

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

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\$1

READI to gather

Final application will be available soon

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

The East Central region was awarded \$35 million in READI 2.0 funding.

In the coming weeks, the region will take the next step in the project selection process.

East Central Indiana Regional Partnership president and CEO Trevor Friedeberg provided an email update to stakeholders this week, indicating that a final application for projects will be released in the next few weeks.

More than 170 projects were submitted in fall 2023 to be part of the region's Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative 2.0 application.

The purpose of the final application is two-pronged:

- To make sure information on existing projects is updated and accurate

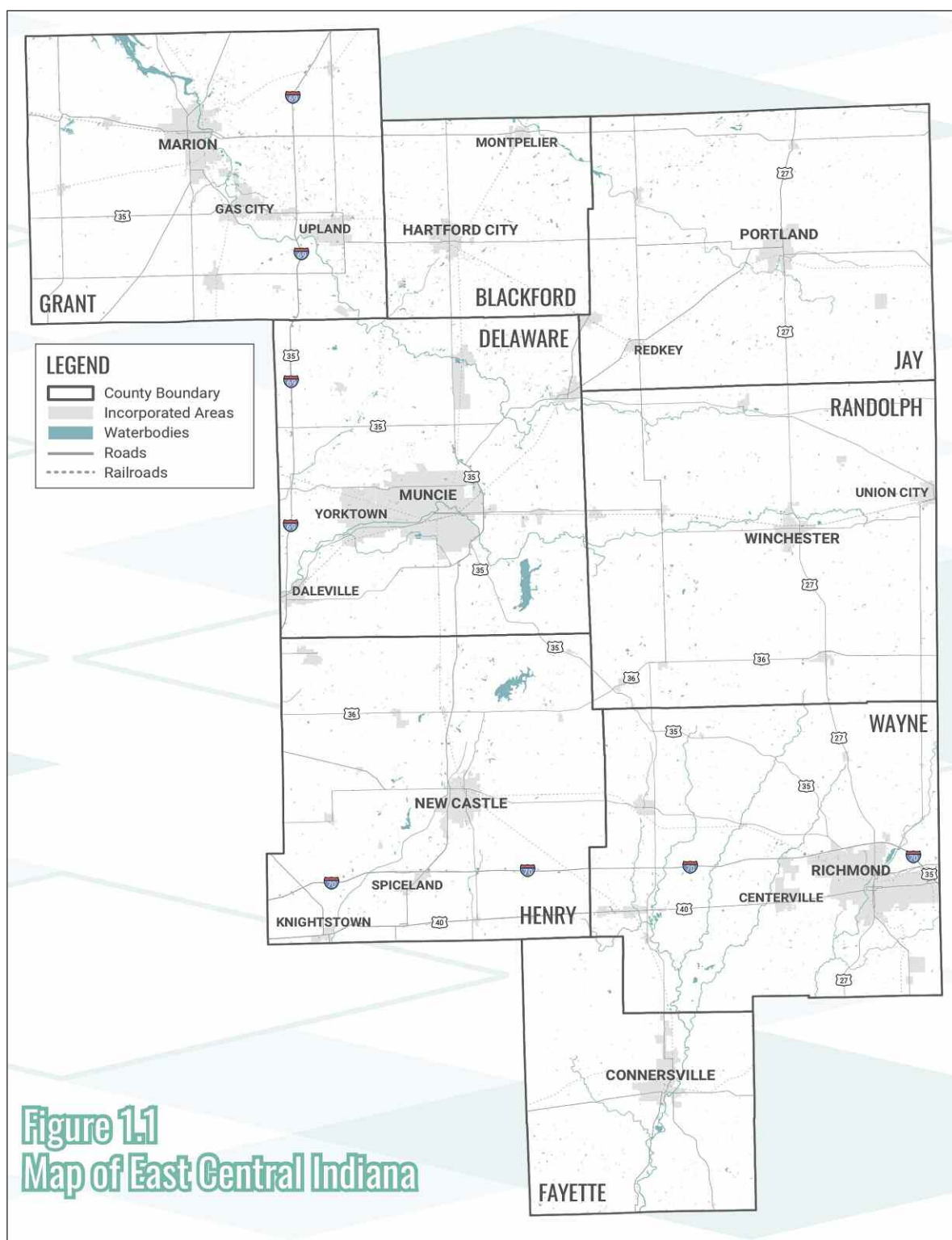
- To identify projects that may qualify for the additional \$250 million in grant funding Lilly Endowment announced early this year to fund Indiana Economic Development Corporation blight reduction/redevelopment and arts/culture projects

"Now we're gathering additional information, refining that final list of projects," said Friedeberg on Thursday morning. "Really because I understand projects change as time passes and October was many months ago. So we want to make sure we're capturing the most accurate and up-to-date information."

"We want to be able to capture those new projects that could qualify for the Lilly dollars," he added.

The final application is expected to be made available in the next few weeks. The regional partnership is still finalizing details, including how long the final application will be open, but it said other regions have settled on 60 days and that the East Central region will likely be similar.

"We of course want to have a good balance between giving enough time and keeping the



The East Central Region, displayed in the map above, was awarded \$35 million through the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) 2.0 last month. The final application for regional projects, which will allow stakeholders to update information from the original application in October, is expected to be available in the next few weeks.

process moving," said Friedeberg.

Once final applications are in, regional stakeholders, led by the steering committee that includes two representatives from each of the counties — Jay, Randolph, Blackford, Delaware, Grant, Henry, Wayne and Fayette — in the region, will work to determine a list of finalist projects to

present to Indiana Economic Development Corporation. Regional and state officials will then work together to determine how best to distribute the \$35 million in regional READI funding as well as the money available through Lilly Endowment to make the greatest impact.

READI 2.0 funding is for capital projects such as new construction, rehabilitation, equipment purchases, strategic land acquisition for redevelopment and infrastructure with a focus on improving population growth, income, employment opportunities, educational attainment, housing development, childcare capacity and innovation activities.

See **READI** page 2

Abortion testimony is now underway

Lawsuit challenges Indiana's near-total ban

By MIA HILKOWITZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Attorneys in a lawsuit against Indiana's near-total abortion ban jumped right into testimony Wednesday, beginning a trial in which plaintiffs are seeking to widen medical exemptions and strike down a requirement that stripped abortion clinics of their licenses to perform the procedure.

The lawsuit comes almost a year after the state Supreme Court upheld the ban but left the door open for Hoosiers to sue over specific parts of the law.

In the first session of the three-day bench trial in Monroe County, lawyers for the ACLU of Indiana and Indiana Attorney General's Office questioned three witnesses for the plaintiffs; IU Health OB-GYN Dr. Amy Caldwell, D.C. based OB-GYN Dr. Steven Ralston, and All-Options Executive Director Jennifer Parker Dockray.

Prior to Senate Bill 1's enactment, Caldwell performed abortions at the Planned Parenthood clinics in Indianapolis and Bloomington. She still performs abortions at IU Health hospitals.

The ACLU of Indiana — which filed the complaint on behalf of Caldwell, Indiana's Planned Parenthood, Women's Med Group and All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center — is seeking three preliminary injunctions which would prevent the state from enforcing the law using clauses that they argue are "unconstitutionally narrow" and "needlessly restrictive."

The defendants are the Indiana Medical Licensing Board and six county prosecutors, who are represented by the Attorney General's Office.

See **Testimony** page 2

Russia fires barrage

By ALIAKSANDR KUDRYTSKI
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Russia attempted to strike military targets in Ukraine overnight with a barrage of missiles and drones, after Sweden said it will provide Kyiv with surveillance aircraft to be deployed with fighter jets from other European nations.

Ukraine downed seven out of 11 cruise missiles fired from bombers flying over the Saratov region in Russia, military spokesman Andriy Kovalyov said on local TV Thursday morning. They were aimed at military facilities and critical infrastructure, he said without elaborating. Ukraine also destroyed all 32 explosive-laden Shahed drones included in the barrage, while another

Ukraine intercepted most missiles and drones

eight Russian missiles hit the Kharkiv region.

