

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Leaving chamber



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Jay County Chamber of Commerce executive director Tabby Sprunger poses for a picture with Mindy Weaver after presenting her with an anniversary certificate for Jay County Humane Society during the Jay County Community Awards in May as Nick Lyons (foreground) takes a photo. The chamber's board of directors announced Thursday morning that Sprunger will be leaving her role as executive director to accept a new job. She will start in her new role Monday but plans to continue with the chamber until a new executive director is hired.

Sprunger will leave executive director role, plans to continue work until successor is hired

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Tabby Sprunger will be leaving Jay County Chamber of Commerce.

The chamber announced in an email to members Thursday morning that Sprunger, the chamber's executive director, has accepted a new job.

"Tabby has graciously agreed to assist the board while we work through this transition," the email signed by board president Josh Stewart, vice president Tami Vormohr and secretary Zach Chenoweth said. "We are

very thankful for all of her hard work and commitment to not only the chamber, but Jay County as a whole. Although we are sad to see her go, the board supports her in her new journey and we wish her the very best!"

Later Thursday morning, Sprunger told The Commercial Review her new job with Moo Juice Express of Berne will begin Monday. She will work as a human resources generalist and administrator.

While details are still being worked out with the chamber's board, she

said she intends to continue in her role as chamber executive director and follow through on projects she has been involved with, including the state's Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) 2.0, until her successor has been hired.

"I'm still the chamber girl until they get somebody else," Sprunger said.

"This is really, really hard for me," she added. "I love this job with my whole heart."

The newspaper was unable to reach Stewart

for comment before press time.

Sprunger said her decision came before comments made by Jay County Commissioners during an administrative meeting July 8 during which they were critical of the chamber and various other local organizations. She added that she was in a meeting informing the chamber board about her decision to take a new job at the same time the administrative meeting was happening.

But, she said, watching the video later that afternoon confirmed that she

had made the right choice.

During that meeting, commissioners informally agreed not to commit economic development income tax funding for the chamber, with commissioner president Chad Aker questioning why the organization asked for a larger amount of funding than in previous years, discussing Sprunger's pay and sharing a conversation he had with a chamber board member indicating that, "Tabby is really good at about 30% of her job."

See **Leaving** page 2

Project to move forward pending funding

Board agrees to accept FAA grants, if awarded

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

If federal funding comes through, Portland's airport will be upgraded next year.

Portland Board of Aviation on Wednesday approved accepting a Federal Aviation Administration grant if the airport is approved for funding to expand its apron.

At its June meeting, the board approved moving forward with the application for the grant funding with the low bid for the work. (The deadline for bids had been extended by a few days to allow for more bids to come in. Grant applications were due at the end of June.)

Jason Clearwaters of Butler, Fairman & Seufert, the airport's engineering firm, explained Wednesday that there were three bids, with Kwest Group of Perrysburg, Ohio, coming lowest at \$965,497.15 for the total project. (It was bid with a base project and three alternates, each of which added to the size of the apron.) In full, the project would add 57,700 square feet (1.32 acres) to the apron — the area where aircraft are parked, unloaded or loaded, refueled, boarded or maintained.

The other bidders were The Harper Company of Hebron, Kentucky, at \$1.11 million and Milestone Contractors of Richmond at \$1.24 million.

Portland Municipal Airport's FAA applications were turned in with Kwest Group as the proposed contractor. The requests are for \$654,000 in FAA entitlement funds and \$314,064 from the 2020 federal infrastructure bill. (In each case, Indiana Department of Transportation and the City of Portland will be required to provide a 5% match.)

If awarded, the grants would cover the cost of construction and Butler, Fairman & Seufert's fees for overseeing the project.

Clearwaters said he expects grant awards to be announced in late August or September. Construction would follow in 2025.

Board members Faron Parr, Clyde Bray, John Ferguson and Caleb Lutes unanimously approved moving forward with the grants if they are awarded.

The board briefly discussed sources for funding for the local share of the project's cost, including the possibility of requesting funds from Portland Redevelopment Commission.

Also, the board received an update on plans for Portland Municipal Airport hosting the Aviation Indiana quarterly meeting on Thursday, Aug. 8.

See **Project** page 2

County highway will get new position

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Jay County Highway Department is getting a new position.

Jay County Council agreed to create a position for assistant superintendent for the department during its meeting Wednesday.

Discussion about establishing the new role came about in relation to new job duties administrative assistant Stephanie Klarer has taken on for the highway department in recent months.

Council vice president Cindy Bracy explained the job duties needed for Klarer's position have changed, with Klarer now filling out grants for the department and working with Indiana Department of Transportation, among other roles.

According to the job description, the assistant superintendent's duties will include:

- Assisting with supervising

Council approved creating assistant superintendent job

and directing personnel, budgeting processes and inventory

- Sharing road closing information with county officials, area schools and the public as needed

- Performing duties of employee of responsible charge, including ensuring federal aid is submitted and necessary inspections are completed

- Communicating via radio with work crews and personnel

- Serving as safety coordinator for the department, ensuring employees are compliant with

safety regulations and ordering safety equipment

- Maintaining records and bookkeeping duties, including payroll and bills

- Coordinating dust control efforts

- Preparing insurance and accident reports

- Answering the office phone, greeting office visitors and providing information or assistance

- Performing clerical tasks, such as data entry, reviewing mail, maintaining files, scheduling appointments for department per-

sonnel, ordering office supplies and preparing documents, correspondence and reports

Jay County Personnel Committee recently recommended creating the position. It also suggested keeping the administrative assistant job on the roster in case it is needed in the future but not funding it.

Council member Jeanne Houchins questioned if council should incorporate back pay for Klarer, who said she has been filling in additional duties for several months. Houchins noted similar situations with other county employees in the past, including former highway superintendent Donnie Corn.

"I don't think we've done it in the past consistently, that's where it gets a little dicey," said Bracy, voicing hesitancy to giving back pay.

See **Position** page 2

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 82 degrees Wednesday. The low was 62.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the mid 50s. Expect sunny

skies Saturday with a high around 80. Highs are expected to stay in the 80s through Tuesday.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday across from Pennville Fire Station and 9 a.m. to noon in the parking lot at 220 Lincoln St., Portland.

Coming up

Saturday — Coverage of tonight's Jay County Lions Band Contest.

Tuesday — Results from the Portland Rockets in the Carrington Red Tourney.

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



Leaving ...

Continued from page 1
He added that he told the chamber board member, "To me, your board needs to, I'm sorry, but it needs to grow some balls and they need to address the issue."
Sprunger said she is proud of the work she has done at the chamber, specifically in creating community. She said the chamber had fewer than 200 members when she started, and it is now at

367. She noted increased attendance at the annual Jay County Community Awards, expansion of Winterfest activities to Jay County Fairgrounds, the launch of LIFT (Leaders Inspiring Females Together) Jay to connect professional women in the community and increased use of chamber gift certificates.
"I love Jay County," said Sprunger, holding back tears. "It

is just killing me that I'm not going to be able to be here (in the chamber office). Everything about it — the people, all the events.
"When I got the job, I actually said, the reason I applied was because I felt like I was at a point in my life where I wanted to be able to make a difference. I wanted to do what I could for my community to make a difference.

"That's what makes it so hard, because I felt like the chamber was doing that."
She also acknowledged the chamber's financial challenges Thursday, saying one of her goals during the next few months is to put the organization in a strong position for the next executive director.
Sprunger has served as executive director of the chamber for a

little over four years. She was hired in March 2020 following a less than four-month stint by Carey Cook. Prior to Cook, Dean Sanders held the job for more than five years.
The chamber will maintain its current office hours, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Wednesday until a new executive director is hired.

CR almanac

Saturday 7/20	Sunday 7/21	Monday 7/22	Tuesday 7/23	Wednesday 7/24
81/59	82/62	82/65	81/66	79/65
Another day of sun is expected Saturday. Temperatures could reach as high as 81.	Mostly cloudy on Sunday. The temperature may hit the low 80s degrees.	There's a slight chance of thunderstorms on Monday. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.	Another chance of storms on Tuesday, when the high will be in the 80s.	Showers are likely Wednesday, when skies look to be mostly cloudy.

