

The Commercial Review

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Hospitals warn about cuts and closures

Operating margins, income got tighter in 2025

By LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ

Indiana Capital Chronicle

indianacapitalchronicle.com

Hoosier hospitals say they're increasingly struggling to stay open as expenses rise faster than revenue, according to a new analysis.

"Margins remain quite fragile and somewhat anemic" in Indiana, said Erik Swanson, a managing director at health care consultancy Kaufman Hall, citing results released in a Tuesday news conference.

The analysis, performed on behalf of the Indiana Hospital Association, showed that operating margins at hospitals in the state declined from 2.1% in 2024 to 1.9% in 2025, through August. In the meantime, the national median rose from 1.5% to 2.6%.

"A significant number of Indiana hospitals, particularly rural and safety net hospitals, are operating with little or no financial cushion," Indiana Hospital Association President Scott Tittle told reporters. "Hospital finances are not abstract. They directly affect patient access."

"Now, there's a persistent narrative at the Statehouse and nationally that hospitals are doing just fine," Tittle continued. "What this report demonstrates is the exact opposite."

Operating income at Hoosier hospitals declined 5.5% through August 2025 compared to 2024, while operating expenses rose 4.7%. In contrast, income rose 12% nationwide — more than the 6.7% growth in expenses. Medical supply and purchased service expenses were up in Indiana, as were labor costs, despite a nearly 50% decrease in reliance on contract workers.

See Hospitals page 2

Making progress



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

A Jay County Highway Department plow clears snow from the west side of Blaine Pike between county road 200 South and Deer Haven Drive. Jay County was the only of the state's 92 county's under a travel warning this morning before shifting back to a watch at 10 a.m. Blowing snow continued to be a challenge as county crews tried to keep roads clear.

Drifting pushed county back to warning status; crews made progress as winds calmed Wednesday

By BAILEY CALL and RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

ing — it calls for refraining from all travel — at 5 p.m. Tuesday.

The roads were not staying clear. With windy conditions dying down Wednesday, crews started making better progress on plowing efforts.

Jay County moved to a travel watch — only essential travel is advised, such as for work or emergencies — at 10 a.m. Wednesday.

After being on a travel watch from noon Monday through Tuesday afternoon, the county jumped back to a travel warn-

able with the condition that our roads were in," explained Jay County Emergency Management Director Samantha Rhodehamel.

Jay County Highway Department superintendent Bob Howell said the county had roads that weren't passable Tuesday evening.

"We fought the wind all day," he said. "We had several roads that were drifted all the way across, with drifts, like, from a foot clear up to 4.5 foot all the way across the road, mainly in the southwest area. Then up

north were about (one) foot-drifts all the way across the road."

Jay County Highway Department resumed plowing efforts at 5 a.m. Wednesday.

With the county making headway on roads as winds died down, officials decided to pull Jay County back to a travel watch.

"We're getting (the roads) opened up at least one lane and then we're going to work throughout the day to get them fully passable," Howell said.

See Progress page 2

TikTok settles lawsuit

By SONJA SHARP

Los Angeles Times

Tribune News Service

TikTok agreed to settle the first in a series of closely watched product liability cases Monday, bowing out on the eve of a landmark trial that could upend how social media giants engage their youngest users and leave tech titans on the hook for billions in damages.

The settlement was reached as jury selection was set to begin in Los Angeles County Superior Court on Tuesday and comes a week after Snap reached a deal with the same plaintiff, a Chico, California, woman who said she became addicted to social media starting in elementary school.

"This settlement should come as no surprise because that damning evidence is just the tip of the iceberg," said Sacha Haworth, executive director of the Tech Oversight Project, an industry watchdog. "This was only the first case — there are

hundreds of parents and school districts in the social media addiction trials that start today, and sadly, new families every day who are speaking out and bringing Big Tech to court for its deliberately harmful products."

TikTok did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

"The Parties are pleased to have been able to resolve this matter in an amicable manner," Snap spokeswoman Monique Bellamy said of the settlement.

The remaining defendants, Instagram's parent company Meta and Google's YouTube still face claims that their products

are "defective" and designed to keep children hooked to products its makers know are harmful.

Those same arguments are at the heart of at least 2,500 cases currently pending together in state and federal court. The Los Angeles trial is among a handful of bellwethers meant to clarify the uncharted legal terrain.

Social media companies are protected by the 1st Amendment and by Section 230, a decades-old law that shields internet companies from liability for what users produce and share on their platforms.

See Lawsuit page 2



A SpaceX Falcon 9 launches from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station's Space Launch Complex 40 on with a GPS satellite. The mission is to bring the satellite to medium-Earth orbit.

Deaths

Glen Colpaert, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 19 degrees Tuesday. The low was 2, with wind chill values dipping as low as minus 18.

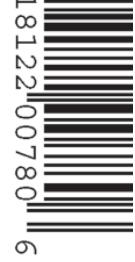
Expect a low of minus 5 tonight. Skies will be partly cloudy Friday with a high of 10. The low will dip to minus 10 on Friday night. See page 2 for an extended forecast.

In review

The Commercial Review will be upgrading its website soon. Subscribers will need to have a phone number on file with us to use to log in for the first time, after which they will be able to set up their own password.

If you do not have a phone number on file with us, or if you are not sure, please call us at (260) 726-8141.

Our target launch date for the new site is Feb. 3.



Obituaries

Glen Colpaert

Feb. 7, 1943-Jan. 15, 2026

Glen A. Colpaert, 82, of Portland, passed away Thursday morning, Jan. 15, 2026, in Lakeland, Florida.

He was born Feb. 7, 1943, to Achiel and Mary Colpaert in Decatur, Indiana. He was married on Oct. 21, 1967, to Karen D. (Myers) Colpaert, who preceded him in death on Aug. 9, 2017.

Known for his kindness and infectious smile, Glen was

retired from CTS of Berne, Jay County High School and Community & Family Services of Portland. In addition, he was a former co-owner of B-K Rootbeer in Portland.

He was a 1963 graduate of Geneva High School and honorably served his country in the U.S. Army while stationed in



Colpaert

Germany from 1965 to 1967. He was a member of Fellowship Baptist Church and the IU Health Jay Auxiliary.

In his later years, he enjoyed wintering in Lakeland, Florida, reading James Patterson novels, playing euchre, working crossword puzzles, gardening and watching the Tampa Bay Rays.

Glen is survived by his son, Christopher (Andrea) Colpaert of Berne; daughter, Carey Colpaert of Portland; sister, Anne

(Ed) Campbell of Brighton, Michigan; three sisters-in-law, Beverly (Roger) Inman of Portland, Charlene Morris of Lakeland, Florida, and Marlene Myers of Albany; and four grandchildren, Zachary (Paige) Colpaert, Vivian (Jon) McGraw, Meredith Colpaert and Nolan Colpaert, all of Berne.

Glen was preceded in death by his parents; twin sister, Emma Ludy; and brothers-in-law Steve Myers, Robert Morris and Tom Ludy.

The family will be holding a private memorial service at a later time.

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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

Friday 1/23	Saturday 1/24	Sunday 1/25	Monday 1/26	Tuesday 1/27
11/2	10/5	15/3	17/3	23/10
Skies will be mostly cloudy with a high of 11 degrees and winds gusting to 25 mph.	The high will be 10 degrees under mostly cloudy skies. There is a 20% chance of snow in the afternoon.	There is a 30% chance of snow during the morning hours. The high will be 15.	Skies will be mostly sunny with a high of 17.	Temperatures will warm slightly to a high of 23. Skies are expected to be mostly sunny.

