

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

JCDC to keep working toward lease

Questions raised regarding utilities, maintenance

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Jay County Development Corporation will continue to work toward a lease agreement with the City of Portland.

During a special meeting Tuesday, the Jay County Development Corporation (JCDC) board of directors agreed to have board member Josh Atkinson work through the proposed lease agreement with city attorney Wes Schemenaur.

The lease agreement for office space in Community Resource Center has been under discussion since late 2023 when Portland Board of Works approved new leases in conjunction with Jay County Commissioners renting an office for use by community coordinator Nate Kimball. The lease for the county was different from the leases for the other tenants, resulting in an issue with utility payments. (JCDC for years had received utility bills for the entire building and subsequently been reimbursed by other tenants for their share, but utilities were not included in the county's lease at that time.)

The board of works met with the building's five tenants May 15 to discuss the contracts, including the handling of utilities. Schemenaur put together a new lease agreement following that meeting.

The lease agreements were on the agenda for the June 13 board of works meeting. At that time, Portland Mayor Jeff Westlake asked if the board should approve the agreements or wait for feedback/approval from each of the entities in order to avoid the need to revisit the topic in the future.

See Lease page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Bale work

Bales are loaded onto a truck late Wednesday morning in a field at the northeast corner of the intersection of Indiana 26 and county road 200 West. Rain was in the forecast for Wednesday afternoon, with thunderstorms possible. The outlook is clear for the start of the Jay County Fair this weekend, with partly cloudy to mostly sunny skies and highs in the mid 70s Saturday and low 80s Sunday.

New heater in place at water park

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

The new pool heater is in place.

It will be put into service next week.

Portland Park Board heard updates regarding Portland Water Park during its meeting Tuesday, including that the new heater at the facility has been installed and will be activated Monday.

Street and parks department superintendent Matt Shauver told the board that the new pool heater has been installed and is in working order.

Portland Water Park device will be put into service next week

It will remain off, though, until representatives from manufacturer Raypak visit the pool next week to start it.

The heater is a new upgrade to the pool after

a group led by Bev Arnold and Rob Weaver donated funds to cover the \$67,808 cost of the device.

Shauver and parks manager Ronnie Reynolds also

explained that the stability of pool chemical levels seems to have leveled out after some water lines were rerouted.

Board members Brian Ison, John McFarland, Jennifer Weitzel and Michael Brewster, absent Shauna Runkle, were also informed Monday that costs to install the heater were higher than expected, with overages of \$2,800 in parts and \$1,600 in labor. An additional \$4,000 in labor was also incurred to deal with issues regarding chemi-

icals. In total, the facility is about \$15,000 over budget for maintenance.

Also Tuesday, the park board approved reducing season pass prices to \$100 for two people in the same family, \$125 for three, \$175 for four, \$225 for five and \$275 for six or more beginning Monday. (The facility is scheduled to be open until Aug. 11 this year.)

Board members briefly discussed the possibility of selling 2025 pool passes in advance.

See Park page 2

Court turns down challenge

By DAVID G. SAVAGE

Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Tuesday turned down a Second Amendment challenge to state laws in Illinois that prohibited the sale of rapid-fire assault weapons.

Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel A. Alito Jr. dissented.

Had the court granted the appeals, it would have threatened California's long-standing ban of most rapid-fire assault rifles as well.

Thomas said the court refused to hear the appeals now because the cases are still pending in the lower courts.

"I hope we will consider the important issues presented by these petitions after the cases reach final judgment," he wrote.

Tuesday's order suggests the justices are not anxious to rule on rapid-fire guns at this time, but it probably does not signal the majority leans in favor of upholding these laws.

Justices won't review ruling on Illinois law forbidding the sale of semiautomatic weapons

In the brief order, the justices said they would not review a ruling by the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago, which in a 2-1 vote refused to block a new Illinois law that forbids the sale of semiautomatic rifles and pistols as well as large-capacity magazines.

The measure was enacted last year after a shooter armed with an AR-15-style rifle and 30-round magazines fired 83 rounds in less than a minute, killing seven people and wounding 48, at an Independence Day parade in Highland Park, a suburb of Chicago.

At issue was whether the

state's ban on these popular but potentially dangerous weapons violates the Second Amendment and the right to "keep and bear arms."

The National Foundation for Gun Rights called Tuesday's order a temporary setback.

"For now at least, the Second Amendment is a second-class right, and it will remain so until the Supreme Court decides to stop ducking the issue," said Hannah Hill, the group's executive director. The case will now proceed to the discovery, trial, and summary judgment phases at the district court, she added.



Tribune News Service/Las Vegas Review-Journal/Bizuayehu Tesfaye

Heat wave

The next 10 days will be "unrelenting and brutal," says the Las Vegas office of the National Weather Service, including a possible 118 on Monday. People, including Jeanette Juraska, left, cool themselves in the splash pad at Lorenzi Park on a sunny and hot Monday, June 24, in Las Vegas.

Deaths

Urban Dirksen, 85, Fort Recovery
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 86 degrees Tuesday. The low was 52.

There is a 50% chance of showers tonight with a low in the lower 60s. Expect partly cloudy skies Saturday with a high in the mid 70s.

See page 2 for an extended forecast.

At the fair

Saturday

9 a.m. — Baby contest (6 to 12 months old) in the Farmer's Building

11 a.m. — Baby contest (12 to 18 months old) in the Farmer's Building

Noon — 4-H dog show in the Show Arena

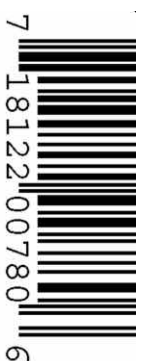
Noon — 4-H rabbit show at the East Arena

1 p.m. — Little Miss & Mr. Contest in the Farmer's Building
5 p.m. — Demolition derby at the grandstand (pits open at noon)

Sunday

11 a.m. — 4-H beef show in the Show Arena

1:30 p.m. — 4-H poultry show at the East Arena



Obituaries

Urban Dirksen

Aug. 22, 1938-July 1, 2024

Urban J. Dirksen, 85, of Fort Recovery, Ohio, passed away peacefully on Monday, July 1, 2024, at Briarwood Village in Coldwater, Ohio.

He was born on Aug. 22, 1938, in North Star, Ohio, to the late Edwin and Katherine (Kramer) Dirksen.

In addition to his parents, Urban was preceded in death by his wife of 35 years, Bernice A. (Timmerman) Dirksen, whom he married on April 25, 1964, and who passed away on Dec. 26, 1999; his sons, Mark and Jeff Dirksen; Mark's fiancé, Mary Gazarek; his sister, Alice Keller; his brother-in-law, Jerry Fisher.

Urban is survived by his children, Larry Dirksen of Fort Recovery, Mike (Sherry) Dirksen of Union City, Ohio, Dan (Stacie) Dirksen of Versailles, Ohio, Karen (Abe) Timmerman of Fort Recovery, and Brian Dirksen of Versailles; his grandchildren, Stacy Dirksen, Tracy (Jesse) Kemper, Macy Dirksen, Caleb (Megan) Timmerman, Heather (Cayden) Cox, Amy (Nick) Siegrist, Leslie Dirksen, Kyle (Samantha) Timmerman, Cody Dirksen, Kegan (Taylor) Timmerman, Keri Dirksen, Hayley Dirksen, Jenna Dirksen, Amber Dirksen, Clete Timmer-



Dirksen

man, Sara Dirksen, Amber Timmerman and Chris Timmerman; his great-grandchildren, Scarlett and Eleanor Kemper, Xander and Luka Timmerman, Maverick Cox, Murphy and Isabella Siegrist, Naomi Timmerman and Kinsley Timmerman; his siblings, Ed (MaryAnn) Dirksen of New Weston, Ohio, Kenny (Kathy) Dirksen of Wapakoneta, Ohio, Irene Dirksen of Sterling Heights, Michigan, Joan Fisher of Clarence Center, New York, and Lester (Velma) Dirksen of Portland; his brother-in-law, Marvin Keller of St. Henry, Ohio; his in-laws, Jerry Laux and Irene Timmerman, both of Fort Recovery; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Urban worked for J&M Manu-

facturing for over 35 years as a welder and truck driver. He served his country honorably in the United States Army. Urban enjoyed collecting and restoring antique tractors. He was a life-long farmer and a member of the Fort Recovery Tractor Club and the Fort Recovery American Legion. Urban enjoyed sprint car racing and took many trips to Knoxville Raceway in Knoxville, Iowa.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 6, 2024, at St. Paul Catholic Church, Sharpsburg Ohio. Burial, with full military honors, will follow in the church cemetery.