Lotteries

Powerball 24-27-32-47-66 Power Ball: 26 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$91 million	Daily Four: 3-2-5-2 Quick Draw: 1-2-8-13-20-26-31-34-37-45-47-50-51-56-64-65-70-73-79-80 Cash 5: 14-20-29-36-43 Estimated jackpot: \$85,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$251 million	Ohio Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 7-1-2 Pick 4: 8-5-9-8 Pick 5: 4-7-0-4-5 Evening Pick 3: 5-1-2 Pick 4: 9-4-4-6 Pick 5: 3-2-2-2-8 Rolling Cash: 3-16-18-34-39 Estimated jackpot: \$294,000
Hoosier Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 4-6-0 Daily Four: 0-8-7-9 Quick Draw: 6-9-10-26-32-34-35-39-40-46-47-49-50-51-57-60-69-71-75-77 Evening Daily Three: 5-3-9	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....3.81 Aug. corn3.85 Wheat4.65	Aug. beans.....10.01 Wheat 4.90
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....3.88 Aug. corn3.88 Sept. corn3.78	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.73 Aug. corn3.72 Beans11.16 Aug. beans.....10.88 Wheat4.94
The Andersons Richland Township Corn3.78 Aug. corn3.78 Beans11.14	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....3.77 Aug. corn3.77 Beans10.94 Aug. beans.....10.79 Wheat4.64

Today in history

In 1553, Mary I replaced Lady Jane Grey as queen of England.
In 1799, the Rosetta Stone, a tablet with hieroglyphic translations into Greek, was found in Egypt.
In 1834, Edgar Degas was born in Paris, the artist and sculptor's best-known works include "Cotton Office at New Orleans" and "Dance Class."
In 1848, the Seneca Falls Convention, known as the first such gathering in support of rights for American women, launched in New York. About 300 attended the meeting that resulted in the Declaration of Sentiments, which called for granting women the same rights and freedoms as those afforded to men.
In 1870, French emperor Napoleon III declared war on Prussia.

In 1903, French cyclist Maurice Garin won the first Tour de France in Paris.
In 1941, cartoon characters Tom and Jerry made their first appearance in "The Midnight Snack."
In 1972, Jerry Landess of Portland drove one double-heat winner and tied for first in two other feature harness races at the Clinton County Fair in Frankfort.
In 2007, the pilot episode of the episode "Mad Men" aired on HBO.
In 2021, Jay School Board approved a return to standard operating procedures after in-person classes were called off for the final two and a half months of 2019-20 school year and various rules, including a state mask mandate, were in place throughout 2020-21.
—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 3:30 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, 5948 W. Indiana 67, 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.	Personnel Committee, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.
Wednesday 1 p.m. — Jay County	Thursday 5 p.m. — Jay County Redevelopment Commission, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

Project ...

Continued from page 1
Airport manager Hal Tavzel said 40 to 50 aviation officials from around the state are expected to attend the event, which will run from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Speakers for the event will include Portland Mayor Jeff Westlake, a representative from Indiana Department of Transportation, Tom Buhr of Arrow Energy, a representative from Lutheran Air, Parr, Tavzel and Clearwaters.
It will mark the first time the airport has hosted an Aviation Indiana quarterly meeting.
"It's a really big honor for us to have the recogni-

tion from Aviation Indiana," said Tavzel.
In other business, the board:
•Learned the airport's annual fly-in and breakfast will be Saturday, Aug. 24. Breakfast, served by the American Legion Riders, will be from 6 to 10:30 a.m. Plane rides will be available from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a charge of \$20 per person. Tavzel said he is also working on setting up an event with Young Eagles, which offers free plane rides, in September.
•Agreed to accept a bid of \$302.50 per acre from Carson Hartzell for renting 26.28 acres of airport-

Position ...

Continued from page 1
"We need to make sure we're doing it fairly across the board."
Council agreed to create the position and set its pay at \$52,757.16, which is the average rate compared to assistant superintendent salaries in other Indiana counties.
In related news, council forwarded a request to Jay County Personnel Committee in relation to bumping Jay County Country Living's director to full-time and adjusting the job description. Bracy said Jay County Country Living's advisory board is working on the new job description.
Jay County Personnel Committee meets at 1 p.m. Wednesday, July 24.
Council also reviewed a draft of the 2025 budget. Next year's proposed budget sits at \$23.8 million, which is roughly \$2 million more than the current year's budget.
It includes 3% raises across the board for county employees. Other notable changes with the proposed budget relate to Jay County Sheriff's Office, including adding three new correction officer positions at Jay County Jail, entering into a new meal contract for jail inmates and purchasing new vehicles. (Sheriff Ray Newton has requested 10% raises for jail staff, including correction officers, jail commander, jail sergeants and the jail matron.)
Jay County Auditor's Office also requested shifting a part-time employee to full-time status starting next year.
County auditor Emily Franks pointed out further discussion relat-

ing to the budget can continue in August, noting she wanted to get drafts to council members for review.
Also Wednesday, council agreed to move forward with adjusting the local income tax economic development rate in 2025 from 0.25% up to 0.5%. (Franks noted the decision isn't binding and will require a public hearing. She pointed out council has until October to make a final decision on the matter.) Council decided to move forward with the process in the event that more funding is needed to pay for upcoming projects.
"I can see a lot of potential positive having this as a tool in the tool box after we have some of the American Rescue Plan (dollars) discussions," said council president Matt Minnich. "I think it's something to consider."
In other business, council members Harold Towell, Faron Parr, Dave Haines, Randy May, Houchins, Bracy and Minnich:
•OK'd a \$16,015.14 additional appropriation for the drug free communities grant from state funds. Organizations receiving funding this year include: Jay County Sheriff's Office for its illegal drug prevention program, \$4,003.79; Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition, \$4,003.77; Peer Addiction Support Team (PAST) Recovery Services for staff and participant expenses, \$3,153.79; A Better Life — Brianna's Hope for Hope Fest, \$1,500; Youth Service Bureau for its Keeping At-Risk Students in School program, \$1,253.79; IU Health Jay
Outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic for recovery resources, \$850; Jay School Corporation for conscious discipline, \$750; and Jay Community Center for its youth programing scholarship for families battling addiction, \$500.
•Approved the following: compliance forms with Reier Pullets, Minnich Poultry, Scout Clean Energy and NextEra Energy for tax abatements and an ordinance increasing meal reimbursement for employees attending training or conferences in-state from \$15 to \$20 for breakfast and lunch and \$25 to \$30 for dinner, effective retroactive to July 1.
•Made the following other additional appropriations: \$11,000 for the 2024 Launch Jay! pitch competition through Jay County Development Corporation; \$11,000 (Towell opposed) to Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition for a feasibility study on the potential location of a new recovery home in Portland; \$11,000 (Towell and Bracy opposed) to Rundell Ernstberger Associates' design planning on the county owned 68 acres on the western edge of Portland; \$10,000 for equipment at Bryant Area Park; \$5,000 for training at Jay County Sheriff's Office; and \$1,260 for pauper counsel in Jay courts.
•Transferred \$10,000 in the sheriff department's budget from full-time deputies' salary fund to part-time deputies' salary fund, \$2,121 in the local income tax budget from salaries to vehicles and \$515 in the sheriff department's budget from training supplies to travel and mileage.

Felony arrests

Drug possession
A Pennville man was arrested Wednesday for drug possession.
Curtis W. Mock, 42, 8179 W. 550 North, is charged in Jay Circuit Court with a

Level 4 felony for possession of methamphetamine. He was also preliminarily charged with domestic battery, a Level 6 felony, and unlawful possession of a syringe, a Level 6 felony. He was being held on a \$44,500 bond in Jay County Jail.
Auto theft
A Redkey woman was arrested Wednesday for auto theft.
Kiley R. Williams, 18, 309 W. High St., is charged in Jay Superior Court with a Level 6 felony.
She was released from Jay County Jail on a \$3,000 bond.

SERVICES

Today
James, Donnie: 1 p.m., Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 506 E. Walnut St., Portland.
Kinser, Richard: 2 p.m., Kelpinger Funeral Home, 509 N. High St., Hartford City.
Henkle, Paul: 7 p.m., Trinity Arch Bridge Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland.

Saturday
Reinhart, Eugene: 10:30 a.m., Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 7321 Indiana 67, Bryant.
Hedges, Benton: 1 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Monday
Reinhart, Pauline: 10:30 a.m., Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 7321 Indiana 67, Bryant.

Wednesday
Bowers, Debra: 11 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

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GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

Space for color is limited. Ads will automatically convert to black and white if color space is not available.

Rates do not apply to special sections. Ads must run in July.

John Denver tribute set for Fort Recovery

A John Denver impersonator will be taking the stage in Fort Recovery in a few months.

