

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Unemployment 4%

Jay rate dropped, but was still ranked 36th highest

By **RAY COONEY**

The Commercial Review

The local unemployment rate dipped last month.

It still remained higher than more than half of its counterparts in the state.

Jay County's unemployment rate ranked tied for the 36th-highest in the state in December according to estimates Indiana Department of Workforce Development released this week.

The county had an unemployment rate of 4% in December, which was down 0.3 percentage points from the previous month. It was up 1.4 percentage points from December 2023.

Unemployment in Jay County ranged between 3.2% in April and 4.7% in July in 2024. It was below 4% for half of the months last year.

In December, unemployment was down slightly across the state. It dropped to 4% from 4.2% in November. It was still up by 1.1 percentage points from December 2023.

Howard County had the highest unemployment rate in Indiana again, coming in at 7.7%. Fayette County was next at 6.1%

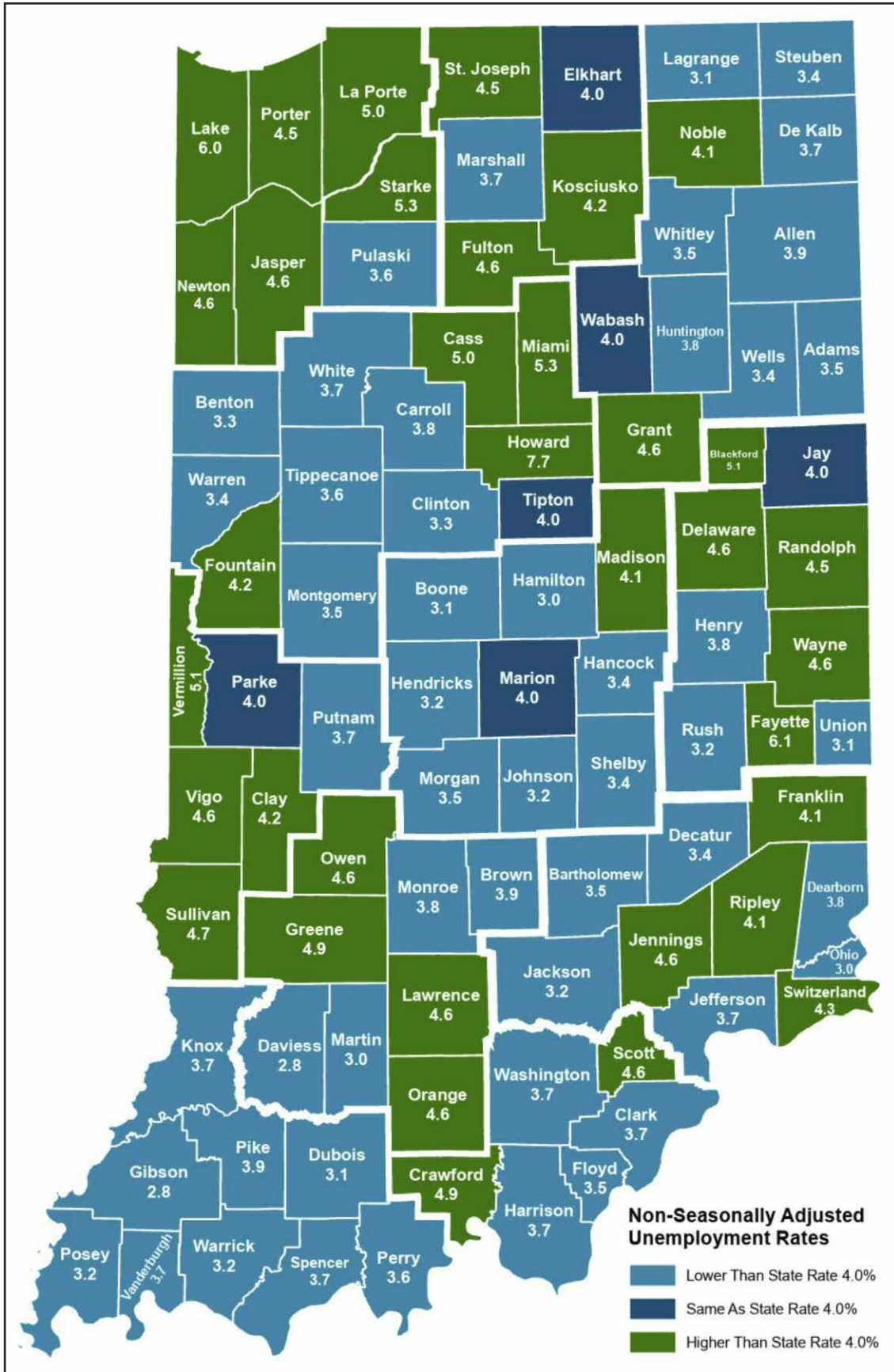
Gibson and Daviess counties in southwest Indiana continued their run of low unemployment as they tied for the lowest rate in the state at 2.8%. Martin, Hamilton and Ohio counties were next at 3%.

