



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Airport project started, on track

Expansion should be completed in about a month

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Work is underway on the latest improvement project at Portland Municipal Airport.

Local officials are looking toward plans for what comes next.

Portland Board of Aviation was updated on the facility's apron expansion project Wednesday and discussed plans for federal funding moving forward.

Jason Clearwaters of engineering firm Butler, Fairman & Seufert told the board Kwest Group of Perrysburg, Ohio, began work on the apron expansion last month as scheduled. Most of the preliminary work has been completed and about half of the stone is in place. He said he expects the first concrete pour to happen next week.

The \$965,497 project should be complete in about 30 days, he said. It will add 57,700 square feet to the apron — the area where aircraft are parked, unloaded or loaded, refueled, boarded or maintained. Plans call for rehabilitating the existing apron in the next few years.

Board members Faron Parr, Clyde Bray, Caleb Lutes and John Ferguson approved a pay request from Kwest Group for \$63,336.64, with 5% held back as retainage, for work completed from Aug. 26 through Sept. 5.

The board also approved grant reimbursement requests of:

- \$53,965 from the Federal Aviation Administration and \$3,553.68 from Indiana Department of Transportation for the apron project

- \$3,325 from the FAA for the early stages of work on the design of a project to rehabilitate the original 4,000 feet of the airport's runway

See Project page 2



JCHS spirit

That Patriot spirit was on full display Wednesday night as students took competed in powderpuff football and volleyball as part of Jay County High School Spirit Night activities. Pictured above, seniors (from left) Emma Hatzell, Paisley Fugiett, Alexis Sibray, Aixa Lopez, Nick Laux and Paityn Wendel celebrate after their powderpuff victory over the freshmen in the semifinal game. The Class of 2026 went on to defeat the juniors in the championship game. At left, freshman Emery Forthofer calls out signals during her team's game against the sophomores. For more photos, see page 8.

Requirements delayed

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Lawmakers who voted to implement work requirements for Medicaid beneficiaries next summer will have to wait another six months before they can take effect, and the state is still waiting to hear if the federal government will approve other portions of the health care plan.

Meanwhile, Indiana's financial toll under a new federal law is beginning to take shape, though final numbers are currently under review, according to comments before the State Budget Committee on Wednesday.

More than 652,000 Hoosiers are enrolled on the Healthy Indiana Plan, or HIP, as of August. State lawmakers voted earlier this year to impose work requirements on the low- to moderate-income Hoosiers starting in July — though many are already working and others may qualify for

Federal government holds off implementation of new state Medicaid provision until '27

exceptions such as child care commitments or substance use treatment.

But the federal government won't let Indiana move forward with work requirements until 2027, when all Medicaid expansion enrollees must meet that condition as part of President Donald Trump's "Big, Beautiful Bill." He signed that into law this summer.

Other parts of Indiana's HIP 3.0 proposal are still under consideration, including an expansion

on provider taxes, cost-sharing requirements and wellness incentives.

"We are attempting to revise the benefit package to reinsert personal responsibility and give people carrots as well as sticks," said Mitch Roob, the secretary of the Family and Social Services Administration. "The Big, Beautiful Bill gives them several sticks. Regarding cost-sharing requirements, we'd like to provide them with several carrots."

See Delayed page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Rally ready

Vehicles were arriving Thursday morning for the Indiana Military Vehicle Preservation Association's Salute to the Troops Rally and Swap Meet at Jay County Fairgrounds. The event runs until 4 p.m. today and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

In review

Jay County issued a burn ban Wednesday afternoon as a result of drought conditions. Residents are prohibited from burning while the ban — it's in effect until Sept. 30 or otherwise lifted — is in place.

Weather

The high temperature was 86 degrees Wednesday in Portland. The low was 55.

The homecoming forecast calls for sunny skies with a high in the upper 80s, followed by a low around 60. Expect partly cloudy skies Saturday with a high in the mid 80s. There will be a 20% chance of rain. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers 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 — Photos from Jay County High School's homecoming festivities.

Tuesday — Details from Monday's Jay County Commissioners meeting.

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



Project ...

Continued from page 1

The board also discussed the airport's capital improvement plan, which lays out proposed projects for the next five years. As approved last year, it calls for the apron expansion and design of the pavement upgrades this year, paving the runway in 2026, designing and reconstructing the existing apron in 2027 and 2028, respectively, and designing and constructing a wildlife control and security fence in 2029 and '30. Those projects utilize regular FAA entitlement dollars.

Clearwaters noted that the aviation board will also have about \$200,000 available from the 2021 federal infrastructure bill.

The board discussed options for those funds, including replacing the airport's automated weather observing station and constructing a snow removal equipment building. Clearwaters noted that two other facilities he works with are currently replacing their weather systems at costs of \$181,000 and \$225,000, respectively.

Airport manager Hal Tavzel pointed out that the weather stations are intended to last about 15 years. The equipment at the Portland airport is 23 years old.

Board members informally agreed to make the weather equipment the priority, to be dis-

cussed again at their next meeting. Clearwaters said the last round of infrastructure bill funding is expected to be announced Oct. 1 and will be available for use after that. If the board chooses to move forward, a new weather system could be in place by the spring.

The capital improvement plan is due to the FAA by Dec. 1.

In other business, the board:

- Discussed the airport's disadvantaged business enterprise goal for 2026 through '28, as required by the federal government. The board agreed to set a goal of 3.1% for all federally funded projects and gave permission for Clearwaters to sub-

mit documentation to the FAA for review.

- Heard the following from Tavzel:
 - The airport sold 15,102 gallons of fuel in August for \$59,486.70. That's up by nearly 40% from 10,813 gallons in August 2024 and nearly back to the 2023 level of 15,805. He said about half of that total was from agricultural spraying and that charter flights have been busy. "Weather's good; everybody's flying," he said.
 - Attendance for the annual fly-in and pancake breakfast in August was almost 300. Tavzel Aviation made 120 flights that day — it was the highest total in

about 10 years — and Goodfolk & O'Tymes Biplane Rides also made more than 100.

- The Young Eagles event on Sept. 6 drew 49 children for flights. The organization offers free flights for those from ages 8 to 17.
- Cleaning of the airport's fuel tanks is planned for October.
- The largest aircraft ever to land at the airport, a 12-seat Cessna Citation Sovereign, visited within the last month.
- Was reminded by Clearwaters that the Aviation Indiana Annual Conference is scheduled for Oct. 14 through 16 in South Bend.
- Approved payment of claims totaling \$585.18.

CR almanac

Saturday 9/20	Sunday 9/21	Monday 9/22	Tuesday 9/23	Wednesday 9/24
87/61	82/63	78/61	79/60	76/59
Saturday's weather looks like a slight chance of rain under partly cloudy skies.	There's a slight chance of showers or thunderstorms Sunday. The high may reach 82 degrees.	Monday's weather shows a 70% chance of showers under cloudy skies.	Mostly cloudy skies on Tuesday with a chance of rain.	Wednesday's forecast shows a 40% chance of showers.

Lotteries

Powerball 7-30-50-54-62 Power Ball: 20 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$99 million	Daily Four: 4-8-2-0 Quick Draw: 1-12-18-22-25-26-28-30-33-34-36-42-50-53-55-58-62-63-72-78 Cash 5: 3-9-31-38-42 Estimated jackpot: \$134,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$423 million	Ohio Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 6-0-8 Pick 4: 5-8-0-8 Pick 5: 3-6-6-8-0 Evening Pick 3: 3-9-0 Pick 4: 8-0-2-3 Pick 5: 0-6-3-4-3 Rolling Cash: 9-14-17-24-37 Estimated jackpot: \$140,000
Hoosier Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 5-8-0 Daily Four: 9-1-6-7 Quick Draw: 1-2-3-4-8-11-14-17-22-32-36-52-53-57-65-66-68-69-74-78 Evening Daily Three: 5-0-4	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.14 Oct. corn4.09 Dec. corn4.24	Dec. beans10.36 Wheat4.80
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.20 Oct./Nov. corn4.10 Dec. corn4.30	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.96 Oct. corn3.96 Beans.....9.94 Oct. beans9.94 Wheat4.76
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.04 Oct. corn4.01 Beans.....9.91	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.09 Oct. corn3.99 Beans.....9.76 Oct. beans9.76 Wheat4.60

Today in history

In 1356, during the Hundred Years' War, English prince Edward's forces defeated the French at Poitiers.