Ted Vigil will perform a tribute concert to John Denver at 2 p.m. Sept. 22 in the Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School auditoria.

Vigil's performance and appearance mirrors that of the popular artist, whose music releases included "Country Roads," "Rocky Mountain High," "Leaving on a Jet Plane," "Thank God I'm a Country Boy," and "Annie's Song."

Taking Note

Advance tickets are \$20, or \$25 at the door the day of the show. Tickets are available in-person at Kaup Pharmacy, Fort Recovery, or by calling (937) 375-3034. Profits from the show will go toward renovations at Fort Recovery Morvilius Opera House.

For more information about Vigil, visit tedvigil.com. To learn more about the concert, call (419) 852-6110.

Welcome back

Meridian Health Services will host its Back-to-School Fit Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday at Southside Middle School in Muncie.

The event will include free health screenings (blood pressure, vision, oral and flexibility), refreshments and activities; a backpack giveaway for the first 200

attendees; and sports physicals for \$10. There will also be a variety of vendors.

The school is located at 1601 E. 26th St., Muncie.

Funding available

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs Indiana Military Family Relief Fund Operation Back to School program is offering financial assistance for school supplies.

Qualified families of Indiana veterans can receive up to \$500 for school supplies and other school-related expenses.

Applicants must provide proof of income, a bank statement, proof of the child's residency and dependency and a DD-214.

"The financial challenges of preparing for a new school year can be overwhelming, especially for veteran families trying to make ends meet on an everyday basis," said Dennis Wimer, director of the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs, in a press release. "Operation Back to School is our way of offering tangible assistance through the Military Family

Relief Fund to ensure children have the tools they need to succeed, and veterans receive the support they deserve."

Applications are available at in.gov/dva. The deadline is Aug. 30.

Degree earned

A Fort Recovery resident earned their degree this spring from Miami University.

Morgan Litmer majored in psychology and sociology, joining nearly 4,100 other students receiving degrees at the university in May.

Troubling memories about father stay in mind

DEAR ABBY: When I was young and even as I grew older, my father touched me inappropriately. It made me uncomfortable even as an adult. I feel like when I was very small, something more may have happened. I may have been drugged to keep me from remembering. I know a few weird things that went on, and my mother knew about it. I always felt uncomfortable around him. Yet I loved my parents very much. I have the weirdest dreams about them doing things to me that I don't like.

I have been in therapy before but not necessarily about this issue. I know I was my father's favorite child because I was always pleasant, more than my sister. Our parents are both dead now and have been for many years. I don't want to think bad thoughts about them, but I wish I knew for sure what happened. Do you have any advice for me? I hate myself for thinking bad about the parents I loved so much. They were good to me and my

Dear Abby



sister growing up. — NEEDING CLARITY IN ALABAMA

DEAR NEEDING CLARITY: The first person you should talk to about this is your sister, who was always "less pleasant" to your father than you were. It might be enlightening. However, if it isn't, please talk with a licensed psychotherapist about your persistent bad dreams. It won't be the first time a therapist has heard a story like this, and you deserve to have peace of mind.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter-in-law has turned my son away from his sister. It has gotten so bad he no longer wants me to tell him anything about her or her family, and I am to tell my daughter nothing about his family. I am elderly

and do not need this on my head. I love my son and I really liked my DIL, but she has changed. My son does nothing without first asking her

I have only one son and one daughter, and it troubles me that when I pass, they won't have each other. My daughter recently had a kidney removed because of cancer, but my DIL insists she never had cancer. My DIL has MS and is very negative about life. She can still walk, drive and has been very lucky. Please help me. I love them all and I am so upset. What can I do about this? — SAD MOM IN TEXAS

DEAR MOM: There is nothing you can do about this sorry situation. Your daughter-in-law's denial of your daughter's cancer surgery could easily be overcome if your daughter were to show her brother her medical records. For whatever reason, your daughter-in-law has decided that all of her husband's attention should be directed toward her (and her own illness) rather than

toward his sister. All you can do at this point and beyond is see your children separately, as often as you can, and hope they both stay safe, healthy and close by as long as they have you.

DEAR ABBY: My sister and I were born seven years apart and didn't have a relationship. This continued into our adult life and actually became worse. She was almost bordering on cruel. Our parents didn't know. She married an abusive man who isolated her once our parents died. When my father passed away, they went in and took his belongings. Things like this were the norm for them. We barely spoke for 30 years unless I initiated a short, uncomfortable conversation.

Three years ago, my sister's husband died suddenly, leaving her in a house that is infested with vermin and could be condemned. She and I now talk regularly, and I help her with some expenses. More costly things like major plumbing and roofing now need to be

done. My sister wants to borrow money and pay it back in the future. I am not comfortable with that, and I'm struggling based on our past. I have a good life and am feeling very guilty. What should I do? — OBLIGATED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR OBLIGATED: What you should do is listen to your gut — it is guiding you in the right direction. That your sister went in and stole your father's property with no regard to what you should have received tells you all you need to know about her morals.

Do not feel guilty for the good life you have created for yourself. You deserve it. Give your sister no more than you can afford to lose and you won't be disappointed.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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 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.

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will hold its next meeting at noon, July 19, at Harmony Café in Portland.

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.

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.

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. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

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

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

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after

pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland.

PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

Tuesday

COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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

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Trump, Biden right to call for calm

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

The horrid attempted assassination against former President Donald Trump Saturday evening amidst a rancorous presidential campaign brings to mind the phrase, "let us have peace." Those are the words chiseled high over Riverside Drive, right above the portico on Grant's Tomb.

It was the slogan used by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, the victorious Union Army commander in the Civil War, in his successful 1868 presidential campaign. Opened in 1897, the granite and marble mausoleum on 122nd St. was once the most visited tourist site in the country, outdaring the Statue of Liberty, while the memories of the Civil War lingered.

These days, the monument is much quieter, but the message of

Guest Editorial

peace within our nation is essential.

To their credit, both Trump and President Joe Biden say we must coalesce. As Trump posted on his Truth Social: "In this moment, it is more important than ever that we stand United, and show our True Character as Americans, remaining Strong and Determined, and not allowing Evil to Win." Sunday afternoon at the White House, before his Oval Office address, Biden said: "We must unite as one nation. We must unite as one

nation to demonstrate who we are."

Despite the election season's sharp divisions, we are all Americans and it was moving on Saturday night, after the chaos in Butler, Pennsylvania, that Biden went before the cameras and said: "I have tried to get a hold of Donald." Not "my predecessor" or "the former president" or "former president Trump" but just "Donald."

The two men, despite being rivals for the White House in 2020 and again in 2024, are still husbands and fathers and grandfathers. They also share a much smaller fraternity that has among the tiniest of memberships: being president.

The country came within less than an inch of a president's funeral this week instead of a nomination and for that we are

all thankful, even as the nation mourns with the family of Corey Comperatore, murdered by the dead gunman, and we pray for the two other men critically wounded.

There are many questions about how the gunman found such a perch so close to Trump and how he managed to get off eight shots from his father's AR-15 before being shot dead by the Secret Service, as well as his motives, if those can be discerned. And it is correct for the FBI to lead the probe, since the Secret Service did not adequately protect Trump.

Now about having peace, everyone needs to keep their cool and lower the temperatures.

Trump has more than dabbled in violent rhetoric for his nine years on the national stage, starting from his ride down the esca-

lator into the basement of Trump Tower to begin his first campaign and leading up to his stoking a mob that sacked the Capitol, for which he has been indicted. Will his near-death experience temper him?

Republicans point to Biden and his allies who say that Trump is a threat to the existence of democracy and must be stopped at all costs. It didn't help for Biden to tell donors last week that, "I have one job, and that's to beat Donald Trump. I'm absolutely certain I'm the best person to be able to do that. So, we're done talking about the debate. It's time to put Trump in a bullseye."

In the U.K., candidates for Parliament await the results together. While we can't expect that, Trump and Biden must strive to "let us have peace."

Libraries are our cornerstones

By GEORGIA JENSEN
OtherWords

From attending summer science demonstrations as a kid to volunteering as a high school student, the library has always been an important presence for me.

When I was seven and my dad lost his job, my parents leaned on our community to help raise my sister and me. We got hand-me-downs from friends and food vouchers from our church — and the library became an even more central part of my life.

At least once a week, my dad would take us to the library, where my sister could get help on her homework, I could explore the children's books and my dad could look for jobs. As it's done for so many others, our library stepped up to take care of us.

Unfortunately, libraries are under political attack across much of the country.