Area unemployment rates are as follows:

Adams County: 3.5%, down 0.4 percentage points, tied for 24th-lowest

Blackford County: 5.1%, down 0.6 percentage points, tied for sixth-highest

Delaware County: 4.6%, down 0.1 percentage points, tied for 13th-highest



Indiana Department of Workforce Development

The above map from Indiana Department of Workforce Development shows unemployment rates for each county for the end of 2024. Jay County matched the state's rate of 4% and was tied for 36th-highest among Indiana's 92 counties.

Jay County: 4%, down 0.3 percentage points, tied for 36th-highest

Randolph County: 4.5%, up 0.2 percentage points, tied for 25th-highest

Wells County: 3.4%, down 0.2 percentage points, tied for 18th-lowest

Plane, 'copter crash leaves no survivors

Collision occurred near Ronald Reagan airport in Washington

By **ALLYSON VERSPRILL** and **MARY SCHLANGENSTEIN**

Bloomberg News

Tribune News Service

The collision between an American Airlines Group Inc. regional jet and a military helicopter near Ronald Reagan airport in Washington left no survivors on board the two aircraft, authorities said, making it one of the most deadly U.S. air disasters in decades.

American Flight 5342 that had come in from Wichita, Kansas, with 60 passengers and four crew hit a Sikorsky H-60 Black Hawk helicopter with three military personnel on board while approaching the runway just before 9 p.m. local time on Wednesday. Rescue crews worked through the night to retrieve any survivors, but by early morning their mission had turned into a salvage operation, they said at a press briefing at the airport.

"At this point, we don't believe that there are any survivors from this accident," Fire and Emergency Medical Services Chief John Donnelly said. "These responders found extremely frigid conditions. They found heavy wind. They found ice on the water, and they've operated all night in those conditions."

The collision adds to a growing number of deadly aviation accidents over the past year, following an extended period of practically no fatalities in the civil aviation industry.

On Jan. 2, 2024, a Japan Airlines Airbus A350 collided with a smaller aircraft as it landed in Tokyo, killing everyone on board the stationary plane but sparing those on the widebody jet, which was destroyed in a subsequent fire.

Last month, a Boeing 737 attempting an emergency landing in South Korea skidded on its belly into a concrete wall that sat just beyond the runway.

See **Crash** page 2



For the Indiana Capital Chronicle/Nate Pappas

Indiana Gov. Mike Braun gives his first State of the State address on Wednesday in the Indiana House Chamber. Braun focused on "wins" in his first two weeks in office, tax cuts and reducing health care costs.

Braun tauts 'wins,' pushes for tax cuts

Black caucus skipped speech, rallied against diversity cuts

By **LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ**

Indiana Capital Chronicle

indianacapitalchronicle.com

Although Indiana Gov. Mike Braun has been in office for just two weeks, he's already touting "wins" for Hoosiers accomplished under his tenure — and has big plans for the ongoing legislative session.

In his first State of the State Address on Wednesday evening, Braun focused on changes to property taxes, government efficiency and health care costs.

"Indiana does many things well, but the question we face, in my mind, is simple:

Will that be a plateau, or a foundation to build something truly exceptional?" Braun asked.

He spoke from the Statehouse in Indianapolis, addressing lawmakers from Indiana's House of Representatives and Senate, along with a balcony full of statewide and federal officeholders, judges and other guests.

While Braun orated, a majority of the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus — joined by more than a hundred members of the public — gathered on the next floor up, railing against his cuts to diversity initiatives. A separate group of protesters gathered outside and chanted against deportation.

Braun focused the meat of his speech on cutting property taxes — and told local units of government to learn to live with the losses.

Hoosiers across the state are struggling with "huge hikes" in their property tax bills, he said. He pointed to one Greenfield couple, Rob and Stephanie Parks, who have seen their annual bill more than double, from \$715 to \$1,500, since just 2021.

See **Braun** page 2

Deaths

Dale Lochtefeld, 62, Fort Recovery
Jonathan Smith, 67, rural Bryant
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 44 degrees Wednesday. The low was 33. There is a slight chance of rain tonight with a low in the upper 20s and winds gusting to 25 miles per hour. Expect partly cloudy skies Saturday with a high in the lower 30s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

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

Coming up

Saturday — Details from the Jay County boys basketball game against Bluffton.
Tuesday — Photo coverage of "Splashin' With a Passion: Peggy's Plunge."
Wednesday — Coverage of next week's Portland City Council meeting.



Crash ...