In 1796, United States president George Washington's Farewell Address was printed in a Philadelphia newspaper.

Washington warned the country about entangling in foreign conflicts, calling for neutrality.

In 1777, the Saratoga campaign of the Revolutionary War began with the Battle of Freeman's Farm between the British and American forces. Nearly a month later, British general

John Burgoyne surrendered his troops, turning the tide of the war.

In 1783, the first hot air balloon launched in the air in Versailles, France. Its passengers included a sheep, a rooster and a duck.

In 1997, Portland native Monna VanSky-ock received the "Spirit of Special Olympics" award at Indianapolis Athletic Club. The award was the highest presented for Indiana Special Olympics. She had been active in Special Olympics as a coach for 13 years.

— The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.	Tuesday 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, cabin, Morgan Park, 50 Mooney St. Wednesday 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St. 6 p.m. — Jay County Council public hearing, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
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Capsule Reports

Intersection crash

Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000 after a Portland man drove into oncoming traffic at the intersection of Arch and Meridian streets, causing an accident about 2:30 p.m. Sept. 10.

John Rigby, 69, was driving his 2005 Buick LeSabre west on Arch Street and approached its intersection with Meridian Street. He told police he didn't see the southbound 2014 Chrysler 300 driven by Joshua McCoun, 35, of Hartford City, and entered the intersection. He also told police he believed his car's axle broke, and he wasn't able to stop before crashing into McCoun's vehicle.

Rigby's vehicle was towed.

Driver charged

A Pennville man is accused of drunk driving after crashing his car

along county road 500 North about 7:48 p.m. Tuesday.

Jerry L. Clark, 72, was driving his 1995 Ford F-250 east on county road 500 North when he began turning south onto River Road. He told police a northbound vehicle — he later said it was an all-terrain vehicle — making the turn east onto 500 North nearly crashed into him, and he had to drive off the road to avoid a collision. His car went into a ditch, struck a stop sign and hit a utility pole registered to Jay County REMC. Clark said the other vehicle didn't stop.

Clark was arrested for operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor, and operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol level of 0.15% or more, a Class A misdemeanor. He was being held on a \$1,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

Clark sustained minor facial

injuries and refused treatment on scene.

The stop sign was replaced by Jay County Highway Department.

Miscommunication

Two teenagers struck one another's vehicles after a miscommunication in Jay County Junior-Senior High School parking lot about 3:45 p.m. Wednesday.

Jordan R. Russell, 17, Pennville, was driving a 2002 Ford F-150 south in the parking lot at 2072 W. Indiana 67 when he waved at a friend. At the same time, 16-year-old Adria M. Roessner of Portland was driving a 2017 Chevrolet Cruze south in the parking lot and saw Russell wave, assuming he was indicating for her to drive around him. Their vehicles collided, causing between \$2,500 and \$5,000 in estimated damage.

Delayed ...

Continued from page 1

For example, he said, getting a flu shot would decrease someone's cost-sharing requirement under Indiana's proposal — which may not be possible under federal rules.

Roob previously led the administration under former Gov. Mitch Daniels, introducing the first version of HIP nearly two decades ago.

Overall, Medicaid is Indiana's fastest-growing expense, increasing from \$2.1 billion in 2017 to nearly \$5 billion in 2027.

Part of those increases can be attributed to Applied Behavior Analysis therapy and PathWays attendant care costs, he said. The first is a popular option for parents with autistic children while the

second pays individuals caring for those 60 and older.

Additionally, expenses for Federally Qualified Health Centers grew during that time. In the 2021 fiscal year, costs were under \$300 million. This year, it's roughly \$500 million.

The sites provide low-cost and free health care services to underserved populations, though costs vary from clinic to clinic. One center, Roob noted, cost the state \$600 per visit.

"We're working with the federal government to try to get this under control. We have very little control because the ... rules put in place by the federal government," Roob said.

Following pushback

from rural providers, which have a disproportionately high number of patients who rely on Medicaid, Congress created a \$50 billion Rural Health Transformation Program.

States must apply to get those funds by Nov. 5, 2025, with \$10 million available annually for the next five years. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the program has five strategic goals: improving rural health, increasing access, workforce development, investing in innovative care models and fostering technology adoption.

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The story was edited for length. To read the full version, visit indianacapitalchronicle.com.

SERVICES

Friday

McBride, Margaret: 11 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Johnson, David: Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Smith, Tillman: 1 p.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

Saturday, Sept. 27

Lopez, Nancy: 1 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

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Tensions grow in the Caribbean

By ANTONIO MARIA DELGADO

Miami Herald
Tribune News Service

Tensions continued to grow in the Caribbean this week as Venezuela and the United States publicly flexed their military muscles, fueling concerns that both nations are edging closer to an armed confrontation.

On Tuesday, President Donald Trump announced that U.S. forces had sunk three boats he said were smuggling drugs out of Venezuela, killing at least 14 people. Shortly afterward, U.S. Southern Command released a short

video on its X account showing amphibious landing drills off Puerto Rico.

The footage appeared just hours after Venezuela announced it had launched its own military maneuvers in the Caribbean on La Orchila Island, an unmistakable attempt to send a message to Washington that it will be ready for a U.S. invasion.

Tensions between Washington and Caracas have escalated in recent weeks following Trump's decision to deploy a substantial U.S. military force to combat drug cartels in the Caribbean.

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Museum of the Soldier



Tribune News Service/Chicago Tribune/Terrence Antonio James

Klairmont collection

A 1949 Triumph 2000 Roadster on display at Klairmont Collections Automotive Museum, 3117 N. Knox Ave. in Chicago, on Sept. 10. The entire collection of vehicles amassed by Larry Klairmont — approximately 284 cars — will be auctioned off.

Elderly mother abruptly changes attitude

DEAR ABBY: My mom is in her early 80s. More and more often lately, she seems to be avoiding seeing me and my siblings. It wasn't always like this. She would let me, my husband and our kids stay with her when we visited. Even last year, when she fell and injured herself, she let me stay with her for a couple of days to help out.

My siblings have been saying they think she has been "over them" for a while, but I've only noticed it over the last year or so. Now, even our phone conversations are shorter. We have lived more than five hours apart since I moved out after high school, but I always made sure to call her regularly. If I didn't call, I could expect a call from her to check in.

Dear Abby



However, now if I don't call her, I won't hear from her. After asking about me and my family, she rushes me off the phone before I can ask how she's doing.

Is this normal? Is she hiding something? Is she not feeling well? Should my siblings and I be worried, or has she earned the right to step back a bit now that she's older? She's a great mom, and we all love her dearly, but sit-

ting her down for a direct conversation isn't the norm for us. What to do? — CONCERNED ABOUT MOM

DEAR CONCERNED: It may not be the norm for your family, but it's time all of you visited Mom together and told her that her change in behavior has you worried because it is out of character. Tell her your siblings fear she is avoiding them because she is "over them." (Could that be true? Are they overly dependent on her?) Tell her you love her and are concerned because any extreme change in behavior in an older person can be a symptom of illness and should be checked out. Then listen to what she has to say.

DEAR ABBY: I moved in with two friends last year, and while I have enjoyed staying with them, it's starting to become stressful. One roommate drinks and becomes verbally abusive to me and his boyfriend. It became physical once, and he hit me in the face and blackened my eye. He's my friend, and I care about him, but I don't know how much longer I can remain living here.

I feel like if I leave, I'm giving up on him. He's a really nice person when he's sober, very helpful and generous. I just don't know what to do. Do I leave? Do I cut off the friendship? I want to help him, but I'm not sure how. — FEARFUL FRIEND IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR FRIEND: Tell your abusive alcoholic roommate when he's sober that, while you admire his personality when he's not drinking, you can no longer tolerate the person he becomes when he's drunk, which is why you are leaving. Suggest that when he's ready to deal with his problem, he should find some Alcoholics Anonymous or SMART Recovery meetings. (There are usually more than one in most communities.) Do not be surprised if he becomes defensive; most addicts do when confronted. While you can't "fix" this friend, you have every right to take care of yourSELF, and moving will be healthier for you.