Obsessed with "culture wars," conservative politicians have been taking drastic measures to stop the distribution of what they call "age-inappropriate books" — which are often children's books by and about LGBTQ+ individuals or people of color.

Last year Missouri enacted a rule defunding libraries that carry such content. And in order to comply with a restrictive new library law in Idaho, some libraries have actually banned children and forced patrons under 30 to present an ID to enter.

All told, 17 GOP-led states are considering bills that would threaten librarians with prison time for lending books that lawmakers deem "obscene" or "harmful" to minors. And even in New York City, it took a massive public outcry to reverse Democratic Mayor Eric Adams' devastating cuts to the library system.

When politicians target libraries, communities lose. Public libraries promote equality by championing free and open access to information. They not only allow individuals to access books but also movies, music and the internet.

A 2019 Gallup poll found that adults in low-income households visit their local libraries more than any other income group, which can help boost reading and literacy. By age 17, low-income students tend to lag behind their peers in reading by as much as four years, a disparity fueled by having less access to reading material — especially

Georgia Jensen



during the summer, when schools close. That's why nearly all public libraries offer summer reading programs.

Libraries recognize and meet the needs of their patrons. In San Francisco, where homelessness is an ongoing crisis, the local library became one of the first in the country to hire an in-house social worker to provide expert help for its unsheltered library users.

While legislation and programs aimed at fighting poverty remain stuck in Congress, libraries across the country already offer a variety of services to help society's most vulnerable.

As of 2019, 75% of public libraries offered career services ranging from assistance with writing resumes and cover letters to technology training. Many also offer English as a Second Language (ESL), General Education Development (GED), and citizenship classes.

Hundreds of libraries partner with the USDA every summer to serve free meals to kids in low-income communities. And they serve as refuges during heatwaves, partnering with local governments to welcome those who need a reprieve from the scorching temperatures.

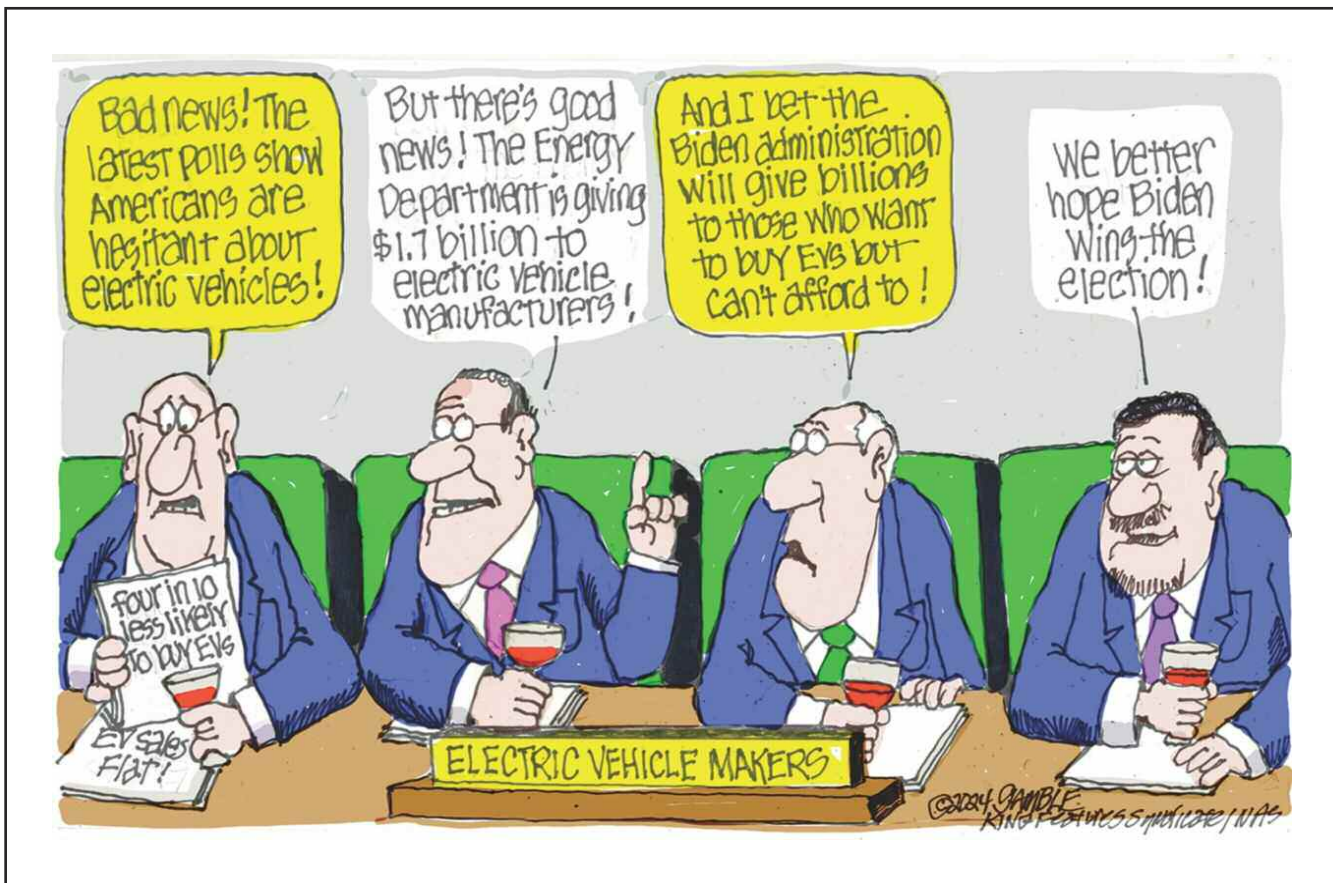
Libraries ensure that both children and adults get the help they need to succeed in life. To continue, they need our help. We need to support our local libraries by donating or volunteering where we can.

We can also pressure our lawmakers not to cut funding. Congress is currently working on the budget for the federal budget for 2025. The American Library Association has an advocacy email list that makes it easy to let your members of Congress know that funding libraries should be a national priority. You can do the same thing at the state and local levels.

Public libraries make up a foundational part of our communities. It's up to us to help keep them that way.

Jensen is a Henry Wallace Fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies.

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



Innovators found in unlikely place

By BRADFORD FITCH
The Fulcrum
Tribune News Service

One of the last places you'd expect to see innovation in the workplace is in the halls of Congress.

One lawmaker described the institution this way: Congress is "a 19th-century institution often using 20th-century technology to solve 21st-century problems."

That is one of the reasons the Congressional Management Foundation sought to create competition among members of Congress with a Democracy Award for Innovation and Modernization.

The office of Rep. Don Davis, D-N.C., is the one of two winners of this award in 2024, and Davis is the only first-term legislator to win an award this year. He and his staff seem to understand innovation and modernization are not the result of a single effort but a continuous practice. To this end, the team remains committed to exploring ways to enhance the office to serve constituents significantly through forward-thinking strategies.

For example, the office uses web-based tools like Trello for project management and Microsoft Bookings for scheduling constituent appointments. These tools support initiatives like the Veterans History Project for the Library of Congress to ensure the stories of veterans in North Carolina's 1st district are gathered and preserved for future generations. The Airtable application handles National Defense Authorization Act and appropriations requests, including details such as the requester, funding amount, project description and status updates.

Internal communication is streamlined by utilizing text message groups on iPhones for office departments, operations and special events, enabling staff to stay connected. The office regularly holds tele-town hall meetings and webinars, leveraging virtual platforms for constituent engagement and weekly staff meet-

Bradford Fitch



ings. The office has increased feedback from these meetings by offering constituents a QR code to link directly to feedback forms. To ensure clarity and precision in communication, all team members use Grammarly across all forms of correspondence.

Lastly, the office established a Constituent Services Excellence Committee, which includes representatives from all departments, including the director of military, veterans affairs and Hispanic outreach, as well as the staff assistant for the Teen and Young Professional Mentoring and Leadership Advisory Council.

The committee is tasked with meeting, reviewing, and making recommendations to the entire staff on elevating and maintaining exceptional service levels and promoting innovation and modernization. The committee also designated a staff member as the congressional modernization representative to help advance office and congressional modernization.

The Republican winner is the office of Florida Sen. Marco Rubio. The Rubio office — a previous Democracy Award winner — set itself apart by adopting a completely paperless system and revolutionizing its management process.

