

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Airport set to apply for \$\$

Grant would go toward apron expansion

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review
Bid opening was pushed back.

But the airport is ready to move forward when they come in.

Portland Board of Aviation on Wednesday granted permission to move forward with a Federal Aviation Administration grant application pending review of bids that will be opened Monday.

Jason Clearwaters of engineering firm Butler, Fairman and Seufert explained to the board that bids were originally scheduled to be opened Tuesday for the airport's apron expansion project. That date was changed — they will be opened at 11 a.m. Monday — to accommodate potential bidders.

Board members Faron Parr, Clyde Bray, Caleb Lutes and John Ferguson unanimously approved moving forward with the FAA grant application for the project based on the lowest bid. (Grant applications are due by the end of June.)

Clearwaters clarified that applying for the FAA grant does not lock in any expenses. The project would not be awarded until the FAA returns with a grant offer.

The project calls for expansion of the apron — the area where aircraft are parked, unloaded or loaded, refueled, boarded or maintained.

See **Apply** page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Help from Hudson

Chloe Winget, 13, and Alexis Tipton, 13, shoot a firehose with help from firefighter Zach Hudson during Jay County Law Enforcement Youth Camp squad games Wednesday at Jay County Fairgrounds.

Israel appears to push back on goal

By ALISA ODENHEIMER
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Israel's military appeared to suggest Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's long-stated goal of destroying Hamas is unachievable, emphasizing the difficulties in claiming victory in a war that's into its ninth month. "To say we are going to destroy

Hamas, to make it disappear — it's simply throwing sand in the eyes of the public," Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari said in an interview with Israeli TV. "Hamas is an idea. Whoever thinks we can make it disappear is mistaken."

After his comments attracted controversy — including a dressing down from Netanyahu — the

Israel Defense Forces clarified that he meant "the elimination of Hamas as an idea and ideology." There has been speculation the group has set aside battalions to regain control of Gaza even after suffering heavy losses, according to Israeli state-owned Kan.

Whatever his true meaning, Hagari's interview drew attention to the argument that Iran-

backed Hamas, whose militants attacked Israel on Oct. 7 to spark the ongoing conflict, may never be eliminated entirely. The group, designated a terrorist organization by the U.S. and European Union, has thousands of fighters and a network of tunnels under Gaza's main towns, and hasn't indicated it's close to a surrender.

State is holding off

By CASEY SMITH and LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

As avian flu continues to spread to dairy cows across the United States, Hoosier officials said farmers are keeping a close eye on their herds, but animal testing mostly remains optional.

So far, scores of dairy farm cows in 12 states — including Michigan and Ohio — have been infected with H5N1, also known as bird flu, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The disease has also jumped to at least three farm workers — among the nation's first confirmed cases ever of a human getting infected by the virus.

Indiana officials said the state doesn't have confirmed cases of H5N1 infections in cows or humans yet.

Detecting bird flu in Indiana cows might not be as efficient as in other states, however. Hoosier dairy farmers don't have an obligation to test their cows — in part because some farmers may not

Indiana doesn't have mandatory testing for avian flu in cattle

want to self-report cases.

Denise Derrer Spears, a spokesperson with the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH), said the agency has offered dairy producers the opportunity to be a pilot state in the federal government's voluntary herd testing program, but no producers showed interest in participating.

Currently, Indiana is not enrolled in the program.

"BOAH has hosted multiple dairy industry briefing calls and has heard from producers — they are concerned about the disease and are seeking information on ways to prevent introduction of the virus to their farms," Spears said. "This is all new to dairy farmers. We are

working with them and the veterinary community to help them ramp up their preparedness efforts."

Avian flu is most commonly found in wild and farm birds worldwide, with periodic outbreaks occurring in other mammals, according to the CDC.

H5N1, a particular strain of bird flu, periodically flares up more expansively. It was cited for causing more than 100 million bird deaths globally in 2022 and has been detected in dozens of species of mammals. In the United States, the virus has been detected in more than 200 different mammals, including cats, goats and raccoons.

See **Holding** page 2



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Water fight

Job Dirksen winds up to throw a water balloon Thursday morning at the conclusion of the Jay County High School tennis camp. After four days of training with coaches Donald Gillespie and Andrea Garringer, participants got to celebrate with the water balloon fight and ice cream.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 91 Wednesday. The low was 73.

The excessive heat warning has been extended through Saturday. Tonight's low will be in the lower 70s, followed by a high in the mid 90s with mostly sunny

skies Saturday. Highs will continue to be in the upper 80s or 90s through at least Wednesday. There is a 50% chance of rain Sunday, with thunderstorms possible.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available Saturday. Trailers will be open from 9 a.m. to noon in the shopping center at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, and Dunkirk City Park.

Coming up

Saturday — Results from the Jay County summer swim meet against South Adams.

Tuesday — Coverage of Monday's Jay County Council meeting.

Wednesday — Photos from Redkey Junior League baseball and softball.



Holding ...

Continued from page 1
The virus most often gets transmitted when one animal eats or comes in contact with feces and saliva from an infected animal.

But bird flu viruses rarely infect humans. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), from 2003 through April 1 of this year, 23 countries reported a total of 889 human cases of H5N1. Federal health officials said the most common symptoms in people include eye redness (conjunctivitis), respiratory difficulties, fever, cough, sore throat and pneumonia.

The first known case of transmission to a human in the United States was documented in 2022.

The second known case was reported in March 2024, in a dairy farm worker in Texas. A third case involving a dairy worker in Michigan was confirmed in late May.

Despite cases in neighboring states, Indiana currently only requires testing of lactating dairy cattle that are moving across state lines, per the requirements of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) federal order issued on April 29.

Spears said Indiana has not opted to mandate testing at this

time "because we have not had any positive cases."

"We know dairy farmers and veterinarians are aware and watching for clinical signs, because we have heard from them with questions and subsequent tests have not been positive," she said.

Spears noted that more than 750 tests have been run on cattle moving out of Indiana to other states since April 29. But she said Indiana does not have a good accounting of how many tests have occurred overall, given that only non-negative tests are reported to BOAH.

The state agency has been dealing "actively" with the current strain of H5N1 off and on since 2022, Spears continued.

She said BOAH works "closely" with the poultry sector on "awareness, biosecurity, prevention and preparedness."

"They are very ready to respond and we are here to support and coordinate that response," Spears said, adding that BOAH "has long worked to encourage good preventive measures for all types of diseases on all livestock and poultry farms through good biosecurity

and having a relationship with a private veterinarian."

Throughout the state's poultry population, Hoosier outbreak reports have totaled just 12 since 2022. Most involved turkey flocks; as well as four affected duck flocks.

Indiana regulators and industry groups say that's because the state's "well-prepared" system has largely kept the disease away from bird livestock.

The country's poultry disease regulations date back to almost a century ago. It came after disease ravaged farmers' hatcheries.

Hobart Creighton, of Warsaw-based egg producer Creighton Brothers, was among the farmers asking the USDA to implement a cooperative regulatory program, according to Indiana State Poultry Association (ISPA) President Rebecca Joniskan.