Guests may visit with the family on Friday, July 5, 2024, from 4 to 7 p.m. and again on Saturday

from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, Fort Recovery.

Memorial contributions may be sent to EverHeart Hospice, 1350 N. Broadway St., Greenville, OH 45331.

Condolence may be shared with the family by visiting brockmanboeckmanfh.com.

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 7/6	Sunday 7/7	Monday 7/8	Tuesday 7/9	Wednesday 7/10
76/60	83/65	84/66	83/65	81/64
Skies look to be mostly sunny throughout the day with a high in the mid to upper 70s.	Sunday's forecast shows sunny skies with a high around 83 degrees.	There's a slight chance of rain on Monday, when the high will bump to the mid 80s.	Tuesday's forecast shows thunderstorms are possible throughout the morning.	Another day of rain is in the forecast for Wednesday, when the high will be 81.

Lotteries

Powerball

5-9-32-39-55
Power Ball: 9
Power Play: 2
Estimated jackpot:
\$138 million

Daily Four: 9-3-6-2
Quick Draw: 9-12-14-18-19-23-25-29-30-31-36-38-44-47-48-52-54-63-71-75
Cash 5: 9-13-25-32-42
Estimated jackpot:
\$421,000

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot:
\$162 million

Hoosier

Wednesday
Midday
Daily Three: 5-5-7
Daily Four: 1-2-0-2
Quick Draw: 2-8-12-22-25-30-36-38-42-46-53-54-55-57-58-61-64-66-74-77
Evening
Daily Three: 8-5-0

Ohio

Wednesday
Midday
Pick 3: 8-2-9
Pick 4: 8-9-5-8
Pick 5: 3-6-7-4-5
Evening
Pick 3: 0-5-7
Pick 4: 5-0-1-8
Pick 5: 5-6-5-4-4
Rolling Cash: 2-6-20-24-31
Estimated jackpot:
\$208,000

Markets

Cooper Farms

Fort Recovery
Corn.....3.91
Aug. corn3.96
Wheat5.05

July beans10.78
Wheat5.30

ADM

Montpelier
Corn.....3.80
July corn.....3.84
Beans.....11.68
July beans.....11.38
Wheat.....5.29

POET Biorefining

Portland
Corn.....3.97
Aug. corn3.95
Sept. corn3.90

Heartland

St. Anthony
Corn.....3.90
Aug. corn3.90
Beans.....11.49
July beans.....11.34
Wheat.....5.05

The Andersons

Richland Township
Corn3.86
July corn3.94
Beans11.74

Today in history

In 1810, P.T. Barnum, who entered into a partnership with circus manager James Bailey in 1880 after developing a traveling show featuring circus acts, animals, exhibits and novelties over the previous decade, was born in Bethel, Connecticut.

In 1946, French engineer Louis Réard debuted his design for the first bikini in Paris.

In 1954, the BBC broadcasted its first television news bulletin.

In 2005, Portland City Council approved a loan of \$200,000 in economic development income tax (EDIT) funds to rural Portland residents Glynn and Julie Barber for work related to XPLEX Extreme Competition Park. The facility hosted a handful of events but was closed in 2006 and never re-opened.

In 2016, Portland City Council approved a ninth full-time firefighter to the city's fire department.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday

9 a.m. — Jay County Commission, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
1 p.m. — Jay County Personnel Committee, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community

room, 315 N. Ship 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.

7 p.m. — Fort Recovery Park Board, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

Thursday

4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.

Felony arrests

Probation violation

Two men were arrested Tuesday for violating their probation.

Bret A. Trissel, 27, 931 W. Votaw St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court last year to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but 74 days suspended and given 20 days credit for time served. Two petitions alleging Trissel violated the conditions of his probation were

filed in April and July. Trissel was released on a \$3,000 bond from jail.

Richard K. Price Jr., 52, 505 Debra Lane, Berne, pleaded guilty last year in Jay Circuit Court to dealing a narcotic drug, a Level 5 felony. He was sentenced to four years in Indiana Department of Correction with three years, 146 days suspended and given credit for time served. A petition alleging he violated the conditions of his probation was filed in court July 1. He was being

held without bond in Jay County Jail.

Failed to appear

A Portland man was arrested Monday for failing to appear in court.

John M. Taylor, 43, is charged in Jay Superior Court with a Level 6 felony for possession of methamphetamine. He failed to appear in court June 10.

Taylor was being held without bond in Jay County Jail.

Lease ...

Continued from page 1
(Only county commissioners and the visitors and tourism bureau had signed.) The board of works then approved the lease agreements after Portland clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips expressed her feeling that the tenants have been given ample time to respond.

Jay/Portland Building and Planning has since signed the agreement. JCDC and Jay County Chamber of Commerce have not.

The JCDC board on Tuesday discussed concerns regarding the lease agreement as proposed, with two — handling of utility bills and a lack of clarity about maintenance issues — rising to the forefront. Board members agreed that they feel JCDC should not be responsible for billing their fellow tenants for utilities. They also questioned language regarding repairs and maintenance, noting that one section of the lease agreement indicates the city is responsible for “repairs of the HVAC system” while another indicates “furnace & A/C repairs” are the responsibility of the tenants.

Board members had a wide-ranging discussion of their options moving forward, from meeting again with fellow tenants and the board of works to dropping utilities and beginning to look for different office space to lease.

“I’d hate to see that,” said JCDC board member Bryan Alexander. “The spirit of this building ... was that we have one stop ... that was the whole idea.

Board discussed various options for moving forward

I’d just hate to see that go.”

“I too believe in everybody being together,” agreed board member Barb Street. “So much happens, or should happen, in day-to-day communication, being together ...”

The board ultimately asked Atkinson, who is an attorney, to communicate JCDC’s concerns about the contract with Schemenauer in order to try to reach an agreement.

Also at the meeting, board members provided the following updates:

•A proposed internet project in partnership with Mainstream Fiber Networks is on hold after

the company did not receive grant funding, said Jay County Commissioner Rex Journey. The county had committed \$3.9 million toward a project to install 395 miles of fiberoptic or fixed wireless internet across the county. (He also noted that the county is discussing upgrading radios for first responders, likely using coronavirus relief funds through the federal American Rescue Plan Act.)

•Former JCDC board member Bob Lyons will be honored during the Cincinnatus League’s Hall of Fame ceremony at 3 p.m. Wednesday in the Farmer’s Building during the Jay County Fair.

•The Jay County 4-H auction is scheduled for 10 a.m. Friday, July 12, in the Show Arena at Jay County Fairgrounds.

•Redkey Fourth of July festivities are this weekend, with fireworks at dusk Saturday at Redkey Morgan Park.

•Tabled a request from The Portland Rockets for the addition of a concrete pad in front of the concession stand at Portland Memorial Park’s Runkle-Miller Field. The Rockets offered to pay for the materials if city employees will do the work. Ison asked Shauver and his staff to review the project before the park board votes to move forward. (A written agreement will also be required.)

•Heard from Shauver that his department is working through the city’s insurance provider regarding the Hudson Family Park fountains that were damaged because of an electrical issue.

•Heard a suggestion from Reynolds that the Hudson Family Park sign and arch be painted.

Park ...

Continued from page 1
Reynolds also provided updates that mulch has been placed at all of the playgrounds at all of the city’s parks; a sidewalk has been poured to the new pickleball court at Milton Miller Park; some new sidewalks and cornhole courts have been installed at Haynes Park, with a hillbilly golf court to come; wildflowers have been planted near the amphitheater and the playground at Hudson Family Park; trails have been cleaned out along trails in Hudson Family Park; and shrubs have been cleaned up along the edges of Portland Memorial Park.

In other business, the board:

•Heard the city is working with Jay County Pee Wee Football on a project to paint the concession building at Hines-Inman Memorial Field. The city bought the paint and league volunteers will handle the work.

•Approved a permit to allow Arts Place to have alcohol sales at its Whoa, Man! Band concert July 18 at Hudson Family Park. (An ordinance regulating the sale of alcohol in city parks will be up for approval on second reading at the July 15 Portland City Council meeting. It requires that any organization seeking to sell alcohol in a city park to receive a permit to do so by petitioning the park board.)

•Heard a suggestion from Shauver to place signs with rental information at the Hudson Family Park amphitheater in order to encourage more use of the facility. The board also discussed having reservations available for other park facilities, which are currently used on a first-come, first-serve basis.