Community Calendar

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

Today
DUNKIRK HISTORICAL MUSEUM — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the third Friday and Saturday of each month at Webster Depot, 132 W. Railroad St.
PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. To learn more information, please call (260) 251-3259.
CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will hold its next meeting at noon Friday, Sept. 19, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

Saturday
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.
DUNKIRK HISTORI-

CAL MUSEUM — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the third Friday and Saturday of each month at Webster Depot, 132 W. Railroad St.
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.

Sunday
A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2066.

Monday
PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.
PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.
EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay

Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.
TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.
THE LIFE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy, as well as help with the needs of the family. The center is located at 1209 S. Shank 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.
PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 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
JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 8 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Richard's Restaurant.

COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.
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.
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

Wednesday
WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.
PING PONG — Will be played from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays at West Jay Community Center.
PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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

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‘Low taxes?’ Are you kidding me?

By MORTON J. MARCUS

Robert Shiller, the Nobel Prize-winning economist, suggests people learn from stories rather than just relating facts. I see it differently. Facts are the story.

These are the facts. Indiana has 2.04% of the nation’s population. We generate 1.8% of the nation’s personal income. But we bear only 1.57% of the federal, state and local taxes combined.

“Well, stop right there,” says my friend Rathbone Roundemup. He continues, “Everyone knows about our fiscal conservatism here in the Hoosier Holyland. You know what they always say: ‘Never a

Morton J. Marcus



penny over the ultimate bare necessity; never a penny less than the ultimate public good.”

“I’m not discussing the necessity or the public good,” I reply. “I’m comparing Indiana’s taxes to those of all the states combined. Across the United States, taxes are \$8,471 per person. Here in the Hoosier state, they are only \$6,508. That’s \$1,962 less for

each person living here than citizens in other states.”

“Exactly,” he concurs. “Our General Assembly sees that it’s cheaper to live in Indiana than in other states, and we can’t afford higher taxes.”

“But our federal taxes, on a per capita basis, have nothing to do with the state legislature. Those taxes are \$4,428 — a third less than the national level of \$6,706.”

He interrupts, “Yes, that’s going to happen since we have lower incomes than those in other states.”

“Our state taxes,” I press onward, “on a per capita basis, at \$1,815, are 16% higher than the national figure.” He doesn’t respond. “Then,” I say, “again on

a per capita basis, our local taxes are 32% higher than those in the rest of the country.”

Rathbone leans close. “I tell you why, friend. The reason is sex. Our young men, and young women as well, are not giving us as many babies as we need. I don’t know why, but passion, raw and righteous, just isn’t what it was in times gone by.

“If we had more babies,” he concludes, “our per capita figures would be lower, and we wouldn’t seem to have such high taxes.”

“No,” I exclaim. “That’s a neat trick, but I don’t think we can play the baby card here. The problem is income. As I said at first, Indiana has 2.04% of the popula-

tion but only 1.8% of the nation’s personal income. We don’t need more people. We need people who are earning more income.

“Our economic development policies,” I continue, “must be focused on increasing the income of our labor force. That means we need workers who won’t put up with low wages, county commissioners who won’t give subsidies for low-wage jobs and training programs that raise the skill levels of our workers for the future, not just to fill existing jobs.”

.....

Marcus is an economist formerly at the IU Kelley School of Business. Contact him via email at mortonjmarcus@gmail.com.

Rein in the ads, question reasons

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

There are plenty of good reasons to ban the TV advertising of prescription drugs, but coming from the anti-science, anti-medicine Trump administration and the dangerous anti-vaccine crackpot Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the motivation is suspect.

It is aimed to attack the pharmaceutical companies?

Or hurt the revenues of the TV networks?

Or both?

We are more than skeptical that the underlying reason has much to do with the health of Americans and the concerns of their doctors.

The idea itself is a sound one, to get rid of those happy TV ads with people singing and dancing about some medication or another, while listing some side effects, like may cause immediate death.

The new rule would require disclosure of all side effects, meaning that pharmaceuticals would shy away from bombarding consumers with these pitches.

There really is no reason for consumers to be marketed drugs that they cannot legally buy over the counter. Medical professionals go through a hell of a lot of study to determine how to best treat their patients, including what medicines to prescribe; this is not the type of situation where we should want patients to be pressing their doctors to write prescriptions for whatever they want.

That’s not to say that doctors are infallible or that people should not advocate for themselves and their medical needs, but hearing a jingle or seeing an ad for some medication between “Law & Order” reruns is not an ideal way to get health information.

Bill Frist, who served as the Republican Senate majority leader until 2007, and who is also a cardiothoracic transplant surgeon, wanted the ads off the air many years ago. On the other side of the ideological aisle, Sen. Bernie Sanders introduced the End Prescription Drug Ads Now Act three months ago.

Many of us that have had friends or family

Guest Opinion

visit from abroad have heard the same bewildered comment: why do your TV stations have these constant pharmaceutical ads? They’re banned in almost all of the developed world. It’s often only regarding it from that foreign perspective that we can see how unusual this ecosystem of consumer pharmaceutical marketing is globally, one more in a list of those quintessential Americanisms that confuse the rest of the world, like not being able to afford otherwise accessible medicine or casually buying a gun.

So why are the RFK Jr.-infected FDA and the Department of Health and Human Services pursuing this now?

Amid all their terrible actions, did they just happen to stumble into one positive move?

We don’t buy that, but that doesn’t mean that the ads should stay on TV.

As we’ve said several times before, the pharmaceutical and health delivery systems in this country, as with all massive commercial sectors, are worthy of significant regulatory scrutiny.

They have at times acted in ways that are directly counter to the goals of health and the public good, and we should want leaders that are able to question and, when needed, take on these big interests in service to the public interest.

That does not and has never meant that it is a good idea to toss overboard centuries of medical practice and go with RFK’s preferred approach to health, which seems to be based on vibes and whatever his friends and allies can sell untested supplements and other products over real peer-review science (which we doubt will be the focus of this regulatory push).

Rein in the pharmaceutical industry and their side of the ideological aisle, Sen. Bernie Sanders introduced the End Prescription Drug Ads Now Act three months ago.

Many of us that have had friends or family



Gerrymandering undermines democracy

By CARAH ONG WHALEY

The Fulcrum
Tribune News Service

The partisan fight to draw maps that determine how Americans are represented has entered a dangerous spiral. Texas is racing ahead with a mid-decade congressional redraw designed to lock in additional seats after President Donald J. Trump called upon state lawmakers to find five seats.

California’s leaders responded in kind to offset the Texas map, but will hold a special election in which voters must decide whether to put aside the state’s Congressional maps drawn by an independent redistricting commission for the next three election cycles. Other states are openly weighing similar moves. But this “map wars” logic is dangerous, and voters from all backgrounds stand to lose as districts harden into safe seats and politicians’ accountability to voters further withers.

Large majorities of Americans say that gerrymandering — which lets politicians pick their voters instead of the other way around — is unfair and a problem. When politicians and party insiders draw their own districts, the maps can be engineered to protect incumbents, not voters. As a result, gerrymandering contributes to the erosion of public confidence in elections. It lessens people’s sense that change can happen, and reduces the ability of voters to hold leaders accountable.

At a moment when the public expresses wide dissatisfaction with how democracy is working, voters’ practical ability to sanction or replace unresponsive leaders is critical. Gerrymandering entrenches incumbents by design, converting general elections into “safe” seats and shifting accountability to narrow primaries. When districts are engineered to be noncompetitive in November, the decisive contest moves to low-turnout primaries, where smaller, less representative electorates set the outcome. As a result, elected leaders face weaker incentives to answer to the broader electorate in their district.

Furthermore, scholars have linked electoral competition to specific behaviors, such as attentiveness and service. With fewer close races, repre-

Carah Ong Whaley



sentatives have less incentive to adjust to district preferences or provide constituent services — consistent with findings that gerrymandering produces less-responsive representation, even when national seat totals barely change. Safe districts lower the probability that voters can oust an elected leader who is not responsive to their needs or doesn’t perform well.