The attack prompted speculation on anonymous Ukrainian Telegram channels monitoring the Russian barrages that most missiles and drones were headed toward a major military air base located in Starokostyantyniv, a town in Ukraine's western Khmelnytskyi region. There were no official reports of damage in that area.

The attack on Thursday was the third large-scale missile assault against

Ukraine this month. On Wednesday, Sweden announced a record \$1.3 billion military aid package for Ukraine including reconnaissance aircraft that can enhance capabilities of U.S.-made F-16 fighter jets due to be supplied by European nations including Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands.

Russia's defense ministry reported destroying eight ATACMS missiles over the sea of Azov, as well as eight drones and two unmanned cutter boats near Crimea overnight.



Tribune News Service/Columbus Dispatch/Joshua Gunter

Buckeye address

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine greets state representatives before speaking at the State of the State address in Columbus.

Deaths

Anthony Martyne, 64, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 72 Wednesday. The low was 55.

Tonight's low will be in the mid 50s. Expect mostly cloudy skies Saturday with a high in the upper 70s and a chance of showers in the afternoon.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday in the shopping center at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, the parking lot east of Redkey Post Office and the parking lot south of Salamon Fire Station.

Coming up

Saturday — Results from the FRHS track teams at the state finals.

Tuesday — Coverage of the Jay County High School graduation ceremony.

Wednesday — Coverage of next week's Portland City Council meeting.



Obituaries

Anthony Martyne

Oct. 27, 1959-May 28, 2024
Anthony W. Martyne, age 64, of Portland was called to his heavenly home on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie.
He was born in Dayton, Ohio, on Oct. 27, 1959. He was married on Sept. 13, 1997, to Deborah Guggenbiller who survives.
Tony worked for Pengad Printing in Muncie. He was a member

of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church where he sang in the choir; was active in civic theatre and had a band "Perfect Strangers" in his younger years as well as performing as a DJ. He was a 1977 Jay County High School graduate and coached Little League for several years. He



Martyne

enjoyed fishing, the Cincinnati Reds and spending time with his children and grandchildren.
Surviving is his wife Deborah; two daughters, Monica Plodzien (husband: Michael) of Portland and Kathryn Martyne of Terre Haute; two brothers, David Martyne (wife: Cheryl) of Portland and Matt Martyne (wife: Bonnie) of Convoy, Ohio; one sister, Christy Campbell of Portland; three grandchildren, Alexa, Liam and Sean.

He was preceded in death by a son, Vincent Martyne; brother John Martyne; mother Jean Martyne; and grandmother Genevieve Martyne who raised him.
A Mass of Christian Burial will be Monday, June 3, at noon in the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church with Fr. Peter Logsdon presiding. Visitation will be at the church from 10 a.m. to noon.
Memorials can be made to the Portland Fire Department.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.
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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

Saturday 6/1	Sunday 6/2	Monday 6/3	Tuesday 6/4	Wednesday 6/5
78/61	76/59	84/66	82/65	83/65
There's a slight chance of rain throughout the day. Storms are likely at night.	Another chance of thunderstorms on Sunday under mostly cloudy skies.	Monday also has a chance of thunderstorms. Otherwise, mostly sunny.	Tuesday's forecast also shows rain with a 50% chance of thunderstorms.	More rain is expected to fall on Wednesday, with the high sticking in the low 80s.

Lotteries

Powerball
17-34-56-60-61
Power Ball: 9
Power Play: 2
Estimated jackpot: \$161 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$522 million

Hoosier
Wednesday
Midday
Daily Three: 5-3-7
Daily Four: 8-5-5-7
Quick Draw: 5-9-10-20-22-23-25-28-31-37-38-40-54-55-57-67-68-71-72-75
Evening
Daily Three: 9-6-9

Daily Four: 4-4-4-2
Quick Draw: 6-7-19-22-23-28-29-32-39-40-41-47-48-55-59-61-63-64-65-75
Cash 5: 16-17-20-24-44
Estimated jackpot: \$754,500

Ohio
Wednesday
Midday
Pick 3: 6-1-4
Pick 4: 1-4-7-6
Pick 5: 4-5-4-0-9
Evening
Pick 3: 3-6-1
Pick 4: 9-7-7-7
Pick 5: 4-5-5-2-4
Rolling Cash: 2-18-24-29-35
Estimated jackpot: \$100,000

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery
Corn.....4.38
June corn4.42
Wheat5.68

POET Biorefining Portland
Corn.....4.44
June corn4.44
July corn.....4.39

The Andersons Richland Township
Corn4.39
June corn4.34
Beans12.03

June beans12.03
Wheat 6.38

ADM Montpelier
Corn.....4.29
June corn4.31
Beans12.01
June beans12.01
Wheat6.32

Heartland St. Anthony
Corn.....4.39
June corn4.39
Beans11.76
June beans11.81
Wheat6.17

Today in history

In 1819, American poet, journalist and essayist Walt Whitman was born in West Hills, New York. He is best known for his collection "Leaves of Grass."
In 1889, a flood in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, resulted in more than 2,200 deaths.
In 1910, Louis Botha formed the first government of the Union of South Africa.
In 1921, an estimated 300 Black men, women and children were killed in the Tulsa Race Massacre. Mobs looted, destroyed and burned Black-owned businesses and more than 1,250 homes in the Oklahoma city's Greenwood District.
In 1930, American actor and director Clint Eastwood was born in San Francisco, California.

nia. Eastwood's acting credits include "A Fistful of Dollars," "Dirty Harry" and "In the Line of Fire." He directed Oscars best picture winner "Million Dollar Baby."
In 2007, Jay County Development Corporation executive director Bob Quadrozzi died at the age of 69 when his vehicle went off Indiana 67 and struck a semi in Delaware County. He had led JCDC since 1992.
In 2020, a massive fire that produced billowing smoke visible for miles destroyed a barn at the Hartzell Farms facility at 3636 E. 100 North. Seven fire departments battled the fire that took more than two hours to get under control.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday
5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.
7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

Tuesday
4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.
5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station 1616 N. Franklin St.
7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St.
7 p.m. — Salamonina Town Council, School-house Community Center.

Capsule Reports

Failed to yield
A Portland woman failed to yield to oncoming traffic while driving in the Walmart parking lot, causing an accident about 11:34 a.m. Tuesday.
Charles D. Hammond, 70, Redkey, was driving his 1995 Chevrolet Pickup north in the lot at 950 W. Votaw St., Portland, when a 2012 Ford Fiesta drove in front of him. Hammond wasn't able to avoid a collision with the Fiesta, which was driven by 68-year-old Rosetta C. Sosbe.
Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

Pole hit
A Lynn man drove off county road 100 South to

avoid hitting a deer, causing him to strike a utility pole about 11:58 p.m. Tuesday.
Stanley D. Smith, 34, was driving his 2016 Chevrolet Cruze Limited west on the road just west of Portland city limits when a deer ran across the road. Smith swerved to avoid hitting the animal. His vehicle went off the south side of the road and hit a utility pole owned by American Electric Power.
Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Smith's vehicle was towed.

Deer accident
A Berne man injured his arm after swerving off county road 200 East

and crashing into a tree about 11:18 p.m. Sunday.
Brandon S. Walser, 24, and 42-year-old passenger Stacy N. Long of Bryant were riding in a 2010 Ford Taurus north on the road near county road 800 North when a deer ran in front of their path. Walser drove off the west side of the road to avoid the animal, causing him to lose control and crash into a tree.
Walser told police he believed his arm was broken, and he sustained a cut on his forearm. He was transported to IU Health Jay in Portland for his injuries.
His vehicle was towed, with damage estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

READI ...

Continued from page 1
"I strongly feel that what we present to them ... they will likely be very supportive of what we're putting forward," said Friedeberg. "It's going to be a little bit of give and take, but I feel like they want us to be able to determine what's best for our region ..."
He said he's hopeful that finalist projects can be identified by late summer.
The \$35 million that was awarded to the region represents a \$20 million increase from its grant funding in the first iteration of READI. From the \$15 million the East Central Region was awarded in READI 1.0, projects in Jay County that were funded were Salamonina Schoolhouse and Jay County Early Learning Center.
The READI 2.0 funding comes on a 3-1-1 match basis, with 60% from the private sector, 20% from local government and 20% from the state program. The match is considered on a regional basis rather than project-by-project. (The funding from Lilly Endowment will follow similar guidelines, Friedeberg said.)