Continued from page 1
The Dec. 29 incident killed all but two of the 181 passengers and crew on board.
Footage of Wednesday's deadly crash shared on social media showed the two aircraft colliding in the night sky and exploding into a fiery ball before falling into the river. The fuselage of the regional jet was found upside down in three sections in the river, and the salvage mission is being complicated by the fact that the crash area

is somewhat spread out, Donnelly said.
Among the passengers on the American flight were members of the U.S. figure-skating community who were returning from the national championships in Wichita, U.S. Figure Skating said in a post on X. AFP, citing Russian news agencies, said that a Russian champion skating couple were also onboard.
The crash revived memories of an air disaster in January 1982, when an Air Florida Boeing

Co. 737 struggled for altitude after taking off with ice in its engines and on the wings, struck the 14th Street bridge and then slammed into the frozen Potomac. Most of the people on board were killed, alongside four motorists on the ground.
The aircraft involved in Wednesday's collision typically seats 65 people and is generally used for shorter trips.
The jet was flying at 142 miles per hour about 400 feet above the runway 33 at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport before data stopped recording, according to FlightRadar24.
Reagan airport has suspended all aircraft take-offs and landings in response to the incident, the airport operator said. The airport said it would remain closed until 11 a.m. local time.
"It's just dangerous and hard to work in," Donnelly said at an earlier briefing. "There's not a lot of lights, you're out there searching every square inch of

space to see if you can find anybody. The divers are doing the same thing in the water. The water is dark, it is murky, and that is a very tough condition for them to dive in."
The last passenger airplane to crash in the U.S. was Colgan Air Flight 3407 near Buffalo, New York, in 2009. The flight, carrying 45 passengers, was a regional feeder to Continental Airlines.
American Airlines said it is in contact with and assisting first responders.

CR almanac

Saturday 2/1	Sunday 2/2	Monday 2/3	Tuesday 2/4	Wednesday 2/5
38/32	53/38	53/30	41/31	43/38
Saturday looks to be mostly sunny with highs in the mid to upper 30s.	Mostly cloudy on Sunday. The temperature may jump to the 50s.	Monday's forecast shows mostly cloudy skies with a balmy high of 53.	Mostly sunny skies on Tuesday when the high will be in the 40s.	There's a 50% chance of rain under mostly cloudy skies on Wednesday.

Lotteries

Powerball 8-12-31-33-38 Power Ball: 18 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$89 million	Daily Four: 8-2-5-9 Quick Draw: 2-5-8-9-14 18-23-26-29-30-31-42-43-49-51-58-59-68-70-78 Cash 5: 16-17-21-29-33 Estimated jackpot: \$253,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$59 million	Ohio Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 3-5-5 Pick 4: 8-8-2-9 Pick 5: 0-2-7-1-5 Evening Pick 3: 9-1-5 Pick 4: 0-1-6-5 Pick 5: 7-8-2-4-7 Rolling Cash: 16-19-26-27-32 Estimated jackpot: \$150,000
Hoosier Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 7-7-8 Daily Four: 7-5-2-6 Quick Draw: 4-8-10-19-21-22-31-32-36-37-46-54-59-61-62-70-71-72-73-77 Evening Daily Three: 1-1-2	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.88 March corn.....4.93 April corn.....5.00	Feb. beans10.43 Wheat 5.19
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.95 Feb. corn4.95 March corn4.99	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.87 Feb. corn4.88 Beans10.39 Feb. beans10.41 Wheat5.34
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....4.88 Feb. corn4.88 Beans10.40	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.83 Feb. corn4.83 Beans10.20 March beans10.25 Wheat5.09

Today in history

In 1797, Franz Schubert was born in Himmelpfortgrund, near Vienna, Austria. A composer known for works including "Ave Maria!" and "Das Wandern," he bridged the Classic and Romantic music genres.
In 2006, the Fort Recovery seventh grade girls basketball team went to four overtimes in its 45-43 victory over St. John's. Kendra Brunswick scored 14 points to lead the Tribe in the marathon win over the Blue Jays.
In 2020, the United Kingdom formally departed the European Union. It had voted for the "Brexit" more than three years earlier but the process was delayed because of lengthy negotiations over the terms of the split.
In 2022, Jay School Board announced it was receiving a total of \$100,000 in grant funding to implement new science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) curriculum at East Jay, East, Westlawn, Redkey and Bloomfield elementary schools. —The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.	Redevelopment Commission, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
Tuesday 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St. 7 p.m. — Salamonina Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center.	Thursday 4 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners special session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.
Wednesday 5 p.m. — Jay County	