National evidence shows the share of competitive districts shrinks under partisan map-drawing, with candidates increasingly catering to primary electorates rather than general-election voters. Conversely, evidence suggests that when states remove partisan control from redistricting, for example, by using independent commissions, close contests become more common and incumbent party wins fall. Some critics of commissions claim they are a mirage, pointing to weak models that have left politicians in charge. That’s precisely the point: design matters. Commissions that remove partisan vetoes, work in the open, and follow voter-protective criteria produce fairer, more competitive maps than legislative self-dealing.

In addition, gerrymandering fractures communities, especially communities of color, thereby reducing their ability to hold representatives accountable or reward them. Cracking and packing dilute a community’s ability to elect a candidate of choice, undermining the threat of replacement that underpins accountability. (This is why Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act focuses on vote dilution, and recent enforcement has measurably increased participation where remedial districts were drawn.)

The current gerrymandering wars illustrate the consequences of this issue. In Texas, voting-rights groups have sued, arguing the new map will prevent Black voters from electing

candidates of their choice. In California, the very idea of suspending an independent commission to pursue a partisan counter-map has drawn fire across the civic spectrum.

Treating redistricting as retaliation doesn’t correct the problem; it normalizes it. Courts can police some abuses (for example, racial vote dilution), but the Supreme Court has said federal courts won’t referee claims of pure partisan gerrymandering. That leaves a large gray zone and a perpetual arms race where the rules depend on who holds power unless states adopt durable guardrails themselves.

Democracy is a promise that power originates from the people and can be reclaimed by them. Accountability is how that promise is kept. Without it, elections are merely a formality, and representation is simply a label, not a reality. Accountability requires contestability: when a realistic chance of being replaced exists, elected leaders have reason to listen and adapt. Gerrymandering’s purpose is to reduce contestability by insulating seats from swings in voter opinion, shifting power to narrow primaries, and diluting cohesive communities, thereby predictably weakening electoral accountability.

The choice is not between one party’s gerrymander and the other’s; it’s between a permanent power struggle and a system built for and accountable to voters. Indeed, a Utah court just reminded the country who holds the pen in a democracy when it struck down its 2021 congressional map and ordered new lines consistent with voter-approved reforms, affirming that the people are the locus of political power and have a constitutional right to reform their government.

The longer we fight fire with fire, the more scorched our democracy becomes. The better path forward is fair maps, drawn in public, by institutions answerable to the people, and an upgrade in how we elect leaders so that leaders are responsive and accountable to the broader electorates they serve.

.....

Whaley is executive director of Better Choices for Democracy, a national nonpartisan reform organization working on election system reform.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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Orders are ‘dire’

It’s a challenging year for U.S. soybean farmers

By **CHRISTOPHER VONDRACEK,**
JP LAWRENCE
and **BROOKS JOHNSON**
The Minnesota Star Tribune
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — It’s a bad year for a good soybean harvest as tariffs decimate export orders. Minnesota farmers were in the nation’s capital this week pleading for a bailout. Historically, Minnesota sends two out of every three rows of soybeans overseas, typically to feed livestock. China has often bought the bulk of those exports.

As of early September, Chinese buyers have yet to book any shipments of American soybeans from the upcoming harvest. That’s a far cry from the 12 million to 13 million tons they’d booked by this time last year, traders told Reuters this week.

For Gail Donkers, who farms in the rolling hills between Faribault and Kenyon in southern Minnesota, it hurts to see plentiful four-bean pods growing waist-high on her Rice County property — a sign of a robust season.

Without solid customers, she has held off selling her beans, hoping to avoid a loss. Donkers, chair of the Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council, flew to Washington this week to meet with Minnesota’s congressional delegation.

Because of the trade war with China, U.S. soybeans cost about 20% more than South American beans. That’s due to trade duties imposed by the Chinese government in response to President Donald Trump’s increased tariffs on goods bound for the U.S. market.

China is buying cheaper Brazilian soybeans, dragging down prices for American soy farmers.

“Brazil can fill almost all of China’s needs — that leaves all of us American producers sitting here holding the bag,” said Dennis Fultz, a farmer in southwestern Minnesota’s Lyon County.

In 2016, China bought more than 40% of its soybeans from U.S. farmers. As of last year, that had dropped to about 20%, customs data shows.

Earlier this week, Rep. Glenn “GT” Thompson, a Pennsylvania Republican and the House agriculture committee chair, told Agri-Pulse Newsmakers that he could see a future Farm Bill repurposing tariff revenue for farm aid.

“I’m advocating that, just a fraction of that money would be invested ... in our farmers,” Thompson said.

During the first Trump administration’s trade war with China, farmers received \$23 billion in cash bailout payments in 2018 and 2019.

From the basement of a hotel on Capitol Hill, Donkers said Wednesday she’s wondering exactly when Washington will



Tribune News Service/The Minnesota Star Tribune/Glen Stubbe

Minnesota farmers have few to no buyers for a high-yield year for soybeans, mainly because China is buying its soybeans from South America, not the U.S., as a tariff war continues. As of early September, Chinese buyers have yet to book any shipments of American soybeans from the upcoming harvest.

offer aid, since the current market drop is due to the tariff war.

“We have to have something,” she said. “We never want to take a payout. But we’ve been working for 40 to 50 years to build these relationships across oceans.”

The futures price on soybeans, Minnesota’s single biggest ag export, sits just over \$9 a bushel now — down from highs closer to \$15 at the beginning of the decade.

Across the Upper Midwest, early-season anxiety has given way to panic, especially as median farm income is expected to be in the red across the board this year.

“It’s a pretty dire situation,” said Darin Johnson, president of the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association. “We’re in a tough spot.”

Johnson farms corn and soybeans near Wells in south central Minnesota. Like other farmers, he’s “sitting on a fair amount of soybeans” that in past years would be headed on railcars toward the Pacific Northwest, and then Asia.

The China-sized hole in American farm exports’ balance sheet means farmers like Johnson will need bins to store beans until prices improve. But there is only so much space to store grain for long periods,

and an ample corn harvest is also on the horizon.

Johnson said he has faith that the Trump administration is working on trade deals in the background.

But Johnson said farmers are hoping for some signal from the federal government to calm their anxieties.

“I think we’re at the stage — if we don’t have any trade deals that are officially signed in the very near future — yes, we’re going to need some aid of some sort,” Johnson said.

A Department of Agriculture spokesperson in an email did not address the current situation but blasted the Biden administration for handing off a \$50 billion agricultural trade deficit. America ran a trade surplus for decades until 2019, during Trump’s first administration.

The spokesperson said the agency is refocusing its efforts on farmers, pointing to \$10 billion in emergency aid to crop farmers at the beginning of the season to help finance this year’s planting, based on results in 2024.

Thom Petersen, Minnesota’s agriculture commissioner, said state officials are also pushing for “some sort of payment” from the federal government to help soybean farmers.

He worries this year’s tough

market, after several down years for farmers, could lead to painful consolidation.

“Some farmers are really struggling,” he said, recalling a recent conversation he had with a farmer who couldn’t afford fuel for his combine tractor.

Even with tariff clouds hovering in early 2025, Minnesota farmers planted 7 million acres of soybeans, down about 400,000 acres from the year before. Only corn, at 8.6 million acres, covers more of the state’s farmland each year.

Soybeans earned Minnesota more than \$3.2 billion in agricultural sales in 2024, according to the Department of Agriculture.

This year, with plentiful rains and just-right temperatures across the state this summer, USDA rated 75% of Minnesota’s soybean crop as either good or excellent as of early September.

But a key indicator of hard times for farmers came this week via Inver Grove Heights-based CHS. The nation’s largest ag cooperative is reducing profit sharing to its lowest level in recent years as a result of low commodity prices and tight profit margins.

And farmers in Minnesota say they’re hurting, said Minnesota Rep. Angie Craig, the

top Democrat on the House ag committee.

“Every single day of the week, I have corn and soybean farmers in my committee office saying [tariffs are] killing us,” Craig said. “It is incumbent upon this administration to look for new domestic markets for our farmers if they’re going to destroy our export markets.”

Rep. Brad Finstad, the Republican who represents a swath of southern Minnesota, did not return calls for comment.

Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, the ranking Democrat on the Senate ag committee, said in a statement, “Our farmers have spent generations building these export markets, only to have them closed off by haphazard tariffs.”