East Central Indiana Regional Partnership has led the regional planning process along with HWC Engineering, including workshops and public surveys, with that effort extending through most of 2023. That work led to a regional application, which resulted in the announcement of the funding award in April.
The region set a focus on quality of life, housing and infrastructure, child-care and support for families, and education and opportunity.
"We've done a ton of work to get to this point," said Friedeberg. "We're very proud of the way that the region has come together. There's a lot more work ahead of us and I'm confident that if we keep the momentum that we've built the process will be successful, we'll implement some excellent projects throughout the region and further set ourselves up for success in the future. It's been a ride and it's not over yet, but I'm very excited to see what this \$35 million will bring to the region and what that's going to leverage moving forward."

Felony arrests

Sexual misconduct
A Portland man was arrested Wednesday for multiple counts of sexual misconduct.
Brandon W. Bentz, 35, 2267 U.S. 27, is charged in Jay Circuit Court with a Level 5 felony, as well as three Level 6 felonies for the alleged crimes.
He was released on a

\$10,000 bond from Jay County Jail.

Domestic battery
A Portland woman was arrested May 24 for domestic battery.
Emily E. Williams, 26, 410 N. Munson Ave., was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony. She was being held on a \$1,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Testimony ...

Continued from page 1
Owen County Special Judge Kelsey Blake Hanlon, a Republican, is overseeing the proceedings. Hanlon previously issued the preliminary injunction to halt the state's abortion ban in September 2022.

But the Indiana Supreme Court ultimately ruled in June 2023 that the law was constitutional.

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

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Photo provided

Perfect attendance

East Elementary School recognized eight students, pictured above, who had perfect attendance throughout the school year. In the front row are Phoenix Ashley, Mark Nieport, Maggie Cox and Odin Ashley, and in the back row are Lucy Nieport, Hazel Younts, Jehu Bastian Ignacio and Jordan Banda.

Senior boyfriend has teen children

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating my man for seven years. When we got serious, he told me he had kids. Because we are seniors, I assumed his kids were adults. I recently found out that the kids are teenagers! He is very involved in their lives.

Dear Abby



The problem is, their mother calls him constantly about bills for her house and what the kids need. He pays her phone bill, water bill, electric bill and sometimes the internet bill, as well as giving her money each month for the kids. He says he does it because he doesn't pay child support, and he wants to take care of his kids.

He says he's not, under any circumstances, getting back together with the mom. He tells me he loves me, and he does show it. He says that when the kids graduate from high school in two years, he will have no reason to talk to their mom or to pay her bills. He wants his kids to leave and go to college.

I'm very concerned about our relationship moving forward. He gives me a lot of information about what happens between the mom, the kids and him. The woman is dangerous and volatile. She

has come at him with a knife twice. Should I hang in there for the next two years or move on? I love him very much. — SUSPENDED IN FLORIDA

DEAR SUSPENDED: Hang in there, but understand that the time has come for you to discuss ALL of this with your gentleman friend. Suggest he talk to a family law attorney now about his children's higher education. In some states, laws or case law gives courts the authority to order a non-custodial parent to pay for some form of college expenses.

As to his children's unstable mother, you can bet that when he stops footing her bills, she's going to be one angry woman. If she threatens his life again, he should immediately report her to the police and seek a restraining or no-contact order.

Jay Schools meal program starts soon

Free breakfast and lunch will be available to Jay County children and teens beginning next month.

Jay School Corporation's summer meal program will offer free breakfast and lunch to all children younger than 18.

Meal pick-up will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays at Jay County Junior-Senior High School beginning June 5. Meals will be available at door 9 near the main gym. (Children do not need to be present for a parent/guardian to pick up meals for the week.)

Traditional eat-in meal service will be available on weekdays beginning June 3. They will be offered from 8 to 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. to noon at West Jay Community Center and from 9 to 10 a.m. and noon to 1 p.m. at Jay Community Center.

All meals will be provided on a

Taking Note

first-come, first-serve basis. For more information, call (260) 726-9306.

Trine triumphs

Trine University of Angola announced local students recently completed their degrees.

Alexander LeMaster of Portland earned a master's degree in business administration, Carly Miller of Dunkirk earned a doctorate in physical therapy, Levi Peterson of Portland earned a degree in mechanical engineering and Olivia Rowles of

Portland earned a degree in criminal justice.

Also, the following students were named to the university's president's list for the spring semester: Issac Braun of Portland, who is majoring in chemical engineering, and Makenzie Ring of Dunkirk, who is majoring in exercise science/pre physical therapy. Students must complete at least 12 credit hours and have a gpa of at least 3.750 to earn the honor.

Senior learning

John Jay Center for Learning's senior lunch and learn series continues next month.

Jerry Hartzell will give a presentation on wood carving following lunch at noon June 6. The meal is \$5, and reservations for lunch must be paid in advance.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONY-

MOUS — 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 HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113. S. Main St., Dunkirk.

ROAD RIDERS FOR JESUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month in the West Walnut Church of Christ

fellowship hall, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland. (Please enter from the door facing the alley on the north side of the building.) For more information, call (260) 726-8463.

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.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Sunday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

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.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Portland Place, 430 W. Lafayette St. For more information, call (800) 589-1121.

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.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is

located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636.

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 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.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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

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GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

Pay attention to Pence, other staff

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

Of course Nikki Haley now says she'll vote for Donald Trump. The blink of an eye ago she called him "unstable and unhinged," an individual who's "just toxic" and "lacks moral clarity."

She follows the same beaten path of Marco Rubio, who became a big fan of the man he'd labeled a "dangerous" "con artist"; Ted Cruz, now an enthusiastic backer of a person he called a "sniveling coward"; and Lindsey Graham, now a leading apologist for the man he'd branded a "race-baiting, xenophobic, religious bigot." In the political class, there are dozens upon dozens of other such examples amid rare exceptions like Mitt Romney.

Republicans who run for office

Guest Editorial

When politicians so brazenly speak the obvious truth about Donald Trump until they realize he's got them beat and, if they want to win more elections in a party where Trump and Trumpism remain dominant, they have no choice but to turn obsequious and pretend that they never had a brain or a conscience. Trump proceeds to treat all these former rivals like something grosser than gum stuck to the bottom of his shoe, and that's appropriate, because the rivals-turned-sycophants disrespect themselves.

When politicians so brazenly

change their tune on such matters, it's little wonder the public treats them with contempt; that contempt, ironically, is one of the things that in 2015 fueled the rise of a supposedly more authentic personality named Donald Trump.

The Republicans far more worth our attention these days are those who were up close and personal with Trump in his first term, who saw the way he operated as president, and who now warn at the top of their lungs against him becoming president again.

There's former Vice President Mike Pence, who Trump tried to turn into an accomplice in his plot to overturn the 2020 election.

Former Trump Chief of Staff John Kelly, who emerged from the cauldron of the White House

calling Trump "a person who admires autocrats and murderous dictators" who "has nothing but contempt for our democratic institutions, our Constitution, and the rule of law."

There's Bill Barr, once Trump's attorney general, who calls Trump "a consummate narcissist" who "constantly engages in reckless conduct." There's chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley, who called Trump a "wannabe dictator."

Former Defense Secretary Mark Esper, who calls Trump a "threat to democracy" based on his attempt to send as many as 250,000 troops to the U.S. Mexico border—as well as his apparent interest in launching missile strikes on Mexico. Former Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who called Trump the "first

president in my lifetime who does not try to unite the American people — does not even pretend to try." That's an unmistakably consistent pattern from those who saw him play commander-in-chief.

None of these people are seeking political office. All of them align with Trump on many key policy questions. All of them know that being honest about Donald Trump will make it harder for them to thrive professionally in a Republican Party where Trump has overwhelmingly positive approval ratings. Yet none can deny seeing what they saw: an immature, craven, self-serving, out-of-his depth individual who abused the power of the presidency for four years — then tried to steal a second four-year term — and is salivating at the opportunity to do it again.