The National Poultry Improvement Plan launched in 1935. It sets standards - like for testing - used to keep tabs on the health of the country's poultry breeding stock, hatchery, and poultry products, according to ISPA's website.

ISPA administers the plan for Indiana, in concert with the USDA and BOAH.

Joniskan said poultry producers partake in a 365-day surveillance program, outbreak or not. When disease strikes, they test more. The plan dictates some testing, and some, per Joniskan, the board requires.

After another deadly outbreak in 2015 and 2016, poultry producers and the National Poultry Improvement Plan office in 2018 agreed to step up their anti-disease efforts.

"The spread of that disease was largely due to biosecurity breaches, you know, from feed trucks or even the UPS delivery truck people," Joniskan said. "... We looked at that situation, learned from that situation, and said, 'We can make this better.'"

Biosecurity efforts, she said, focus on the threshold between inside and outside.

"As we go into a barn, we have what we call our 'line of separation,'" Joniskan said. "... We just try to be really careful about how we move across that threshold."

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Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.

Apply ...

Continued from page 1
The board also approved a project order for Butler, Fairman and Seufert for providing on-site representative services for the project. The contract is based on an hourly rate and is not to exceed \$209,762 total.

Board members also approved a \$25,483.71 pay request on an FAA grant for the design of the apron expansion.

Also Wednesday, airport manager Hal Tavzel reminded the board that the airport will host the Aviation Indiana quarterly meeting Aug. 8. The event will run from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a break for lunch.

Tavzel said he and Clearwaters are in the process of finalizing the agenda, which will include several aviation-related presentations. He said 40 to 50 people are expected to attend.

In other business, the board:

•Heard the following from Tavzel:

—Plans are moving forward with switching phone and internet service at the airport to Verizon, which will also provide equipment for the airport's weather station. Tavzel said he expects to see a savings of about \$300 per month.

—Two new pilots recently made their first solo flights at the airport.

—The airport sold 8,109 gallons of fuel in May for \$38,466.27. That's up from 6,982 gallons in May 2023.

•Learned from Portland clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips that there were no bidders to rent the 26 acres of farm ground around the airport. The board asked Phillips to keep them updated.

•Asked Tavzel to get quotes for adding concrete to some of the t-hangers at the airport. Once quotes are in, the board will decide how many, if any, it has the funding for this year. Tavzel said the cost was about \$6,000 per hangar last year.

•Approved payment of claims totaling \$4,779.53.

CR almanac

Saturday 6/22	Sunday 6/23	Monday 6/24	Tuesday 6/25	Wednesday 6/26
95/77	90/64	87/65	91/71	90/59
Mostly sunny skies are expected Saturday, when the high will be in the mid 90s.	Sunday's forecast shows a 50% chance of rain and thunderstorms. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.	Another sunny day is coming up Monday, with temperatures sticking in the upper 80s.	More sun for Tuesday with a high temperature of 91. At night, there's a chance of rain.	Another chance of rain is possible Wednesday under mostly cloudy skies.

Lotteries

Powerball

4-27-44-50-64
Power Ball: 7
Power Play: 3
Estimated jackpot: \$72 million

Daily Four: 9-1-9-9
Quick Draw: 1-3-13-17-24-28-31-32-36-37-39-40-41-43-59-63-64-71-77-80
Cash 5: 4-15-27-36-39
Estimated jackpot: \$195,500

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$80 million

Ohio

Wednesday
Midday
Pick 3: 4-0-4
Pick 4: 4-7-2-3
Pick 5: 0-7-1-5-1
Evening
Pick 3: 4-0-6
Pick 4: 5-1-7-2
Pick 5: 8-9-1-1-9
Rolling Cash: 1-14-16-32-36
Estimated jackpot: \$140,000

Hoosier

Wednesday
Midday
Daily Three: 9-9-9
Daily Four: 7-5-5-3
Quick Draw: 2-5-12-15-16-18-19-22-23-36-38-41-44-49-55-59-66-67-72-74
Evening
Daily Three: 2-3-2

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery

Corn.....4.33
July corn.....4.34
Wheat5.14

July beans11.50
Wheat 5.35

ADM Montpelier

Corn.....4.25
July corn.....4.20
Beans11.56
July beans11.51
Wheat5.35

POET Biorefining Portland

Corn.....4.34
July corn4.37
Aug. corn4.36

Heartland St. Anthony

Corn.....4.32
July corn.....4.32
Beans11.32
July beans11.32
Wheat5.14

The Andersons Richland Township

Corn4.22
July corn4.22
Beans11.54

Today in history

In 2020, the Tri-State Gas Engine and Tractor Association voted 10-8 to move forward with its 55th annual Antique Engine and Tractor Show despite the coronavirus pandemic.

In 2022, Portland Park Board voted to keep Portland Water Park closed for the year, citing limited time following tile repairs and a shortage of lifeguards. —The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday

9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
10:30 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners executive session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
3:30 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District Board, district office, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland.
5:30 p.m. — Jay County

Country Living Advisory Board executive session, Jay Community Center senior area, 115 E. Water St., Portland.
6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St.
7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.

Wednesday

6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.



Photo provided

Remembering Roger

The pickleball courts at Milton Miller Park were dedicated recently in honor of Roger Prescott, who died May 9. Pictured, from left, are Gene Steveson, Rogina Prescott, Bob Prescott, Linda Prescott, Steve and Jane Prescott, Skyler Prescott with Jennifer Weitzel of Portland Park Board.

Police struggling with new Durangos

By MARK FITTON

The Tribune-Star (Terre Haute) Tribune News Service

Indiana State Police are struggling with the reliability of the Dodge Durango, the SUV meant to replace the Dodge Charger squad car as the agency's standard patrol vehicle.

ISP said it has ordered a total 516 Durango police package vehicles (nearly \$26 million worth) and put 219 of those on the road.

During the period that began in May 2023, ISP said 39 Durangos (about 18%)

have experienced a mechanical failure due to a defective oil cooler, troopers say.

ISP Superintendent Doug Carter said he has spoken with a Chrysler representative and was not given a timeline to resolve the matter.

"ISP has used Dodge as our primary police vehicle provider for the last decade-and-a-half; it is unfortunate that we have found ourselves in this precarious position," Carter said in a news release.

Capsule Reports

Left of center

A Decatur man drove left of the centerline on U.S. 27 and struck a Portland man's car about 6:50 p.m. Wednesday.

Colton T. Witte, 35, was driving his 2014 Ford F-150 north on the highway when he entered a curve. His vehicle went over the center line, hitting a southbound 2011 Chevrolet Aveo driven by 78-year-old Donald H. Minch.

Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

Dogs hit

A Redkey man's dogs died after they ran in front of a Kentucky woman's vehicle on county road 800 South about 7:30 a.m. Thursday.

Destiny R. Swiger, 26, Betsy Layne, was driving her 2017 Chevrolet Tahoe west on the road near county road 700 West when two Great Danes ran out of the ditch and into the roadway. She wasn't able to avoid hitting them.