The office has implemented a constituent survey to get feedback on each case handled by staff members, providing crucial feedback to help the office improve its service operations. In 2023, the office restructured and revitalized its internship program to align with the senator's mission of fostering public service interest and equipping future leaders with essential skills, knowledge and tools. The program boasts a comprehensive one-

day orientation that includes a wide range of presentations, seminars and training sessions delivered in close collaboration with sub-departments.

Additionally, by developing a specialized consent form for constituents requesting assistance, the office has streamlined a previously labor-intensive process related to foreign travel. The Rubio office can now coordinate with local passport offices, prioritizing emergency travel. In doing so the office has been successful in handling several thousand passport-related cases during a State Department backlog. They quickly established internal procedures to handle the unprecedented volume of passport requests.

On behalf of a state frequently hit with hurricanes, the office developed a novel approach to coordinating available services at every level of government. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, staff immediately simultaneously set up tents and tables at separate locations in two affected counties to provide essential services to those in need. In collaboration with nonprofit organizations, staff helped 2,450 families receive 21 pallets of food and bottled water and FEMA registration assistance in just three days.

Lastly, the office crafted a senior fellows program designed to meet the specific needs of older adults. This program offers a specially tailored orientation and extensive training to accommodate a longer, six-month service term twice per year.

These two offices have demonstrated the value of innovation in government, not for the sake of innovation but to elevate the level of service to their constituents. If more elected officials adopted this kind of attitude, we can only wonder how people's views of their government might change.

Fitch is the president and CEO of the Congressional Management Foundation and a former congressional staffer.

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VOLUME 151—NUMBER 67
FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2024

www.thecr.com

The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and four holidays (New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas — holidays are observed on Tuesday when they fall on a Monday) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

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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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Purdue, USDA work on carbon

By LINDSEY BEREBITSKY
Purdue Ag News

Soils are a rare win-win when it comes to burying the carbon released from burning fossil fuels.

Typically, soils that store more carbon are more fertile as carbon helps to retain nutrients and moisture, glue soil particles together to create space for roots and gas exchange and provide energy that fuels below-ground life. Burying carbon in agricultural lands will improve fertility while drawing down carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and easing the heat trapping that is driving climate change.

Scientists from Purdue's College of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) are working together to figure out the details of how to better capture carbon in the soil to accelerate the process and, in doing so, help farmers improve soil fertility and tap into markets of carbon offsets. Their research was shaped by a recent global effort to abate another form of atmospheric pollution: acid rain.

History

In the 1960s and 1970s, acid rain weathered away everything from the corners of limestone buildings to noses from statues, dissolving stone and corroding metal. The phenomena resulted from industrial-scale air pollution released from the burning of coal and volatilization of nitrogen. Oxides of sulfur and nitrogen mixed with clouds and acidified the water that would later fall as acid rain, snow, hail, fog and dust.

Thanks to legislation like the Clean Air Act of 1990, acid rain is no longer a concern in North America. Power plants were required to install technology that scrubs pollutants before they are released into the atmosphere. One of the main scrubbing processes is neutralizing the acidic sulfur with lime—a white, chalky powder made of calcium oxides and hydroxide.

The scrubbing process was so effective that the free sulfur raining down into farm fields dried up. Recently, farmers began to have to add it themselves. Cleverly, they did this by amending their soil with flue gas desulfurization (FGD) gypsum, a cheap and accessible byproduct of sulfur and lime from the scrubbers of power plants.

The use of gypsum as a soil amendment is not new—even Benjamin Franklin used gypsum on a grassy hillside in the late 18th century. The USDA-ARS's National Soil Erosion Research Laboratory (NSERL) located on Purdue's



Purdue University/Brenda Hofmann

A tractor spreads the powdery gypsum across a field. The USDA-ARS's National Soil Erosion Research Laboratory (NSERL) located on Purdue's West Lafayette campus, develops knowledge and technology to conserve natural resources for future generations. Their scientists have been researching the use of gypsum on soils for several years.

West Lafayette campus, develops knowledge and technology to conserve natural resources for future generations. Their scientists have been researching the use of gypsum on soils for several years.

"Gypsum has a lot of agricultural benefits because it's calcium sulfate," said Javier Gonzalez, a research soil scientist who's worked for the NSERL since 2012. "Calcium and sulfur are essential nutrients for plants. And, unlike adding lime alone for calcium, gypsum is more water soluble, so it dissolves faster in the soil. Farmers see the benefits faster."

Calcium is more than just a plant nutrient. Gonzalez explained that it's an effective mineral for improving the structure of most agricultural soils because of its electrical charge. When gypsum and lime are added to a field, calcium enters the soil as a positively-charged ion, building bridges between molecules that typically repel each other. This interaction is especially important for organic matter, the carbon-rich remnants left on the top of the soil from dead plants and animals. This nutrient-dense material is slowly digested by microbes like bacteria and made available for plants in the form of crucial organic acids with a negative charge. Without positively-

charged ions like calcium, organic matter could not stick to the similarly-negative clay particles of soil.

Gonzalez and the NSERL have been working with Roland Wilhelm, a professor of the soil microbiome in Purdue's Department of Agronomy, to understand the structural and biological changes to soil that come with calcium additions and how calcium's linkage powers might prove useful for holding carbon in the soil.

Power of the microbiome

Photosynthesis, the process in which plants turn sunlight into energy, requires carbon dioxide. Plants take in this carbon dioxide through their leaves and fix the carbon into their tissues. When plants die and become organic matter, there's a chance to store that carbon in the soil, both keeping it out of the atmosphere and making fields more fertile.

Wilhelm and his team's recent work, published in Nature Communications, compared differences in the fate of carbon from dried corn leaves in soils that were artificially enriched with calcium.

"We had two conditions: one where the soil had calcium added, and another where the soil was treated exactly the same but without added calci-

um," said Wilhelm. "We used these efficient biomass-builders." In Wilhelm lab's recent paper in Environmental Microbiology, the authors argue that soil management practices facilitating efficient carbon-use, like the addition of calcium, can provide low-cost tools to combat climate change.

However, that picture has become more complicated over the years since fewer scrubbers produce FGD gypsum. Gypsum is also used heavily in construction for drywall, increasing competition for the resource and leading to shortages.

Gonzalez said there is still reason to believe that soils are essential for combating climate change. "While gypsum is getting harder to find, there are other practices to increase organic matter in soils and keep carbon there. Conservation tillage keeps carbon from being oxidized and released into the atmosphere. Cover crops add more carbon into the soil, as well as retain nutrients and prevent erosion."

Soil is the foundation of agriculture, facilitating the growth of crops and pastures around the world. Research in soil amendments, management practices and their impact on the microbiome may unlock possibilities to defer climate change and more.

Wilhelm explains, "Some bacteria are more efficient at using carbon for growth, returning less back to the atmosphere. We found that calcium encouraged

Farm stays gain popularity

The Japan News
Tribune News Service

The number of guests staying on farms in Tochigi Prefecture is on the rise. Farm stays, which allow travelers to enjoy sightseeing and farming experiences in rural areas, are gaining popularity among foreign tourists visiting Japan. Under such circumstances, the prefectural government began helping local communities develop necessary facilities this fiscal year, aiming to draw more tourists to the prefecture.

In early May, a father and son from the United States stayed for four days at Wain, a farmhouse-style hotel in the Udagawa district of Ohtawara in the prefecture. The two tourists visited Nikko, an international tourist city, and enjoyed vegetables grown in the hotel's own fields and riding bicycles in the area to enjoy the rural scenery.

The hotel is run by Mayumi Sasaki, 45, and her Indian husband. They renovated an old warehouse and barn on the property into the hotel. The couple had dreamed of running an inn and on the advice of Ohtawara Tourism, a destination management/marketing organization in the city, they renovated the buildings into a guest-house-like accommodation in anticipation of foreign guests.

About 150 foreign guests

Ohtawara Tourism works with 180 growers

stayed at the hotel for about six months.

"Foreigners prefer to stay in the countryside in a relaxed way. We would like to prepare programs for them to enjoy making umeshu (Japanese plum wine), miso and other experiences in the future," Sasaki said.

The Ohtawara city government is making efforts to promote tourism with a focus on agriculture.

Ohtawara Tourism works with about 180 farmers, mainly in the city, and tries to attract not only foreign tourists but also elementary and junior high school students and group tourists to rural villages by offering them farm stays and experiences, among other activities. The development of farmhouse-style hotels is part of its activities. Ohtawara Tourism and local farmers have worked together to develop such hotels and there are currently six such facilities.