•Heard from Shauver that his department is working through the city’s insurance provider regarding the Hudson Family Park fountains that were damaged because of an electrical issue.

•Heard a suggestion from Reynolds that the Hudson Family Park sign and arch be painted.

—The CR

Rear collision

A Portland man crashed his vehicle into the back of a Portland woman’s car at the intersection of Meridian and Union streets in Portland about 4:10 p.m. Tuesday.

Brenton B. Witt, 20, was driving his 2003 Chevrolet Trailblazer near the intersection when his vehicle hit the back of a 2018 Chevrolet Malibu driven by 35-year-old Jessica Jenkinson. The momentum from the crash caused

her vehicle to hit a brown car in front of her. Jenkinson told police the owner of the brown car left the scene before police arrived.

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

Lost control

A Portland woman was injured after she lost control of her vehicle and crashed at the intersection of county roads 400 South and 700 West about 6 a.m. Saturday.

Natlely Valentino, 24, was driving her 2007 Chevrolet Aveo west on county road 400 South when she lost control of hit, causing her to drive off the road. Her vehicle rolled a few times before stopping on the north side of county road 400 South.

Valentino was transported to IU Health Ball in Muncie for injuries to her head and leg.

Her vehicle was towed, with damage estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

Felony court news

Trafficking

A man was sentenced in Jay Circuit Court to prison for trafficking with an inmate.

Randy W. Morrical Jr., 42, pleaded guilty to the Level 5 felony. He was sen-

tenced to five years in Indiana Department of Correction. He was assessed \$189 in court costs.

As part of his plea agreement, a habitual offender enhancement was dismissed.

SERVICES

Friday

Fox, Willodean: 2 p.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

McCord, Dianne: 4 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Saturday

Dirksen, Urban: 10 a.m., St. Paul Catholic Church, 517 Meiring Road, Fort Recovery.

Monday

Arnold, Aaron: 1 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Service listings provided by

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Photo provided

Class of 1964

Portland High School's Class of 1964 hosted its 60th reunion June 22. Pictured above, front row from left, are Janet Resler, Sandy Evans, Sheila Takets, Pam Hart, Carolyn Bush, Susan Sommers, Cheryl Morehouse, Larry Gibson, Jean Leonhard and Connie Willis. In the back row are Jim Brosher, Jim Schwartz, Bill Hinkle, Bruce Bye, Steve Shoup, Don Matchett, Charles Bye, Rich Holmes, Allen Haines, Ron Lingo, Dennis Huey, Steve Glasgow, Joe Jellison, Bill Schabacker, Gary Bone, Mike Smith, Dave Bennett and Diana Michael.

Online friend wants to date

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 70-year-old Black woman who looks about 45 or 50. I recently met a man online while playing dominoes. We have been chatting back and forth for about two weeks now. He is 44, is of German descent and has a 9-year-old son. The problem is, he wants to have a relationship with me.

I have told him I'm 26 years older than he is, my children are older than him and I have great-grandchildren his son's age. He says none of this matters to him. We have never met in person, but he has invited me to come to Texas. What else can I say to persuade him that this cannot work? — OUT OF THE QUESTION IN VIRGINIA

DEAR OUT: My goodness, you certainly are getting the bum's rush. Please take some time and get to know this person better. If you are still corresponding in, say, six months, a way to demonstrate the difference in your ages would be to accept his gracious invitation to visit, and bring along one of your children.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are retired and have recently joined a Harley Davidson motorcycle club. We both love to ride and are looking

Dear Abby



depressed if the situation is revealed before you can tell him.

DEAR ABBY: An old hat style that created problems years ago has returned. The brim is so large that a person sitting behind them in church can see nothing but the back of that hat. It's aggravating to think I had a good place to sit and then have to spend an hour seeing only that big hat.

To block the view of those seated behind you is inconsiderate. I hope you will mention this in your column so women will be reminded how those large brims present a problem in any gathering where people are expected to sit quietly and listen to a speech or sermon.

I move when I can, but that isn't always possible, especially when the hat suddenly "appears" right before the service starts and finding another place to sit isn't feasible. — BLOCKED IN ALABAMA

DEAR BLOCKED: Your point is well taken. I'm pleased to pass your reminder along to those who need to see it, but since we cannot control the behavior of others, you would be well advised to run for the first row when you have a chance.

forward to many events in the coming months. At the first meeting we attended, an ex-lover of mine was seated at the same table near my husband. They seemed to enjoy conversing back and forth. I kept a low profile and tried to ignore the situation.

I know that at the meetings and upcoming events, we are sure to see each other. Should I tell my husband who this person is? I am concerned it will spoil those events for us and cause issues if I reveal it. My husband has, for years, taken meds for anxiety and depression. We are very happy together, and I love him very much. — LET'S RIDE IN THE SOUTH

DEAR LET'S RIDE: Very few people today don't have some kind of history. Tell your husband the truth. Believe me, he is sure to be even more anxious and

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.

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.

SOFT SHOULDERS — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place at Swiss Village in Berne. For more information, call (260) 589-3173.

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will hold its next meeting at noon Friday, July 6, at Harmony Café.

Saturday LOCAL'S MARKET —

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.

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.

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.

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is museumofthesoldier.com.

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.

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 3 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at Mercer Health in Coldwater, Ohio.

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.

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.

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. Walk-ins accepted.

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. Come early for a meal. 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

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Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Wednesday's Solution

9	6	4	7	2	5	3	8	1
3	8	2	4	9	1	7	6	5
7	1	5	3	8	6	2	9	4
8	7	6	5	1	3	4	2	9
2	3	9	8	6	4	1	5	7
5	4	1	2	7	9	6	3	8
6	5	8	1	4	2	9	7	3
1	2	3	9	5	7	8	4	6
4	9	7	6	3	8	5	1	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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Reader disappointed in coverage

To the editor:
I was not surprised when Friday's CBS news said former president Donald Trump lied in the debate but failed to mention that President Joe Biden also lied. That is typical of the Trump haters on CBS.

I was disappointed when a front page article in The Commercial Review, "Biden, Trump show disdain for each other," did the same thing. I could care less if they call out Trump for a lie, but it makes me mad when they throw out their journalistic integrity and cover for their candidate.

It is even more frustrating when the so-called fact checking journalists call the truth lies.

Letters to the Editor

"Trump lied repeatedly during the debate — for example — that Biden had directed criminal prosecutions against him, though there is no evidence to support that assertion." And yet there is no proof that he didn't. We do know that the No. 3 man in Biden's justice department quit so he could go to New York and help Manhattan district attorney Alvin Bragg "get

Trump." There is also proof the Biden administration was in contact with all the prosecutions. That is more than enough for Trump to form his opinion.

"Trump also made the false claim that Biden was one of many Democrats who favor late-term abortions — even suggesting that some babies might not be allowed to live after they were born." Biden just last Sunday is on record saying, "I love how Trump now says Biden is for abortion on demand. That's not true. That's not what Roe v. Wade said. It said the three trimesters and how it worked." And on killing babies Trump specifically named the former Virginia gov-

ernor who is on record taking that position.

"Trump also said that Americans overwhelmingly supported his position on abortions and allowing individual states to set policy. Multiple polls have shown that Americans opposed the overturn of Roe v. Wade." Polls also show that 80% of Americans oppose third trimester abortions and 60% oppose second trimester abortions.

And someone should tell the 13 servicemen who were killed in Biden's botched withdrawal from Afghanistan that they didn't die on Biden's watch because he said so Thursday night.

Biden said, "We brought down

the price of prescription drugs, which is a major issue for many people, to \$15 for — for an insulin shot, as opposed to \$400." It was actually \$35.

He said, "The border patrolmen endorsed me, endorsed my position." The National Border Patrol said, "To be clear, we never have and never will endorse Biden."

And I almost forgot. Biden had so many confused senior moments that even the extreme left-wing New York Times called for him to drop out of the race for president. Strange that these so-called journalists never mentioned that.

Stephen Erwin
Portland

Journalists have duty to investigate

By CHISOM OKORAFOR
OtherWords

In my time as a student journalist and editor, I've picked up a few lessons about integrity.

It's surprisingly easy to let objectivity slip on some subjects. But as my editor-in-chief continuously reminded me, responsible journalism means we need to properly investigate all sides of a story — before publishing things like "the cafeteria food here sucks." This includes double checking even sources we're inclined to take at face value, like our taste buds.

The free press is the foundation of a flourishing democracy. But when journalists fail to investigate the claims their sources make — especially our elected officials — the effects can be disastrous. No issue throws this into starker relief than the Biden administration's support for Israel's government as it commits crimes against humanity against the Palestinians.