The dogs, owned by Robert Otto, died from their injuries.

Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

SERVICES

Today

Pogue, Roberta: 11 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Dunmoyer, Evelyn: 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Wendel, Joan: 7 p.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

Monday

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

June 28

Doss, Jennifer: 10 a.m., Wilson-Shook Funeral Home, 2048 N. 1000 West, Parker City.

Burchnell, James: 7 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Service listings provided by

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PBS event is Saturday

Ball State University PBS will host Be My Neighbor Day from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday at Canan Commons in downtown Muncie.

The event will feature Daniel Tiger from the PBS KIDS show "Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood." There will also be various booths, music by Patchwork, free books for all children in attendance and a variety of other activities.

For more information, visit ballstatepbs.org.

Resource renewed

Indiana State Library announced Tuesday that it has renewed its contract with EBSCO Information Services and TeachingBooks for INSPIRE.

The learning library provides a collection of more than 70 online academic databases and other resources that are available for free at inspire.in.gov. The new contract also comes with additional resources that will be available beginning July 1.

"We look forward to continuing our relationship with TeachingBooks and EBSCO and to seeing the benefits that our residents gain from the comprehensive collection of resources made available to encourage lifelong learning," said Indiana State Librarian Jacob Speer in a press release.

For more details, visit inspire.in.gov.

Taking Note

Library events

More activities are slated for next week at Jay County Public Library.

Events on the schedule include:

- Cookies and Canvas for Kids, a painting and learning experience for children, with sessions from 4 to 5:30 p.m. and 6 to 7:30 p.m. Monday. Registration is required.

- Pirate Camp, including several pirate-themed activities recommended for children 8 years old or younger, from 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesday

- Neon Party Sip and Paint, a neon-themed canvas painting night for adults and teens, at 6 p.m. Tuesday

- Family Fair Night, an interactive event with a petting zoo, ice cream, outdoor games, farm crafts, and other activities, from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday

- Life-Size Mario Kart Racing, a life-size race track for participants to race around using giant bouncy balls, from 2 to 4 p.m. June 28

Elliott graduates

A Dunkirk resident recently

graduated from Indiana Connections Career Academy.

Ashon Elliott joined more than 185 other students graduating from the public virtual school's Class of 2024.

Indiana Connections Career Academy's enrollment for next school year is open for students in sixth through 12th grade. To learn more, visit IndianaConnectionsCareerAcademy.com or call (833) 591-0251.

Fitness events set

Meridian Health Services will hold Back-to-School Fit Fairs in late July and early August.

One of the fairs is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, July 24, at Southside Middle School, 1601 E. 26th St., Muncie. It will feature health screenings, a backpack giveaway, immunizations and refreshments.

For more information, visit meridianhs.org/events/fit-fair.

Dean's list

A local resident was recently named to Manchester University's dean's list.

Crosby Heniser of Portland, an exercise science and fitness major, made the list for the spring semester. Undergraduate students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher and complete at least 12 semester hours to be included.



Photo provided

Five generations

Pictured are five generations of the McFarland and Younger family. In the front row are great-great-grandmother Reva Younger holding Carter McFarland and grandfather Chad McFarland. In the back row are great-grandmother Deb McFarland and father Brock McFarland.

Suffocated partner calls it quits

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend and I broke up after six years. Both of us have children from marriages that ended seven years ago. We reached a point a year and a half ago and started looking for a house together. After realizing we couldn't afford what she wanted in a home for our blended family, our relationship became strained. The last year has been our worst.

As she suffered through job loss and other outside forces affecting her mental health, I tried to offer her more support, but she felt suffocated. I am sometimes too intense trying to find solutions, even when she says she needs space. I have not kept up my end of giving her space.

We have had the best connection of our lives, so seeing her in pain has me distraught. She says she

Dear Abby



tion styles. She wanted to vent and be heard. You felt compelled to find solutions to her problems.

When someone says they "need space," it often means the person feels pushed or smothered. It can also mean they want to dial back the relationship or may have met someone else.

Right now, your next step should be a giant one **BACKWARD**. Increase your exercise schedule, spend time with friends and do not sit around alone and brooding over something you can't change. If the two of you manage to get together again, I urge you to get into couples counseling so this kind of heartbreak doesn't happen again.

isn't able to give what I need in our relationship, while I have strived to be a good teammate in her times of need. Now she says she is done because I didn't give her space.

She is the love of my life. What do I do during this crushing and devastating time of my life? — DAZED IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR DAZED: I'm sorry things didn't turn out better for you. You and your girlfriend have very different communica-

Community Calendar

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

Today

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addic-

Saturday

LOCAL'S MARKET —

tion 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.

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will hold its next meeting at noon Friday, June 21, at Harmony Café in Portland.

Will be held from 8 a.m. to noon each Saturday in June through October in the parking lot at Jay Community Center in Portland. For more information, contact Bill Cook.

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

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'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. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

PORTLAND BREAK-

FAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

JAY COUNTY DRUG PREVENTION COALITION — Will meet at noon the second Monday of each month at Jay County Campus of Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members are welcome.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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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Credit card proposal shouldn't pass

By J.D. PRESCOTT

"That government is best which governs least" is a quote that encapsulates how I tend to view legislation before casting a vote in the Indiana House of Representatives.

As most of us know, one of the amazing things about being an American is the understanding that people and families flourish when the government gets out of the way and the individual takes ownership of his or her life. In that world, there's responsibility, accountability, and prosperity. Also in that world, consumers choose, markets rise and fall, and government is merely a reactor to the individuals it serves and is accountable to. Today, it seems that many in

J.D. Prescott



government are quick to grab power and authority rather than get out of the way so Americans can live the American Dream. That seems to especially be the case when we look at what's going on in Washington, D.C.

Oftentimes what we see coming out of D.C. is recycled policies that have failed before, or laws that give more power to bureaucratic agencies. This

approach to policy fails Americans.

One such policy that's being pushed in the U.S. Senate is a bill that would create credit card mandates. A version of this very legislation was passed in 2010 and applied to debit cards. The results to the user were: lost debit reward points, lost access to free checking accounts, and some lost their local bank entirely.

In addition to resurrecting a policy that history has proven to be a failure, studies have shown that applying this same concept to credit cards will come with a \$5 billion price tag due to it expanding the role of the federal government in credit card processing. And, as you and I both know, when gov-

ernment's role expands, taxpayers are the ones footing the bill.

While I believe that a track record of failure and growing the role of government are two reasons enough to oppose this legislation, the icing on the cake is that it's been estimated that there would be \$75 billion annual loss to those who use credit card rewards programs to help offset the costs of food, gas, or for family travel. Credit card rewards programs, when used responsibly for families rather than as a means to accumulate credit card debt, can be an added budgetary tool.

Of course, I'd never want to see a family experience the challenges and stresses that come along with credit card

debt. That said, at a time when families are experiencing rising costs on essentials, government should not be expanding its role while simultaneously negatively impacting so many family budgets across our state and nation.