Change would help with hearing aids

By MARY C. WHITE
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

Having depended on hearing aids for nearly three decades, I'm astounded by the lack of Medicare coverage for devices that can solve a problem afflicting tens of millions of older Americans.

Nearly two-thirds of Americans over age 70 have some degree of hearing loss, and over half of those 75 and older experience impairment serious enough to be considered disabling. But most don't wear hearing aids.

Because the legislation that created Medicare nearly 60 years ago specifically excluded hearing aids, those who rely on the program's traditional coverage must pay for them out of pocket. That expense is among the chief barriers to wider use of the devices.

Age-related hearing loss impedes basic communication and the relationships that depend on it. Expanded access to hearing aids could therefore do no less than enable more older Americans to establish and maintain the social connections that are essential to a meaningful life.

Hearing loss is like an invisible, muffling curtain that falls in front of anyone speaking. Asking people to repeat themselves can yield irritated and hurtful responses. And it's hopeless to ask a soft-spoken person to speak up. Sometimes it's easier just to nod and smile.

Many older people I know choose to avoid social gatherings altogether because they can't hear well. Without hearing aids, I'd stay home too.

Hearing loss can harm one's health in other ways. For example, I've written about the need for a comprehensive approach to reducing cancer risk at older ages, including preventive services such as colorectal cancer screening. But these services rely on conversations between patients and their health care providers. An older patient's ability to hear and understand such conversations shouldn't be taken for granted or ignored.

The Food and Drug Administration did improve access to hearing aids by making some of them available without a prescription in 2022, but the over-the-counter devices are inadequate for serious hearing loss like

Mary C. White



mine. My private health insurance, meanwhile, started covering hearing aids a few years ago, providing up to \$2,500 for them every five years. One hearing aid alone can cost that much or more, however.

Despite its limitations, my private coverage for hearing aids is better than nothing, which is what traditional Medicare provides.

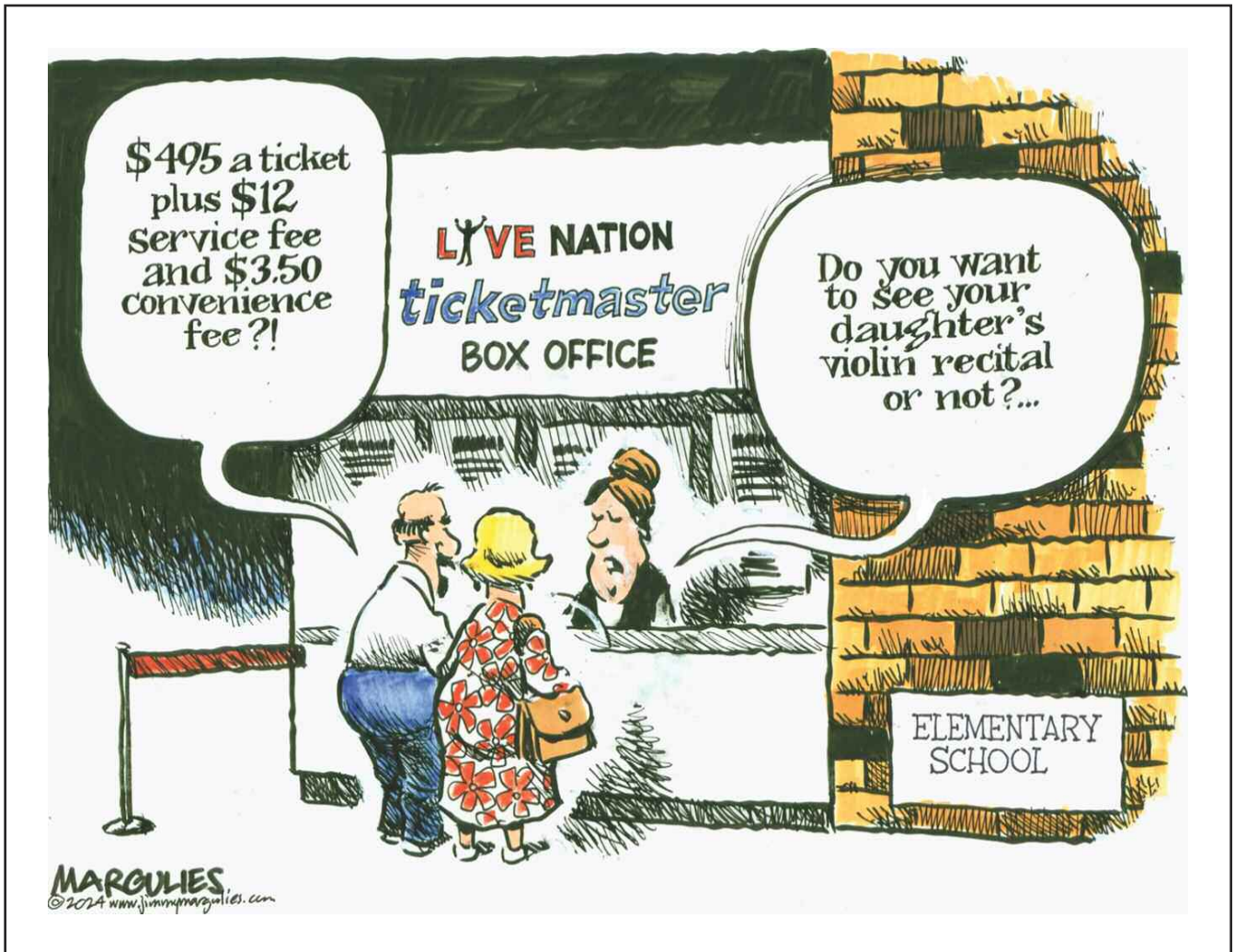
Hearing loss is more common among lower-income people and those without advanced education. The toll from noisy workplaces compounds age-related hearing loss for some. One analysis found that most Americans with a serious hearing disability can't afford the typical price of hearing aids.

Many of the older adults who can't come up with these significant out-of-pocket expenses spent their working years in low-wage jobs that our country depends on. Denying them treatment for their hearing loss is a lousy way to treat people who gave years of service to our society.

Although some older adults with hearing loss won't benefit from hearing aids, Medicare coverage for the devices might encourage more beneficiaries to get their hearing tested so they can get the treatment that's right for them. And while Medicare coverage alone won't address the stigma some people associate with hearing aids, the availability of newer, more comfortable and less obvious technology might win over some refuseniks.

Legislation reintroduced with bipartisan support last year would finally correct this glaring gap in Medicare coverage by removing the hearing aid exclusion from the law. There's no reason to delay action on this any longer. Are our representatives listening?

White is an adjunct professor of environmental health at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health, a Public Voices fellow at AcademyHealth in partnership with the OpEd Project and a former federal epidemiologist.



Race delay shows adaptability

By MICHAEL LEPPERT
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

I ate my track picnic at my kitchen counter this year. I don't know if I've ever done that before, so I'm writing it down for future race reference. The fried chicken was as delicious as any other year, though it felt weird eating it over a plate.

Every year, the Indianapolis 500 is our city's most special event. It's embedded in our culture, so grandly, so omnipresent, it's hard to find a person or a place in the area untouched by it.

The event and its long list of traditions can feel delicate in some ways, reliant on something as unpredictable as the weather. In other ways, it feels as strong as Indiana limestone. When a few hundred thousand diverse people have a shared purpose, it's amazing how well we can adapt.

A weather delay that forecasters began predicting in the middle of the week actually came true. I love not trusting the National Weather Service when it gives me bad news five days ahead of time. I treat those people like NBA referees: every call they make is the beginning of the argument, not the end of it. But they got it right this time. Golf claps for them this weekend, and I will go back to not trusting them by Saturday.

We ride our bikes to the track on race day, a tradition I recommend for anyone capable within about ten miles of Speedway. It's a thirty-minute ride for us and we buy advanced parking from Bike Indy right outside the main entrance. It's so convenient, we waited at home for the weather to pass. Much like my strange race picnic, I took my traditional post-race nap before the race this year. Odd, yes, but I'm too old to complain about any nap.

