit From Page 1A

• Failure to investigate the charges against Elsass and thereby denied him due process.

• Failure to allow Elsass a meaningful opportunity to respond to the allegations.

• Error by the referee in excluding material evidence regarding Elsass' 34 years of employment and accolades.

• Error by the referee in crediting the testimony of a convicted criminal over the testimony of Elsass.

• An order of termination is not supported by or is against the weight of evidence.

• Termination proceedings were procedurally defective and Elsass was denied due process because the board failed to hold a hearing upon the referee's recommendation.

• Termination proceedings were procedurally defective and Elsass was denied due process because the board failed to give notice to Elsass of the board's May 12 meeting and failed to allow him an opportunity to present additional evidence when it passed the resolution to terminate his employ-

ment.

• Violation of Elsass' constitutional rights by forcing him to choose between making statements and facing dismissal, thereby effectively negating the Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination.

The last of the 11 claims states for any other procedural and substantive error appearing in the record and transcript of the proceedings of the board.

During a St. Marys Board of Education meeting in May, members approved a resolution terminating Elsass as a teacher based upon a Sept. 3 incident in Elida where he was reportedly observed inappropriately touching himself near a group of girls.

Elsass was initially charged with public indecency and voyeurism but those charges were dismissed because of a lack of evidence. Elsass appeared before a referee for a hearing in March and the referee ruled in favor of the school board's resolution to terminate him.

In their filing, the attorneys wrote that Elsass

reached into his pocket for a cigarette lighter while he was in front of his van and noticed a urine spot on his shorts. He rubbed the stain to dissipate the moisture. Shortly after that, an Allen County Sheriff's Office deputy approached Elsass about allegations he was observed inappropriately touching himself in the parking lot.

Elsass denied the claims and offered his clothing as evidence to the deputy, which was not collected.

He also requested the deputy review surveillance tapes of the parking lot, which the attorneys claimed supported Elsass' assertion of innocence.

The attorneys also claimed because the St. Marys Board of Education did not give Elsass any assurances that his statements would not be used against him in the criminal case, he could not attend the Sept. 8 or Sept. 10 hearing to he could not present a defense and preserve his Fifth Amendment rights.

The attorneys also discredited the referee's report.

"At the hearing, referee

Amick refused to consider evidence concerning plaintiff Elsass' lengthy and highly acclaimed teaching career," the attorneys wrote. "A proffer of said evidence was made by plaintiff Elsass. By failing to consider evidence concerning plaintiff Elsass' career, the referee denied plaintiff Elsass due process."

Elsass is asking the court to reject the referee's findings and conclusions as they relate to the board's Sept. 11 resolution terminating his contract and to rescind the resolution of termination passed May 12.

He also is seeking reinstatement of his teaching position, that he be compensated for all of his losses, including without limitation back pay and contractual benefits and full restoration of seniority in all aspects, and that court costs be paid by the defendants.

He also is requesting the court award him any and all other relief it deems just and proper.

School officials have 28 days to respond to the suit.

Rates From Page 1A

told commissioners.

Citing reasons for the needed increases on the county level, Reinhart

e. coli, phosphorus, oil and grease by a state-certified lab.

The cost of wasting

"It is necessary to waste sludge a minimum of two times a year," Reinhart said. "Plants near capacity

built 23 years ago, is the newest. The age of the facilities results in the need for increased replacement

Support From Page 2A

about it," Galarraga said.

Galarraga said he looked at the replays later and realized "Oh my God, it was out. Not even a close play."

He felt empathy for Joyce during their home-plate reunion Thursday.

"He couldn't even talk, he was crying," Galarraga said. "I understand, nobody's perfect."

Joyce said he's gotten encouragement from many quarters.

"Well, it just comes from the support I've received from my family, from the Tigers organization, the Indians organization, Major League Baseball ... and, and to be quite honest with you, the fans from the Detroit area," Joyce said.

Code	Group	Description	Price	Change
INDU	--	DJ INDU AVERAGE	10,255.28	+5.74
SPX	--	S&P 500 INDEX	1,102.83	+4.45
COMPQ	--	NASDAQ COMPOSITE	2,303.03	+21.96
CVS	NYSE CONSL	CVS CAREMARK CRP	35.06	-0.14
AMAT	NASDAQ	APPLIED MATL	13.03	+0.18
T	NYSE CONSL	AT&T	24.80	+0.02
JPM	NYSE CONSL	JPMORGAN CHASE	39.10	-0.45
BBBY	NASDAQ	BED BATH BEYOND	45.21	-0.06
BOBE	NASDAQ	BOB EVANS	28.11	0.00
BP	NYSE CONSL	BP PLC ADR	39.27	+1.61
BMJ	NYSE CONSL	BRISTOL MYERS SQ	22.88	-0.12
CSCO	NASDAQ	CISCO SYSTEMS	23.72	+0.37
C	NYSE CONSL	CITIGROUP	3.96	+0.04
DELL	NASDAQ	DELL INC	13.76	+0.64
DPL	NYSE CONSL	DPL INC	25.14	-0.04
DD	NYSE CONSL	DU PONT CO	35.78	-0.41
EMC	NYSE CONSL	EMC CORP	19.06	+0.37
EMR	NYSE CONSL	EMERSON ELECTRIC	47.28	+0.39
XOM	NYSE CONSL	EXXON MOBIL	61.56	+0.79
FITB	NASDAQ	FIFTH THR BNCP	13.13	+0.08
F	NYSE CONSL	FORD MOTOR CO	11.96	+0.11
GE	NYSE CONSL	GENERAL ELEC CO	16.45	+0.10
GT	NYSE CONSL	GOODYEAR TIRE	12.06	+0.22
HQ	NYSE CONSL	HEWLETT-PACKARD	47.48	+0.21
HD	NYSE CONSL	HOME DEPOT INC	33.43	-0.44
HMC	NYSE CONSL	HONDA MOTOR CO	30.78	+0.58
HBAN	NASDAQ	HUNGTN BKSHR	6.11	-0.06
INTC	NASDAQ	INTEL CORP	21.90	+0.09
JNJ	NYSE CONSL	JOHNSON JOHNSON	59.77	+0.04
JPM	NYSE CONSL	JPMORGAN CHASE	39.10	-0.45
LANC	NASDAQ	LANCASTER CLNY	55.09	+0.67
LOW	NYSE CONSL	LOWES COMPANIES	24.44	+0.01
MCD	NYSE CONSL	MCDONALDS CORP	67.85	+0.08
MRK	NYSE CONSL	MERCK & CO	34.29	-0.07
MSFT	NASDAQ	MICROSOFT CP	26.86	+0.40
MOT	NYSE CONSL	MOTOROLA	6.87	+0.02