There is talk on Capitol Hill that another aid package for farmers is in the works — but it’s unclear whether that would come from Congress or the administration.

In the meantime, the state is trying to sell Minnesota soybeans to other places in Asia, including developing countries such as Indonesia, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan and the Philippines.

“Being creative is going to have to be what farmers do at the moment,” Petersen said.

Harvest

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Our harvest **SPECIAL SECTION**

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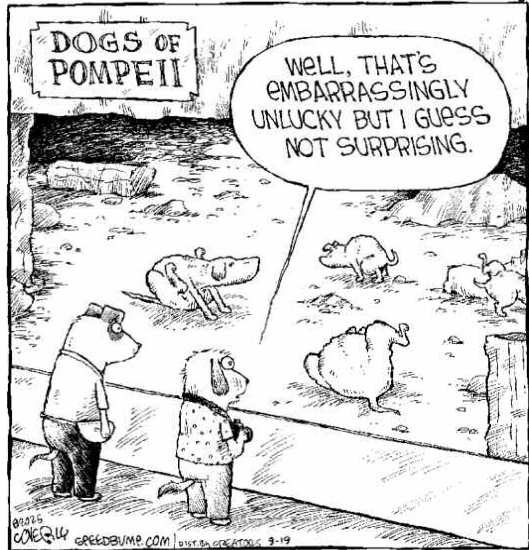
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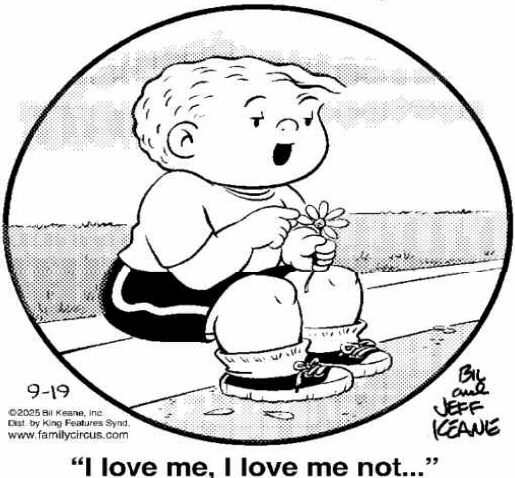
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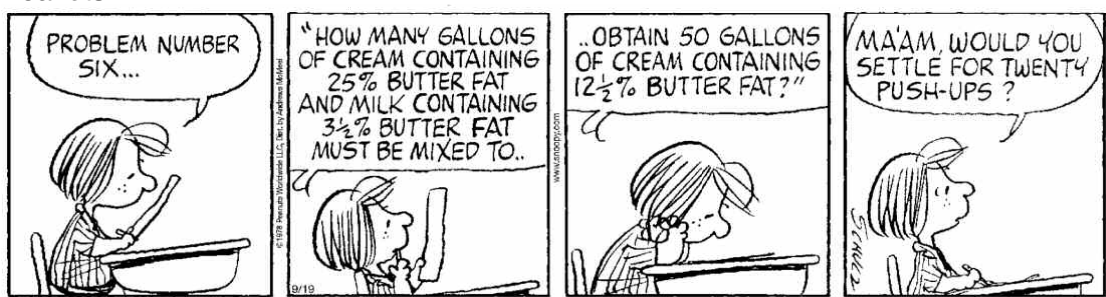


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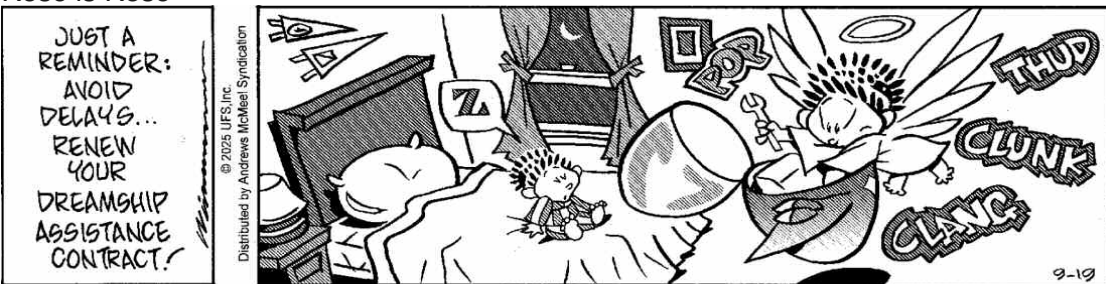
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Peanuts



Rose is Rose



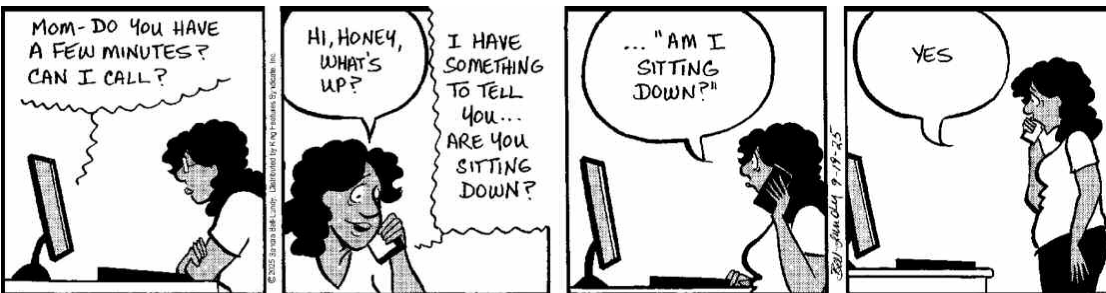
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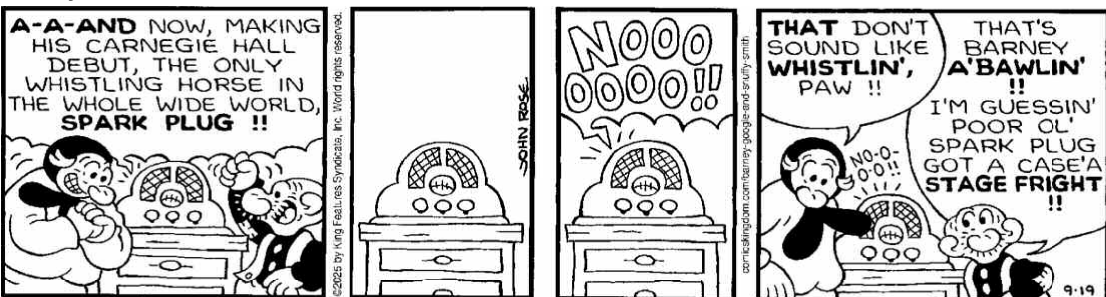
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has gone:

West North East South
1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass ?

What would you bid with each of the following five hands?

1. ♠ Q863 ♥ AK954 ♦ KJ6 ♣ 9
2. ♠ 1092 ♥ AJ7 ♦ KJ983 ♣ 84
3. ♠ 75 ♥ J6 ♦ AKQJ72 ♣ AJ3
4. ♠ KQ94 ♥ AJ983 ♦ Q5 ♣ 92
5. ♠ Q6 ♥ Q972 ♦ KJ83 ♣ AQ5

1. **Four spades.** Partner's one spade bid is an overall, not an opening bid, and more often than not he will have less than opening-bid values. Generally speaking, an overall is based more on playing tricks than high-card values.

But even though partner might have as little as 8 or 9 high-card points (and as many as 16) for his one-spade bid, the fact remains that he is unlikely to lose four tricks opposite this hand. A jump-raise to game is therefore clearly indicated — particularly since a jump to three spades (or even three hearts) would not be forcing.

2. **Two spades.** Partner might be able to make 10 tricks if he is at the top of his bid, so you must give him some encouragement. If partner passes, then the raise might turn out to have pre-emptive value. It would be incorrect to bid two diamonds, since bidding a new suit in response to an overall tends to deny support for partner's suit, and, because it is not forcing, you could wind up in the wrong contract.

3. **Three notrump.** No guarantees go with this bid, as there is an obvious danger in hearts, but three notrump is nevertheless a favorite to make. You don't need a 100% shot for game to bid it. A nonforcing bid such as two or three diamonds would be a mistake when you are so close to making game.