As many in D.C. push this bad policy, I am optimistic that Indiana's own senators — Sen. Mike Braun and Sen. Todd Young — will stand with Hoosiers and all Americans by ensuring this legislation doesn't pass into law.

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Prescott is the state representative for District 33, which includes all of Jay, Randolph and Blackford counties as well as part of Delaware and Henry counties.

Biden can't win from basement

Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

The numbers look grim for President Joe Biden and his party. Donald Trump, despite his criminal convictions, still leads the 2024 race by about a percentage point nationally and by significant margins in almost every battleground state. Biden's approval rating has been underwater since 2021 and hasn't topped 40% in nine months. Democratic Party activists report a "full-blown freakout."

Of course, the polls may be wrong. Trump might still self-destruct (or indeed go to jail). Voters aren't yet paying full attention. Things can change. But with just five months until the election, alarm bells should be ringing. The president needs to change course if he wants a second term.

Emphasizing things people care about would be a good start. Biden's advisers reportedly want to keep the electorate focused on the attacks of Jan. 6 and related issues. But such issues barely register in most polls of voters' top priorities and, disturbing as this might be, the country is about evenly split on which candidate is a bigger threat to democracy.

Where, then, should the focus be? Voters consistently say illegal immigration is a top concern. Yet Biden has failed to establish a coherent approach. After dismantling his predecessor's policies, he was slow to take meaningful action as a record-setting surge of undocumented migrants arrived in American cities and Republicans made hay. Now he's about 30 percentage points underwater on an issue that could prove decisive in November.

This month, the president issued executive orders that, in effect, ban asylum seekers who've crossed the border illegally. But this move was late, limited and will be challenged in the courts. Biden needs to step up enforcement and curb the incentives for illegal entry. Blaming the opposition won't work. Voters know where the buck stops.

The same goes for voters' other top priority, the economy. Biden deserves credit for presiding over a post-pandemic soft landing, with inflation slowing, wages rising and job growth holding up. But voters aren't happy, and

Guest Editorial

He needs a vision for the next four years that would broaden his appeal beyond his current base of lukewarm supporters.

they dislike being told to snap out of it. Biden trails Trump by nearly 20 percentage points on the economy, while almost two-thirds of voters disapprove of his efforts to reduce inflation. Working-class voters — in particular, Blacks and Hispanics — are deserting him in significant numbers, mostly citing the cost of living.

Biden's policies fail to confront the problem, and too many of them risk compounding it. His ill-considered tariffs will impede competition and tax American consumers. His \$1 trillion effort to forgive student-loan debt is regressive. He should stop subsidizing housing demand while raising the cost of new supply. He should ease the federal contracting and procurement rules that raise construction costs. He should limit his blitz of new regulations. And he should moderate his endless concessions to labor unions, which help a minority of voters at the expense of the majority.

The president can't keep doing what he's doing and expect a different result. He can't campaign from the basement, as he did during the COVID chaos of 2020. He can't keep turning down interviews. He needs a vision for the next four years that would broaden his appeal beyond his current base of lukewarm supporters. If he doesn't change, the election will be Trump's to lose.



Sociology can save us all

By MEGAN THIELE STRONG

The Fulcrum
Tribune News Service

Across the nation, campaigns to cancel, eliminate and marginalize the basic social science education that underpins diversity, equity and inclusion efforts have gained steam. Educational gag orders and DEI bans impact students from K-12 classrooms to college campuses.

Most central to the ire of those attacking are foundational sociological concepts. Sociology is the field which studies society. Sociologists analyze life chances and how we get them; how structures pattern our experiences and beliefs. Too often confused for its more celebrated sister science, psychology, sociology is the psychology of the people.

Sociologists explore how various aspects of our identity — gender, race, economic status, sexuality — show up and affect us in the world.

We discuss the "social construction zone" and how what has happened in the past affects people today. We examine power, who has which types of it — and, just as importantly, who doesn't. As educators, we want students to learn about our social order, to reconsider and reimagine both it and their place in it.

Despite its centrality to understanding the collective human experience, sociology is marginalized in our schooling system. Sociology is not part of the core curriculum in K-12 education, and students can earn an undergraduate degree without taking a sociology class.

Becoming sociologically minded is not always easy. Quoting astrophysicist Neil DeGrasse Tyson, "In science, when human behavior enters the equation, things go nonlinear. That's why physics is easy and sociology is hard."

As a normative sociologist, I encourage students to get curious and to use data to understand how we can learn from ourselves, what works and what doesn't work, to build a better society for all people.

Megan Thiele Strong



In recent years, I have felt incredulity for the ways in which the alt-right weaponizes the notion of freedom of speech. Conservative political pundits claim to be unable to speak freely, yet they have a platform to denounce social science fundamentals — and do so. Debating the theories of sociology is certainly acceptable but it is quite different from advocating the banning of sociological concepts from our schools.

As a tenured professor, I haven't felt like I have full freedom of speech in my classroom; speaking without reservation about sociological content can feel risky. There are colleagues outside my department who dismiss sociologically driven insights. I worry a student in the class might record me, skewing content or taking what I say out of context to create a viral bit. I fear a public that does not value and will attack educated women talking honestly about our craft, which asks difficult, thorny questions with uncomfortable answers.

This negotiation to work within our current polemic political environment limits my ability to express freely. The notion of freedom of speech, and more specifically, the freedom of speech for whom, is at stake.

This hierarchy of "whose rights" is playing out across the nation and it plays out at the classroom level as well. Perversely, the ideal of freedom of speech has been commandeered by the alt-right as freedom to denounce legitimate and necessary social science knowledge. This shift has negative consequences for our

youth, sociology educators, the public — all of us.

Nearly a dozen states have introduced bills directing what students can and cannot be taught about the role of enslavement in American history and ongoing racism. Florida lawmakers have proposed legislation that would prohibit classroom discussions about sexual orientation and gender identity. Labor history has long been absent from school curriculum.

At the root of the free speech debate is the fine line between speech that offends one's sensibilities and speech that crosses the line into intolerance. Learning the reality of anti-Black racism, for example, may threaten some; however, antiracist curriculum is education, not hate speech.

In a highly polarized society, how do we keep ourselves and our school systems in contact with ideas that are enriching — and safe from ideas that are not so?

Sociology, because of the way it parses through, discerns and analyzes our collective ways, can help.

Education is meant to broaden horizons and encourage critical thinking through exposure to knowledge, new ideas and different ways of thinking.

Sociology faculty, educators and students deserve to live out freedom of speech, both on- and off-campus. We need people and institutions to invest in sociology. We need parents to write letters to school boards and administrators asking for more sociology in schools. And we need a political system that will take seriously the work of those of us who study society. The ability to open our minds, perhaps to uncomfortable ideas, which could help us to envision a socially sustainable future, may indeed be vital for our collective wellbeing.

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Strong is a sociology professor at San Jose State University and a public voices fellow at the The OpEd Project.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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Farmers ask for tax relief

By **LESLIE BONILLA-MUNIZ**

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Property taxes again took center stage during tax reform discussions Tuesday — with farmers asking for a reprieve and local units of government seeking to head off significant cuts in revenue.