Lotteries

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$43 million

Daily Four: 4-5-2-2

Quick Draw: 3-11-20-

28-31-33-34-40-43-45-46-50-

57-58-59-64-65-71-79-80

Cash 5: 16-23-24-32-41

Estimated jackpot: \$418,000

Mega Millions

4-20-38-56-66

Mega Ball: 5

Estimated jackpot: \$303 million

Estimated jackpot: \$418,000

Hoosier

Tuesday

Midday

Daily Three: 5-1-0

Daily Four: 3-4-5-8

Quick Draw: 6-8-11-13-

15-16-22-25-27-32-42-47-50-

56-59-60-61-65-72-75

Evening

Daily Three: 2-7-5

Estimated jackpot: \$180,000

Ohio

Tuesday

Pick 3: 9-2-6

Pick 4: 0-2-5-8

Pick 5: 0-5-5-7-1

Evening

Pick 3: 0-9-3

Pick 4: 2-0-0-6

Pick 5: 1-1-4-3-9

Rolling Cash: 5-13-16-

31-34

Estimated jackpot: \$180,000

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery

Corn.....4.50

March corn.....4.50

Wheat 5.02

POET Biorefining Portland

Corn.....4.50

Feb. corn.....4.50

March corn.....4.45

Corn.....4.35

Feb. corn.....4.35

Beans 10.71

Feb. beans 10.71

Wheat 5.22

The Andersons Richland Township

Corn 4.40

Feb. corn 4.42

Beans 10.68

Feb. beans 10.72

Corn 4.48

Feb. corn 4.48

Beans 10.41

Feb. beans 10.41

Wheat 4.92

Today in history

In 1845, Edgar Allan Poe published his narrative poem, "The Raven," in the New York Evening Mirror.

Kosciusko, Mississippi. Winfrey is most well-known for her role as an American talk show host for nearly 25 years.

In 1979, President Jimmy Carter welcomed Chinese Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping to the White House during Deng's landmark U.S. visit.

In 1995, the San Francisco 49ers beat the San Diego Chargers in Super Bowl XXIX, becoming the first team to win five Super Bowls.

In 2016, Jay County High School girls basketball team gave up 26 fourth-quarter points to the Class 4A No. 7 Carmel Greyhounds in a 74-46 loss to end the regular season. Senior Abby Wendel was the lone JCHS player to reach double figures, totaling 14 points.

In 2018, MLB announced Cleveland would stop using the Chief Wahoo logo on uniforms beginning with the 2019 season.

— The CR

In 1891, Lili'uokalani was sworn in as queen, becoming the last sovereign monarch of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

In 1919, Acting Secretary of State Frank L. Polk certified the ratification of the 18th Amendment, clearing the way for national Prohibition.

In 1936, the United States Baseball Hall of Fame selected its first members. They included Ty Cobb, Honus Wagner, Babe Ruth, Christy Mathewson and Walter Johnson.

In 1954, Oprah Winfrey was born in

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Citizen's calendar

Monday

5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.

7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 Main St.

Tuesday

7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St.

Progress ...

Continued from page 1

Snow began falling about 5 p.m. Saturday and continued throughout the day Sunday, totaling about 11.5 inches in Jay County. Travel has been hazardous ever since.

Jay School Corporation closed schools for the third day in a row, while Fort Recovery students attended classes on a three-hour delay. (Jay Schools were also closed Friday because of extreme cold.)

Jay County Courthouse was closed Wednesday morning but opened at noon after the travel

restriction was reduced to a watch.

Redkey Town Council's regular meeting agenda for Tuesday was shortened to solely approve claims. Council will schedule another meeting soon to address other agenda items.

Dunkirk's park board meeting that was scheduled for Wednesday was canceled. (The city also did not hold its city council meeting Monday.)

While high winds that caused problems have died down, frigid temperatures continue to be an issue.

The National Weather Service is projecting

tonight's low at minus 5 degrees, with Friday's high to top out at 10. Highs will be in the teens through Sunday, with lows below zero expected Friday night and Saturday night.

Temperatures are finally expected to climb into the 20s on Monday.

Randolph, Delaware, Adams and Wells counties were all on watches as of noon Wednesday. Blackford County shifted to a travel advisory late Wednesday morning.

In Ohio, Mercer County was on a Level 2 snow alert overnight Tuesday before shifting down to a Level 1 at 7 a.m. Wednesday.

Rhodehamel said the county would stay under a travel watch Wednesday afternoon while plow drivers worked. Plans were to reevaluate Wednesday evening.

She cautioned residents needing to travel to plan extra time for their trips and drive carefully down country roads. While the county is spreading some salt on roads, she added, it won't be as effective in single-digit and subzero temperatures.

"If you don't need to be out, please do not be out, and give those plows time and space to get their job done," she said.

Hospitals ...

Continued from page 1

Conditions are expected to worsen under President Donald Trump's recently approved One Big Beautiful Bill Act and other factors.

The share of Indiana patients on Medicaid is expected to drop from 20% to 18% by 2030, as is the share on marketplace plans: from 7% to 5%. Meanwhile, the proportion of uninsured patients is projected to go from 8% to 10%. The report predicts the share of patients on Medicare will rise only slightly, from 20% to 21%, and the share with commercial insurance will stay at 46%.

Medicaid and Medicare both reimburse hospitals at a fraction of the cost they spend on care, but hospitals often lose out entirely when

caring for patients without any form of insurance.

"As the percent of uninsured individuals rises, uncompensated care will increase, leading to greater pressures on hospital margins," the report noted.

About 40% of Hoosier hospitals are already operating in the red, Swanson estimated — including several news conference participants.

Greene County General Hospital CEO Brenda Reetz told reporters her southwestern Indiana facility lost \$1.4 million last year. The hospital has just 10 days' worth of cash on hand.

"I get increasingly concerned whenever I hear our legislators and other leaders ... villainizing health care for making money," she said.

Reetz explained that as a county hospital, "no individual" would profit if the facility were to make money. The funds would go to a rainy day account and then be spent on infrastructure. The boilers, she said, are 10 years past their 40-year lifespan, but a new boiler costs about \$15 million.

"What if you were never able to tuck anything away in savings? What if you were actually spending more than you were making every month?" she asked. "... That's the situation that almost every rural hospital in the state of Indiana is facing right now."

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

Lawsuit ...

Continued from page 1

Attorneys for the Chico plaintiff, referred to in court documents as K.G.M., say the apps were built and refined to snare youngsters and keep them on the platforms without regard for dangers the companies knew lurked there, including sexual predation, bullying and promotion of self-harm and even suicide.

Jurors will be asked to weigh whether those dangers are incidental or inherent, and if social media companies can be held responsible for the harm families say flowed from their children's feeds.

The trial comes at a moment when public

JCHS juniors, seniors earn honor roll

Several juniors and seniors made Jay County Junior-Senior High School's first semester honor roll.

On the list were juniors Caylin Aker, Erin Aker, Audriana Alcantara, Emmarie Barton, Ariel Beiswanger, Austin Best, Dakota Blalock, Aubrey Bland, Beckett Brandenburg, Jenna Bricker, Brooklynn Bright, Chloe Byrum and Peyton Carpenter.