4. **Three spades.** Whether you can make game depends on the strength of partner's overall. Since there is no way to judge this without consulting partner, you should invite him to go on to game. Alternatively, you can cuebid two clubs — the opponent's suit — to indicate spade support and interest in game, which is a treatment now favored by many players.

5. **Two notrump.** Here you also must rely on partner to judge the chance for game, since he is looking at his hand and knows whether his overall was based on minimum, medium or maximum values. The jump to two notrump indicates roughly 12 to 14 points and merely invites game. It is a picture bid that shows balanced distribution and all-around strength, and it leaves the decision on how far to go up to partner.

Tomorrow: That old black magic.
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9-19

CRYPTOQUIP

CKVL HKQR T RSPM HRM RTI
TF TAKVKQE QM PSLSLASP
LBIKZTV NKQZRSI NSPCSZQVE:

"QMFTV PSZTVV."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT MIGHT ONE CALL PEOPLE WHO ARE GREAT FANS OF THE EASTERNMOST AMERICAN STATE? MAINE-IACS!
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals O

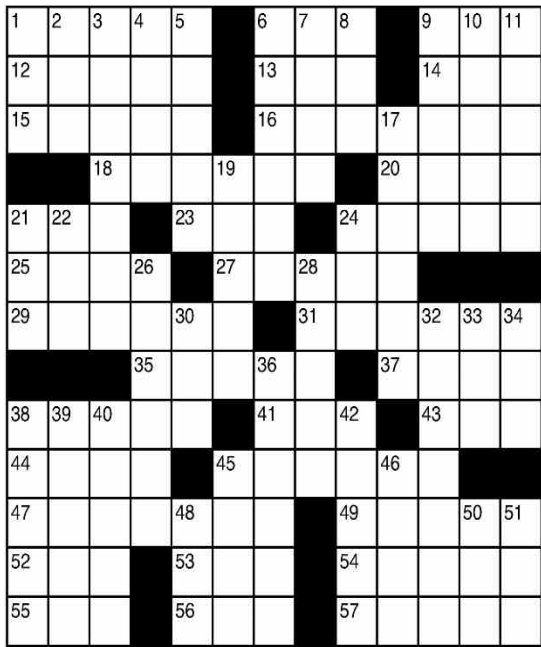
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 American conductor
 - 6 NBC weekend show
 - 9 Blond shade
 - 12 Ties up, as a boat
 - 13 Stable diet?
 - 14 Director Spike
 - 15 Zesty dip
 - 16 Monet's studio
 - 18 "Let's hear it!"
 - 20 Theater award
 - 21 — chi
 - 23 — Paulo
 - 24 Ninnies
 - 25 Lean-to
 - 27 Blue cartoon character
 - 29 Bucca- neer
 - 31 Bum wrap?
 - 35 Stacked
 - 37 Shade provider
 - 38 Reacts in horror
 - 41 Posei- don's realm
- DOWN**
- 1 Mornings, briefly
 - 2 Mauna —
 - 3 Army member
 - 4 Guesser's words
 - 5 Jr.-year exams
 - 6 Golda's greeting
 - 7 Country- wide, briefly
 - 8 Caustic solution
 - 9 Sus- pect's excuse
 - 10 "Try to — my way ..."
 - 11 "— the deal ..."
 - 17 Yogurt variety
 - 19 Painter's stand
 - 21 Recipe abbr.
 - 22 Sushi fish
 - 24 Prefix with athlete
 - 26 Neat and stylish
 - 28 Milk dispenser
 - 30 Frank McCourt memoir
 - 32 Chinese leader
 - 33 Sushi choice
 - 34 Game official
 - 36 Place in trust
 - 38 Stares stupidly
 - 39 Moun- tain crest
 - 40 Purse part
 - 42 Giant insurer
 - 45 Actress Ward
 - 46 "Tosca" solo
 - 48 Condi- tions
 - 50 Green prefix
 - 51 Lair

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 9-19



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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Big man spike

Cole Forthofer, a senior at Jay County High School, puts a big swing on a ball during the JCHS spirit night as part of the homecoming festivities on Wednesday afternoon.

Mile ...

Continued from page 8
Now comes Bandolik, a 29-year-old fitness enthusiast and gym owner from Wheeling who has been running this challenge since the end of the Bears' season last year. After countless Sunday games over the years, he felt down and wanted a way to combat the feeling.

Bandolik has run a total of 34 miles the past two Sundays, feats he has documented on social media. Bandolik, who enjoys running distances that stretch into hundreds of miles, said he plans to continue the challenge throughout the Bears' season.

"It honestly made the losses feel so much better because after the games I'd be so frustrated from it and then after my run I'd feel so much better by the end of it, a lot more relaxed," said Bandolik as he recovered Monday.

Was he sore?
"I feel a little sore, not as bad as I thought I'd feel," Bandolik said. He even went for a run.

Bandolik is no stranger to long distances. After playing football his whole life and completing his football career at Illinois Wesleyan University in 2019, he took up running after college. He missed the spark of training for something.

In 2019, he ran the Chicago Marathon with a weighted vest. But he yearned for more intense challenges.

Over the past couple of years, he's completed a 100-mile run, a 200-mile run and an Ironman Triathlon.

"I got really into doing these challenges and seeing what my body could handle," he said.

In late March, he ran more than 400 miles from Cairo, Illinois, to Beloit, Wisconsin, in 10 days.

He'd seen other people run through their home states and hadn't yet seen anyone claim the title in Illinois. He dedicated the run to his mom, with whom he is close.

"I've always looked up to her a lot, (she's) a really strong woman," he said.

Bandolik documents his challenges, as well as his workouts and personal lifestyle content on social media. He's been posting since 2015, his senior year of high school, he said.

His fiancée, Rylee Jade, has been by his side since they met in 2021 through TikTok. They did fitness collaborations together and started dating. They got engaged earlier this year.

"I think we've had this challenge mindset since the start which has kept things really fun," said Jade, who also has her own following on social media platforms posting fitness content. "We support each other a lot throughout these different challenges and journeys but also we understand what it feels like going through it."

Bandolik said it's nice not having to explain content creation to someone.

"It makes it a lot easier to have us both doing content and running content because we could help each other out when needed,"

Bandolik said. "When we get opportunities, a lot of times it leads to both of us getting opportunities and we do it together and have all these fun experiences together, so it's definitely a ton of fun. I love it."

Bandolik said it has made the Bears games more interesting. Bandolik is no longer watching to see if the Bears are going to win. He is watching to see how it will personally affect him.

Bandolik owns his own gym, Chase Bandolik Training in Northbrook, where he trains clients most of the day, he said. When he has free time in the afternoon, he creates and edits videos to post on his social media accounts.

He has no plans to slow his pace. He's planning to run the Chicago Marathon in October and the TCS New York City Marathon in November.

Since running has been getting easier for him, he set out to do other challenges outside of the norm.

"I just really enjoy pushing myself in doing things that I feel like could be impossible and finding a way to get it done," Bandolik said.

To cap off the year, in December he will attempt to break the world record for the longest abdominal plank position for a man, which is currently 9 hours, 38 minutes and 47 seconds, set in May 2023.

It's another challenge in the works. Especially if the Bears don't make it to the postseason.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Football vs. Bluffton — 7:30 p.m.

Saturday
Jay County — Girls golf at sectional at Crestview — 9 a.m.; Cross Country at Jim Leffler Invite at Yorktown — 10 a.m.; Boys soccer at Woodlan — 10 a.m.; Boys tennis at Pendleton Heights — 11 a.m.; Girls soccer at Woodlan — 12 p.m.; JV girls soccer at Woodlan — 10 a.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys golf at MAC Championships at Stillwater — 8:30 a.m.; Girls golf at MAC Championships at Mercer County Elks — 8:30 a.m.; Cross country at Tour De Sewer at Versailles — 9 a.m.; Volleyball vs. Russia — 9 a.m.; Football at St. John's — 1:30 p.m.