“That’s it: how do you make (the system) simple, yet take care of those folks that have different needs? ... It’s complex to fix it.” Rep. Jeff Thompson, who chairs the State and Local Tax Review Task Force, told the Capital Chronicle upon adjournment.

Thompson in April warned of impending jumps in agricultural land property taxes. And on Tuesday the Indiana Farm Bureau said its members “need an intervention.”

Indiana uses recent sales to assess most property types, but farmland is different.

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The Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) instead determines a “base rate,” a rolling average with six years of capitalized net cash rent and net operating income. DLGF drops the highest value of the six and averages the remaining five years.

But Indiana Farm Bureau’s advocacy lead, Katrina Hall, said the years-long delay in the formula data means farm income per acre is dropping even as the base rate grows.

“It’s kind of a fiscal cliff,” she said.

That delay will keep hitting farmers.

As previous years’ values roll off in the calculation, Hall said, “We’re not going to have the low ones to moderate the increase.



Indiana Capital Chronicle/Leslie Bonilla Munize

Rep. Jack Jordan, R-Bremen, speaks during a tax task force meeting Tuesday. Property taxes again took center stage during tax reform discussions — with farmers asking for a reprieve and local units of government seeking to head off significant cuts in revenue.

So it’s going to go high and stay there.”

While the formula does help farmers, Hall continued, it’s still volatile because the net operating income calculation relies heavily on corn and soybean prices.

“We have homeowners and other folks whose bills go up a few hundred dollars, and that is real burden to them. But for farmers, it’s several thousand at a time,” she said.

Rep. Ed DeLaney, D-Indianapolis, said he was troubled by the contrast between the base value — \$2,280 per acre in 2025 — and what farmland actually sells for.

“I see why other taxpayers would figure that you’re perhaps being treated a little too kindly,” he said.

Hall noted that farmers “don’t get much of any” benefit from the state’s tax caps and can’t access tax relief mechanisms that other property owners can.

“Farmers in many small rural school districts are the primary taxpayers,” she added. “And so to say that they’re ... cheating the system — they certainly don’t think that because they’re paying for the majority of services out there.”

Rep. Jack Jordan, R-Bremen, defended agricultural landowners.

“Coming from a rural county, it’s become renting — it’s almost like you’re renting your own land

as you pay these taxes, that I think are fairly high.” Jordan said. He also critiqued the state’s tax system complexity, saying it has “its tentacles in every direction.”

Groups representing Hoosier municipalities and counties, meanwhile, acknowledged rising tax bills but detailed their members’ challenges.

The Association of Indiana Counties’ Ryan Hoff expressed dissatisfaction with limits on how much money local units of government can raise in property taxes.

Indiana caps that amount — the maximum levy — and dictates how much that cap can rise each year via the maximum levy growth quotient. The quotient uses the statewide rate of average, non-farm personal income growth over the last six years.

Hoff said that, while the income-based growth quotient may reflect taxpayers’ ability to pay, it doesn’t account for service costs. That’s unless a unit appeals its cap based on annexation or extreme assessed value growth.

Lawmakers, including Thompson, sought to crack down on three-year assessed value growth, the most popular exception to the state’s limits, last session.

Hoff called the use of such exceptions “part of the manner in which we’re forced to fight over property tax dollars.”

“The current MLGQ calculations may really no longer function effectively to align costs to revenue distributions,” he said. Hoff told lawmakers that, if they planned to reform the growth quotient, the new system should still consider rising service costs in some way.

Jordan, however, critiqued local units.

“The thing that I keep hearing is that local units have \$4 billion of untapped tax revenues through income tax ... and yet I see local officials unwilling to use that to fund extra services,” Jordan said. “... We just keep looking at the state to change the formula behind the scenes, do these gymnastics. ... I, for one, am unwilling to continue to do these gymnastics.”

Campbell Ricci of Accelerate Indiana Municipalities said local income tax is controlled at the county level, so interested cities and towns can’t make changes unilaterally. He pushed to give individual municipalities that power.

“That is something that I think we can work on coming out of this committee as a way to ease tensions among all the units,” Ricci said. “Because a lot of the time, when you talk about the property tax system, it’s people fighting over similar pots of money. Everyone has an incentive to grow their levy because

they want their share of the capped property taxes and they want their share of the (local income tax).

He additionally defended municipalities as more likely to hit the caps and lose out on property tax revenue, and asked lawmakers not to make debt service controls too burdensome.

Organizations representing school boards, business officials and superintendents — alongside small and rural schools — said the state’s current property tax system has some struggles.

In an analysis of property tax funding presented at the meeting, Policy Analytics found that growing districts and districts with high tax cap losses spend more on non-discretionary insurance, transportation and utility expenses than they receive in operation fund levies.

Statewide, schools spend about 75% of operation fund money on those expenses, leaving them with about 25% to use on HVAC systems, parking lots and any other operational expenses. Districts with fewer than 2,000 students fared better than average, with non-discretionary expenses consuming about 67% of the money.

Growing districts, however, spent 87% on those necessary expenses, and districts with high tax cap losses spent the equivalent of 114% of their operation funds on such expenses.

The report also found that growing districts and districts with high tax cap losses turn to debt to fund students similarly.

Statewide, schools got \$3,324 per student on average out of their operations and debt levies.

“Small districts do a little better ... in their operations funds, so you can see their bar for debt decreases. Growing districts receive quite a bit less than the statewide figures, so they make up the gap with debt,” said Scott Bowling, executive director for the Indiana Association of School Business Officials.

“High circuit breaker districts receive even less than the growing districts in their operations funds. And they try to make up for it with debt but they can’t quite get there,” Bowling continued, with such schools receiving less per student than average.

Bowling asked lawmakers for simplicity, but when asked for recommendations, said one-size-fits-all won’t work: “rules that might look really good for one community might seriously hamper a different community.”

Graduate program is No. 1

Purdue University’s Agricultural and Biological Engineering (ABE) Graduate Program is ranked No. 1 in the 2025 U.S. News & World Report Rankings, marking the thirteenth consecutive year ABE has been ranked in the top two.

ABE’s undergraduate program was also ranked No. 1 last year and consistently in the top two for over a dozen years.

“ABE achieves this ranking because the faculty and staff focus on making a global impact in key areas of research and preparing and working with our students to take that impact to the next level,” said Glenn W. Sample Dean of Agriculture Bernie Engel, who is also an ABE professor and former department head. “I am grateful to ABE’s department head Nate Mosier, who skillfully leads an exceptional team.”

Purdue has been in the top two for 13 straight years

Arvind Raman, the John A. Edwardson Dean of the College of Engineering, said the No. 1 ranking also acknowledges the department’s commitment to growth: “The field of agricultural and biological engineering is rapidly evolving with disruptive technologies such as synthetic biology, IoT (the Internet of Things), automation and artificial intelligence. Purdue’s ABE department has been quick to adapt to these changes, and this ranking validates its reputation during this

period of rapid transformation in the field.”