Also Bryden Carter, Kaylynn Clark, Kaprei Cochran, Conner Davis, Skyler Esparza, Bryan Fields, Madison Gage, Joseph

Geesaman, Olivia Gillum, Trinity Glassford, Dawson Goldsworthy, Elijah Howell, Araitz Lekue Magro and Lexi Litmer.

Also Ella Littler, Shiya Liu, Allie McAbee, Liam McBride, Paycie McCoy, Alison McGraw, Annabell McKee and Hayden McKibben.

Also Morgan Missicano, Chloe Muhlenkamp, Sonachi Nakane, Angie Navarro-Garcia, Mouad Nhaii, Fletcher Nichols, Taylee Nichols, Gabriel Overton, Madison Paxson, Gavin Ray and Kaiden Reynolds.

Also Ella Rigby, Brenna Schmiesing, Evan Siegrist, Annie Mae Spencer, Chase Spencer, Hailey Steckbeck, Jaley Stephens and Elijah Stockton.

Also Sophia Thomas, Allison Tipton, Lynzie Tobe, Nicholas Trevino, Carley Trinidad, Isabel Vazquez, Brock Wesson, Jacob Weitzel, Urijah Welch and Clark Wellman.

Earning a place on honor roll were seniors Reba Ashcraft, Camden Barnett, Elizabeth Barnett, Matteo Belantonio, Garrett Bennett,

Francisco Bravo, Jacqueline Bravo, Anna Brewer, Anthony Castro-Martell, Brennan Chrismann and Lincoln Clamme.

Also Jacey Cooke, Rainah Cross, Cody DeHoff, Karyssa Denney, Cara DeRome, Andrew Detro and Lauren Fisher.

Also Emma Hatzell, Finley Hatzell, Maria Hemmigarn, Sophia Hoevel, Callie Houck, Natalee Hough and Kaylin Hudson.

Also Brady Jetmore, Kayla Jetmore, Jacob Kellogg, May Kunkler, Nicholas Laux, Mada-

lyn Link, Angel Marentes Diaz, Jacob Monroe, Drew Muhlenkamp, Lani Muhlenkamp, Raylah Newton, Canyon Nichols and Joseph Nichols.

Also Saki Onishi, Katelyn Rowles, Mikalah Shauer, Alexis Sibray, Anthony Smith, Kevin Smith, Jaslynne Smitley, Kade Sommers, Andrew Stouder and Graden Swoveland.

Also Grayson Swoveland, Kenzie Tobe, Rockelle Van Note, Noah Walter, Grant Wendel, Paityn Wendel, Avery Wentz, Elaina Whitehead and Levi Willman.

Sending valentine to ex reopens uncertainty

By JANN BLACKSTONE

Tribune News Service

Q: Should I give my ex a valentine to entice him back?

A: When you ask this question, you're not really asking about a card. You're asking whether it's OK to reopen a door that has already been closed, and whether doing so will make you feel more at ease, more connected or less alone.

It's doubtful, at least not in the long run.

Valentine's Day is emotionally loaded even in intact relationships. After a breakup, it can become a catalyst for longing. A card feels harmless, even romantic, but if you are co-

Ex-Etiquette



to come back, it would not take a holiday to make it happen.

Sending a valentine to "entice" your ex doesn't reopen love; it reopens uncertainty. It places the emotional weight of the relationship on a single gesture and quietly invites a response you cannot control. If they ignore it, you feel rejected all over again. If they engage, it could be easily misread. Are they interested or just being polite? Either way, your sense of stability becomes dependent on how someone else reacts.

And if you share children, there is a deeper layer to consider. Your children do not need parents

who are confused about the status of their relationship. They need clarity. When co-parents blur lines, children feel it, even when nothing is said out loud. Hope and fear start showing up in small ways: extra questions, sudden clinginess, worries about where they will live. What began as a private gesture becomes a family ripple. And if it doesn't work, your children are facing yet another breakup.

This doesn't mean you have to be cold or closed off. It means you have to be honest with yourself about what you're really seeking. Are you hoping for connection? Reassurance? Proof that you still matter?

Those needs are human. But your ex is no longer the appropriate place to meet them.

Good Ex-Etiquette redirects emotional energy away from the past and toward the life you are building now. Your life now is centered around your children. That's your mutual interest and the reason why you interact with an ex after a breakup. You do not have to be a couple to raise your children together.

If reconciliation is ever going to happen, it will come from sustained change, clear communication, and mutual intention, not a heart sticker and a hopeful guess. And, if it is

truly in the cards, (no pun intended) make sure you both do some self-examination and work together before you attempt it or else you will just re-create what went wrong before.

A valentine sent to entice keeps you tethered to what was.

Good Ex-Etiquette sets you free to grow into what's next.

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Jann Blackstone is a child custody mediator and the author of "The Bonus Family Handbook: The Definitive Guide to Co-parenting and Creating Stronger Families. She can be reached at bonusfamilies.com or jann@bonusfamilies.com.

Husband wishes to uproot his family for potential job

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are raising our 7-month-old daughter together, and we generally get along well. I love him very much, but he has a habit that worries me. He's constantly on the lookout for a new job. This isn't necessarily a bad thing, but every couple of months he says he's bored and wants to work somewhere else. These are decent-paying jobs, but they never pay much more than what he's earning now. They are also not always located in the same city or even the same state we live in.

I don't oppose moving away or moving up, but I don't want to move clear across the country when the benefit won't significantly add to what we have now

Dear Abby



and the relocation creates a burden with moving expenses.

Recently, my father made an offhand comment during a conversation about a business that offers good pay, benefits, etc. — nearly the same benefits and pay my husband is receiving now. It would require that we move out of state, and I'd have to search for a new job.

My husband has been at his current job less than a year, and

I have been at mine less than six months. We just signed a new lease on our apartment. He wants to break the lease and move. What can I do to convince him that this is not a strategic move for our family at this time?

— STRESSED-OUT WIFE AND MOM

DEAR STRESSED-OUT: I don't recommend breaking your lease and moving at this point because it will damage your credit. I don't know what your husband's problem is — whether he has trouble getting along with his co-workers or attention deficit disorder — but things won't improve until you determine the cause.

Neither of you has a solid

job history. In a few short years, your daughter is going to be in preschool, and you do not want to constantly disrupt her education or socialization. Stay put until a move will be more financially beneficial.

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DEAR ABBY: An elderly couple moved in next door. They once mentioned that they believed mothballs would keep ants away. That's not all. Every time they open their garage door, we get blasted with the stench. It is so pungent we must retreat inside our house, which is about 80 feet from their property. We can't open our windows, sit on our deck or do yard work outside until their garage

door comes down. I don't know how they stand it. How can we let them know it's affecting our quality of life without causing a permanent rift? — STUNK OUT IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR STUNK OUT: Contact your local health department to report what you are enduring and to share your concerns. Mothballs are not supposed to be used in the manner you have described. If you live in an area with a homeowner's association, it also may be able to help. However, if there ISN'T one, you may have to bite the bullet and ask these neighbors to close their garage door more quickly because the scent of mothballs is making you ill.