TV schedule

Today
7 a.m. — Track and Field: World Athletics Championships (USA)
6:40 p.m. — MLB: Chicago Cubs at Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Tulsa at Oklahoma State (ESPN)
9 p.m. — College football: Iowa at Rutgers (FOX)
9 p.m. — Horse racing: America's Day at the Races (FS1)

Saturday
4:30 p.m. — Formula 1: Azerbaijan Grand Prix (ESPN2)
7:30 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Liver-

pool FC at Everton (USA)
8 p.m. — Formula 1: Azerbaijan Grand Prix (ESPN2)
10 a.m. — Premier League soccer: West Ham United at Crystal Palace (USA)
12 p.m. — College football: Arkansas at Memphis (ABC); Maryland at Wisconsin (NBC); Syracuse at Clemson (ESPN); SMU at TCU (ESPN2); Texas Tech at Utah (FOX)
12 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: NCTS Playoff Race at New Hampshire (FS1)
12:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Manchester United at Chelsea (USA)
2:30 p.m. — Horse racing: America's Day at the Races (FS1)
3 p.m. — College football: Oregon State at Oregon (BTN)

3 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Fulham at Brentford (USA)
3:15 p.m. — AFL: Brisbane Lions at Collingwood Magpies (FS1)
3:30 p.m. — College football: Tulane at Ole Miss (ESPN); Auburn at Oklahoma (ABC); Michigan at Nebraska (CBS); Purdue at Notre Dame (NBC); North Carolina at UCF (FOX)
4 p.m. — College football: N.C. States at Duke (ESPN2)
6 p.m. — College football: West Virginia at Kansas (FS1)
6:40 p.m. — MLB: Chicago Cubs at Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana)
7 p.m. — College football: South Carolina at Missouri (ESPN)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Florida at Miami

(ABC); Washington at Washington State (CBS); Illinois at Indiana (NBC); Arizona State at Baylor (FOX); BYU at East Carolina (ESPN2)
9:30 p.m. — College football: UTSA at Colorado State (FS1)
10 p.m. — SuperMotocross World Championship: The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway (USA)
10 p.m. — USL Championship soccer: Oakland Roots at FC Tulsa (FOX)
10:15 p.m. — College football: Wyoming at Colorado (ESPN)
11 p.m. — College football: Michigan State at USC (FOX)

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

90 SALE CALENDAR

LAND AUCTION
MONDAY OCTOBER 13TH, 2025
TIME 5:00 P.M.
LOCATED: 1 Mile North of New Mt Pleasant on Como Rd, Portland, IN
REAL ESTATE
95.67 Acres In Section 16, Jefferson Twp, Jay County Indiana. Practically all tillable with Frontage on Como Rd. Property does have a Windmill, Lease and Payment will stay with the Farm. Wooded area not Included. Taxes to be prorated day of Closing. Possession upon Harvest of 2025 Crops. Drive by's are Welcome or Phone Auctioneers for More Information. Auction Held On-Site.
OWNERS: Denney Family Properties, LLC
Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE
AC31800004
AUCTIONEERS
Zane Shawver
Lic. #AU10500168
260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver
Lic. #AU19700040
260-726-5587

LAND AUCTION
MONDAY OCTOBER 20TH, 2025
TIME 5:00 P.M.
LOCATED: CR 200 S AND CR 300 E. PORTLAND, IN
REAL ESTATE
74 +/- Acres in Section 35, Wayne Twp, Jay County Indiana with 67 Acres Tillable, balance being Wooded and Road Frontage. Farm has Frontage on CR's 200 S and 300 E. Typography: Level. Possession: Upon Closing or Harvest of 2025 Crops. Taxes: To be Prorated the Day of Closing. Very Desirable Farm in a Great Location. Drive by's are Welcome or Phone Auctioneers for More Information. Auction Held On-Site.
OWNER: Gary D and Kimbra L Weesner
Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more

90 SALE CALENDAR

photos.
SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE
AC31800004
AUCTIONEERS
Zane Shawver
Lic. #AU10500168
260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver
Lic. #AU19700040
260-726-5587

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 103 S Washington Street, Montpelier IN
Saturday Morning
SEPTEMBER 27, 2025
10:00 A.M.
REAL ESTATE
1 story home built in 1950 with 3 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms and 1478 square feet of living area. Home has a gas forced air furnace, central air, gas fireplace, gas water heater, and a detached 1 car garage. For more information or a private showing contact Loy Real Estate, Kim Loy Broker 260-726-2700 or Gary Loy Auctioneer 260-726-5160

HOUSEHOLD GOODS - OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS - GUNS
3 pc. Queen size bedroom suit with Sleep Number mattress; Whirlpool refrigerator; Smith Bros. 3 cushion sofa; (2) leather recliners; Longaberger baskets; McCoy owl cookie jar; Diamond Arms 12ga single shot; Stevens 22 lever action single shot octagon barrel; baseball gloves; canning jars; Coke bottles; and many other items not listed.
TRAILER - TOOLS
2 wheel 5' x 6' trailer; Troy Bilt 24i snowblower; Viper Earthquake roto tiller; Craftsman router; McCulloch Power Mack 320 chain saw; buzz saw blade; 2 man saw; levels; oil cans; pry bars; pliers; screwdrivers; and other items not listed.
JEAN LANDIS
Loy Auction
AC#31600027 Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer

90 SALE CALENDAR

AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112
Kaden Khayyata
AU12400069

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Under cover in the Industrial Building at the Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 W Votaw St., Portland, IN
Wednesday Afternoon
SEPTEMBER 24, 2025
5:00 P.M.
HOUSEHOLD GOODS-OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS
Oak table with 2 extra boards and 6 chairs, VERY NICE; Oak flat-door cupboard, VERY NICE; gun cabinet; vanity with bench; wood rocker; Oak coffee table; jewelry; jewelry boxes; hunting knives; pocket knives; swords; spurs; pickle jar; parlor lamp; belt buckles; large set of Gone With The Wind plates; over 5 large totes of Hot Wheels, accordion; Sears 8 track AM/FM vehicle player; FM radio converter; Cobra CB; and other items not listed.
SUV-BOAT & TRAILER-TOOLS
2020 Chevrolet Equinox with 67,000 miles, VIN # 3GNAXEJEV1LS630513 ; 14' Starcraft boat with 19hp Evinrude motor, cover, fish finder and includes a 14' Texas Royal trailer; Brute 7000 watt generator; Snapper riding lawn mower with 28i cut; Century battery charger; Craftsman sockets; Black & Decker circular saw; air impact; air rachet; tarps; and other items not listed.
ELDON L. COST ESTATE
By Elaine Stump and Beverly Paxson
Shelby County Probate Court
Case # 2025 EST 151
Loy Auction
AC#31600027
Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer
AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112
Kaden Khayyata
AU12400069

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Jay County Fairgrounds Women's Building Monday evening
OCTOBER 6, 2025
at 6:00 P.M.
REAL ESTATE
Parcel is located on 50 E just south of 200 S. Property consists of 8.48 acres of woods and has a driveway that runs from 50E back to the woods. This would be a good recreational site.
20% nonrefundable deposit day of sale with balance due at closing. Owner will provide Owners Title Insurance and General Warranty Deed. Buyer will assume taxes due and payable in May 2026 and thereafter. Any statements made day of sale take precedence over previously written or oral matter. Owner confirmation day of sale.
For more information contact Loy Real Estate 260-726-2700 or Gary Loy Auctioneer 260-726-5160.
RON & DELAYNE MYERS
Loy Auction
AC#31600027
Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer
AU11200131

PUBLIC AUCTION
SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 20th, 2025
TIME 9:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 2641 E 1100 S. Montpelier IN.
TRACTORS - CRAWLER
1968 JD 4020 D. w/ Quad-shift, Front weights, 4900 hours. 1967 JD 2510 w/ Front weights, 6800 hours. Case 1030 Tractor w/ 3600 hours. New Holland GT-122A Lawn Tractor w/ deck and blade. Wheelhorse 14HP Garden Tractor. JD 450-B Crawler Loader.
TRUCKS-MOTORCYCLES-FARM EQUIPMENT
. 1968 Chevy C50 Single Axel Dump Truck. 2000 Chevy S10 ZR2 4x4 93,000 Miles. 1985