Obituaries

Dale Lochtefeld

Nov. 18, 1962-Jan. 9, 2025
Dale Joseph Lochtefeld, a devoted father, beloved son, cherished brother and loyal friend, passed away on Jan. 9, 2025, at the age of 62.
Born on Nov. 18, 1962, in Portland, Indiana, to Wilbert and Ann Marie Lochtefeld, Dale was the second oldest of their seven children and a guiding light to his siblings. Standing tall at 6 feet, 5 inches, and 16 years older than his youngest sibling, Dale's presence was larger than life, and his role as a godfather, brother and protector was deeply cherished.
Dale served his country in the United States Army for four years. He then continued his education by earning a bachelor's degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida and lived a life filled with remarkable achievements. He worked as a model and for UPS before moving to Texas, where he embarked on a long and dedicated career for 33 years at American Airlines as an aircraft maintenance technician. In addition to his career in aviation, Dale founded Paradise Pool Care, his own pool-cleaning business, to support his growing family.
Dale was the epitome of devotion, working tirelessly to provide for his family of eight children. Despite his demanding schedule, often running on just a few hours of sleep, he always prioritized being a loving, playful and present father. His children — seven daughters and one son — were his greatest pride and joy. Dale's deep faith and selflessness



Lochtefeld

shone through in everything he did, making him a source of strength and inspiration to those who knew him.

An avid traveler and skilled handyman, Dale loved fixing things and was always the first to help others in a jam. He delighted in good food, often finishing the leftovers of those around him, and his infectious humor brought joy to every gathering.

Recently, Dale faced health challenges due to a non-cancerous brain tumor, which he had surgically removed just before Christmas. Surrounded by his children, the surgery went well and he was home recovering. His sudden passing, though unexpected, leaves his family with faith and hope that he is now in Heaven, as promised in Revelation 21:5: "Behold, I make all things new."

Dale is survived by his loving parents, Wilbert and Ann Marie Lochtefeld; and his siblings and their families, Carolyn and Ed Homan, Jim and Kate Lochtefeld, Greg and Denise Lochtefeld, Dan and Mary Lochtefeld, Amy and Chris Fish, and Mark and Heather Lochtefeld. He also leaves behind his beloved children Nadine Lochtefeld, Hannah and Jaykob Harrington, Ashton Lochtefeld, Ella Lochtefeld, Kyla Lochtefeld, Isabella Lochtefeld, Blake Lochtefeld and Hailey Lochtefeld.

A Celebration of Life will be held in the Activity Room at The Gardens at 522 Western Ave. St. Henry, Ohio, on Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Dale's legacy of love, faith, and selfless dedication will live on in the hearts of his family and friends. He will be deeply missed but forever remembered.

Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting brockman-boeckmanfh.com.

Jonathan Smith

Nov. 3, 1957-Jan. 13, 2025
Jonathan L. Smith, age 67, of rural Bryant passed away on Monday, Jan. 13, 2025, at his residence. He was born in Portland on Nov. 3, 1957, the son of Cobra and June (Lanning) Smith. He was retired from the Telephone Company after over forty years. He was a 1976 Jay County High School graduate and was on the track team. He was a member of Sons of the American Legion, was an avid trap shooter and enjoyed hunting and fishing.



Smith

Surviving are one son, Ian Smith of Bryant; daughter Jennifer Slunaker (husband: Jeff) of McCordsville; his mother June Smith of Bryant; sister Bonita Jacobson of Tennessee; and three grandchildren, Rysin Smith, Kallisto Slunaker and Gehrig Slunaker.

Memorial visitation will be Tuesday, Feb. 4, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home.

Memorials can be made to the choice of the donor.
Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.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.

Braun ...

Continued from page 1
The couple attended the speech and sat with the first lady.

Braun's property tax plan, housed within Senate Bill 1, would cap annual increases in property taxes for all property types, including home-steads, to 3%.

Homeowners aged 65 and older, who have minor children or who are low-income would see increases capped at 2%. The legislation would also raise the homestead deduction for houses worth less than \$125,000 and requires a property tax transparency portal to go live by 2026.

Tax relief will "have an impact on local governments, and I realize that, but taxpayers are struggling, and we have to put their needs first," Braun said.

His administration, he added, is having "important discussions" with local units of government about protecting "vital" police and fire services, as well as schools. Property taxes in Indiana fund communities, not the state.

"I look forward to working with all of you to get this bill across the finish line," he said. "Hoosiers sent me here with a clear directive that this cannot be ignored."

Braun also revisited campaign promises like tax relief on retirement income and tax-advantaged farm savings accounts.

His address also highlighted recent efficiency-focused executive orders directing agency leaders to cut a quarter of regulations, bring employees back to the office, end diversity initiatives (which he said led to "division and inefficiency") and more.

Braun also played up his reorganized cabinet, saying it was "designed to run like a business" and add accountability via sec-

retaries that report directly to him.