Michael Leppert



I started to stir around 2:00 p.m. and when I realized it wasn't raining, I jumped a little. I yelled at my no-napping wife for a weather report, and she told me things were looking good, so I better get it together. The text messages from our bike group started chiming in while I was in the shower, and at 3:00 p.m., nine of us left the neighborhood for the track.

When we got close to our seats in Stand A, we wondered what the concession stands would run out of first. With a four-hour delay, that's like hosting two races to the vendors. Beer was the consensus pick, but we were wrong. Food ran out first. I'd like to think that collectively we simply drink less these days, but that can't possibly be true.

I had no idea how many fans would be in their seats after the delay and a pseudo-evacuation of a crowd the size of Cincinnati. Uh, everyone stayed. Our seats are in the middle of the row, and the people who had to stand to let us in were irritated at our inconveniently late arrival. We were really right on time and didn't even miss any of the pre-race pageantry.

People have all kinds of favorite pre-race traditions, but ever since my dad's funeral, the playing of "Taps," has become mine. As I've written before, there is no place in America that celebrates Memorial Day better than Indianapolis.

I love the seats and the roof over our heads that our friends share

with us in Turn 1. The bad part is that we usually miss the flyover. But this year, the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds made two passes. The first one we couldn't see, but the second one was right at us, scattering above right when Jim Cornelson was nailing the end of "Back Home Again in Indiana." Awesome.

Right before the drivers started their engines, the teenager sitting next to me handed an iPhone charging battery to the men sitting in front of us, thanking them for the boost. They didn't know each other.

Whining was high this year about the local TV blackout, a controversy irrelevant to me. But they lifted it at the last minute this year due to the circumstances. We adapted again, leaving around Lap 125 in time to watch the last twenty-five at home.

Josef Newgarden won his second 500 in a row and Roger Penske won his 20th as a team owner. I love what he has done for the track since buying it, but rooting for his teams on race day feels like going to a casino and rooting for the house.

The Indianapolis Motor Speedway team is awfully good at what they do. The best really. And every year, especially an imperfect one like this year, they rejuvenate my confidence that our community can set aside its differences and accomplish anything when we work together.

Leppert is an author, educator and a communication consultant in Indianapolis. He writes about government, politics and culture at MichaelLeppert.com.

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Purdue, UK are collaborating

By WENDY MAYER
Purdue Ag News

Responding to growing consumer demand for environmentally friendly goods, Purdue University and the University of Kentucky are collaborating on a transformative project to expand sustainable maple syrup production. The study will take place in Indiana and Kentucky's central hardwood region, focusing on sustainable, low-carbon syrup production.

The project is directed toward developing a model for "green" maple syrup cooperatives such as energy-efficient production and sustainable forest management.

"Fostering co-ops of green maple syrup production will not only create economies of scale, thus lowering the average cost of energy-efficient production, but also reduce the average carbon footprint per unit of production," said Mo Zhou, associate professor of forest economics and management in Purdue's College of Agriculture and principal investigator of the grant.

Previous maple syrup research at Purdue, made possible through a \$500,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture Acer Access and Development Program grant, found that consumers will pay a higher price for maple syrup sourced from sustainably managed forests, but the amount

depends on the sustainability label. The grant's focus has been on increasing consumption and production of maple syrup through an integrated marketing strategy over a three-year time span, in partnership with the Indiana Maple Syrup Association.

"Our goal is to integrate economic viability with environmental sustainability," said Thomas Ochuodho, associate professor in the University of Kentucky's Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, part of the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. "We're looking to demonstrate that 'green' maple syrup production is beneficial for the environment and economically feasible for producers in the central hardwood region."

The initiative has four main objectives:

- Understanding the motivations for voluntary co-ops: The project will investigate why producers choose to join co-ops and how these cooperatives could support sustainable practices.

- Developing a proof of concept for green co-ops: Through research and practical trials, the team aims to create and refine a model for environmentally friendly maple syrup production co-ops.

- Profiling potential green pro-



University of Kentucky/Steve Patton

A University of Kentucky and Purdue University study aims to create a "green" maple syrup cooperative model with energy-efficient production and sustainable forest management.

ducers and predicting impacts: The project seeks to understand and predict the broader economic impacts of a more sustainable maple syrup industry by identifying potential green producers and lessors.

- Promoting green production: Through targeted educational efforts, the project aims to encourage more producers to adopt sustainable practices.

The study will place emphasis

on educational activities to spread knowledge — encouraging the adoption of green practices among maple syrup producers and landowners. These efforts, supported by the findings from comprehensive surveys and research, will use educational tools and materials well-suited to the needs of local producers.

Both universities hope to see a substantial increase in the production of sustainable, low-car-

bon footprint maple syrup, driving economic benefits for producers while significantly reducing the environmental impact of syrup production across the region.

Funding for this project is made possible by a grant from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the USDA.

Bird flu spread is still a mystery

By GRACE WADE
New Scientist

Public health experts still don't know how a bird flu virus has been spreading for months among dairy cows in the US — although early evidence points to contaminated milking equipment.

Since late March, 52 dairy herds across nine US states have tested positive for H5N1, a bird flu virus that has killed millions of birds and thousands of mammals worldwide. Genetic analysis of samples from infected cattle suggests the outbreak began when cows on a Texas farm contracted the virus from wild birds. It then spread to other herds as infected cows moved between farms.

But how the virus jumps from cow to cow is unclear.

"This is a critical question that is still under investigation," said Andrew Pekosz at Johns Hopkins University in Maryland during a press briefing on May 15. "There are most likely two ways the virus is spreading," he said.

The first is respiratory transmission. Infected cows may be expelling the virus in small droplets of mucus or saliva that other cows then inhale or ingest when sharing food and water, says Seema Lakdawala at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

However, infected cows show mild to no respiratory symptoms, and their nasal swabs contain low concentrations of the virus, suggesting another mode of transmission.

"I think it's the milking equipment," says Lakdawala.

Raw milk from sick cows contains high concentrations of H5N1 and can thus transmit the virus. Several cats contracted bird flu after drinking unpasteurized milk, for instance. This is why it is crucial that humans avoid raw milk products.

Although adult cows don't drink raw milk, they do share milking equipment. Dairy workers normally wash a cow's udder before hooking it up to the milker and again after removing it. But not all dairies disinfect the milking equipment between each cow, says Sid Miller at the Texas Department of Agriculture. Consequently, rubber inside the milking equipment can

'Whether there is some infection through the skin or some other route, I don't know, but (milking equipment) definitely has contamination potential.'

—Seema Lakdawala, Emory University

contain residual raw milk.

In an unpublished study, Lakdawala and her colleagues found that H5N1 in milk survives on rubber surfaces for at least an hour at concentrations high enough to be infectious. Another preliminary study from Charlotte Kristensen at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark and her colleagues shows that mammary glands from a lactating dairy cow contain multiple receptors for H5N1.

"Whether there is some infection through the skin or some other route, I don't know, but that [milking equipment] definitely has contamination potential," says Lakdawala.

Miller says the Texas Department of Agriculture is recommending that dairy farmers disinfect milking equipment between each cow.

All of this evidence is far from conclusive, and poor surveillance has made it nearly impossible to pinpoint or rule out other potential pathways of transmission — which must be done if the outbreak is to be contained, says Lakdawala. To encourage dairy farmers to boost surveillance, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced on 10 May that it would compensate them for lost milk production and H5N1 testing costs.

HEALTHCARE

Find the right doctor for your condition

The medical field is comprised of many professionals working in concert to keep patients healthy, which involves treating any conditions that arise. Individuals may be treated by various types of doctors in their lifetime, and each is an expert in his or her field. According to Medical News Today, most physicians are categorized as primary care or specialty care.

Navigating the health care system can be confusing. Recognition of the specialties of various types of doctors can make it easier to make it through that system.

- **General practitioner:** Also known as a family physician, or primary care doctor, these are the doctors patients are likely to encounter most often. They care for patients during routine checkups and screening tests; provide immunizations; and manage ongoing medical conditions. GPs also may be internists, treating both common and complex illnesses.
- **Pediatrician: Pediatricians** specialize in the care of children from birth and up. Although there is no set age when patients will transition from a pediatrician to an adult doctor, Kids Health says the switch is typically made between the ages of 18 and 21.
- **Geriatric medicine specialists:** These doctors focus



on treating elderly patients and the medical conditions that can develop as a person ages. Geriatric doctors work in private offices, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, hospitals, and some even make house calls.