Mosier, who as the Indiana Soybean Alliance Soybean Utilized Endowed Chair focuses his research on bioprocessing and the conversion of renewable resources to fuels, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, praises the department’s research diversity. “I believe our department earned this honor for many reasons. It is through the outstanding work of our graduate students, mentoring of our faculty and support of our staff that we have stayed at the top for so long.”

ABE’s key areas of research align with the department’s degree programs: agricultural systems management; biological and bioprocess engineering; data science and digital applications; environmental and natural resource engineering; and machine systems engineering.



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Registration open for field day

Purdue Ag news

Registration is open for the Purdue Small Farm Education Field Day, an event featuring an array of demonstration stations featuring best management practices and highlights of research methods on the farm.

The event presented by the Purdue Student Farm and the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture is scheduled for Thursday, July 25.

Topics to be covered include:

- Insect dynamics in high tunnels
- Advantages and considerations of raised bed gardening
- Digital tools for small farms

Register for the field day at bit.ly/PSFEFieldDay2024.

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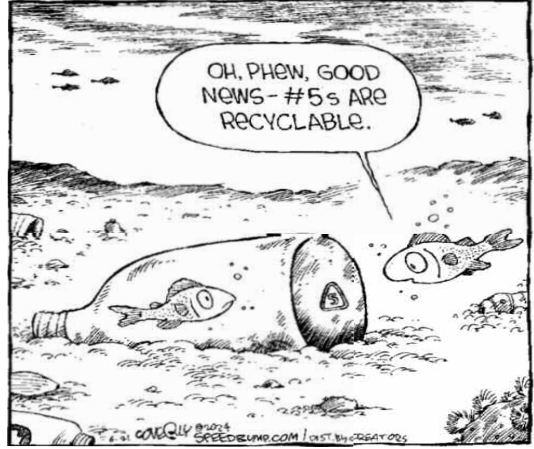
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SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Test your play

1. You are West, defending against Three Notrump, South having opened one notrump (12 to 14 points) and North having bid three notrump. You lead the four of spades, and South takes your partner's king with the ace. South then returns the nine of spades. Plan your defense.

- North: ♠832, ♥A10, ♦AJ875, ♣Q72

- West: ♠J754, ♥17, ♦963, ♣AJ85

- East: ♠AJ9, ♥KJ109, ♦KQJ, ♣532

Furthermore, having disregarded dummy's diamonds, declarer probably has the K-Q. If these assumptions are correct, it would be fatal to duck the nine of spades, because South would then have nine tricks consisting of three spades, five diamonds and a heart.

You should therefore take the nine with the jack and shift to a club, but not just any club. To give yourself the best chance, you should lead the jack, playing for declarer to have something like:

- ♠AQ109, ♥Q82, ♦KQ2, ♣1063

Such a holding would be consistent with his one-notrump bid and his spade play at trick two. Note that if you lead any club other than the jack at trick three, South can make the contract with proper play.

2. To ensure the contract beyond the shadow of a doubt, lead a diamond to the jack, play the nine of hearts and let it ride. Even if the finesse loses, you are certain of at least nine tricks — one spade, three hearts, four diamonds and a club.

You cannot afford to take a spade finesse because South might win with the king and return a club, and you'd go down one if North started with the A-Q-10-6-4 of clubs.

Tomorrow: A deductible deduction. ©2024 King Features Syndicate Inc.

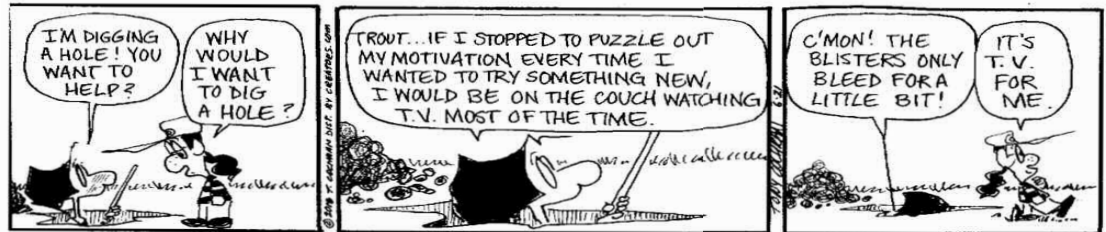
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



6-21

CRYPTOQUIP

RGLJD BXD B. QDK DKDQJGRDF

QDIMMN RBQDLWPWRMN,

CXIB CIR BXD RGBWIBGPL BXD

LDKB FIN? FGLP-RPQD.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD YOU CALL X-RAY IMAGES THAT PEOPLE GET WHEN UNDERGOING DENTAL EXAMS? TOOTH PICS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals T

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Eastern "way", 4 - de deux, 7 Sweetie, 12 Mess up, 13 Wyo. neighbor, 14 Metal fastener, 15 Actress Long, 16 Mementos, 18 Bit of ink, 19 "The Sopranos" restaurateur, 20 Rosebud, to Kane, 22 Born, 23 Dutch cheese, 27 Mensa stats, 29 Windshield cleaners, 31 Author Walker, 34 Break a Commandment, 35 Rio Grande city, 37 Blend, 38 Party time, briefly. DOWN: 3 Give a speech, 4 Galileo's birthplace, 5 Decorates, 6 Fry lightly, 7 Gratis, 8 -Manuel Miranda, 9 Bird (Pref.), 10 De-bussy's "La -", 11 UFO passengers, 17 Panorama, 21 Fraught with danger, 23 Strong bond, 24 "Lion" actor Patel. Solution time: 25 mins.

Crossword grid with letters: JAB GRAB AFEW, ONO LAMA VIVA, BORROWER OVER, DUB SORCERY, APEMAN NEA, MIA LID ADAGE, ALUM TAM ONEL, TEXAN BOG NOS, COM MADAME, INVADER NOR, NOOB NEIGHBOR, THOR LICE OWL, LOME ODES RNS. Yesterday's answer 6-21

11x11 crossword grid with numbers 1-58.

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Rockets blow two-run advantage

The Rockets boasted a two run lead heading into the final inning.

Sam Dunlavy couldn't find three outs quick enough to secure victory and later let the game slip away in extras.

The Portland Rockets fell to the Grand Lake Mariners 10-9 on Wednesday in a 10-inning game.

A two-run home run by Peyton Smith gave the Rockets (6-9) a two-run lead in the bottom of the seventh.

Dunlavy entered the game in

Local roundup

the ninth to relieve Mitch Waters, who threw three scoreless innings. He walked the first batter and gave up a single before recording two outs.

Before he could find the third, Dunlavy gave up a double that

scored both runners tying the game at 9-9.

With a runner placed on second in the tenth inning, Dunlavy gave up a single before recording an out. The Rockets chose to intentionally walk the next batter, but it didn't matter as the leadoff hitter put the ball in play to left field to walk off the game.

Along with Smith, Camden McDeldowney and Joel Kennedy both drove in a pair of runs to lead the Rockets' offense.