Braun touched on tougher treatment for drug dealers and repeat violent offenders — plus improving police recruitment, retention and safety — as priorities.

But illegal immigration was his focus.

"Americans sent a clear message in November: they do not want open borders. Indiana will do whatever we can to help secure our southern border and end this crisis that has brought deadly fentanyl and crime to our streets," Braun said.

He said unlawful entry brings "serious risks" to Hoosier communities, mentioning how a Honduran man who was allegedly illegally in the country is accused of stabbing a 13-year-old girl at a September baseball game in Lowell.

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

SERVICES

Saturday
Pottkotter, Cyril: 10 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpshurg Road, Fort Recovery.
Garringer, Barbara: 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Monday
Stein, Betty: noon, Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Tuesday
Lochtefeld, Dale: 5 p.m., The Gardens, 522 Western Ave., St. Henry, Ohio.

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Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm

JCHS performing winter concert Feb. 9

Seriously catchy tunes will be filling the high school next weekend. Jay County Junior-Senior High School Band Department will present "Statues, Spies and Seriously Catchy Tunes" at 2 p.m. Feb. 9 in the high school auditorium. The show will include performances from the Patriot Band, Winter Guard and junior high bands. Musical selections include

Taking Note

"Pirates of the Caribbean," "Seasons of Love" and other songs. The Winter Guard will perform their competition show, "Pétra Krýo."

Also, donations will be accepted for the American Cancer Society. Admission is free. Patrons may enter through door number 8.

Presidents List

A local resident was recently named to The University of Alabama's presidents list for the fall semester. Sharon Villas of Portland made the list, which

recognizes undergraduate students with 4.0 GPAs.

Unlock box

Use clues to unlock the box. Fort Recovery Public Library is hosting an Unlock the Box event during normal business hours Feb. 8 through Feb. 17.

Teams of six to 8 members may use clues in the room to solve puzzles and find keys to unlock the box

before time expires. The program is intended for elementary and middle school students and their families. Call the library at (419) 375-2869 to register for a session.

Also, the library will begin offering its Music Time program for babies and preschool-aged children, accompanied by a parent or guardian, starting Feb. 19. The six-week program, which runs at

10:30 a.m. Wednesdays, includes finger plays, music and movement.

Dean's list

A Pennville resident was named to the University of Maryland Global Campus' fall semester dean's list. Terri Thompson earned the honor, which requires students to earn at least a 3.5 GPA and complete at least six credits during the term.

Husband's friendship becomes bothersome

DEAR ABBY: My husband has a female friend he grew up with. They have exchanged "happy birthday" texts for many years. However, they have recently begun texting more often. An example: One night he was mixing a drink and texted her about whether to use Pepsi or Coke.

On his birthday, I watched for her text and saw it had two heart emojis on either side of her message. This bothered me a great deal, and I told him his flirting via texting needed to stop. He says I'm being unreasonable and he is doing nothing wrong. This has caused a rift between us.

Abby, AM I unreasonable? I did see a therapist who said my husband has an emotional relationship with this woman and I had every right to be upset. The therapist also said he should stop because I am his wife and he sees how much this upsets me. My husband's response? "Well, you told the therapist YOUR side of the story." We have been married 18 years and together for 24. He is a good partner, and I do love him. What is your advice? — SUSPICIOUS IN IOWA

DEAR SUSPICIOUS: Your husband had a point when he said your therapist has heard only one side of the story. You

Dear Abby



have been married to a "good partner" for 18 years and together for 24. If your husband hasn't shown signs of straying before, it's unlikely he's doing anything more than communicating with an old friend. Hearts included in a text message may seem effusive, but they aren't necessarily declarations of romantic love. Some joint sessions with an unbiased marriage and family therapist may help to calm your fears. I heartily recommend it.

DEAR ABBY: I am in a warm and loving relationship. We have been together 20 years. We both were married before to horrible people. We both said in the beginning that we did not want to remarry. However, as we are getting older and my health is not so good, I would like to marry him. I have hinted a couple of times that I would like a ring for Christ-

mas or my birthday. Nothing has gotten through. How can I bring this up to him? Also, if he's set against marriage, how do I talk to him about power of attorney and stuff? — EYE TO THE FUTURE IN MISSISSIPPI

DEAR EYE: A ring should be the least of your concerns. You are long overdue for a serious conversation with your partner. If he were to have a medical emergency, would he want you to make medical decisions about his care? The same is true for financial decisions. Does he have a will? Do you?

You both should be talking about this with an attorney who can guide you. You should also have health care directives in place and shared with your doctor. If, after 20 years with you, this man is still marriage-phobic, there are ways you can be protected that don't involve a trip to the altar. Please start exploring them NOW.