Community Calendar

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

Thursday

SMART RECOVERY — A group for those struggling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feelings and behavior, and living a balanced life meets at 11 a.m.

each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

Friday

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.

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.

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.

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

COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find con-

nections 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.

Be prepared before the next power outage.



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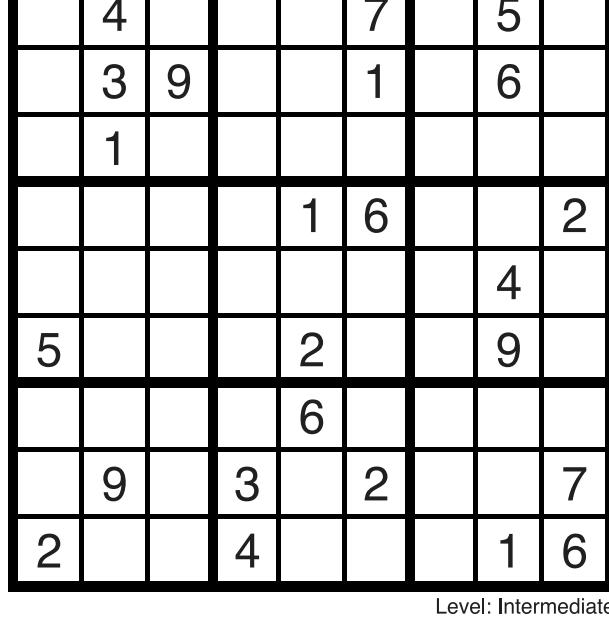
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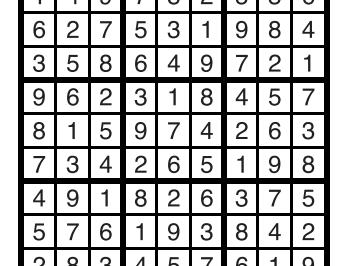
*Terms and Conditions apply.

Sudoku



Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution



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.



Remote work has sparked startups

By GLEN TSIPURSKY
The News & Observer (Raleigh)
Tribune News Service

Remote work became a lifeline for businesses during the pandemic. For startups, however, it was far more than a temporary fix — it was a launchpad. A study from scholars at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and New York University reveals how remote work has fueled greater productivity, revenue growth, and innovation, particularly for startups that have embraced its potential.

Before the pandemic, U.S. business formation was in a decades-long decline, raising concerns about stagnating economic dynamism. Then came 2020, and the trend reversed dramatically. From 2020 to 2022, startups surged to life, driven by the opportunities of remote work. Freed from the limitations of local hiring, remote-first models enabled startups to recruit talent nationally and globally, scaling their operations at unprecedented rates. This shift democratized entrepreneurship, allowing inno-

Hoosier Editorial

vation to flourish in regions like the Sunbelt, historically overlooked by investors and top talent alike.

Remote work also made startups significantly more productive. The study found that remote startups experienced a 46% increase in productivity, measured through GitHub contributions that track the meaningful work of tech employees. By focusing on results rather than hours, these companies demonstrated that remote work doesn't hinder collaboration but enhances it.

The productivity gains are mirrored in revenue growth. According to an analysis by Scoop, a hybrid work management platform, and Boston Consulting Group, companies with fully flex-

ible work policies outperformed their peers in revenue growth by 16 percentage points over three years. Even excluding the tech sector, flexible firms still outpaced others by 13 percentage points.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) further highlights the benefits of remote work across industries. In fields such as computer systems design, publishing, and data processing — sectors where remote work increased significantly between 2019 and 2022 — output soared faster than labor input. These results underscore how remote work fosters efficiency, enabling firms to achieve more with fewer resources. Startups, which rely on lean operations and technology, are especially well-positioned to capitalize on this dynamic.

Four key factors explain why remote work is so transformative for startups, according to the UNC and NYU study. First, it expands access to talent by removing geographic barriers, allowing companies to recruit the

best minds from anywhere in the world. This broader labor market is particularly valuable for startups in regions outside traditional hubs like Silicon Valley, helping them compete with urban powerhouses. Second, startups born during the pandemic embraced innovative management practices, using digital tools to optimize their distributed teams and foster collaboration. Third, flexibility is a magnet for skilled professionals, enabling startups to attract and retain top-tier talent while driving engagement and productivity. Finally, remote work reduces overhead costs, such as expensive office leases, freeing up resources for growth and innovation.

Despite these benefits, remote work remains a polarizing topic. Some corporate leaders argue that in-office interactions, such as "watercooler conversations," are essential for collaboration. This skepticism has driven many return-to-office mandates. However, the data suggests otherwise. Scoop's analysis shows that com-

panies with flexible policies often outperform their more rigid counterparts, creating cultures of trust, innovation, and engagement. Scoop CEO Rob Sadow points out that flexibility doesn't erode collaboration; in many cases, it enhances performance and innovation.

Remote work's impact goes far beyond today's startups. As these companies scale, their experiments with flexibility will set new standards for the broader business world. Whether by enabling faster hiring, reducing costs, or fostering innovation, remote-first models are helping businesses redefine productivity and collaboration. As research from UNC, NYU, Scoop, and the BLS demonstrates, the companies that embrace remote work are the ones shaping the future.

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*Tsipursky is the CEO of the hybrid work consultancy Disaster Avoidance Experts and the author of *Returning to the Office and Leading Hybrid and Remote Teams*.*



Obsession with Greenland is pointless

By MICHAEL J. HICKS

The U.S. has entered a quiet constitutional crisis unlike anything we've faced. The most recent symptom is President Donald Trump's aggression toward Greenland.

President Trump has, on several occasions, threatened to seize Greenland, a barren, icy piece of tundra with fewer full-time residents than Muncie. This is beyond bizarre and alarming. Defending it is akin to sprinkling glitter into a port-a-potty and calling it pudding.

Trump, for now, has relented on threats to use everything from military force to tariffs to seize Greenland. He has momentarily settled for negotiations on a deal to give the U.S. more control over security on the island, but not before Germany, France, Great Britain and other NATO allies have sent troops to defend Greenland — from the United States of America.

At a time when our allies fight Russia and Iran, they are also preparing to fight us.

This should be unimaginable, yet Fox News and a host of other Trump propaganda outlets treated this threat of war against a century-old

Michael J. Hicks



alliance as a simple bargaining ploy. That is farce.

The U.S. has enjoyed a strong security arrangement with Denmark, the nation that owns Greenland. We've stationed troops there since World War II and shared the defense of this barren island with NATO allies for a lifetime.

Denmark is not just a random ally. Denmark supplied troops to help the U.S. destroy al-Qaida in Afghanistan after Sept. 11, 2001, as was its NATO treaty obligation. Over the following decades, 43 Danish service members died fighting alongside our forces in Afghanistan — a casualty rate for their armed forces that is higher than ours.

Our threats toward Greenland dishonor America and belie the generosity of spirit and purpose that has propelled us to war again and again.

The U.S. Senate ratified a treaty with NATO in 1949. The

only instance in which NATO invoked its joint security clause — Article V — was after 9/11. Thus, the U.S. is the only nation that NATO was forced to defend.

Violating that treaty by invading Greenland — the sovereign territory of a NATO ally — would constitute a war crime. In such a case, Trump and Vice President JD Vance must be impeached and any member of the government involved with the invasion removed from office and extradited to Denmark for trial.