This spring, for example, President Biden announced what he called an "Israeli ceasefire proposal," calling on Hamas to accept it. Biden said this "Israeli plan" included a release of hostages in exchange for a withdrawal of troops from Gaza and an eventual permanent ceasefire.

But this simply wasn't true.

Not only was the plan not created by Israel, but Israel didn't even agree to it. While Hamas responded positively to the plan, Israeli leaders categorically rejected it. Yet Biden's spokespersons repeated the claim that Hamas was blocking a ceasefire over and over again — and news reports continued calling the proposal an "Israeli plan."

We need more reporters in the room willing to question these claims. As journalists, our job isn't simply to regurgitate what those in power say, but to actually investigate those claims and report the truth. If our elected officials are misleading us, people need to know about it.

I may still be a student, but I'm old enough to remember Donald Trump's time in the Oval Office.

The war between the former president and the press produced some genuinely important developments in government accountability through journalism. The Washington Post, for example, kept a running list of every lie Trump told while in office — a good idea when the leader of the free

Chisom Okorafor



world tells an average of 21 lies a day.

The lies, mistruths, and omissions that Biden tells aren't as egregious as Trump's. But like any politician, he needs to be held accountable to the truth.

For instance, Biden repeatedly claimed to have seen photos of beheaded babies from Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel. Those photos don't appear to exist, but the president was generally allowed to repeat this claim without challenge.

Moreover, as campus protests against the war in Gaza sprang up all over the country last semester, student journalists have found ourselves in the unique position of having to counter narratives politicians put out about pro-Palestinian college protests.

Politicians accused students of inciting violence, hate speech, and even being funded by Russia. These narratives were often repeated with little scrutiny in the media, but boots on the ground reporting revealed a much different story: that encampments were largely tolerant, multifaith demonstrations that were more likely to be the targets of violence than the origins.

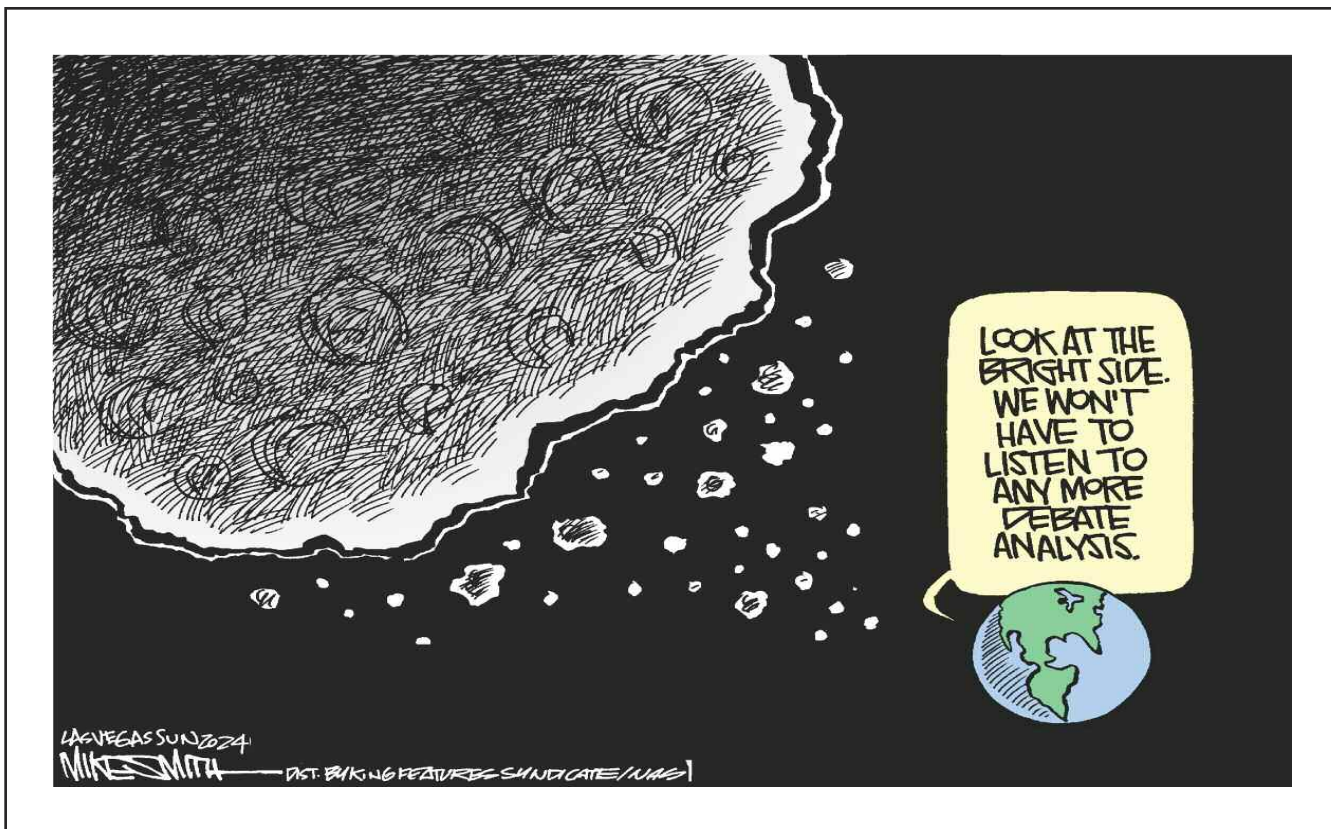
Journalism is often called the "fourth estate," or the fourth branch of government, because of its incredible power to speak truth to power. But when journalists misuse that power, or fail to exercise it, it can be incredibly dangerous.

If student journalists are expected to dive deeper on a subject like cafeteria food, then our national journalists need to do the same when it comes to a war that's been labeled a potential genocide by the International Court of Justice. We need journalists to ask our politicians hard questions — and not just take their answers at face value.

Otherwise, people will increasingly seek their news from elsewhere — for better or worse.

Okorafor is a Henry Wallace Fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies and a student journalist at the San Francisco Foghorn.

OtherWords is a free editorial service published by the Institute for Policy Studies.



In this debate, we all lost

By MARK Z. BARABAK
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

There were many firsts attending Thursday night's mud wrestle between Joe Biden and Donald Trump.

It was the earliest presidential debate in history. The first between two candidates of such a ripe age. The only one ever pitting the occupant of the Oval Office against the man he ousted.

But for anyone who's paid even passing attention to politics over the last four ill-tempered years, the spite-filled session in Atlanta had the familiar, unhappy feel of a nagging injury.

The bombast. The insults. The obvious, abundant contempt between two men who couldn't even bring themselves to shake hands.

"You have the morals of an alley cat," Biden told the former president.

"We're a seriously failing nation," Trump said of the current president, "and we're failing because of him."

There are train wrecks that offer more inspiration and uplift.

It was Biden, sagging in polls and looking to energize his campaign, who threw out the debate challenge, landing the two rivals on an unusually early summer stage.

It may go down as one of the great political miscalculations of modern times.

Though he rallied in the second half of the program, Biden's performance did nothing to dispel concerns about his fitness at age 81, which poses arguably the greatest threat to his shot at a second term. If anything, the president compounded those doubts.

Biden looked stricken when he didn't appear vacant or lost. At times, he seemed to grip the lectern as though he might topple if he let go. His complexion was waxy. His papery voice trailed into silence or incoherence.

"I really don't know what he said at the end of that sentence," Trump said in one gibe. "I don't think he knows what he said either."

Presidents are often rusty in their first debates, losing their fighting edge after four years cosseted in the White House. Ronald

Mark Z. Barabak



Reagan and Barack Obama both stumbled in their initial return to the debate stage.

But neither performed as badly as Biden, whose wan delivery took much of the sting — "I've never heard so much foolishness," "He has no idea what the hell he's talking about" — out of his attacks.

The facts might have been on Biden's side. The U.S. economy, inflation aside, is the envy of the world. He's done more than any president in history to address the crisis posed by climate change. He's rallied an international coalition to push back on Russia's dangerous hegemonic designs.

But those were lost in Biden's curlicue responses and halting verbal shuffle.

Trump, for his part, lied and exaggerated with characteristic abandon.

He blamed former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-California) for the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol that he brought on. He claimed to have presided over the greatest economic performance in American history. He claimed that millions of people entering the country illegally are not only being enrolled in the Social Security and Medicare programs, but also living in luxury hotels at government expense.