- **Endocrinologists:** An endocrinologist is an expert in the study of the body's hormones, says the Cleveland Clinic. They diagnose and treat many different conditions that affect the endocrine system, including diabetes, reproductive issues and thyroid conditions.
- **Dermatologist:** Skin, hair and nail conditions are handled by a dermatologist. Dermatologists routinely

treat conditions like acne, moles, scarring, rashes, and more.

- **Nephrologists:** Individuals with kidney diseases as well as high blood pressure and fluid and mineral imbalances will likely see a nephrologist.
- **Ophthalmologist:** Although many conditions of the eye can be diagnosed and treated by optometrists, ophthalmologists are medical doctors who can treat every kind of eye condition. They also can operate on the eyes, according to WebMD.
- **Oncologist:** Oncologists specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. They have subspecialties in

specific types of cancer, and also may serve as radiation oncologists, who provide radiation cancer treatments.

- **Otolaryngologists:** Commonly referred to as ear, nose and throat doctors, these professionals treat diseases in these areas of the body. They also treat conditions that affect the neck and respiratory system.
- **Pulmonologists:** Those with conditions related to breathing issues, such as pneumonia, asthma, emphysema, and lung cancer, can seek out pulmonologists.

These are just some of the many different types of doctors people may visit in their lifetimes.

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Test your play

You are declarer with the West hand at Seven Notrump. North leads the jack of hearts, which you win with the queen as South follows low. How would you play the hand?

West
 ♠ A K Q 2
 ♥ 3 2
 ♦ A K Q 3
 ♣ A K Q

East
 ♠ 6 5 4 3
 ♥ A K Q
 ♦ 2
 ♣ 6 5 4 3 2

If either the spades or clubs are divided 3-2, you have 13 tricks, so you should start by assuming that both suits are divided unfavorably — that is, 4-1 or 5-0.

The contract cannot be defeated — no matter how the cards are divided — if you play correctly. You might have to execute a squeeze, but to accomplish it you must be careful to cash your tricks in the right order.

You start by playing the A-K of spades and A-K of clubs. When you do, you might discover (1) that one opponent has both of these suits guarded, or (2) that each opponent has one suit guarded.

In case No. 1, the squeeze is accomplished by simply cashing the A-K-Q of diamonds, queen of clubs and A-K of hearts, ending in dummy. As these cards are cashed, you discard a spade and a club from dummy and a diamond from

your hand, leaving this position:

West
 ♠ Q 2

East
 ♠ 6
 ♥ 6
 ♦ 6

The opponent with both black suits guarded is down to two cards also and was forced to unguard one of those suits when the last heart was cashed. Whether he relinquished a club or a spade, that discard was fatal.

In case No. 2, you continue by cashing both black queens, followed by the A-K-Q of hearts, to bring about this position:

West
 ♠ A K Q 3

East
 ♠ 6
 ♥ 2
 ♦ 6 5

By now the squeeze (called a double squeeze because both opponents feel the pinch) has already worked. The opponent with the spade guard could not keep more than three diamonds, and the opponent with the club guard likewise could not keep more than three diamonds. The A-K-Q-3 of diamonds therefore win the last four tricks.

Of course, if either opponent relinquishes his guard in either black suit, you would discard the three of diamonds on the established club or spade before cashing the A-K-Q of diamonds.

Tomorrow: Sneak attack.
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5-31

CRYPTOQUIP

JOUHPQ WB OYATRWFM ZTW
 JHN RJBPD ZBPUDANOWHBP
 NJBAW, WJD YOAWDPCDA NOHC,

"OFZBJBF MBT FOWDA."
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FLICK IN WHICH OFFICERS TRY TO TRACK DOWN A FEW SUSPECTED LOAN SHARKS: "THE USURY SUSPECTS."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals G

Peanuts

Rose is Rose

Agnes

Hi and Lois

Between Friends

Blondie

Snuffy Smith

Beetle Bailey

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- Sun-rises
- The "Wall" network
- Rage
- With 6-Down, famed physicist
- Blunder
- Bagel topper
- Refuse an offer
- Edge of a road
- Organize an art show
- Two of a kind
- GI's address
- Comic Philips
- Failed to
- Gaming tyro
- Labor group
- Metallic mixtures
- Shoulder warmers
- Garden spoilers
- Asian nation

DOWN

- Insult, slangily
- Botanist Gray
- "Totally awesome!"
- Half of Mork's farewell
- Sports-cast offering
- See 12-Across
- Scottish slope
- Sob
- Homer classic
- "The Thinker" sculptor
- Apply, as pressure

17 "This Is — Tap"

19 Tickle

21 Santa — winds

22 D.C. figure

24 Homer's lament

26 Doggie, to a child

28 Edition

30 "Certainly!"

32 Am-bushed

33 Brit's restroom

34 Tax form ID

36 Anger

38 Made crow noises

39 Treeless plain

40 To date

42 Cuba's Castro

45 Sweet sandwich

46 Peru's capital

48 TV alien

50 Marlins' div.

51 Still, in verse

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

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Patriots, Beiswanger named Academic All-State

The Patriots earned their fourth straight sectional championship in the 2024 season.

Their work didn't stop on the court, as they also excelled in the classroom.

The Jay County High School girls tennis team was named Academic All-State by the Indiana High School Tennis Coaches Association on Wednesday.

To earn Academic All-State honors, all players of the varsity team must combine for a 3.6 non-weighted GPA or better. Singles players Brenna Haines, Brenna Bailey, and Maggie Dillon combined with doubles players Meredith Dirksen, Sophia Sprunger, Zion Beiswanger, Lucie Henneaux and Chloe Ruiz for a 3.91 cumulative GPA during the 2024 campaign.

Beiswanger was also named as an individual Academic All-State, which required a non-weighted GPA of 3.8 or higher and a SAT score of 1,280 or better.

Offense dominates

Williams Auto Parts put up

Local roundup

another big score on Wednesday to beat Barnett's Auto Parts 18-4 in Portland Junior League Rookie baseball.

Williams Auto Parts out hit Barnett's Auto Parts 29-12 thanks to nine players having multiple hits in the game.

Carson Dailey and Zander Williams had the only extra base hits in the contest. Williams had a triple, two doubles and a single to drive in a pair of runs while Dailey's double and three singles plated two as well.

Brett Huntsman and Daylan Winters led the team in RBIs with four apiece on four singles.

Charles Childress and Micah Davis led Barnett's Auto Parts' offense with two base hits and one run driven in each.

Guggenbiller leads

Wings and Rings took down Joyce Dayton 8-2 in Portland Junior League Rookie softball on Wednesday night.

Hayden Guggenbiller led the way for Wings and Rings, going 4-for-4 at the plate with two runs scored.

Kat Conn, Charlee Taylor and Josey Taylor all finished perfect at the plate going 3-for-3. Charlee Taylor scored twice while Josey Taylor scored once.

Wings and Rings also got strong offensive performances from Maddie Theurer and Skye Ingram with three and two hits, respectively. Both crossed home plate once.

Adalyn Overla and Ivy Trinidad put together the most hits for Joyce Dayton in the loss with three each.

Renlee Hummer and Annabelle Wiggins supported with two singles each.

The team's runs were scored by Wiggins and Mackenna Cramer.

Sixth decides

A five-run sixth inning pushed Loy's Auction to a 10-5 victory over Portland Forge on Wednesday in Portland Junior League Sandy Koufax baseball.

Nick Snow earned the win for Loy's Auction on the mound after four hitless innings pitched. Despite not giving up a hit, two unearned runs scored on Snow.

Samuel Wiggins finished off the game on the mound to earn the save. He also went 2-for-3 from the plate with a home run.

Other notable offensive performances came from Grant Fenning (1-for-1 with two runs scored), Caleb Sibray (1-for-1 with two runs scored) and Andy Navarro (2-for-2).