Trump's public remarks on Greenland have been incoherent, rambling, fact-starved and filled with self-worship — a cornucopia of evidence for impeachment or removal from office under the 25th Amendment.

If all this does not make you ashamed of our president and our nation, you are incapable of shame.

Fortunately, Trump has backed away from this threat, his biggest TACO thus far, but unfortunately he has blown apart America's European alliances. The damage will spread across generations. Our allies are tired of us, our enemies laugh at us and the desire

to stand up to Trump now exceeds the fear of any pain it may cause.

As I write this column, several allied nations are dumping U.S. treasures. I don't know what behind-the-scenes sorcery would prevent a bond market rout in the coming days and weeks, but I am certain every trick is being used. The dollar is dropping and likely to continue its slide, while gold and silver prices hit new highs.

This is not a panic. It's far worse. Our allies have decided we are no longer to be trusted. The American president is no longer the leader of the developed world, and the U.S. is no longer a reliable ally. Our allies are determined.

We face an orderly yet fast-paced disengagement from the alliances that have spread and nurtured democracy for most of the past century. They will curtail investment and trade with us. They will end military cooperation and trust. They will no longer concern themselves with our well-being.

We are in the midst of divorce proceedings in the most important and beneficial marriage in world history. We are fools.

The end of democratic alliances will cost us lives on future battlefields, which is an inconvenience that few Americans seem to worry about. The dumping of U.S. bonds will keep upward pressure on mortgage rates. The escalation of the trade war with Europe will cost hundreds of thousands of jobs.

This Greenland psychosis will make our grandchildren poorer; it makes us more stupid.

Even if Denmark welcomed U.S. acquisition of Greenland, it would be stunningly moronic. Greenland is probably worth \$1 trillion, or about \$8,500 for every American family. That is to buy a piece of land we have almost unfettered access to today and are obligated to defend.

Ask every elected official if they support buying or invading Greenland. If they support either, vote for someone else.

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Hicks is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and the George and Frances Ball distinguished professor of economics in the Miller College of Business at Ball State University. Email him at mhicks@bsu.edu.

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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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All services are Sunday, unless otherwise indicated.

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204 E. Arch St., Portland
Josh Arthur
(260) 726-8464
Services: 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.
asburyministries.org

Bellefontain United Methodist

440 S. 600 East
Pamela Freeman
Services: 9 a.m.

Bluff Point Friends

80 E. 650 South
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Boundary St. Paul

Corner of Treaty Line Road and county road 300 East
Ava Gannon
(260) 726-2373
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Bryant Wesleyan

209 S. Hendricks St.
Paul VanCise
(260) 997-6231
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.
bryantwesleyanchurch.com

Calvary United Methodist

301 N. Main St., Dunkirk
Susan Durovey-Antrim
(765) 499-0368
Services: 10:30 a.m.
susan.duroveyantrim@inumc.org

Christ Chapel

2535 Wabash Road, Fort Recovery
(419) 733-1469
christchapelfr.com

Church of the Living God (Miracle Missions)

8472 S. 800 East, Union City
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Church of God of Prophecy

797 N. Creagor Ave., Portland
Nanette Weesner
(260) 766-9334
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nanybell@yahoo.com

Church of the Brethren

Floral and Chicago avenues, Portland
Kevin McClung
(260) 729-7295
Services: 10 a.m.

Church of the Living God

South Broad Street, Dunkirk
Services: 7 p.m., 7 p.m. Friday

Collett Nazarene

450 South, 1 mile west of U.S. 27
Billy Stanton
(260) 251-2403
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Cornerstone Baptist

211 E. Main St., Portland
Wayne Ward
(260) 726-7714
Services: 10 a.m.

Cornerstone Church of Pennville

190 W. Main St., Pennville
Jack Houck
(260) 729-2164
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Dunkirk Nazarene

226 E. Center St., Dunkirk
Tom Fett
(765) 768-6199
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Evangelical Methodist

930 W. Main St., Portland
Steve Arnold
(260) 251-0970
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

Fairview United Methodist/Jay County

2875 E. 200 South
Pamela Freeman
Lay leader: Beth Stephen
(260) 726-9184
Services: 10:15 a.m.

Faith Community

9560 W. 200 South, Dunkirk
Mark Acree
(260) 251-0987
Services: 10 a.m.

Family Worship Center

200 E. Elder St., Portland
Ronald Willis
(260) 726-4844
Services: 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
thefamilyworshipcenter.org

Fellowship Baptist

289 S. 200 West
Hugh Kelly
(260) 726-8873
Services: 9 a.m., 11 a.m.
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
pastorkelly@fbc-portal.com

First Church of Christ

1049 Union City Road, Fort Recovery
David J. Nicholson
(419) 375-2860
Services: 10:30 a.m.
fccftrerecovery.org

First Community Baptist

341 S. Meridian St., Redkey
Everett Bilbrey Jr.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; 7 p.m. Wednesday

First Free Will Baptist

12369 W. 600 South, Dunkirk
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Services: 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m., 6 p.m. Wednesday

First Presbyterian

402 N. Ship St., Portland
Rev. M. Rex Espiritu
(260) 726-8462
Services: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 10:15 a.m.
firstpcportland.org

Fort Recovery Church of the Nazarene

401 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery
(419) 375-4680
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Kids vision and teen ministries: 6 p.m. Wednesday
frnaz@frontier.com

Fort Recovery United Methodist

309 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery
Rev. Carol McKay
(304) 617-0101
Services: 9 a.m.

Full Gospel Lighthouse Tabernacle

468 E. Washington St., Dunkirk
Robert Thomas
(765) 348-4620
Services: 6:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Thursday

Geneva First United Methodist

100 W. Line St., Geneva
Barry McCune
(260) 368-7655
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Geneva Nazarene

225 Decatur St., Geneva
(260) 525-8609
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.
Prayer meeting: 6 p.m. Wednesday

Gilead Church

County road 650 North, one-quarter mile east of Balbec
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Hickory Grove Church of the Brethren

Indiana 1 and Indiana 26
Earl Doll
(260) 731-4477
Services: 10:30 a.m.

High Street United Methodist

435 High St., Geneva
Rev. Joseph Hampton
(260) 368-7233
Services: 9 a.m.

Holy Trinity Catholic

7321 E. Indiana 67, Bryant
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Fr. Martin Sandhage
Services: 8 a.m., 4:30 p.m. Saturday

Hopewell of Life Ministries

County road 200 South, 2 miles east of Indiana 1
Rev. Ruth Funk
(260) 251-8581
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Catholic

506 E. Walnut St., Portland
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Fr. Martin Sandhage
(260) 726-7055
Services: 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Kingsley Full Gospel

4030 S. 700 East, Dunkirk
Stuart Phillips
Services: 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday

Faith Community

9560 W. 200 South, Dunkirk
Mark Acree
(260) 251-0987
Services: 10 a.m.

Mary Help of Christians

403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
(419) 375-4153
Services: 4:30 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.

Mount Tabor Community Church

216 W. Pleasant St., Dunkirk
Scott McClain
(765) 768-7273
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Mount Zion United Methodist

County roads 600 East and 200 North
Rev. Darrell Borders
(260) 726-4786
Services: 9 a.m.