He wrongly claimed Biden engineered his serial criminal indictments and continued pushing wrongful claims undermining the integrity of the 2020 election he lost — the Big Lie that's eroding our democracy.

Fact-checkers immediately went into overdrive, but over the years they've proved no match for Trump's rat-a-tat of falsehoods. Give him his due: He may spew never-ending fabrications, but Trump does so unabashedly and with a powerful certitude.

The overwhelming majority of

Americans may be locked into their preferences for November, leaving a relatively scant number open to persuasion. That said, those voters could make the difference if the election is close, as polls have been suggesting.

Perhaps they learned something new Thursday night. (Trump never did explain his claim that Biden is a sleeper agent bought and paid for by the Chinese government. That seemed to come from left field.)

For many, the 90-plus minutes probably reaffirmed what they thought at the start of the session at CNN's Atlanta studio. Biden haters saw an enfeebled geriatric with only fleeting moments of lucidity. (Even some Biden supporters would agree with that assessment.) Trump bashers saw an overbearing, congenitally lying ogre.

Those with little use for either candidate might be wishing even more for a viable alternative not named Robert F. Kennedy Jr., serving up his witch's brew of conspiracy theories, or some other third-party candidate with absolutely no chance of winning.

It will be at least several days before the impact of Thursday night's confrontation is known. Snap polls do little more than register gut reactions. Views can change after voters have time to digest the voluminous content, hear post-debate analyses and watch the snippets highlighted on TV and the viral videos ricocheting across social media.

But after Biden's wretched performance, the nervousness among Democrats is likely to turn into full-fledged panic, with renewed talk of replacing the president ahead of Democrats' August convention.

And given the presidential faceplant, we may have just witnessed the last debate of the 2024 presidential campaign, with Biden strategists finding some excuse to pull out of a scheduled follow-up in September.

Given the display put on Thursday night — "Sucker!" "Loser!" — that cancellation might not be such a bad thing.

Barabak is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times, focusing on politics in California and the West.

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"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."
—Thomas Jefferson

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In review

Tour is July 17

The Purdue Farm Management Tour will be held in Randolph County on July 17.

The event, which will begin at 9 a.m., will feature tours of Clements-Miller Farm, rural Lynn, and Union Go Dairy, rural Winchester. There will also be a master farmer reception and panel discussion at 4 p.m. at Willow's Edge, 627 W. 100 South, Winchester.

Registration is required for the free event by visiting purdue.ag/farmtour.

Also, the Purdue Farmland Value & Cash Rent Survey is underway. The university is gathering information to put together into a report. To provide details, visit bit.ly/PFVCRS2024.

Field day set

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
- Companion plants and Syrphid fly recruitment
- Advantages and considerations of raised bed gardening
- Tarps, fire, and cultivation — weed management updates and demonstrations
- Growing open-pollinated corn on small farms
- Post-harvest wash/pack design for small farms
- Digital tools for small farms
- Freight farm container farming

Register for the field day at bit.ly/PSFE-Fieldday2024.

Launched

The Dairy Strong conference is seeking industry experts to participate in the annual event led by the Dairy Business Association.

The conference is scheduled for Jan. 15 and 16 at the KI Convention Center in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and will focus on "Dairy's Path Forward: Policies, Practices, Priorities."

For more information, visit dairyforward.com.

State lost 350,000 acres

Jay County bucked trend, added farmland since 2010

By **LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ**
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana lost about 345,700 acres of farmland to other purposes between 2010 and 2022, but agricultural productivity still increased, the state found in a study released Monday.

Most of it was lost to residential development around the edges of cities and suburban areas, according to the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA).

"The inventory of lost farmland was an opportunity for ISDA and legislators to gain access to reliable data, where up until now, we could only make assumptions," agency Director Don Lamb said in a news release.

"This information is important to have for policy development as we work to balance economic growth, food security and the preservation of agricultural land, because we know when agriculture is strong, Indiana is too," Lamb said.

Lawmakers last year tasked the Indiana State Department of Agriculture with creating the inventory. Rep. Kendell Culp, R-Rensselaer, called his proposal "a food security bill" at the time.

ISDA recommended lawmakers let it update the report, involve local units of government in farmland preservation, and decide on a threshold for an "alarming level" of lost acreage.

"Agriculture is, and always has been, the lifeblood of the Hoosier state," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Indiana's secretary of agriculture and rural development. "Data is critical for all levels of government when making decisions that may affect our rural communities and food security."

The study

ISDA used two data sources: a parcel dataset from Indiana's Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) and a cropland data layer dataset from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

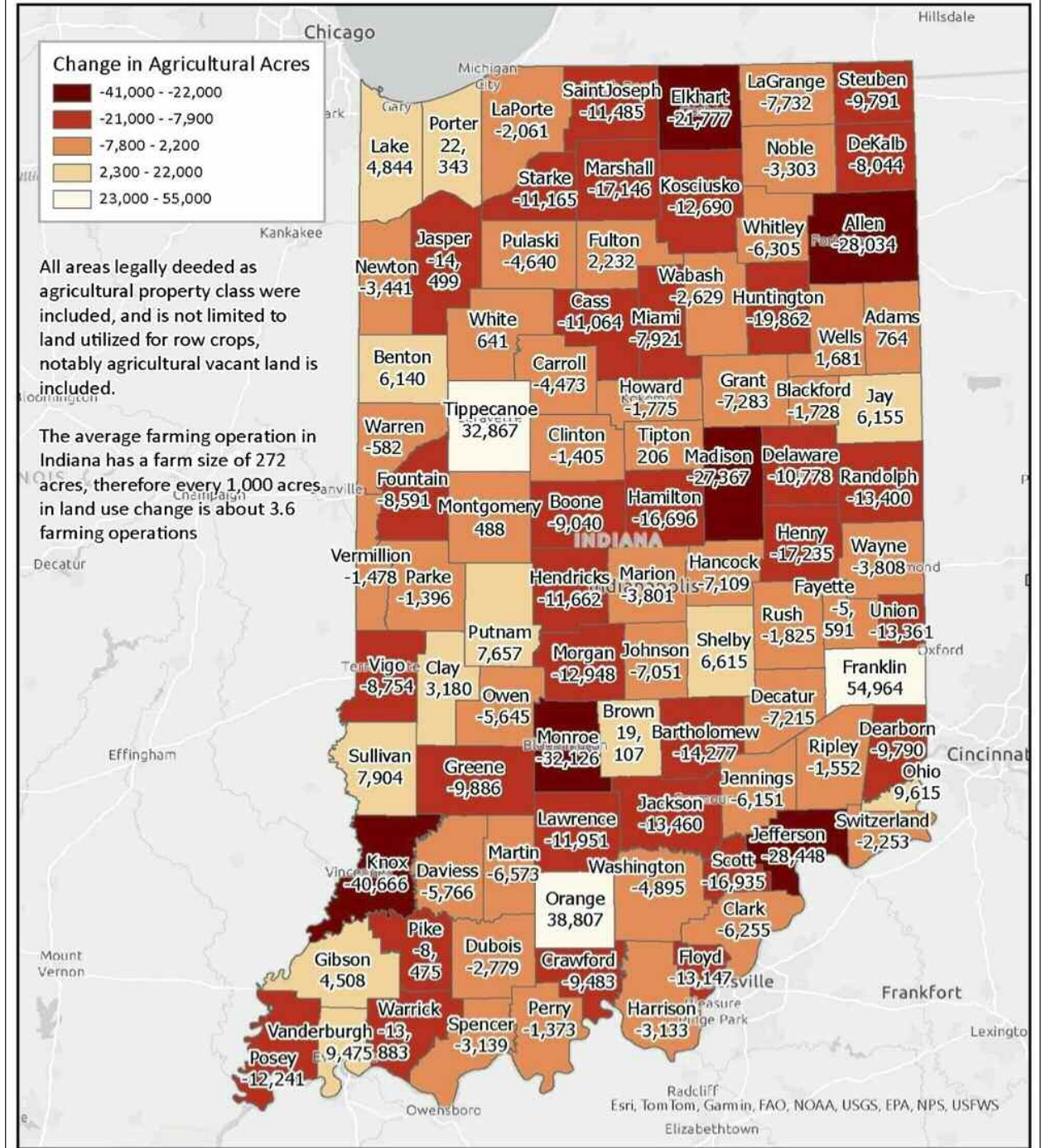
The first showed a total of about 18.31 million acres of land with property class codes in the agricultural range in 2010, and a total of 17.97 million acres in 2022 across the state of Indiana.