In the past fiscal year, a total of 7,865 people participated in farm-stay programs in which the organization was involved, a record high since it began operations in 2012. Of those, 1,234 were foreigners. While Sasaki and her husband speak English, other facilities whose staff are not fluent in foreign languages are said to be able to accommodate foreign guests with the help of translation apps.

Programs that offer authentic farming experiences and interactions with local farmers in a rich natural environment are popular, according to Ohtawara Tourism.

Daisuke Fujii, the organization's president, said, "Foreigners are willing to visit rural villages, even if they are less accessible, as long as they promote their attractions."

According to the prefectural government and others, 11 municipalities, including Ohtawara City, in 12 areas in the prefecture, offer farm-stay programs while some municipalities are considering offering such programs. However, the quality and capacity of accommodation facilities and experience programs vary widely from area to area, and know-how has not been accumulated in many areas.

To address this situation, the prefectural government created a new position

called the "rural village producer" in the Tochigi Agriculture Public Corporation in April to help local communities and farmers welcome foreign tourists in rural areas, and began supporting them in creating plans to encourage foreign tourists to visit rural areas and enjoy farming experiences and to develop farm-stay facilities.

Rural village producer Hiroyuki Sugimoto is a former prefectural government official who has extensive knowledge and connections in marketing and other agricultural administration. He said he would help communities hold study meetings to learn about exploring local tourism resources and developing facilities to accommodate tourists.

"Tochigi Prefecture has potential because of its rich natural environment, sake and pottery. I would like to help enhance the attractiveness of rural areas by combining existing resources," he said.

With the aim of creating jobs in rural areas and encouraging people to move to and settle in such areas, the central government is promoting farm stays as part of measures to revitalize regional cities, setting a goal of increasing the national number of farm-stay guests from about 5.89 million in fiscal 2019 to 7 million by fiscal 2025.

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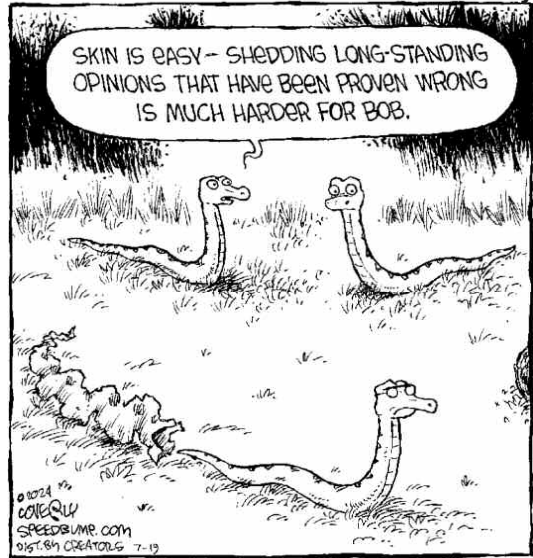
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Bidding quiz

You deal and open One Heart. Partner raises to Two Hearts. What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?
1. ♠KJ6 ♥AQ932 ♦AQ ♣K107
2. ♠KQ3 ♥AJ874 ♦82 ♣AK5
3. ♠A8 ♥QJ8542 ♦AK93 ♣10
4. ♠AJ4 ♥AK9632 ♦AJ87 ♣—

should have a good chance to make it."
3. Four hearts. The value of a hand can rise or fall greatly, depending on partner's response. This one, with only 14 high-card points, is unexciting if partner responds in spades or clubs, but it appreciates dramatically in value when partner raises hearts.

1. Three notrump. Partner's two-heart bid shows six to 10 points in high cards and distribution. Since you can count at least 26 points in the combined hands, game must be reached.

4. Three diamonds. Here there is no question about game; the question is whether there may be a slam. Three diamonds is the first step in that direction.

If partner has a balanced minimum, it is possible that you can make nine tricks in notrump but not 10 tricks in hearts. Of course, three notrump is by no means the final say in the matter. If partner dislikes notrump, he can retreat to four hearts.

Partner does not require a maximum raise for slam to be made. Thus, he might have as little as: ♠K83 ♥QJ74 ♦6 ♣108532 and you would surely want to be in six hearts. The problem is not so much how many points partner has; it is more a matter of whether the hands fit well.

2. Three hearts. You're not in position to judge whether four hearts is makable; it depends on whether partner has a minimum or maximum raise. Your three-heart bid says "We might have a game. If you have a minimum raise - six or seven points - we don't belong in four hearts; if that was enough, I would have bid game myself. But if you have better than a minimum - a good eight to 10 points - please carry on to four, and we

Partner merely retreats to three hearts over three diamonds, you should settle for game.

Tomorrow: Give and take. ©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Peanuts



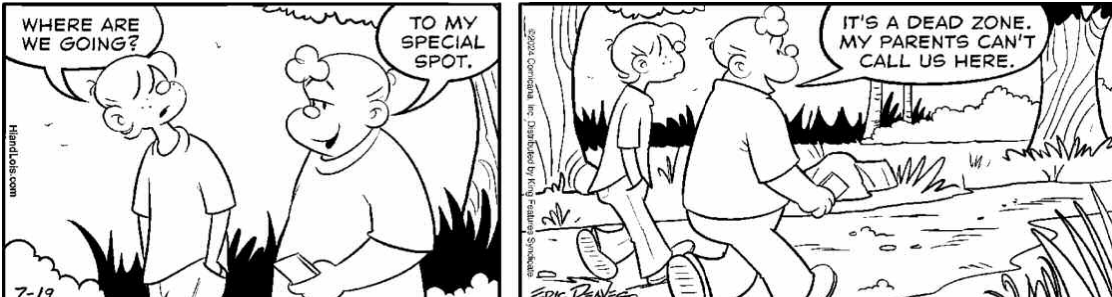
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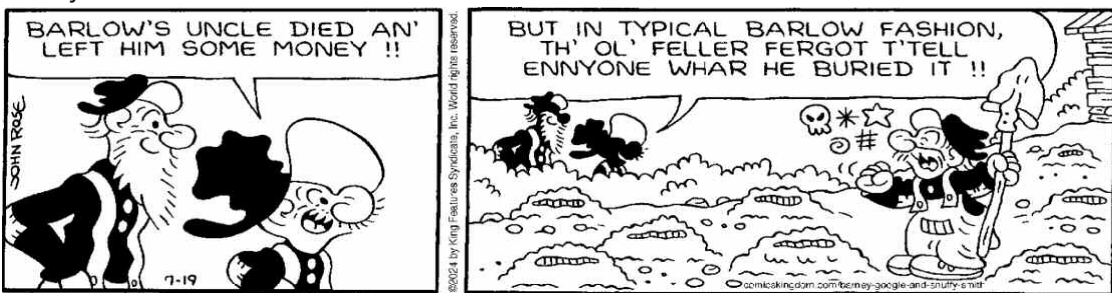
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



7-19

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1 Irate neighbor bill 21 Foretell
4 Mac alter- natives 38 Afrikaner 23 Limber
7 Ballet partner 39 Shock 24 Califor-
leaps 41 "30 for 2 Acid in Big -
12 "I love," 30" proteins 25 Opposite
in Latin network of "post-"
13 - chi 45 Attempts 26 Norm
14 Russian 47 Status - 4 School (Abbr.)
range 48 Trattoria orgs. 28 - Aviv
15 "Shoo!" appe- 5 Manito- 30 Have
ba's land bills
16 Type of 52 Last 6 Original 31 Short do
law that (Abbr.) position 32 Green
opposes 53 Lift 7 Burlap prefix
monopol- 54 Great fiber 33 "Rocks"
ies 55 "Do - 8 Blunder 36 "See ya!"
suffix say!" 9 Sigma 37 Borrower
19 Fry lightly 56 Beet 10 Golfer 40 Squander
Mrs. Dithers 57 Hesitant 11 Retired 42 Hunker
hrs. jet
23 Vipers
27 Tony winner Hagen
29 Dairy product
31 Hosiery shade
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Adebayo, Davis provide spark for Team USA's win

By KRISTIAN WINFIELD
New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

Joel Embiid isn't Team USA's secret weapon after all.

It's the combination of Anthony Davis and Bam Adebayo proving capable of pushing the Americans to a gold medal in the 2024 Paris Olympics.

USA Basketball, after all, had to compete with France for Embiid's services in his first-ever Olympic Games.

The Philadelphia 76ers MVP ultimately chose to represent the USA because his son was born in the United States.

Embiid had eight points, eight rebounds and three assists in 16 minutes against Serbia on Wednesday. His minutes on the floor have not looked fluid.