New Beginnings Holiness Church of Blaine

4017 W. 200 South
Randy Smith
(260) 251-2406
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nholiness.com

New Covenant Fellowship

1238 W. 450 South
Chuck Myers
(260) 251-0063
Services: 10:30 a.m.

New Life Ministries

415 S. Helen St., Portland
Dr. Kay Fairchild
(260) 223-2961
Services: 4 p.m.
drkayfairchild.com

New Mt. Pleasant United Methodist

5905 S. Como Road
Neil Butcher
(765) 499-7838
Services: 9 a.m.

Noble Congregational Christian

1964 N. 800 East
Aaron Huey
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Oak Grove United Methodist

829 S. Indiana 1
Neil Butcher
(765) 760-9085
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Pleasant Hill

9945 N. 800 East, Union City
Bruce Bryan
(765) 964-3664
Services: 9 a.m., 6 p.m.
mypleasanthillchurch.org

Portland Church of Christ

1217 W. Votaw St., Portland
Bob Graham
(260) 726-7777
Bible class: 9:15 a.m.
Services: 10:20 a.m.
Bible School: 6 p.m. Wednesday
portlandcoc.com

Portland First Church of Nazarene

920 S. Shank St., Portland
Steve Cecil
(260) 726-8040
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Portland Friends

226 E. Main St., Portland
Herb Hummel
(260) 202-9732
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.

Praise Chapel Church of God

4527 E. 1000 North (Jay Randolph county line)
Rev. Josh Canfield
(765) 584-7045
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Redkey Faith Ministries

981 W. Indiana 67, southwest of Redkey
Rev. Craig and Robin Cotherman
(765) 369-2920
Services: 10 a.m.
RedkeyFaith.org

Redkey First Christian

Union and Elm streets, Bryant
(260) 997-6787
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Redkey Faith Ministries

981 W. Indiana 67, south of Redkey
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SPEED BUMP



Dave Coverly

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



By Bil Keane

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Timing is everything

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.NORTH
♦ J 10 8
♥ A 10 9 3
♦ Q 9 3
♣ K J 7WEST
♦ K 7 5
♥ Q 8 7
♦ K 8 5 4
♣ 6 4 2EAST
♦ Q 9 4 3 2
♥ J 6 4 2
♦ A 2
♣ 8 5SOUTH
♦ A 6
♥ K 5
♦ J 10 7 6
♣ A Q 10 9 3The bidding:
South 1 ♠
West 1 NT
North Pass
East 2 NT
3 NT.Opening lead — four of diamonds.
The race for the establishment of tricks is a key feature of notrump contracts. Given enough time, each side would be able to develop and win more tricks than it might in the ordinary course of events.

In this deal, for example, South starts with eight tricks and would have no trouble making 10 if he could get the opponents to cash the A-K of diamonds right away. He would in the process acquire two diamond tricks, which he does not have ready-made, and the play would essentially be over.

Tomorrow: Test your play.

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1-29

CRYPTOQUIP

Q M M T L G R R Z H T R O D J P H T L Z

M R B U Q D W M T L U Q H M N J R P O

R G N J Q O L H , F P M H R W L R K L

F L Q M W L M R M T L F P K B T .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT MIGHT YOU CALL COWS WHEN THEY QUIT MAKING NUTRITIOUS, WHITE-COLORED LIQUID? MILK DUDS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals B

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	42	Reaction	DOWN	20	Skill
1	Verse	at a	1	Mined	21 Smile
	by Pablo	magic		matter	broadly
	Neruda	show	2	"Lion" star	22 Celestial
4	Low	44 Small	Patel		bear
	range	beard	3	Katniss	23 "— the
8	Lancaster	46 Kabuki			in "The" season
	of "Atlan-	outfits			Hunger
	tic City"	50 Deli	27		...
12	Speed	bread	Droid		Games"
	(up)	51 Lunch	4	Word with	29 Greatest
13	Military	hour	sticker or		of all
	group	52 "I don't	crop	5	Year, in
14	Miles	care"	30 Huron,		San Juan
	away	56 Okla-	for one	6	Titles for
15	Eternally	homa	31 New York		knights
	"Lotus	tribe	canal	7	33 "Jay
	position"	57 Earring			Kelly" star
	discipline	site	8	8 Stew	George
18	Agent	Flightless		9 Sci-fi fleet	35 Purse
19	Makes	bird	10	Pasta	38 Thither
	airtight	59 Cautious		sauce	40 Rich
21	Spending	60 Beholds	11	brand	cakes
	plan	61 "Misery"	Snare	43 Coyote	43 Coyote
24	Season	director	16	calls	45 Nay
	opener?	Reiner	Rule, for	46	undoer
25	Before		short	47	Recognize
26	Chest			48	Tiny bit
	bone			49	Heath
28	Eating			50	Pump, for one
32	In —			53	Jurist
	(shortly)				Fortas
34	Weep			54	Punk-rock
36	Dread				sub-genre
37	Virile			55	Massage
39	Make				
41	Lace				
	Enjoy				
	Aspen				

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

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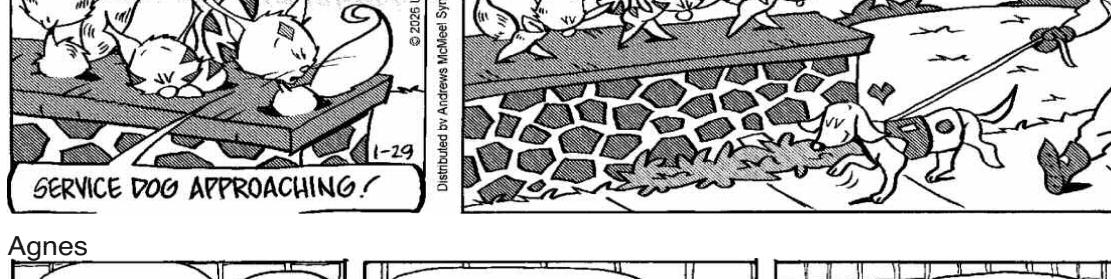
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Peanuts



Rose is Rose



CRYPTOQUIP

Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Hires ...

Continued from page 8

And lingering questions about how the quarterback can handle playing mostly from the pocket.

Now Daboll inherits Cam Ward, the Titans No. 1 overall pick that Schoen tried to trade up for last April before pivoting to a plan of selecting Abdul Carter at No. 3 overall and then trading back into the first round at No. 25.

The expectation apparently will be that Daboll will give Ward the schematic and development edge that former Titans head coach Brian Callahan could not. But Ward has a long way to go.

He completed 59.8% of his passes as a rookie. And when the season started spiraling, he spoke his mind.

Ward famously said of the Titans this past fall: "We are. We've dropped a quarter of our f---ing games. So we have to lock in."

How will that fiery competitive spirit mesh with Daboll, who threw a tablet on the ground in front of Jones early in his Giants tenure?

That will be interesting to see. Especially when the Titans come to MetLife Stadium to play John Harbaugh's Giants.

Get your popcorn ready.



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Patrick McDermott

Head coach Brian Daboll of the New York Giants looks on during the second quarter in the game against the Chicago Bears at Soldier Field on Nov. 9, 2025, in Chicago, Illinois.

Voters ...

Continued from page 7

NBC News. It was dubbed "The Ty Law Rule" in New England. "Bill Polian clearly was seething after the game," NBC wrote. "He's a member of the competition committee, and committee members said that Polian and St. Louis Rams Coach Mike Martz — a member of the coaches' subcommittee who still was upset that his receivers allegedly had been held regularly by Patriots defenders in his Super Bowl loss to New England to end the 2001 season — pushed through the directive."