That's a decrease of about 345,700 acres — with cash grain and general farms, as well as specialty crop farms, losing the most.

More may not be in use. Since the parcel data doesn't distinguish between renewable energy and agricultural land uses, ISDA couldn't tell whether farmland was hosting renewable energy installations.

ISDA also compared 2010 and 2022 data to find the primary

Agriculture Land Change Quantity 2010-2022 Parcel Data



Change in county agricultural acres was calculated using the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) parcel data. The total amount legally deeded acres with property class codes in agricultural (property class codes 100 – 199) was calculated for both 2010 and 2022. The value shown is the difference between the 2022 and 2010 values, therefore a negative value is a decrease in the total number of acres with property class codes in the agricultural values.

drivers of acreage losses and additions. Much of the known converted land became residential, according to the report, and some went vacant. However, researchers found matches for just 85% of parcels.

The cropland data layer, after image generalization processing, showed about 14.84 million acres of land with land classified as any type of agricultural use in 2010, and a total of 14.18 million acres in 2022.

That's a difference of 664,988 acres. Most was lost to developed land, but some became forest.

But ISDA said quantity estimates from the second dataset are "likely less reliable."

The two methods yielded differing results, which the agency said was probably because the datasets categorize agriculture or farmland differently.

The state's five biggest farmland losers included Allen, Elkhart, Jefferson, Knox and Monroe counties.

Despite land losses, Hoosier cash crop production is up.

Indiana produced about 597 million bushels of corn for

grain in 2012, but over 1 billion in 2022, per the report, which cited USDA yield data. Soybean production also increased from about 219 million bushels of soybeans in 2012 to over 326 million in 2022.

What's next

The agency didn't suggest wording for future legislative proposals.

Instead, in a list of recommendations, it asked lawmakers to let it update the inventory every five years, starting with a 2030 report.

"ISDA believes getting on this five-year schedule will be most beneficial as data from the Census of Agriculture will be released again in 2029," the agency said. The census is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them.

It also said lawmakers should involve local units of government in farmland preservation talks, noting that Indiana "is a home rule state." Land use decisions are made mostly at the local level.

"No two counties are the same

and neither are their comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances or land use decisions," ISDA said. "Local units of government should be empowered to identify land use trends in their area and use all available information when making land use decisions."

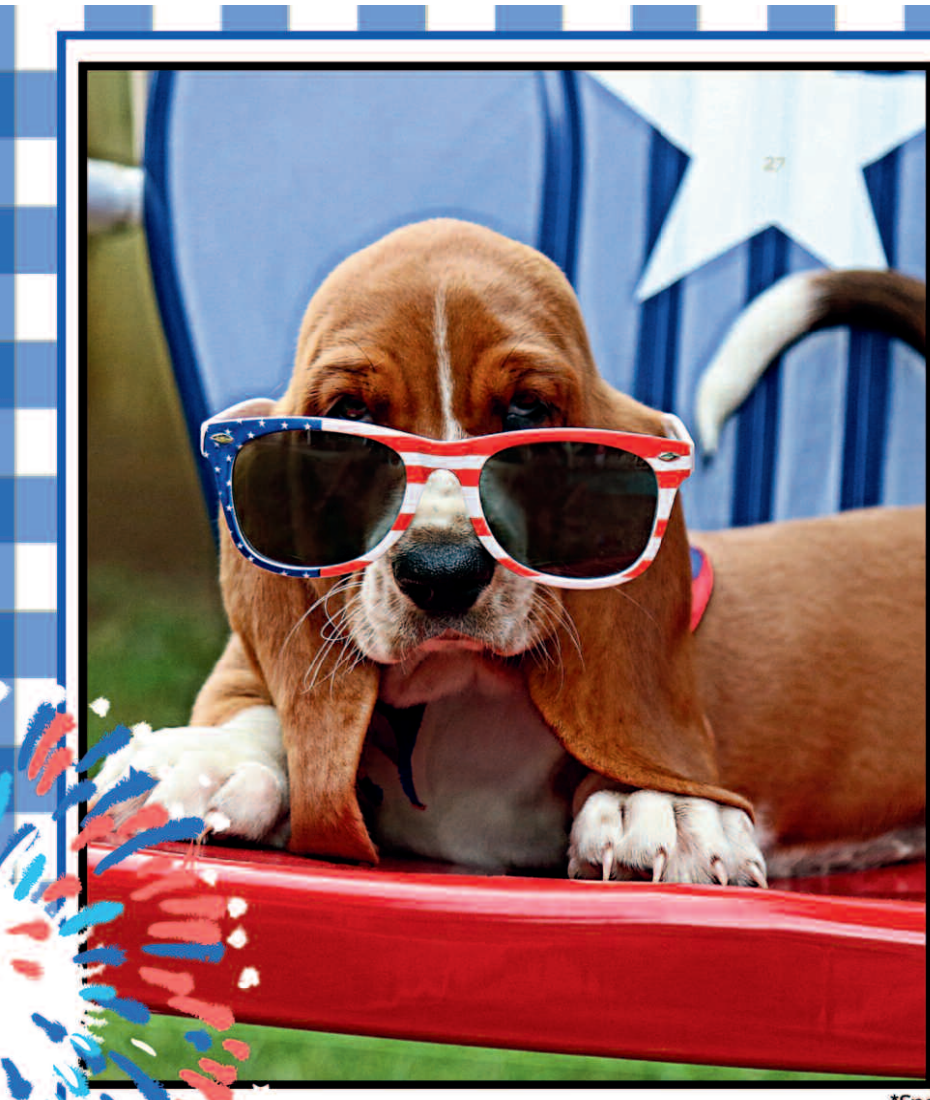
But not all communities have plans. They're not required.

So the agency pushed local units to be "proactive rather than reactive" and to "ensure they have a strategic vision" for the future.

It also suggested lawmakers find a threshold at which shrinking farmland "significantly reduces" access to food — while keeping in mind that technological changes have allowed farmers to produce more on less land.

Finally, it recommended that lawmakers consider prime farmland — the state's best 12.6 million acres of land — in decision-making.

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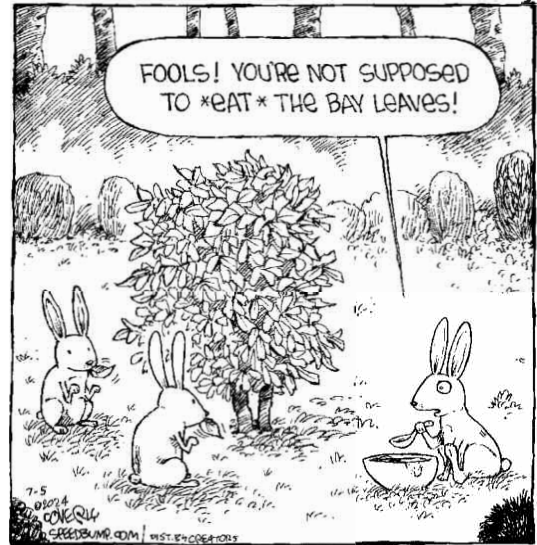
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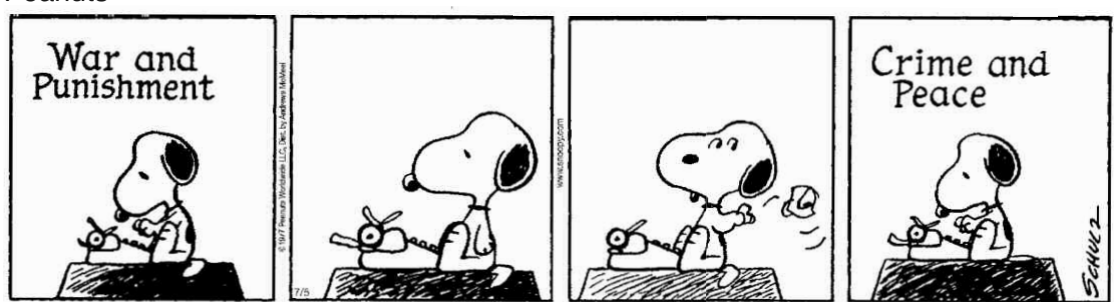
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Agnes



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Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

You are South, both sides vulnerable, and the bidding has gone: West North East South 3♦ Dble Pass ?