Lead surrendered

The Fort Recovery ACME baseball team watched a five-run lead evaporate as the Coldwater Cavaliers scored nine runs in the final two innings of the Indians' 14-10 loss on Wednesday.

The Indians (2-4) exploded for seven runs in the fourth inning on singles from Grant Fortkamp, I McCain and Mason Diller, a walk by Caden Grisez and ground balls by Alex Gaerke and Gavin Evers. The big inning, coupled with a three-

run second inning, gave Fort Recovery a 10-5 advantage.

After tossing a scoreless fifth inning, Logan Fortkamp struggled on the mound, giving up five runs on five singles and two walks to tie the game.

The Cavaliers kept rolling in the seventh as a triple, a double, two singles and a hit batter by Caden Homan scored four more runs.

Diller led the Indians with three hits, while Jacob Foote and Grant Fortkamp both drove in a pair of runs.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Forming future talent

A 2008 Jay County High School graduate and former assistant boys basketball coach Aaron Daniels instructs a small group of kids during a ball handling drill during the Blackford High School basketball youth camp. Daniels became Blackford's head basketball coach on May 21.

Finished ...

Continued from page 8
The boys soccer team will get the first opportunity to play a game on the field when they host Muncie Central on Aug. 20, with the girls following two days later against Heritage. Football will make its debut Aug. 30 against New Castle after opening the season on the road at Blackford.

"I think the kids will be very excited to be the first

true varsity game played on that turf," said boys soccer coach Rodney Reynolds. "I hope to see a lot of support. Even if you're not a soccer fan, just the fact that it is the first game on that field will make it exciting."

All three coaches noted how excited the players were the first few times out on the field.

Zgunda said the team decided to practice on it at

the first opportunity despite rainy weather, because "the kids were just dying to get out there." Muhlenkamp pointed out how some of her players were joking around about how she was able to reference actual markers on the field like the 30-yard line rather than cones or abstract objects in the distance. Reynolds talked about how some of his players

are still excited about the turf every time they play on it, specifically mentioning Dylan Marentes who talks about it every practice.

All three coaches expressed their pleasure with the result of the field and their appreciation for the project.

"This is obviously a big deal for our kids," Zgunda said. "(We're) very fortunate and very apprecia-

tive of the people behind the scenes making it happen."

The field won't only benefit those three teams, but the other athletic programs and the school as a whole according to Boozi-

er. The new turf will provide opportunities for other teams to condition, baseball and softball to get outdoors even if their fields aren't dry, the band

to practice and physical education classes to utilize the space for class.

"I'm happy for the kids and it's not just the athletes," Boozi said. "The whole school's going to benefit from that field. I can't really think of a team that won't benefit from that field."

"I'm just happy it's done, happy to see it get finished and looking forward to kids using it."

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Saturday
Portland Rockets vs. Fort Wayne Renegades - 1 p.m.

Sunday
Portland Rockets vs. Fort Wayne Jackers - 1 p.m.

TV sports

Today
9 a.m. — UEFA European Championship 2024: Ukraine vs. Slovakia (FS1)
12 p.m. — UEFA European Championship 2024: Austria vs. Poland (FS1)
3 p.m. — UEFA European Championship 2024: France vs. Netherlands (FOX)
4 p.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Series: Sci Aps 200

(USA)
6:30 p.m. — Olympic track & field trials (NBC)
7:10 p.m. — MLB: Boston Red Sox at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)
8 p.m. — NHL Stanley Cup: Florida Panthers at Edmonton Oilers (ABC)
8 p.m. — PFL fighting (ESPN)
8 p.m. — Copa America soccer: Chile at Peru (FS1)
9 p.m. — Olympic track & field trials (NBC)

Saturday
2:30 a.m. — AFL football: Sydney Swans at Greater Western Sydney Giants (FS1)
12 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: USA TODAY 301 (USA)
12 p.m. — UFC fighting (ESPN)
12 p.m. — UEFA European Championship 2024: Portugal vs. Turkey (FOX)
1 p.m. — Olympic diving trials (NBC)

1 p.m. — Athletes Unlimited softball: team gold vs. team blue (ESPN2)
2:20 p.m. — MLB: New York Mets at Chicago Cubs (FS1)
3 p.m. — UFC fighting (ABC)
3 p.m. — PGA Tour: Travelers Championship (CBS)
3 p.m. — LPGA Tour: Women's PGA Championship (NBC)
3 p.m. — UEFA European Championship 2024: Romania vs. Belgium (FOX)
3 p.m. — WNBA: Los Angeles Sparks at New York Liberty (ESPN)
3:30 p.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Series: Sci Aps 200 (USA)
4:10 p.m. — MLB: Boston Red Sox at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)
6 p.m. — USL Championship soccer: Monterey Bay at Oakland Roots (ESPN2)
6 p.m. — Copa America soccer: Venezuela vs.

Ecuador (FS1)
7 p.m. — Olympic diving trials (NBC)
7 p.m. — USL Championship soccer: Orange County SC at Indy Eleven (CBS)
7:15 p.m. — MLB: Milwaukee Brewers at San Diego Padres (FOX)
9 p.m. — Olympic track & field trials (NBC)
9 p.m. — Copa America soccer: Jamaica vs. Mexico (FS1)
10:30 p.m. — USL Championship soccer: Phoenix Rising at Charleston Battery (ESPN2)

Local notes

Meet booked
The Jay County Chamber Classic golf outing is set for Friday, July 19, at Portland Golf Club. The deadline to register is July 10, and it's limited to 20 teams. Awards of \$400, \$200 and \$100 will be given out to first, second and third place, respectively.

Golf will begin with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. To register, email tabby@jaycountychamber.com. For more information call (260) 726-4481.

Date set
The 42nd annual Cancer Association of 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@cadcincfo.org.

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

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
FRIDAY JUNE 21ST, 2024
TIME 5:00 P.M.
LOCATED: 2635 W. HWY 18
Bryant, IN
REAL ESTATE
17.63 Acres in section 10, Jackson Twp. Jay County, Indiana with approximately 15 acres tillable. Frontage on highway 18. For more information phone auctioneers.
OWNER: AMOS C GRABER
NOTE: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
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Lic. #AU19700040
260-726-5587
www.auctionzip.com - Auctioneer ID #4243

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90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 1205 W McDonald Ave., Hartford City, IN.
Friday Evening June 21, 2024
5:30 APM.
REAL ESTATE
Modular home built in 1998 w/ 3 br., 2 full baths & 1620 sq. ft. of living area. Gas fireplace and gas forced air furnace with central air. For more information contact Loy Real Estate 260-726-2700 or Gary Loy 260-726-5160.
HOUSEHOLD GOODS-OLD&COLLECTOR ITEMS
Roper washer & dryer, hospital bed, curved sectional, metal shelf, oil lamps, COCA COLA glasses, bowls, tins.
TOOLS
Craftsman 12.5 hp mower, Skil 9"- 2 speed band saw, Hitachi belt sander, mantis tiller, furniture clamps, tool cabinets, Cress electric kiln, Ryobi 10" surface planer, and other items not listed.
Wayne Craig Estate
Loy Auction