Held scoreless

The Rock held Crossroads scoreless for a 10-0 victory in Portland Junior League Minor softball on Wednesday.

Emalee Aker put together the top performance with a

triple and a double in her only at bats. She also scored a run.

Adalee Rigby, Maggie Westgerdes and Ellie Wiggins all went 2-for-2 as well. Rigby and Wiggins both scored two runs and notched doubles, while Westgerdes crossed home plate twice with only singles.

Carsyn Guggenbiller, Brooklyn McGill, Emma McGill and Emme Theurer all finished 1-for-2 with a run scored.

Forge wins

Portland Forge defeated Local 1612 13-4 on Tuesday in Portland Junior League Sandy Koufax baseball.

Cohen Shimp led Portland Forge with three doubles that pushed three runs across the plate.

Cooper Reynolds and Logan Wendel each drove in a pair of runners. Wendel slashed a double and two singles while Reynolds earned two singles.

Cooper Shimp and Jackson Wasson each added RBIs as well, each with base hits.

College Football 25 has been passion project for EA Sports

By MATT MURSCHEL

Orlando Sentinel
Tribune News Service

ORLANDO, Fla. — Travis Hunter knows how to keep a secret.

Hunter has been a critical figure for the Colorado Buffaloes.

When EA Sports approached him to feature as one of the three college football players on the cover of the highly anticipated College Football 25 video game, Hunter kept it under wraps, adding another feather to his cap.

"I didn't tell anybody, so nobody knew it," Hunter said with a smile.

The reaction from friends, family and teammates once it was announced he was on the cover along with Texas quarterback Quinn Ewers and Michigan running back Donovan Edwards, Hunter was simple.

"They wanted to know why I didn't tell anybody," he said, laughing.

Hunter joins a long list of players to have graced the cover of some version of EA Sports' college football video game. Everyone from Nebraska's Tommie Frasier, Florida's Danny Wuerffel, Michigan's Charles Woodson, Texas'

Ricky Williams and Florida's Tim Tebow.

"There's no doubt in my mind that I wanted to be on the cover, so I just went straight to work and did everything they told me I needed to do," Hunter said.

College Football 25 is set to make a global comeback on July 19, exclusively for PlayStation 5 and Xbox Series X|S. The game's last edition was unveiled almost a decade ago, heightening the anticipation and making this reveal one of the most thrilling events in the gaming community.

The details of the game have been shrouded in secrecy and guarded with the utmost care. Those granted access to them have been compelled to sign Non-Disclosure Agreements, underscoring the level of confidentiality and the game's highly anticipated nature.

When EA Sports Orlando hosted a private event last week for some of the top games and journalists to get a sneak peek of the game and its details, attending members were asked to sign NDAs and agree not to photograph or video any game material.

Few details have been

made public about the game, which has been a labor of love for many of those who work at EA Orlando Studios.

Rob Jones, senior production director, returned to work on the new college football game after spending time developing games such as Madden NFL and NBA2K.

"I was super excited because, like everybody else, I was extremely disappointed when the series went away," Jones told the Orlando Sentinel. "This was also a brand new challenge for me. I had done NFL, NBA, and college basketball, and then having a chance to shape what college football could be like from an experience was a brand new thing."

When Jones returned four years ago, his first job was assembling a team to bring life to the game. A lot has changed in the decade since NCAA Football 14 — the game's last version — was released.

The most significant change came in 2021 as college athletes were allowed to be financially compensated for their name, image and likeness (NIL). That allowed EA Sports to step back into the business of

making college football games.

Football Bowl Subdivision players can now be represented in the game, with 13,000 already signing with EA Sports through an NIL deal.

The schools also reached licensing agreements for stadiums, uniforms, cheers, fight songs and other components to create the most comprehensive and lifelike college football game possible.

"Approximately 16,000 headshots of players were scanned into the system to create lifelike representations with 240 head shapes that can be used to create your own player."

"The team recreated 150 stadiums, including those at Kansas and Vanderbilt, currently under construction. Schools provided approximately 80,000 photos to help, along with lidar scanning in some cases."

"Traditions like running down the hill into Clemson's Memorial Stadium were recreated with motion-capture cameras. Band members, cheerleaders and mascots were also recreated."

"The team scored the rights to 180 fight songs and music, such as "Zom-

bie Nation," used by several schools, including UCF.

"The schools leaned into this, and the response has been amazing," Jones said.

"Passion is what you'll see in this product," said Daryl Holt, senior vice president and group general manager at EA Sports.

EA Sports teamed up with ESPN broadcasters such as Chris Fowler, Kirk Herbstreit, David Pollack, Desmond Howard, Rece Davis, Jesse Palmer and Kevin Connors to record hundreds of hours of audio.

Fowler spent two and a half years working with the design team, recording 115 hours. He was also forced to keep his role in the game a secret before sharing a few videos on Instagram that drew reactions.

"I was initially surprised because I couldn't talk about this for a long time," Fowler said. "I couldn't even say I was in the game. It got out there kind of and it wasn't a very well-kept secret, but I couldn't talk about it and when I finally did that first video, it just blew up."

The challenge was bringing the same passion he's used to displaying on tele-

vision into the game. Seven hundred fifty player names needed to be spoken, and calls needed to be made for nearly every play imaginable.

"The routine plays are not that big deal, but the touchdown calls are what people remember in any video game," Fowler said. "So you want to get that part right."

EA Sports has always prided itself on the realism of its games and fans can experience the ins and outs of college football whether as a team builder, a coach, a player or a high school recruit.

The various levels, such as Dynasty, Road to Glory, Road to the College Football Playoff and Ultimate Team, allow you to experience the game at a whole new level.

For Jones, it's been a labor of love for himself and his team, which he credits.

"The right people in the right place make magic and that's what I think we were able to create," he said.

Hunter, who played the game for the first time during last week's event, would agree.

"It's a better game for sure," Hunter said.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Fort Recovery — Track state tournament at University of Dayton — 6:30 p.m.

Saturday
Portland Rockets at Grand Lakes Mariners — 6:30 p.m.

TV sports

Today
12 p.m. — Tennis: French Open (NBC)
12 p.m. — College baseball: Coastal Carolina at Vanderbilt (ESPN2)
2 p.m. — LPGA Tour: U.S. Women's Open (USA)
2:20 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Chicago Cubs (Bally Indiana)
6 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: Toyota 200 (FS1)
6:40 p.m. — MLB: St. Louis Cardinals at

Philadelphia Phillies (Bally Indiana)
7 p.m. — College softball tournament (ESPN2)
9:30 p.m. — College softball tournament (ESPN2)
10 p.m. — AHL: Milwaukee Admirals at Coachella Valley Firebirds (FOX)

Saturday
5:30 a.m. — National Rugby League: Canberra Raiders at Dolphins (FS1)
10:15 a.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Enjoy Illinois 300 (FS1)
12 p.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Series: Pacific Office Automation 147 (FS1)
12 p.m. — UFC: Jailton Almeida vs. Alexandr Romanov (ESPN2)
1:30 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: Toyota 200 (FOX)
2 p.m. — UFL: Birmingham Stallions at Michigan Panthers (ESPN)
3 p.m. — LPGA Tour: U.S. Women's Open (NBC)
3 p.m. — IMSA SportsCar Championship: Detroit Grand Prix (USA)

4 p.m. — UFL: St. Louis Battlehawks at San Antonio Brahmas (FOX)
4:30 p.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Series: Pacific Office Automation 147 (FS1)
5 p.m. — International friendly women's soccer: Korea Republic vs. United States (TNT)
5:30 p.m. — PGA Tour: Canadian Open (CBS)
7 p.m. — College softball tournament (ESPN)
7:15 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Chicago Cubs (FOX)
8 p.m. — NHL playoffs: New York Rangers at Florida Panthers (ABC)
12 p.m. — UFC fighting (ESPN2)
8:30 p.m. — NBA playoffs: Minnesota Timberwolves at Dallas Mavericks (TNT)
9 p.m. — USL Championship: Oakland Roots at Colorado Springs (FS1)
9:15 p.m. — CONCACAF Champions Cup: Columbus Crew vs. Pachuca (FS1)

Darke County/Annie Oakley Golf Tournament is set to take place on July 22 at Turtle Creek Golf Course in Greenville, Ohio.