DEAR ABBY: I am a gay man who has been having an affair with a married man for the last three years. They have been separated for a year, but no one has filed for divorce. I know he wants a future with me, but I'm not sure

if he's brave enough to take the next step. His wife is still "praying the gay away" and still thinks the marriage can work. She sends him biblical verses and worship songs regularly. He has always been gay, but because of how he was raised and his religious upbringing, he felt he had to live a fake life. Although his family isn't accepting, my family is, and they have met him. My question is, how long do I wait? I don't want to waste my life away waiting on someone else to determine my future. — CINDERFELLA IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR CINDERFELLA: You stated that your lover is separated from his wife. One would think that after a year on his own he would have become more comfortable about his sexual orientation. The time has come to tell him that unless he's willing to seek counseling from a licensed therapist who can help him figure out who he is and who he wants to be, you will have to move on.

Living in limbo the way you are is unhealthy for you and HIM. I hope your next relationship, if there has to be one, will be with an out gay man who is unattached and available.

DEAR ABBY: My mother, who is close to 85, has decided to dress like me. Every time she sees me, she tells me how "cute" I look, and asks where I got the top I'm wearing. The next time I see her, she's wearing the same top. It's gotten ridiculous. I have a black beach coverup that's made to look like it's crocheted or knitted. She went out and found herself one. Believe me, a woman who is 85 and seriously overweight should not be wearing this. What can I do about it? — 'TWIN' IN THE SOUTH

DEAR 'TWIN': Have you told your mother this bothers you? If you haven't, you should. You should also offer to go shopping with her and help her find some "cute" things that will flatter her.

Years ago, a dress designer told me an expression: "She's mutton dressed as lamb." Your mother is deluded if she thinks wearing items identical to yours will make her look as youthful as you. However, if you tell her that, take it from me — she'll be seriously offended. Lighten up. Let her continue on her own path, because you can't stop her and she's hurting no one.

Community Calendar

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

Today
PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

Saturday
ALCOHOLICS 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.

Sunday
A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions,

will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, 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 each Monday at Jay Community Center.

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

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

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

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing

support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

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

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

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

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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

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GRAPHIC PRINTING **NEWSPAPERS**

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Consider filling a shoebox this year

To the editor:
The overwhelming generosity of the people of Portland helped provide joy to children in need through Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts this season.

Letter to the Editor

Across the U.S., the Samaritan's Purse project collected 10.5 million shoebox gifts in 2024. Combined with those collected from partnering countries in 2024, the ministry is now sending over 11.9 million shoebox gifts to children worldwide.

Shoebox packers brought joy and hope to children around the world through fun, full, personalized gifts. For many children, this is the first gift they have ever received.

Each shoebox gift is a tangible expression of God's love, given to children in need around the world.

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 232 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories.

Across the region, shoebox packers often shop for

deals on shoebox items throughout the year, and many serve at a deeper level by becoming a year-round volunteer. Information about ways area participants can get involved year-round can also be found at samaritanspurse.org/occ.

Although local Portland drop-off locations for shoebox gifts are closed until Nov. 17, anyone can still be a part of this life-changing project by conveniently packing a shoebox gift online in just a few simple clicks at samaritanspurse.org/buildonline.

These simple gifts, packed with love, remind children around the world that they are loved and not forgotten.

Sincerely,
Molly Miller
Samaritan's Purse



Musk cuts will hurt millions

By ROBERT PEARL
The Fulcrum
Tribune News Service

As Donald Trump begins his second term, America's health care system is in crisis: medical costs are skyrocketing, life expectancy has stagnated, and burnout runs rampant among health care workers.

These problems are likely to become worse now that Trump has handed the job of cutting the federal budget over to Elon Musk. He will lead the newly formed Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), a non-government entity tasked with slashing \$500 billion in "wasteful" spending.

The harsh reality is that the mission can't succeed without gutting health care access and coverage for millions of Americans.

Deleting dollars

Since Trump's first term, the country's economic outlook has worsened significantly. In 2016, the national debt was \$19 trillion, with \$430 billion allocated to annual interest payments. By 2024, the debt had nearly doubled to \$36 trillion, requiring \$882 billion in debt service — 12% of federal spending that is legally untouchable.

Add to that another 50% of government expenditures that Trump has deemed politically off-limits: Social Security (\$1.35 trillion), Medicare (\$848 billion) and Defense (\$1.13 trillion). That leaves just \$2.6 trillion — less than 40% of the \$6.75 trillion federal budget — available for cuts.

With Medicare off limits to DOGE, the options for major reductions are extremely limited. Big-ticket health care items like the \$300 billion in tax-deductibility for employer-sponsored health insurance and \$120 billion in expired health programs for veterans will prove politically untouchable. One will raise taxes for 160 million working families, and the latter will leave veterans without essential medical care.