Polian was influential on the NFL's competition committee, which made defensive holding and illegal contact points of emphasis in the following season. Though the rulebook didn't change, illegal contact fouls skyrocketed from 79 to 191 in 2004, per

The Colts returned to Foxborough for the 2004 Divisional Round

playoffs and lost 20-3.

Glass ...

Continued from page 8

In the Bediako case, however, the NCAA would potentially have a winning argument if only the college sports governing body and its constituent universities could make themselves "be real" about the enterprise they are running.

As we see over and over and over, accepting the institution of big-time college sports for what it truly is remains stunningly difficult for many within the NCAA athletics power structure to do.

Oats said it was the NCAA declaring 2023 NBA draft pick James Nnaji eligible to play for Baylor this season that put the idea of a reconciliation with the 6-foot-11, 250-pound Bediako, who first played for Bama from 2021 through 2023, in his mind.

The Alabama coach points out that there has been in recent years an influx of Europeans, who by American standards

have been considered professional basketball players, into men's college hoops.

Why is it OK, Oats asks, for former European pros to play American college hoops but not for former American pros? (Complicating Oats "America First" argument is the fact that Bediako is from Canada, not the United States.)

The difference between the cases of Bediako and the 7-foot, 250-pound Nnaji is that the latter, a Nigeria native, never signed an NBA contract even though he was the No. 31 pick in the 2023 draft.

Bediako, conversely, has signed Exhibit 10 contracts — a one-year, non-guaranteed NBA minimum salary deal that allows teams to invite players to training camp without using cap space — with at least two NBA teams and a two-way NBA contract with one team.

Unlike Nnaji, who began his

college career Jan. 3, when he first played for Baylor, Bediako is returning to college hoops after making the decision to leave his name in the NBA draft past the withdrawal deadline after his sophomore season (2022-23).

By rule, such decisions have long ended one's college eligibility. No matter how much Oats and his team need frontcourt help, it's hard to see much rationale for why Bediako deserves a "do over" from the consequences of his own decision.

Meanwhile, the complaints about the European pros are somewhat disingenuous. Unlike in the U.S., there is not, as a rule, a system of interscholastic sports in Europe. So as young teens, promising European basketball players have to align themselves with the developmental arms of pro teams.

While that might technically make them pros, most of the

Europeans coming to college basketball in recent years are making the move because, in the NIL era, they can make far more money playing college hoops here than what they have been making as European pros.

On Tuesday, Bediako's case was scheduled to be back in court for an injunction hearing that will determine whether his renewed college eligibility persists moving forward. However, Judge James H. Roberts Jr. on Monday extended the temporary restraining order that allowed Bediako to play vs. UT for another 10 days due to travel issues impacting the NCAA's attorney.

Even in a case such as Bediako's, when the NCAA's arguments should have considerable merit, the college sports governing body has a lousy track record when drawn into local courts. Judges, shockingly, seem to lack incentive to rule against the home team.

The solution to that would be to collectively bargain an agreement with college athletes.

Negotiate a fair standard — you have five years to play college sports from the time of your high school graduation; once you leave your name in a professional sports draft past an agreed-upon withdrawal date, that decision is final — that would stand up to legal scrutiny because a representative arm of college athletes had agreed to it.

Alas, for that to happen, the powers that be in college sports would have to acknowledge the players as a partner in their lucrative business endeavor and act accordingly.

As an industry, college sports continually refuses to accept the true nature of what its enterprise has become. Ultimately, it is that reality that allows Nate Oats to bring on a pro basketball player to fill his team's void at center.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today

Jay County — Girls basketball at Heritage — 5:30 p.m.; Swim vs. Marion — 6 p.m.; Freshman boys basketball at Hamilton Heights — 6 p.m.; Junior High girls basketball at Allen County Athletic Conference Tournament — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball at Allen County Athletic Conference tournament — 5:30 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Girls basketball vs. New Knoxville — 6 p.m.; Middle school

boys basketball vs. Ansonia — 5 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball in seventh grade MAC tournament at Marion Local — 5 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball in eighth grade MAC tournament at St. John's — 5 p.m.

Friday

Jay County — Boys basketball (including freshman) at Bluffton — 5 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Boys bowling vs. Dayton Ponitz — 5:30 p.m.; Girls bowl-

ing vs. Dayton Ponitz — 5:30 p.m.; Boys basketball at New Knoxville — 6 p.m.

TV schedule

Today

12 p.m. — Farmers Insurance Open golf (ESPN)

6 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Kansas at TCU (ESPN); Michigan State at Purdue (BTN)

7 p.m. — College basketball: Colorado at Iowa State (FS1)

8 p.m. — College basketball: Florida Atlantic at Memphis (ESPN2)

8 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Louisville at Stanford (ESPN); Wisconsin at Ohio State (BTN)

9 p.m. — College basketball: Washington at Illinois (FS1)

10 p.m. — College volleyball: Ohio State at UCLA (BTN)

10:30 p.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN)

Friday

3:30 a.m. — Australian Open tennis

semifinal: Aryna Sabalenka vs. Elina Svitolina (ESPN)

5 p.m. — Australian Open tennis semifinal: Jessica Pegula at Elena Rybakina (ESPN)

12 p.m. — PGA Tour: Farmers Insurance Open (ESPN)

6 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Kansas at TCU (ESPN); Michigan State at Purdue (BTN)

7 p.m. — College basketball: Colorado at Iowa State (FS1)

8 p.m. — College basketball: Florida

Atlantic at Memphis (ESPN2)

8 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Louisville at Stanford (ESPN); Wisconsin at Ohio State (BTN)

8 p.m. — NHL: Florida Panthers at St. Louis Blues (FDSN Indiana)

10 p.m. — College volleyball: Ohio State at UCLA (ESPN2)

10:30 p.m. — Australian Open tennis (ESPN)

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

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JANUARY 31ST, 2026

TIME 10:00 A.M.

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Loader Backhoe. Allis

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Wheel Camper. 2010

Single Axel Utility Trailer

w/ Ramp. 2001 Dodge

Dakota 4x4 (rough).

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House. Charcoal Hog

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Troybilly Pony Rototiller.

Cushman Scooter. Mini

Bikes. Bicycles. Gas

Powered Wood Chipper.

Push Mowers. 1 1/2"

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Apartment Sized Chest

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Mentioned.

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2026

10:00am

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HOUSE~

BUILDINGS~POND

APPROX 5 ACRES

BLACKFORD

SCHOOLS

3 BEDROOM ~ 2 BATH

1576 SQUARE FEET~2

CAR GARAGE

TRACT 1: Buildings~

Pond~ Approx. 5 Acres

TRACT 2: Approx. 30

Acres

TRACT 3: Tract 1 & 2

Combined

Seller: JUDY KAY

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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Record breaker

Cooper Glentzer swims the 500-yard freestyle during the Allen County Athletic Conference Championship Meet hosted by the Jay County High School swim team on Saturday. Glentzer broke the ACAC meet record with a time of 5 minutes, 10.13 seconds to claim the top spot in the event.