- What would you bid with each of the following four hands? 1. ♠953♥J872♦843♣Q65 2. ♠KQ764♥J53♦A9♣752 3. ♠8632♥94♦QJ108♣Q63 4. ♠AJ854♥KJ52♦—♣KJ94

1. Three hearts. Partner's double is for takeout, and you therefore respond in your best suit, hearts. To pass in this situation, contending that the hand is too weak to bid, could be catastrophic. Partner wants you to bid, and the only time you can overrule him by passing is when you have considerable strength in the enemy's suit. Here, West might easily make three diamonds doubled, giving his side a game. You'd like to have a better hand and a better suit when you bid three hearts, but this is what you were dealt. 2. Four spades. Here you have excellent values opposite partner's presumed 13 or more points, and you should show them by jumping to four spades. If you were to bid

only three spades, there would be no way for partner to know you had such a promising hand when you would make the same bid with a much weaker hand, such as the one in the previous problem. 3. Pass. You should feel virtually certain of defeating three diamonds doubled — you have two defensive tricks, and your partner figures to take at least three — so the best thing to do is to pass rather than bid either three spades or three notrump. It is true that you are overriding partner's intent, but passing is likely to yield the best result in the great majority of cases. 4. Four diamonds. This is a huge hand to hold opposite a takeout double, and you should immediately start thinking in terms of a slam — possibly even a grand slam. By cue-bidding West's suit, you achieve the dual purpose of suggesting a slam while at the same time locating the best trump suit. If partner responds with four hearts, four spades or five clubs, you should raise him to six. If he does anything else beyond one of those bids, you should go all the way to seven, with full confidence in the outcome.

Tomorrow: Sometimes it pays to worry. ©2024 King Features Syndicate Inc.

7-5

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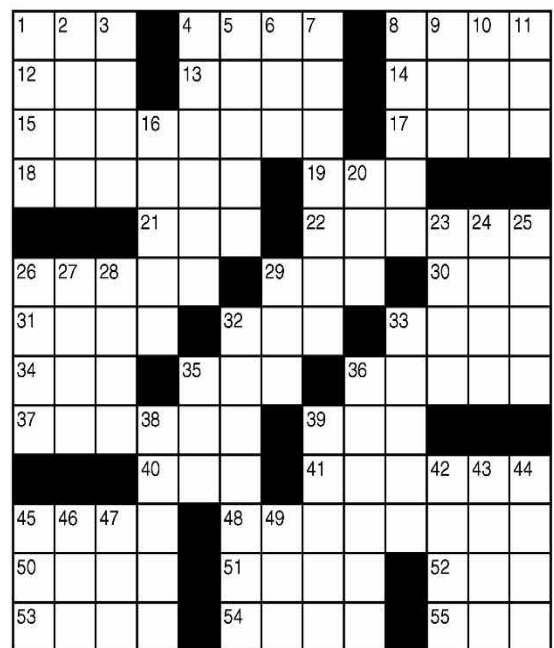
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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George ...

Continued from page 8
But George's recruitment was the headliner of the start of free agency.

It was no secret that George was the player the Sixers coveted. The Sixers previously inquired about George when they sent James Harden to Los Angeles in the blockbuster trade on Nov. 1. Then sources confirmed months later that George would be the team's No. 1 option in free agency, and the Southern California native was said to have mutual interest in the Sixers.

But at the time, cynics believed George's interest was more about creating leverage with the Clippers.

This wasn't the first time the Sixers and their fan base had high hopes of landing George.

In the summer of 2018, they went "star hunting" to secure either George, Leonard, or LeBron James — and struck out on all three. James signed with the Los Angeles Lakers. The San Antonio Spurs traded Leonard to the Toronto Raptors. And George re-signed with Oklahoma City Thunder. The belief was that George and James were only connected to the Sixers as leverage.

This time, the Golden State Warriors also served as a threat.

The Warriors thought they had a chance to add George via a sign-and-trade. To get traded there, George would have needed to opt into the final year of his deal. The Warriors and Clippers had discussions up to the final minutes of his deadline to opt in. George reportedly gave the Warriors a strong indication that he wanted to be traded there. However, the Clippers declined to go

through with the deal, leaving George to opt out.

That's when Philly became the front-runner, sources say. But based on what happened in 2018 and George's reported desire to play with Golden State, Sixers faithful experienced a level of uneasiness until he concluded Sunday's meeting with the Clippers.

Now, George's presence is encouraging for a Sixers franchise with championship aspirations.

He is still one of the better wings in the league and his addition could catapult the Sixers back into the NBA's elite. The six-time All-NBA selection and four-time All-Defensive pick averaged 22.6 points, 5.2 rebounds, 3.5 assists, and 1.5 steals this season. He shot a career-best 41.3% on three-pointers.

The Sixers still have a few roster spots to fill.

Along with Maxey's agreement, Embiid, Paul Reed, and Ricky Council IV are the only other returning players under contract — with Reed and Council on non-guaranteed deals.

The team added Jared McCain with the 16th pick and Adem Bona with the 41st in last week's NBA draft. And Drummond and Gordon will bring a veteran presence.

The Sixers are looking to add five-time All-Star Klay Thompson, who also has free agency meetings set up with the Dallas Mavericks, Los Angeles Lakers, and Clippers. They also had interest in Kentavious Caldwell-Pope, but the shooting guard agreed to a three-year, \$66 million deal with the Magic.

Sources have said the Sixers would have liked to bring back Batum, Oubre Jr., and Kyle Lowry in free agency.



Photos provided

Rookie winners

Second-seeded POET Bioprocessing won the Portland Junior League Rookie baseball tournament on June 28. The team is pictured above with their tournament championship rings. They had to beat the regular-season league champions Cook's Nursery (pictured below) in the title game.



Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Portland Rockets in Portland Firecracker Tourney - 7 p.m.

Saturday
Portland Rockets in Portland Firecracker Tourney - Time TBD

TV sports

Today
6 a.m. — Tennis: Wimbledon (ESPN)
12 p.m. — UEFA Euro 2024 soccer: Germany vs. Spain (FOX)
3 p.m. — UEFA Euro 2024 soccer: France vs. Portugal (FOX)
6:45 p.m. — MLB: St. Louis Cardinals at Washington Nationals (Bally Indiana)
7 p.m. — USL Championship soccer: Birmingham Legion at Charleston Battery (FOX)
9 p.m. — Copa America soccer: Canada vs.

Venezuela (FS1)
11 p.m. — Liga MX soccer: Atlas vs. Juarez (FS1)

Saturday
7 a.m. — Tennis: Wimbledon (ESPN)
5:30 a.m. — AFL: Carlton Blues at Greater Western Sydney Giants (FS1)
6:30 a.m. — Formula 1s: British Grand Prix (ESPN2)
10 a.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Series: The Loop 110 (USA)
12 p.m. — UEFA Euro 2024 soccer: Switzerland vs. England (FOX)
12:30 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Grant Park 165 (USA)
1 p.m. — MLB: Boston Red Sox at New York Yankees (FS1)
1 p.m. — Tennis: Wimbledon (ABC)
1 p.m. — WNBA: New York Liberty at Indiana Fever (CBS)
1 p.m. — NWSL soccer: Houston Dash at

Chicago Red Stars (ESPN)
2 p.m. — Pro Motocross Championship: RE-Bud National (NBC)
3 p.m. — UEFA Euro 2024 soccer: France vs. Portugal (FOX)
3 p.m. — John Deere Classic (CBS)
3:30 p.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Series: The Loop 110 (NBC)
4:10 p.m. — MLB: Detroit Tigers at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)
4:30 p.m. — NBA summer league: Los Angeles Lakers vs. Sacramento Kings (ESPN)
6 p.m. — Copa America soccer (FS1)
6:30 p.m. — NBA summer league: Miami Heat vs. Golden State Warriors (ESPN)
7:15 p.m. — MLB: Milwaukee Brewers at Los Angeles Dodgers (FOX)
8:30 p.m. — Boxing: Artem Harutyunyan vs. Shakur Stevenson (ESPN)
9 p.m. — Copa America soccer (FS1)
10 p.m. — USL Championship soccer: Louisville City at Oakland Roots (FOX)

Local notes

Soccer camp announced
The Jay County High School boys and girls soccer teams will hold a youth soccer camp July 29-31.
The camp is for kids going into first grade up to eighth grade. It will be held from 5-6:30 p.m. at the old soccer field behind the baseball diamond.
Admission is \$30 per child and each additional child from the same household will cost only \$20.
To sign up visit <https://qrco.de/bf9Aod>. For more information, email kilmuhlenkamp@jayschools.k12.in.us or rreynolds@jayschools.k12.in.us.
Payment can be sent to the high school front office by July 12th.