This shortfall will require Musk and DOGE to cut billions in government health care spending. But where will they find it?

In a recent op-ed, Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy proposed eliminating expired or misused funds for programs like Public Broadcasting and Planned Parenthood, but these examples account for less than \$3 billion total — not even 1% of their target.

If significant reductions in cost are to be realized, DOGE will have

Robert Pearl



viduals, reducing program costs at the expense of coverage.

Switching to block grants: Unlike the current Medicaid system, which adjusts funding based on need, less-expensive block grants would provide states with fixed allocations. This will, however, force them to cut services and reduce enrollment.

Medicaid currently costs \$800 billion annually, with the federal government covering 70%. Reducing enrollment by 10% (9 million people) could save over \$50 billion annually, while a 20% reduction (18 million people) could save \$100 billion.

Either outcome would devastate families by eliminating access to vital services, including prenatal care, vaccinations, chronic disease management, and nursing home care. As states are forced to absorb the financial burden, they'll likely cut education budgets and reduce infrastructure investments.

The first 100 days

The numbers don't lie: Musk and DOGE could slash Medicaid funding and ACA subsidies to achieve much of their \$500 billion target. But the human cost of this approach would be staggering.

Fortunately, there are alternative solutions that would reduce spending without sacrificing quality. Shifting provider payments in ways that reward better outcomes rather than higher volumes, capping drug prices at levels comparable to peer nations, and leveraging generative AI to improve chronic disease management could all drive down costs while preserving access to care.

These strategies address the root causes of high medical spending, including chronic diseases that, if better managed, could prevent 30-50% of heart attacks, strokes, cancers, and kidney failures, according to CDC estimates.

Whether Musk and DOGE will consider the kinds of reform options I have suggested in their pursuit of immediate budgetary cuts remains to be seen.

If they choose not to, the health of millions of Americans is at major risk.

.....
Pearl teaches at both the Stanford University School of Medicine and the Stanford Graduate School of Business. He is a former CEO of The Permanente Medical Group.

Indiana enjoys, endures stability

By MORTON J. MARCUS

Every month, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in Washington, D.C., gives us the latest data on employment and unemployment. These data are released for the national and state levels. Then the state level data are distilled to the county and, yea verily, unto cities and towns.

The latter program is called Local Area Unemployment Statistics with the unfortunate acronym LAUS. Some critics question the accuracy of these smaller area data and emphasize the aptness of the acronym. These were the November 2024 unemployment rates — U.S. 4.0%, Indiana 4.2%, Auburn 4.2%, Carmel 3.3%, Jeffersonville 4.0% and Highland 4.9%.

At the state level, we also get monthly estimates of significant changes within the job market. These are from the BLS JOLTS report which, by and large, the media ignore because they are not given to dramatic change.

JOLTS stands for Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey. In November 2024, the preliminary estimate for the job openings rate in the nation was 4.8% compared to 5.4% a year earlier.

That was a key indicator of a cooling jobs market, a slowing from the frenzy of the immediate post-pandemic period. For Indiana, the figure was also 4.8% in 2024, basically unchanged from the 4.7% a year earlier.

Hiring showed a minor slow down nationally from 3.2% to 3%. In contrast, Indiana experienced an increasing hiring rate from 3.6% in 2023 to 4.3% in '24. Possibly, Indiana's more vigorous hiring rate than the nation was due to Indiana's greater rate of separations (quits, layoffs

Eye on the Pie



and discharges) than that of the entire nation.

In our state, the separation rate was unchanged (3.5%) over the year to November 2024. For the nation, the separation rate was already below Indiana's at 3% and 2.8%, respectively. It seems reasonable that a state with a higher separation rate would also have a higher hiring rate.

Separations are reported in two major categories. Quits where workers choose to leave the job. Additionally, BLS provides data on layoffs and discharges, in which employers initiate the termination of employment.

Nationally, quits normally peak in August as summer jobs end. Historically, going back to 2014, the quits rate peaked at 3.5% in August 2021 and was only 1.6% in November 2024. Indiana follows the same pattern, peaking in August 2021 at 4.5% and resting at 2.2% in November 2024.

The layoffs and discharge rates were virtually identical for the nation and Indiana in November 2024 at 1.1% and 1.2%.

While few readers may have found intellectual stimulation in this recitation of rates, these labor market dynamics are important. They tell us more about our economy than simple unemployment rates.

They also reveal the significant job stability we enjoy and endure.

.....
Marcus is a research economist, formerly with the IU Kelley School of Business. Email him at mortonjohn@libsyn.com.

The Commercial Review



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We welcome letters to the editor, which are accepted by email only to letters@thecr.com. They should be 700 words or fewer; signed, with city/town of residence and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit for content and clarity.