Colts' divisional rival hires Daboll as OC

By PAT LEONARD

New York Daily News

Tribune News Service

NEW YORK — Brian Daboll has run 12 seasons worth of NFL offenses for five different teams in his coaching career.

In the three full seasons he coached Buffalo Bills star quarterback Josh Allen as a starter, Daboll's offenses on average ranked ninth in the league in points per game and 11th in yards.

In the other nine seasons without Allen, Daboll's offenses ranked 26th in points per game on average and 25th in yards — for the Cleveland Browns, the

Miami Dolphins, the Kansas City Chiefs, the Bills and the New York Giants.

Daboll's hiring as the Giants' head coach in 2022 made sense as a package Buffalo deal with Bills assistant GM Joe Schoen getting the job and making the hire.

Daboll and Allen were coming off back-to-back seasons in 2020 and 2021 when the Bills' offense ranked second and third in points per game those two seasons, and fourth and fifth in offensive yards, respectively.

The hot offensive coordinators in the NFL always get jobs.

Owners want points. Points entertain the fans, and points win.

Monday's news that new Titans head coach Robert Saleh is expected to tab Daboll as Tennessee's new offensive coordinator, however, was jarring based on Daboll's track record — especially his disappointing and toxic run in New York.

Daboll won NFL coach of the year in 2022 when his Daniel Jones and Saquon Barkley-led offense, with Mike Kafka calling plays, finished 16th in points per game and 19th in yards.

But when Daboll yanked play-

calling away from Kafka during the 2023 season and took over full-time for all of 2024, the Giants' offense plummeted.

They ranked 30th and 31st in points per game, respectively, in 2023 and 2024 and 29th and 30th in yards per game. Jones eventually was benched, requested his release and went to Indianapolis via Minnesota to revive his career under Shane Steichen.

Daboll then had to give play-calling back to Kafka in 2025, and the Giants' offense improved to average: 16th in points per game and 13th in yards. But they failed to make

key plays at key times on both sides of the ball, the team couldn't close out games and Daboll got fired midseason.

The coach at least gave the Giants Jaxson Dart, a dynamic 2025 first-round pick that the franchise is putting its full support behind entering 2026.

Still, Dart's production came at a price during his rookie year: A heavy amount of responsibility on the quarterback, injuries, a frustrating and growing discourse — including leaks from inside the Giants' building — about Dart's reckless running style.

See **Hires** page 7

IT'S ALL UP TO YOU... PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Here's the concept:
For the next few weeks you vote for your favorites in a variety of categories: We tally the votes.

The winners in each category will be listed in a special section to run next month, along with other top vote-getters. The winners of the "Best Overall" category will be featured in the special section.

Eligibility is limited to those in The Graphic Printing Company's coverage area, which includes all of Jay, Randolph and Blackford counties, as well as portions of the adjacent counties including Fort Recovery and Geneva.

The Graphic Printing Company is bringing back its People's Choice special section. This special section gives you, our readers, the opportunity to recognize your favorites.

Nate Oats' latest controversy reveals the NCAA's glass jaw

By MARK STORY

Lexington Herald-Leader

Tribune News Service

LEXINGTON, Ky. — After Tennessee spoiled the return to men's inter-collegiate basketball of NBA G League center Charles Bediako Saturday night by beating his new/old college team, Alabama 79-73, the Volunteers men's basketball social media team had some fun.

On the UT men's hoops X account, Tennessee tweeted at the 2023 G League champion Delaware Blue Coats, "You're next."

We are living through the most interesting period in the history of American



Mark Story

Crimson Tide coach Nate Oats, the University of Alabama administration that has backed him and the Tuscaloosa Circuit Court judge who gave Bediako a temporary restraining order that allowed him to play for the Tide vs. Tennessee have created is fascinating.

Anyone who regularly comes to this space knows I tend to come down on the side of college athletes and against heavy-handed attempts to prop up an outmoded college sports system that has long restricted their economic rights.

See **Glass** page 7

Ex-Colts GM told voters Belichick should 'wait a year' as punishment

By CHRIS MASON

masslive.com

Tribune News Service

Bill Belichick won't be a first-ballot Hall of Famer, according to ESPN, who reports one of the coach's long-time rivals worked to dissuade voters from enshrining him.

Per ESPN, Bill Polian lobbied to keep Belichick out of the Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2026 as punishment for Spygate. Polian was one of the 50 voters this year as an "at-large" delegate.

"Spygate and Deflategate, the twin cheating scandals during the Patriots' championship run, came up in deliberations among voters," Don Van Natta and Seth Wickersham wrote. "A voter who spoke on condition of anonymity said that Polian, an ardent (Robert) Kraft supporter and former general manager of the Buffalo Bills and Indianapolis Colts — a chief Patriots rival during their dynasty — told some voters he believed Belichick should 'wait a year' before induction as penance for Spygate, the 2007 cheating scandal that cost the team a first-round draft pick."

Polian adamantly denied the ESPN report an hour after it surfaced in a conversation with SI's Matt Verderame.

"That's totally and categorically untrue. I voted for him," Polian said.

However, in another conversation with ESPN, Polian said he couldn't remember who he voted for with absolute certainty, but was 95% sure he'd voted for Belichick. He said he voted for Patriots owner Robert Kraft and "most likely" Steelers defensive end L.C. Greenwood. Polian told Van Natta he advocated for Kraft during deliberations, pointing out that the owner had no knowledge of Spygate when it was happening.

A six-time NFL Executive of the Year, Polian was enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2015. However, Polian only has one Super Bowl on his resume.

Belichick boasts six Lombardi Trophies as New England's head coach and two more as the Giants' defensive coordinator. Alas, he still wasn't able to get the nod he needed from 40 of the 50 Hall of Fame voters this time around.

See **Voters** page 7

The Categories

Best Overall

- Antique shop
 - Appliance sales
 - Auto parts store
 - Auto service and repair
 - Bank/credit union
 - Boutique/clothing
 - Car dealership
 - Chiropractor
 - Coffee spot
 - Community Event
 - Construction
 - Convenience store
 - Daycare facilities
 - Dentists
 - Doctor
 - Entertainment option
 - Farm implement sales
 - Financial advisor
 - Florist
 - Furniture
 - Gas station
 - Greenhouse
 - Gym
 - Hair salon/barber
 - Hardware store
 - Home improvement
 - Industry
 - Insurance
 - Landscaping
 - Law office
 - Nail salon
 - New business
 - Non-profit organization
 - Park
 - Photographer
 - Pizza
 - Real estate and auction
 - Restaurant (non-pizza)
 - Veterinarian and pet services
 - Other
- (is there something that doesn't quite fit the above)

To vote, visit thecr.com, winchesternewsgazette.com or hartfordcitynewstimes.com and click on the "People's choice" link.

(Rather than making this multiple choice, we are leaving each category open-ended. That leaves the voting up to you, the readers, and avoids the possibility that we might leave off an option that would be worthy of the winning vote.)

Winners will be acknowledged in a special section to run in late February.

Did we miss a category?

Let us know and we'll consider adding it to the list next year.

To advertise in People's Choice ...

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

Advertising options:

- Six columns by 10.5 inches full color (limited availability): \$500
- Six columns by 10.5 inches black and white: \$300
- Three columns by 10.5 inches black and white: \$200
- 3 columns by 5 inches black and white: \$125
- 3 columns by 3 inches black and white: \$75