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

90 SALE CALENDAR

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90 SALE CALENDAR

AU01031836
Auction Zip: 8080
HiBid <https://town-country-auctions.hibid.com>
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Friday Evening July 5th, 2024
5:30 AP M.
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250 PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice
PUBLIC NOTICE
INVITATION FOR BIDS
Notice is hereby given by the Board of Aviation of the City of Portland, that sealed bids will be received at City Hall, 321 North Meridian Street, Portland, Indiana 47371 until 3:00 PM Wednesday, July 17, 2024, for the following:
Annual cash rent of 26.28 tillable acres of farmland at the airport; under a three-year farm lease.
Such rental shall be paid to the City of Portland in two installments. The first being due April 1 and the second shall be due November 1.
Bid forms and a map can be picked up at City Hall, 321 North Meridian Street, Portland 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Bids will be opened at 4:00 p.m. on the 17th day of July, 2024 by the Board of Aviation at the airport, 661 W. 100 N., Portland. The Board of Aviation reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive informalities in bidding due to errors.
Lori Phillips
Clerk Treasurer
City of Portland
CR 7-5-6-2024-HSPAXLP

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice
STATE OF INDIANA IN THE JAY SUPERIOR COURT
COUNTY OF JAY, SS: 2024 TERM
38D01-2406-MF-000011
Fredric L. Bailey, Elizabeth J. Bailey
Plaintiff
vs
Christopher Ames (deceased)
All unknown heirs or assignees of Christopher Ames
Defendants
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
To Christopher Ames named as Defendant, who is believed to be deceased and if he is deceased, to his unknown heirs and any other person who may have an interest in this matter.
You are notified that you have been sued in the court named above by the Plaintiffs. The nature of the suit is a Complaint to Foreclose Contract for Conditional Sale of Real Estate for the following described real estate located in Jay County, Indiana:
Lot numbered four (4) in F. M. McLaughlin's Addition to the City of Portland, Indiana.
For informational purposes this real estate is located at 952 S. Shank Street in Portland, Indiana.
Plaintiffs request that judgment be entered against the Defendants for the relief stated in the complaint and the Contract for Conditional Sale of Real Estate be terminated and found to be null and void and the real estate remain the property of the Plaintiffs free and clear of any interest or claim of the Defendants.
This summons by publication is specifically directed to all of the Defendants whose names, address and whereabouts are unknown, and specifically to any unknown heirs and assignees of the Defendant Christopher Ames.
If you have a claim for relief against the Plaintiffs from the Complaint to Foreclose Contract for Conditional Sale of Real Estate you must assert it in your written answer.
You must answer the complaint in writing by you or your attorney on or before 30 days from the date of last publication of this summons in The Commercial Review and if you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the Plaintiffs have demanded.
Attest: Jon Eads,
Clerk of the Jay Superior Court
HINKLE, RACSTER, & SCHEMENAUR
Attorneys for Plaintiffs
121 West High Street
Portland, IN 47371
Telephone: 260-726-8104
CR 6-28-7,5,12-2024-HSPAXLP-HSPAXLP
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Sports

Two big innings lead to Rockets win

MUNCIE — The Rockets had no problems scoring against the Chiefs in the first matchup of the year.

On the road, the Rockets took a while to get going.

The floodgates finally opened in the fourth inning, and the Rockets never looked back.

The Portland Rockets took advantage of a handful of pitching mistakes by the Muncie Chiefs on Tuesday, resulting in a dominant 17-4 victory.

The Rockets (10-12) got off to a slow start with the sticks. The only runners to reach base in the first two innings did so via walk or being hit by a pitch.

The first score for Portland

came in a similar fashion. Aidyn Coffey got beamed by Jade Limbrock to start the third inning. He promptly swiped second base during the next at bat to move into scoring position. Coffey stole third base two batters later and made his way home on an error by catcher Cole Luedike to tie the game 1-1.

Limbrock's lack of control came to bite the Chiefs hard in the fourth inning. He started the frame with a walk and two outs, but that didn't stop the Rockets from putting together a rally.

Kenny Bailey smacked a single to right field for Portland's first hit of the game, and a walk by Trey Pullins loaded the bases.

Lambrock then hit back-to-back batters to score a pair of runs without Coffey or Cam Pratt needing to swing the bat. Limbrock gave up a third straight run for free by issuing a six-pitch walk to Peyton Smith.

Joel Kennedy followed up with a two-RBI single to right field, prompting Muncie to switch to Jay Dillmon on the mound. Dillmon surrendered back-to-back walks to give up the sixth run of the inning.

With two outs and the bases loaded, Blake Caldwell struck out on a pitch in the dirt that ended up being a passed ball, allowing Kennedy to score and the other three runners to advance safely.

The Rockets boasted an 8-1 lead at the end of the frame.

Portland again scored a run on a walk in the fifth inning.

Doug Baty went to the mound in the sixth for the Chiefs, but suffered similar struggles to Lambrock and Dillmon.

Baty walked a pair of batters and gave up a single to Bailey to load the bases early. He then hit Coffey with a pitch to drive in a run before giving up back-to-back singles to Pratt and Smith to score a pair of runs.

Five of the next six batters drove in runs, including doubles by Gavin Gleason and Bailey and singles by Caldwell and Pullins. The inning only ended because of

a base running error by Pullins.

Tyler Reynolds earned the win for the Rockets after throwing four innings with only two runs scored. He gave up five hits during his time on the bump, but struck out seven batters as well.

Varen Ridgway and Smith finished the game off with a combined seven punchouts, while giving up one earned run.

The Rockets will open the Portland Firecracker Classic today at 7 p.m. against the Spring Texas Armadillos at Runkle-Miller Field. A win would earn them a spot in Saturday's semifinal at 4:30 p.m. and a loss bumps them to the bottom half of the bracket for a 2 p.m. start time.



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Paul George signs with 76ers

By KEITH POMPEY
The Philadelphia Inquirer
Tribune News Service

The Paul George sweepstakes is over and the Philadelphia 76ers have secured their next superstar trio.

George agreed early Monday morning to a four-year, \$212 million contract to join the Sixers, according to sources. He has a player option for the final year. This comes after the nine-time All-Star declined his \$48.7 million option for next season with the Los Angeles Clippers on Saturday.

The unrestricted free agent was then scheduled to meet with the Sixers, Clippers, and Orlando Magic in L.A. after Sunday's 6 p.m. start of free agency. In a late meeting with the Sixers, George and his agent, Aaron Mintz, gathered with managing partner Josh Harris, team president of basketball operations Daryl Morey, general manager Elton Brand, and Hall of Famer Julius Erving.

George was eligible to sign an extension in Los Angeles this season, but the two sides were unable to reach an agreement. The Clippers weren't willing to give him a fourth year. They didn't want to offer more than the three-year, \$152.3 million deal that Kawhi Leonard received. And they didn't budge during Sunday's meeting.

But the 34-year-old was adamant about receiving a four-year maximum salary. Completely at odds, Los Angeles issued a statement about George informing the team that he would sign his next contract elsewhere.

"We negotiated for months with Paul and his representative on a contract that would make sense for both sides, and we were left far apart," the statement read. "The gap was significant. We understand and respect Paul's decision to look elsewhere for his next contract. We explored an opt-in and trade scenario, but it would have left us in a similar position under the new CBA, with very little

Former Pacers star returns to Eastern Conference for the first time since 2017

asset value to justify the restrictions."

As expected, George opted to join the Sixers, forming an All-Star trio with Joel Embiid and Tyrese Maxey.

In the end, the Sixers and the struggling Detroit Pistons were the only teams capable of providing the 6-foot-8, 220-pound swingman the maximum-salary contract he desired. And the Pistons weren't on his wish list.

In the Sixers' first move, Andre Drummond agreed to a two-year, \$10 million contract to return to the team as Embiid's backup. The Sixers also added Eric Gordon on a one-year, \$3.3 million veteran minimum contract. Then they brought back Kelly Oubre Jr. for a two-year, \$16.3 million deal. Drummond and Oubre both have player options for their second years.

On Monday morning, Maxey agreed to his five-year, \$204 million maximum contract. Meanwhile, Tobias Harris left and will accept a two-year, \$52 million deal to play for the Detroit Pistons. De'Anthony Melton also parted ways with the Sixers and accepted a one-year, \$12.8 million deal with the Golden State Warriors. And Nico Batum is leaving for a two-year, \$9.6 million contract to return to the Clippers. The Sixers acquired him in a trade from Los Angeles on Nov. 1. Players can officially sign free-agent deals after 12:01 p.m. ET on July 6.

See **George** page 7

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