Davis and Adebayo, meanwhile, have been a revelation. The kind of revelation that can propel Team USA to gold this summer.

Davis came off the bench to block six shots, and Adebayo scored 17 points and made three 3-pointers. The four-five combo helped turn a tied game at the end of the first quarter into a blowout 105-79 victory in Team USA's third of five exhibition "Showcase" games before the Olympic group stage begins on July 28.

Team USA will now travel to London to play their final two exhibition games against South Sudan on Saturday, then Germany in the finale next Monday.

And when the games begin to count in Lille, France, on July 28, Team

USA will face the same opponent it unraveled in a dominant display against the NBA's reigning MVP on Wednesday.

Nikola Jokic led Serbia with 16 points and 11 rebounds, but he recorded just two assists against Team USA. The Americans outscored the Serbians by 27 in the just over 28 minutes Jokic logged on Wednesday.

Many of those minutes were played against the combination of Davis and Adebayo, which propelled Team USA into a 16-2 run to close the third quarter.

USA coach Steve Kerr found success when he turned to the second unit, where both Davis and Adebayo shared the responsibilities of defending Jokic. Anthony Edwards came off the bench to score 16 points on 5-of-10 shooting from the field.

And Stephen Curry had his breakout performance of his first career Olympic run.

Curry made six 3s on nine attempts and shot 8 of 13 from the field for 24 points in Team USA's third straight win.

Jokic did not return to the game after the third quarter, when Serbia was down by 25.

The dominant victory for Team USA reasserts the country's position atop the Olympic basketball food chain.

Despite Kawhi Leonard withdrawing and Kevin Durant missing the first three games with a calf injury, Team USA has already beaten two of the top three teams gunning for gold.

The Americans

opened the Showcase with an 86-72 victory over a Canadian national basketball team flooded with NBA talent, including Oklahoma City's MVP candidate Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, Denver Nuggets point guard Jamal Murray, former Knicks forward RJ Barrett and Houston Rockets irritant Dillon Brooks.

They blew a 23-point lead and survived a furious Australian comeback in a 98-92 victory in Game 2 of the Showcase. Team Australia is not expected to medal at the Olympics this year.

Then USA handled Serbia on Wednesday, and while Serbia has missed star scorer Bogdan Bogdanovic, USA is still awaiting Durant's return.

Durant will return to one of the most loaded Olympic basketball rosters of all time. LeBron James, the NBA's all-time leading scorer for example, scored only 11 points and dished two assists in a debilitating defeat for Serbia, which has to go up against the same stacked USA roster to open the group stage on July 28.

It's the frontcourt depth that's making all the difference at the Olympic level. Team USA has just that, and even if Embiid doesn't get into the dominant scoring groove he's accustomed to in Philadelphia, it's OK, because he's not the secret weapon.

Davis and Adebayo are, and Team USA could be headed to another gold medal because of them.

USWNT ...

Continued from page 8
Horan insisted after Tuesday's game that all the work — which Rodman said included a lot of film study to show what can get better — will pay off.

"No concern — I have full faith in our team," Horan said. "We wanted to create better chances and better opportunities, more shots on goal, just more quality chances, and I think that happened from the first game to this game. ... A few of them, maybe the decision-making was off, but, at the end of the day, we're going to finish them off, and we'll be fine."

The U.S. captain knows she has a role to play in this, too. Battering-ram finishes have long been one of her specialties, especially on corner kicks and free kicks. But she also has been at the forefront of wanting the team to play a more intricate style, the kind she sees often with her French club, Lyon.

"That's a big sticking point right now: We need to get in the box; we need to create those opportunities," Horan said. "But also, we have different ways of scoring. I think you can see a little of the pass, give-and-go-type play inside our 18 [yard box]. I don't know if we've seen that in the past."

Hayes also liked what she saw.

"We're creating more

'Yes, we need to be more clinical — I don't need to state the obvious. But I think that when you've had maybe half a dozen training sessions in total since I've been the [full time] coach, I think it's pretty good returns so far.'

—USWNT coach Emma Hayes

and more high-quality chances, and we're getting more numbers into the key areas, we're getting more touches in the key areas," she said. "The last part is the hardest part. And I'm really patient, because I've coached teams that have to break blocks down, and it's the hardest thing to do in coaching."

Those words pointed to the particular nature of the task Hayes faces. U.S. Soccer's ultimate aim in hiring her may be the 2027 World Cup, but the Olympics start in a week, and the rabid fan base wants a medal.

"Yes, we need to be more clinical — I don't need to state the obvious," Hayes said. "But I think that when you've had maybe half a dozen training sessions in total since I've been the [full-time] coach, I think it's pretty good returns so far."

The time that Hayes will have with her team in France before the July

25 tournament opener will help. There have been real signs of improvement in her tenure, but they're easily hidden in a scoreless tie.

"When I analyze the chances should we win the game? Of course we should win the game," Hayes said. "But for me, I'm always about analyzing what you have to do to be able to ensure that happens, or at least [how] we can get into [scoring] positions again and again. I cannot finish the ball for players, but I can certainly coach [in a way] that can put players in positions."

They've all got a week to get things right. If they don't, it will be clear. But if they do, those past generations might note a quirk of history.

The last time the U.S. women played a scoreless tie in a major-tournament send-off game was 2015. It's fine to state the obvious about how that summer ended: with a World Cup title.

Expansion ...

Continued from page 8
Leiweke in his prior role as president and CEO of the Anschutz Entertainment Group also personally worked alongside then-deputy commissioner Silver on joint NBA-AEG arena ventures overseas. The pair have known each other for more than 30 years.

OVG and the Kraken are also partnered in a \$150 million Memorial Stadium

upgrade and Leiweke's younger brother, Kraken CEO Tod Leiweke, is said to be heavily involved in the creation of an umbrella company that would encompass that project, an NBA expansion bid and any resulting Sonics franchise. The team is still working out who will serve as the umbrella franchise's CEO and is expected to announce more details later this summer.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Portland Rockets at Carrington Red Tourney - TBD

Saturday
Portland Rockets at Carrington Red Tourney - TBD

TV sports

Today
4 a.m. — Golf: The Open Championship (USA)
1 p.m. — NFL Flag Championships: Girls 18U Round of 16 (ESPN2)
3:30 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: TSport 200 (FS1)
4 p.m. — NFL Flag Championships: Girls 18U Round of 16 (ESPN2)
5:30 p.m. — ARCA Menards Series: Circle City 200 (FS1)
6:45 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds vs. Washington Nationals (Bally Indiana)
7 p.m. — NBA 2K25 Summer League: New York Knicks vs. Detroit Pistons (ESPN)
8 p.m. — The Basketball Tournament: Assembly Ball vs. The Cru (BTN)

8:30 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: TSport 200 (FS1)
9 p.m. — WNBA: 3-Point and Skills Challenge (ESPN)
11 p.m. — NBA 2K25 Summer League: Portland Trailblazers vs. Charlotte Hornets (ESPN2)

Saturday
3:30 a.m. — NRL rugby: Brisbane Broncos at Newcastle Knights (FS1)
5 a.m. — Golf: The Open Championship (USA)
6:30 a.m. — Formula 1: Hungarian Grand Prix (ESPN2)
12 p.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Series: Pennzoil 250 (USA)
12 p.m. — Formula E: London E-Prix (CBS)
1 p.m. — The Basketball Tournament: After-Shocks vs. Midtown Prestige (FS1); The Ville vs. UKnighted (FOX)
1:05 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Brickyard 400 (USA)
2 p.m. — NFL Flag Championships: Quarterfinals (ESPN)
3 p.m. — International friendly basketball: South Sudan vs. USA (FOX)
3 p.m. — Pro Motocross Championship: Washougal (NBC)

3 p.m. — Horse Racing: Carrera de Caballos (FS1)
3:30 p.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Series: Pennzoil 250 (USA)
5 p.m. — UFC fighting (ESPN2)
5 p.m. — The Basketball Tournament: Red Scare vs. DaGuys STL (FS1)
6:45 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Washington Nationals (Bally Indiana)

7 p.m. — The Basketball Tournament: Carmen's Crew vs. Purple Hearts (BTN)
7:15 p.m. — MLB: Arizona Diamondbacks at Chicago Cubs (FOX)
8 p.m. — UFC fighting (ESPN)
8 p.m. — UFL Championship: Hartford Athletic Pittsburgh Riverhounds (ESPN2)
8:30 p.m. — MLS: St. Louis City at Sporting Kansas City (FS1)
8:30 p.m. — WNBA: USA vs. Team WNBA (ABC)
10:45 p.m. — MLS: Portland Timbers at Los Angeles Galaxy (FS1)

Local notes

Season tickets for sale
Jay County High School will begin selling season

tickets Monday, July 22. Tickets can be purchased Monday from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-7 p.m. Starting Tuesday, they will be available during office hours from 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

The Patriot Pass and Senior Patriot Pass (for those 65-and-older) cover all high school and junior high events. The former costs \$105 while the latter is \$60.