90 SALE CALENDAR

Chevy C30 Utility Truck w/ Boom Lift and Snow Plow. 2021 Harley Davidson 1200 Model 48 w/ 2300 Miles. 2009 Kawasaki KLX 250 S Dirt Bike w/ 708 Miles. JD 55-A 3 Bottom Plow. Oliver 565 4 Bottom Plow. JD 7' Cycle Bar Mower. JD 4 Row Cultivator. New Idea 2 Row wide Picker. . JD 24T Square Baler. Kelly 18i Backhoe Bucket. 30 Ton Hyd Press. Lincoln 225 Welder. . Merry Mac Shredder Chipper. Rabbit Cages.
TOYS-ANTIQUES
JD, Oliver, Massey Ferguson, AC, Massey Harris Toy Tractors. . (2) 110 lb Anvils w/ Stands. Corn Sheller. Misc Slate. (4) Steel Wheels. Radio Flyer Wagon.
OWNER: James M Robbins.
Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
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AUCTIONEERS
Zane Shawver
Lic. #AU10500168
260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver
Lic. #AU19700040
260-726-5587

PUBLIC AUCTION
SATURDAY SEPT. 27TH, 2025
TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 1499 N 100 W. PORTLAND, IN
RTV-TRACTOR-MOWERS - MOTOR HOME- GOLF CART.
Kubota BX2680 4WD Tractor w/ LA 344 Loader 29.3 Hours. Ferris 61i 27HP Zero Turn Commercial Mower w/ Suspension 2020 Hours. 2004 Condor Motor Home w/ 2 Slide Outs, Built-in Generator, Sleeps 4, 20,875 Miles. 2022 EZ-GO Gas Lifted Golf Cart w/ Rear Seat, Street Legal. Paddle Boat. Flat Bottom Boat Trailer.
GUN -CROSSBOW
Savage 30.6 Model 110E Bolt Action. H&R Model 923 22 Cal 9 Shot Revolver. North Midlen Co. Black Powder Pistol.

90 SALE CALENDAR

Ten Point XR-40 Crossbow w/ Scope and Crank. Gun Sight Stand. Small Combination and Gun Safe.
ANTIQUES-HOUSEHOLD -MISC
Authentic Signed Paintings Including West Point Painting. 6 pc Cherry California King Size Bedroom Suite Including Blanket Chest. 5 pc California King Walnut Bedroom Suite. Leather Power Love Seat and Chair. GE Washer and Dryer. Gaming Table. Golf Clubs. Pop-up Canopy. Cornhole Game. (8) 8' Poly Folding Tables. (34) Padded Folding Chairs.
High Quality Auction with Large Selection of Modern Items
OWNER: Gary L Morgan
Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
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130 MISC. FOR SALE

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PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information.

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419-942-1502
Open Thursday-Sunday 1pm-7pm

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BBI, Artsway Vertical. New Holland 228 skid loaders w/full cab, heat/ac. Fort Recovery 419-852-0309

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Fan will run a mile for every point Bears lose by

By CAM'RON HARDY
Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

CHICAGO — Perhaps no one feels a Chicago Bears' loss as much as the players. Well, Bears fan Chase Bandolik might.

Bandolik has pledged to run a mile for every point the team loses by this season. On Sunday, the Bears lost 52-21 to the Detroit Lions.

So yes, he ran 31 miles afterward.

"I might just sleep until next week's game," Bandolik said in a video posted on TikTok Sunday night, his face red and shirt soaked in sweat after completing 31.04 miles.

Bears fans are known for their devotion to the team. From Bearman the superfan who wears a real bear's head to games to the spectator who reportedly wore only a barrel to games — and only the barrel no matter the temperature — the reputation of the fandom was solidified on "SNL" as the sausage-eating, Mike Ditka-obsessed, Chicago-aggrandizing "Bill Swerski's Superfans."

See Mile page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Got your flag!

Jay County High School senior Aixa Lopez (left) grabs freshman Carsyn Schwieterman's flag Wednesday during the opening powderpuff football game of the evening as part of Spirit Night activities. Assisting on the "tackle" is Alexis Sibray. The seniors went on to defeat the juniors in the powderpuff championship game.

Sports on TV

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Cubs clinch playoff berth

By MEGHAN MONTEMURRO
Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

PITTSBURGH — Pop the champagne bottles: The Chicago Cubs are heading to the postseason.

The Cubs clinched a playoff spot Wednesday with their 8-4 win against the Pittsburgh Pirates. It's their first postseason berth since the pandemic-shortened 2020 season and first in a full season since 2018.

They're well positioned to host a wild-card series beginning Sept. 30 at Wrigley Field. The Cubs (88-64) hold a 5 1/2-game lead over the San Diego Padres for the top National League wild-card spot — and No. 4 NL playoff seed — entering the Padres' game Wednesday night in New York against the Mets.

Six months after opening the season at the Tokyo Dome, the Cubs' challenging journey to get back to the playoffs culminated at PNC Park.

Manager Craig Counsell, in his second year at the helm, expected the mid-March trip to Japan to be a bonding experience for the Cubs. That week overseas ultimately was the beginning of something the organization has been working toward since the franchise-altering 2021 trade deadline that saw president of baseball operations Jed Hoyer move World Series champions Anthony Rizzo, Kris Bryant and Javier Báez.

"It was good to put something hard in front of you right at the start," Counsell said Wednesday, referring to the Tokyo Series. "That's a really good way to start your season in hindsight because it makes you focus on something really, really quickly and serves as an attention getter — almost to lock you in, so to speak. I think it accomplished that for us."

The Cubs rode the majors' best offense to a 59-39 start and weathered a season-ending elbow injury to pitcher Justin Steele in April while also losing fellow starters Shota Imanaga and Jameson Taillon to injuries for weeks.

Through the first three months, Kyle Tucker proved to be the slugger the Cubs had been missing, while Pete Crow-Armstrong's MVP-level all-around game and Seiya Suzuki putting up nearly a season's worth of home runs and RBIs made the lineup a nightmare for opposing pitchers.

The Cubs didn't let an up-and-down second half derail the season. They never let the concerning stretches spiral into something more. They still haven't lost more than three consecutive games this year.

"You kind of get into a headspace, in a mode where you know what this group's capable of, and it's not really just about getting into the postseason," shortstop Dansby Swanson told the Chicago Tribune. "That's obviously a step. In order to truly win, you have to get in the postseason. But there's no time to reflect."

"We've just got to keep going and continuing to play our brand of baseball, which I think we've been doing over the last week-plus. It's important to continue going into the end of the season — and whatever is after — feeling good about where we are."

Counsell and the Cubs planned to fully enjoy the moment postgame, regardless of what awaits in October and the team's loftier goals. The season is so long and such a grind that all the wins, big or little, are worth celebrating and appreciating.

"It's celebrating that you have accomplished something and it's celebrating us being together," Counsell said. "That's what it's about, that's what you celebrate. And so it's an appreciation for each other and the work that we've done to get to this point."

"Of course every team that's in this situation is thinking ahead to a certain extent and wants to do more. We're in the same boat."

Ian Happ, Nico Hoerner and Colin Rea are the only players who were part of the last Cubs playoff team. That 2020 season was a subdued affair and their postseason experience ended in a two-game sweep by the Miami Marlins.

Happ is the lone Cub remaining from the 2018 team that held off on a postgame celebration after securing a playoff spot, focused on what it expected to be a raucous clubhouse bash when it locked up a third straight division title.

That chance never arrived. The Milwaukee Brewers, managed by Counsell, forced a Game 163 tiebreaker for the division that the Cubs lost. They then saw their postseason end swiftly with a one-game wild-card loss to the Colorado Rockies.

Wednesday's postgame clubhouse hoopla was a long time coming.

"It's funny because when you're in this position, you stay so in the moment, in the day, because it's the only way to approach the end of the season," Happ told the Tribune. "You can't get ahead yourself. And so at some point, I'll take a minute and reflect on it."

The Cubs enter the postseason trending in the right direction.

They have shown a prolific ability to score runs with a deep lineup that's trying to fully recapture its level of production in the first three months. Recent stretches by Happ, Crow-Armstrong and Michael Busch have the lineup again looking reliably dangerous.

The emergence of rookie right-hander Cade Horton — with a 0.93 ERA in 11 starts since the All-Star break — has helped the rotation post the sixth-best ERA in the majors. Coupled with a bullpen built around an eclectic mix of veteran relievers, starters-turned-relievers and elite consistency from their high-leverage arms, the Cubs believe they have a well-balanced roster capable of being a tough out in October.