90 SALE CALENDAR

AC#31600027
Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112
PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 3295 E 450 S, Bluffton, IN
Saturday Morning June 22nd, 2024
10:00 A. M.
MODEL A CAR-CAR-TRUCK-MOWE-TOOLS
1931 Model a car with soft top, rumble seat, Parade ready title, 1962 Galaxy Car, 1986 Chevy flatbed truck, John Deer LT160 mower, metal wagon, small anvil, Craftsman tool box, Home Utility 1/2" drill press, Craftmans belt and vibrating sanders, car parts, and many other items not listed.
HOUSEHOLD GOODS-OLD ITEMS
Oak wall telephone (Chicago Supply Co., Elkhart, IN), 3 drawer marble top dresser with mirror, 1941 US Navy boat clock, Coca Coal Cooler, Aladdin green base

90 SALE CALENDAR

lamp, Noritake Gold Stein china, old newspapers, organ stool with glass ball feet, Indy 500 mugs, Smith Bros. 3 cushion sofa, golf clubs, and many other items not listed.
AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Vehicles will be sold at 12:30 P.M. The vehicles will be offered both live and on Hi Bid
CHARLES UPTGRAFT, DECEASED & DEE UPTGRAFT
Loy Auction
AC#31600027
Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112

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HELP WANTED: RED-KEY TOWN Hall is seeking a full-time or part-time dedicated and skilled Utility Worker responsible for the operation and maintenance of all water and wastewater facilities. Responsibilities include: Completing, filing, and reporting regulatory agency reports; Conducting required sampling - Adhering to all regulatory agency rules and regulations; Performing meter reads, shutoffs/reconnects; Conducting line locates and assisting with digs; Changing out endpoints and meters; Maintaining storm sewers; Flushing hydrants; Assisting with the maintenance of streets, parks, and all city property. Preferred Qualifications: Water and Sewage license or the ability to obtain a Water and Sewage License (CDL) within 3 years of employment; High school diploma or equivalent; Fluent in English (speaking and writing); Valid Indiana Driver's License - Ability to obtain

110 HELP WANTED

a Commercial Driver's License (CDL); Ability to pass pre-employment and random DOT drug and alcohol screenings, as well as a background check. Preferred Experience: Grounds maintenance - Street maintenance - Heavy equipment operation. Interested applicants should submit their resumes to: Gloria May, Redkey Town Hall 8922 IN-67 Redkey, IN 47373. For more information, please contact Brenda Beaty, Town Council President, at 419-203-9081.

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Field finished

Turf on the Jay County High School football field has been installed

By **ANDREW BALKO**

The Commercial Review

The new turf is ready.

More than two months before their seasons begin, the Patriot football and soccer teams have been able to use their renovated field.

Sprinturf has completed the installation of the new turf football field at Jay County High School, allowing the football and boys and girls soccer teams to start working out on their new home field June 5.

After a few rainy weeks in the early spring, good weather during the spring and early parts of the summer allowed Sprinturf to stay on schedule and complete the project with plenty of time to spare before the season begins.

"It looks good, feels good and they did a really good job with it," said football coach Grant Zgunda. "It's nice that they got it done as early as they did, so that we could actually get on it before we start official practice."

"I'm totally impressed with the new facility and then throw in the building down there at the end, it's going to be really nice."

Mid-States Concrete and General Construction of Redkey is shooting for mid-to-late July to finish the locker room and concessions building, said athletics director Steve Boozier. The biggest delay for completing the building is the installation of the air conditioning unit, but Boozier assured the facility it will be functional even without the unit by the start of the season.

Boozier, who is retiring at the end of the month, said he's



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Sprinturf has finished installing the new turf on the Jay County High School football field, allowing the football and boys soccer and girls soccer teams to begin practicing earlier this month. Pictured is the Patriots logo that sits at the 25-yard line facing the home team's stands.

happy with where the project stands and the work that has been done so far.

"I'm glad to see the field get done," Boozier said. "That was something that we've needed. ... That field has been out there for 47-48 years without a major overhaul. ... It's a beautiful product."

The field will also be utilized by the Patriots boys and girls soccer teams.

Previously, the teams played out in the field north of the football field and baseball diamond.

The move gives the teams the ability to play on turf, increases the amount of spectator

seating, provides better access to restrooms in the locker room and concessions building and offers the ability to use the lights for games that run later in the evening.

"Now we won't be at a disadvantage when we play teams with turf," said girls soccer coach Kendra Muhlenkamp.

"Because we'll have a better feel of how the ball glides on this type of texture after playing on it this summer."

"A second perspective is just being able to have the (soccer players) in a better atmosphere where maybe more people will come to watch their games."

See **Finished** page 7



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Williams out after one year

By **MADLINE KENNEY and ROD BEARD**

The Detroit News Tribune News Service

DETROIT — After enduring the worst season in franchise history and weeks of deliberation, the Pistons have decided head coach Monty Williams' time in Detroit has come to an end.

The Pistons fired Williams Wednesday morning after just one season at the helm, a league source confirmed to The Detroit News.

The decision to officially cut Williams did not come lightly. The Pistons could be on the hook for the more than \$60 million left on Williams' deal that he signed a year ago this month.

"Decisions like these are difficult to make, and I want to thank Monty for his hard work and dedication," Pistons owner Tom Gores said in a team statement. "Coaching has many dynamic challenges that emerge during a season and Monty always handled those with grace. However, after reviewing our performance carefully and assessing our current position as an organization, we will chart a new course moving forward."

"I have great respect for Monty as a coach and as a person and I am certain he will be successful in his future endeavors. I sincerely wish him and his family the very best."

Williams was NBA Coach of the Year with the Phoenix Suns, and he became the best coaching candidate on the market after he was fired by the Suns last offseason. Williams initially planned to take this past year off of coaching after his wife, Lisa, was diag-

nosed with breast cancer during the 2023 playoffs. But the Pistons ultimately offered Williams a record-breaking contract that he couldn't refuse.

The six-year, \$78.5 million deal made Williams the highest-paid coach in NBA history. In his introductory conference last June, Williams, a coach with experience in developing young talent, spoke about his ambitions to turn the team around after years of futility.

Gores and since-ousted general manager Troy Weaver backed up Williams, and there was general belief that the team would take a step forward after finishing with the worst record in the NBA in 2022-23.

But disaster ensued. After starting the season 2-1, the Pistons went on a historic 28-game losing streak. Amid the skid, Gores met with select reporters, including The Detroit News, to apologize to fans and vow changes.

"We have to assess what's not working here. I'm down to Monty (Williams) and I am talking about rotations," Gores said in a Dec. 22 video call. "I don't normally do that. And Monty's so good, he knows what he's doing and he's open to even talking about it. We're down to, 'How do we fix things?' We do have to change something."

The Pistons ultimately finished with a franchise-low 14-68 record, leaving Detroit with the worst record in the league for the second consecutive season.

When the season finally came to a close with a loss at San Antonio, it was inevitable that changes were coming.