For just high school events, High School Adult Super Tickets (\$80) and Senior Super Tickets for those 65-and-older (\$45) are available. Junior High Super Tickets are available for \$60.

Also available are a Pre-Paid Sports Pass, good for 12 games at \$50, boys basketball season passes for \$50 and football season passes for \$25.

Swiss Days Race next

The next race scheduled for the Adams County Challenge Series will be the Swiss Days Race. The race that takes place in Berne is being held on Saturday, July 27 at 8:15 a.m.

The race is a 5K, or kids can participate in a one-mile course. To sign up, visit www.adamscounty5kchallenge.com.

Classic set
The 11th Annual Adams Health Foundation Golf

Classic is set to be held on Sept. 13 at Wabash Valley Golf Club.

Teams of four can participate for \$400, with tee times at either 7:30 a.m. or 1 p.m.

Included are an 18-hole round of golf, a best, non-alcoholic beverages, a cooler bag and lunch.

All proceeds go to school healthcare scholarships and community health. For more information, contact Kim Trombley by emailing kim.trombley@adamshealthnetwork.org or by calling (260) 724-2145 ext. 13062.

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@cadcf.org.

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

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Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the City of Portland, Jay County, Indiana that the Common Council of the City of Portland, appearing in the City of Portland Council Chambers, 1616 Franklin Street, Portland, Indiana 47371, on August 5, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. will consider the following additional appropriation in excess of budget for the current year.
2216-001-475 Edit - Projects \$90,000
2216-001-326 Edit - Other Contractual \$25,000
1101-007-326 Police - Other Contractual \$55,000
2204-001-325.001 Pool - Repairs and Maintenance \$10,000
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1101-003-357 Council - Promotion \$15,000
1101-003-325 Council - Repairs & Maintenance \$70,000
1101-003-360 Council - Elections \$6,810
1101-003-326 Council - Other Contractual \$135,000
Taxpayers appearing at the meeting shall have a right to be heard. The additional appropriation as finally made will be referred to the Department of Local Government and Finance. The DLGF will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a certified copy of action taken.
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Sports

USWNT will have a new look in Olympics

By JONATHAN TANNENWALD

The Philadelphia Inquirer Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — For all the players, coaches, and tactics the U.S. women's soccer team has deployed over the years, a few traits stayed the same across generations.

One that's always easy to spot is the presence of a big-time focal point atop the attack: from Mia Hamm to Tiffeny Milbrett to Abby Wambach to Alex Morgan, with many others along the way.

They feasted on 20-plus years of service from equally elite providers: Kristine Lilly, Julie Foudy, Megan Rapinoe, Heather O'Reilly, Tobin Heath.

Now the torch has been passed again, to Mallory Swanson, Sophia Smith, and Trinity Rodman. They are electric players, capable of scoring and creating for each other.

But new manager Emma Hayes doesn't want there to be just one focal point anymore. Instead, she wants the trio to rotate positions up front during games. So they have, and it's been clear to see in recent games.

"I've always wanted to play in a front line where it's really fluid," said Smith, who starts as the central striker and then moves wide. "Having a front line that's so fluid is so hard to defend, and I feel like that just gives us a plus-one against opponents. And it's fun to not

feel restricted in one spot of the field. So I enjoy it."

On paper, this is a great thing. It has huge potential to confound opponents and produce goals.

But in the Americans' last game before the Olympics, Tuesday's scoreless tie with Costa Rica, it produced no goals from 26 shots, including 12 on target. Those totals, plus 67 touches in the box, are the highest figures recorded by the U.S. women in a 0-0 game in the last decade.

A lot of those shots weren't great, either, by the eye test or the stats. The U.S. team's expected goals total, which measures the quality of shots taken, was 1.82. That means the average shot's expected value was 0.07, which is as small as you think it is.

That this game followed Saturday's 1-0 win over Mexico further amplified the concern. The U.S. probably won't face a defense as packed-in as Costa Rica's at the Olympics because its big-time opponents will want to play ball, but lots of foes over the years have known that the best way to beat the U.S. is to bunker in and counterattack.

When you're facing that kind of defense, you can't always pick it apart with passes. Sometimes you have to hit it with a battering ram, and on Tuesday, it felt like the U.S. didn't have one.

"We're doing everything we can to try to move them, to get them

out of position," Rodman said. "Today, it was just a matter of putting the ball in the right place because they weren't moving. They were staying put, and, for us, that was a challenge. But it's just the finishing, and that will come."

Perhaps if Rose Lavelle had played Saturday instead of being held out for an injury precaution — unquestionably the right move with the Olympics so close — things would have been different because she isn't afraid to fire from range. Or if Jaedyn Shaw had started over Lavelle's replacement, Korbin Albert, or even just entered the game earlier.

Even if either of those things had happened, though, it wouldn't have solved another aspect of the battering ram point: a lack of size up front. Rodman has it at 5-foot-10, but Smith is 5-6 and Swanson is 5-4.

When Swanson is playing the central striker spot, as she often has under Hayes, it isn't always easy to find her with a cross into traffic.

None of them have to be the same kind of player as Morgan to be successful, as Smith pointed out on Monday.

"She is who she is for a reason, and I am who I am for a different reason, and I think both can be true," she said. "I'm just trying to play this position to the best of my abilities and in my own way."

See USWNT page 7



Photo provided

Podium performance

Pazia Williams, Carly Hess and Shawnda Roussey of the Jay County Barbell Club kneel on the beach with their third-place trophy from the Fresh Coast Fitness Games in Muskegon, Michigan. To take third, the trio had to compete in four workouts against 59 other teams from Indiana, Michigan, Alabama and Tennessee in the women's intermediate division.



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Silver talks expansion

By GEOFF BAKERS

The Seattle Times Tribune News Service

SEATTLE — NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said Tuesday night the league will consider this fall whether to enter a process of expanding beyond the current 30 teams.

"I think we will engage this fall, in earnest, in the process of making those determinations," Silver told reporters at a news conference in Las Vegas in which he confirmed a new 11-year, \$76 billion media rights deal had been ratified by the league's board of governors. "Should we expand? And if we were to expand, how many teams should we expand? And which markets should we be looking at?"

Silver had previously said the league would consider expansion once it completed its media rights negotiations. Reports said the deal was tentatively reached last week and approved overwhelmingly Tuesday by the NBA's board.

Seattle is widely considered among the front-runners to land an expansion franchise, with Las Vegas also expected to be awarded a team. International bids are expected as well from Mexico City, Montreal and Vancouver.

A new Seattle franchise would retain the rights to the SuperSonics' name, logo and colors, part of an agreement reached when the original team relocated to Oklahoma City back in 2008.

A Seattle group led by billionaire Kraken co-owner David Bonderman — and spearheaded by his daughter, team co-owner Samantha Holloway — is expected to bid for a franchise without local competition as it's a partner with the city in the only NBA-ready arena Seattle has. Bonderman is a

Seattle, Las Vegas among potential cities for NBA expansion teams

minority owner of the NBA's Boston Celtics, but is expected to divest that stake after the team last month was put up for sale.

That would clear his way to make an expansion bid as NBA rules prohibit two teams from being owned by the same person at once.

The NHL team's home, Climate Pledge Arena, was outfitted with \$50 million in NBA-specific upgrades when the venue was overhauled for \$1.15 billion and reopened in October 2021 from what was the prior KeyArena. Beyond the Kraken, it currently serves as home to the WNBA's Storm.

That revamping of the facility was undertaken by the Los Angeles-based Oak View Group (OVG), co-founded by Tim Leiweke — who has a longstanding relationship with the NBA and with Silver specifically. Leiweke has served in key executive roles with the Toronto Raptors, Denver Nuggets and Minnesota Timberwolves and oversaw construction of what was then known as Staples Center and the surrounding LA Live entertainment district during the Kobe Bryant-Shaquille O'Neal championship runs by the Los Angeles Lakers.

See Expansion page 7