Lunch will be served at 11:15 a.m., with a shotgun start to follow at 12:15 p.m.

All proceeds will go to the Cancer Association of Darke County.

For additional information or an entry form call (937) 548-9960 or email director@cadcinфо.org.

Races coming up
The Adams County Challenge has two races scheduled for June.

On June 8 at 8 a.m., the Youth for Christ 5K will start at Ceylon Covered Bridge outside of Geneva. Participants can register online at bigjawsfc.org/event/5k for \$20. A t-shirt is included for those who register before June 1.

The Superhero Fun Run for those 12-and-under will be held at 8 a.m. with a 5K following at 8:30 a.m. on June 15. Both races will begin at 141 N First St., Decatur.

Registration costs \$15 and will also include a t-shirt if done before June 1.

Outing scheduled
The annual City of Portland Mayor's Golf Outing has been scheduled for Friday, June 14, at Portland Golf Club.

Registration for the event will be held from 11 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. on the day of the outing. A meal will also be provided for the four-person teams at this time. Registration is limited to the first 20 teams and must be completed by June 10 and submitted to 321 N. Meridian St., emailing mayoroffice@thecityofportland.net or calling (260) 726-9395.

Golfing will begin with a shotgun start at noon. Those interested can also sponsor the event. It cost \$150 to sponsor a hole, \$200 to sponsor a team and a meal or \$300 for to sponsor a team, a meal and hole sponsorship.

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

90 SALE CALENDAR

E & M BLACKSMITH SHOP

13th Annual Consignment Auction Saturday, June 1, 2024 8:30 a.m. 2404 W 350 S, Berne, IN

Horses; Ponies; Horse-Drawn Machinery; Produce Equipment; Buggies; Harness; Carts; New Tack; Saddles; Shop Tools; Lawn/Garden Tools; Sausage Grinder/Stuffers; New/Used Furniture; Washing Machines; Hay, Straw, Firewood. Accepting consignments every evening that week from 4pm-8pm and all day

Thursday, May 30th/Friday, May 31st from 7am-8pm.
Call 260-589-2743
Leave message to consign horses.
Auctioneers John P. Troyer AU10900141 Also with J. S. Auctions AU10700049

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90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION

Located: Woman's Building Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 E. Votaw St. Portland, IN Saturday Morning June 1st, 2024 9:30 A. M.

HOUSEHOLD GOODS - OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS - COINS - MISC. Cico scooter; Juke box with records; large Replogle Globe Company globe on stand; Trek 8000 bicycle; Trek Jet Twenty bicycle; Gottleib's Super Soccer pin ball machine; 2 pc. china hutch; hammered copper farmhouse sink; Rinnai tankless water heater; large copper weathervane; Schwinn bicycle; Sheffield Silver Co ice bucket; Teeter 900 LX Inversion table; French style easel; Oak commode with towel bar; Oak dresser with mirror; #5 Red Wing crock with handles; #3 Bee Sting Crock; CAN-NING JARS: Ball, Mason, Crown, Atlas, Kerr, Presto, Perfect seal, Swazee, Root to name a few; oil lamps;

90 SALE CALENDAR

COINS: 1923 Peace Silver Dollar, Walking Liberty Half Dollars, 1838 & 1861 Sealed Half Dimes, 1840 & 1891 Seated Liberty Dimes, Barber, Mercury & Roosevelt Dimes, Replica of \$20 gold piece made of 24k, Eisenhower Dollars, and many others not listed.

Sinclair dog and apple; Bose radio; Kenwood stereo and speakers; sewing cabinet; Art Glass; quilts; fishing poles; small kitchen appliances; antique baskets; Murano clown; Evinrude 25 motor; Skil belt sander; and many other items not listed.
NOTES: Doors will open at 8:00 a.m. day of auction for preview. HEMM FAMILY Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112

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90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION

SATURDAY JUNE 1ST, 2024 TIME 10:00 A.M. LOCATED: Bob Schmit Memorial Building - Jay County Fairgrounds E Votaw St. Portland, IN.

COINS-GOLD JEWELRY
1795 and 1796 Silver dollars; (4) 1oz Silver bars; (5) 1oz slugs; Silver quarters and proofs; 2007 10oz silver dollar; Mercury dimes; Buffalo and war nickels; Coin collector books; Indian, wheat, and steel pennies; Red seal \$2 bills; Chicago Bears and other gold rings; 2.5 gram gold necklace; 12k pageant necklace. ANTIQUES-HOUSEHOLD-GARAGE ITEMS Arrow heads; stamp collection; 1997 Alaska State Fair belt buckle; JD toys and gas pump; Mltsubishi baby grand piano; JD LX 172 14HP mower with 38" cut; Craftsman 24" snow-blower; Craftsman 7.5" table saw; Fishing poles and tackle. Several

90 SALE CALENDAR

items not mentioned.

OWNER: Rose Snow and Shreves Family TERMS: CASH-GOOD CHECK-CREDIT CARD NOTE: Check Auction-soft and AuctionZip for more photos. SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE AUCTIONEERS Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229 Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587 www.auctionzip.com - Auctioneer ID #4243

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New beginnings

Comer comes out of retirement to take over Bishop Dwenger girls basketball

By RICK REED

The Commercial Review

Kirk Comer was so sure his coaching days were over that he gave away his whistle.

Comer's other valuable tools of the trade were gone as well. He no longer has a clipboard, his practice notes or playbook, having handed much of it over to Sherri McIntire, his former assistant at Jay County High School who is now the head coach of the girls basketball team.

With 406 career wins and six sectional championships under his belt over a span of 28 seasons, Comer has returned to the ranks, hoping to bring success to the Bishop Dwenger Saints girls program that hasn't won a sectional championship since 1999.

"I really thought I was done," explained Comer after announcing in April 2023 that he was resigning as the girls basketball coach because of job commitments. "I was surprised myself, but when the job (at Bishop Dwenger) became open it really intrigued me and I just kept thinking about it. It just seems like there is a great opportunity to maybe do something special at Dwenger. We're going to find out."

A 1983 Winchester graduate, Comer began his career in 1992 at Daleville

and later at four different Randolph County schools before settling in at Jay County, where he coached for 14 years in two separate stints. He guided his teams to sectional titles at Union in 1998, four at Union City (2000-03) and two at Winchester (2010, 2011) and one at Jay County (2006).

Stepping down after the Patriots finished 23-2 in 2022-23, Comer left the program on solid footing as they racked up 22 wins in their first season under McIntire.

Bishop Dwenger finished 10-15 last year and hasn't finished with a winning record since 2018-19. The school is one of the largest three Catholic schools in the state with more than 1,000 students. Its schedule includes many 3A and 4A opponents, including several state-ranked teams including 2024 state runner-up Norwell.

"I'm hoping to take (the Dwenger) program over for five years, get things turned around and then turn it over to somebody who can keep it going," said Comer. "That's what I'd like to see happen."

At Bishop Dwenger, Comer enters unfamiliar territory. He will have all new assistant coaches, with all new players, playing in a different conference, in a different gymnasium.



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Coach Kirk Comer addresses his team in a timeout during his second stint as head of the Jay County High School girls baseball team. Comer left the Patriots due to work commitments but is coming back to coach at Bishop Dwenger in the 2024-25 season.

"It's all new," Comer said. "But I feel this is an opportunity here. We've got 45 kids who came out, and I'm not used to that. There are 18 incoming kids who signed up. That's something new."

Comer said he is a big

fan of Jay County basketball and enjoys attending the games and supporting what will always be his home town school.

"I figured it up and there are four or five games when there is a

conflict in the schedules, so I'm still going to be getting to Jay County games and supporting them," Comer said.

Comer said it is the relationships with his players and people he has

met through basketball that keeps him interested.

"I just enjoy the kids and meeting people," Comer says.

"I've built a lot of friendships over the years that I cherish."



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Major sponsors of Arts in the Parks are the National Endowment for the Arts, the Indiana Arts Commission, the Randolph County Community Foundation, The Portland Foundation, and the County of Jay.