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BSG to broilers?

Researchers explore spent grain as chicken feed

By LAURA REILEY
Cornell Chronicle

Chicken consumption has doubled in the U.S. since 1980, breezing past beef in 2010. But nearly three-quarters of production costs in the industry are bound up in what the birds eat.

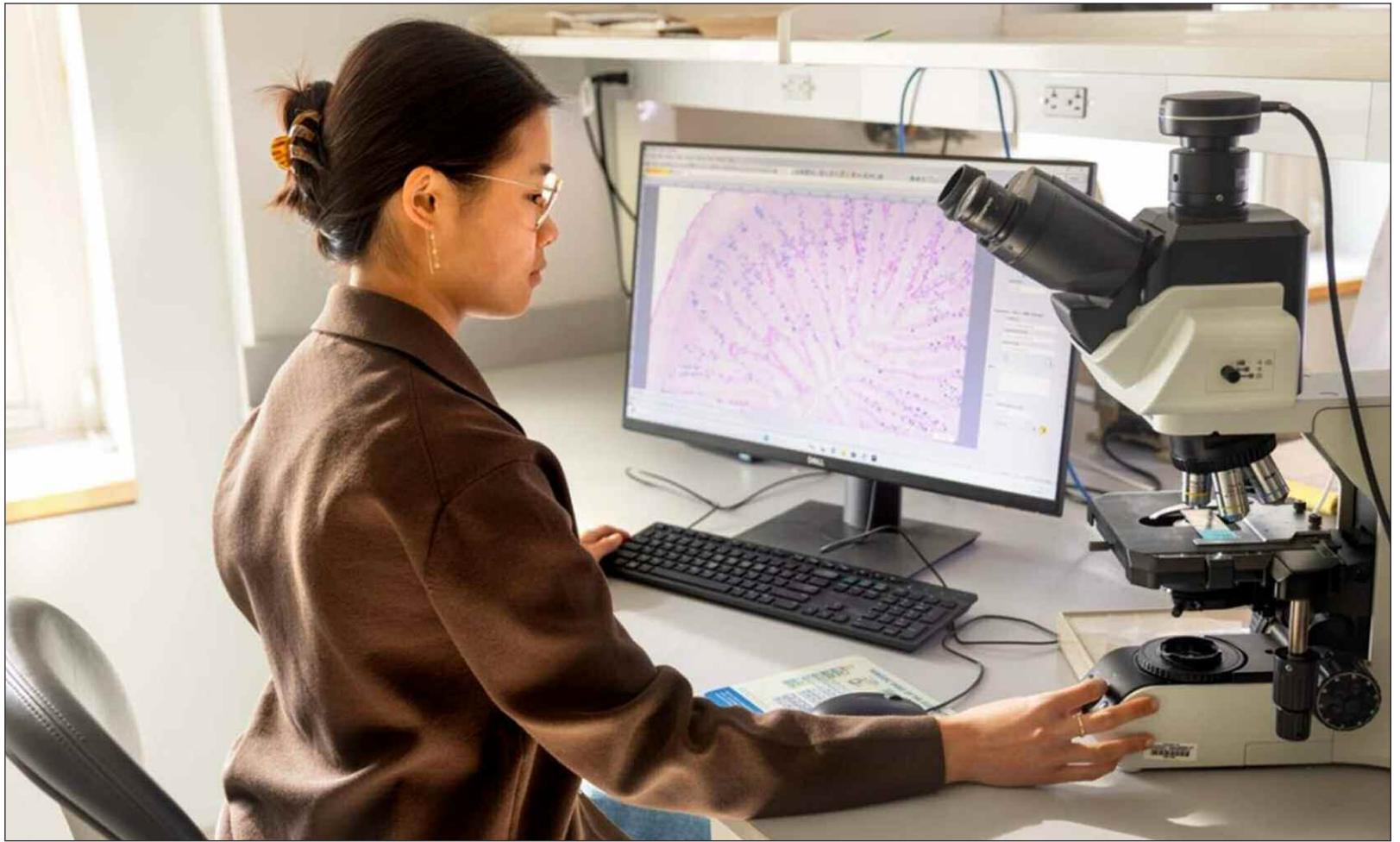
Spent grain from the brewing industry offers a huge opportunity for animal agriculture, with about 36.4 million tons produced as waste annually. Brewers' spent grain (BSG) is frequently upcycled and used as cattle and hog feed, but chickens cannot efficiently digest such fiber-rich ingredients.

In a paper, "Intestinal Effects of Brewers' Spent Grain Extract in Ovo," appearing in a special issue of the journal *Animals*, three Cornell researchers explored how to optimize spent grain as a sustainable dietary ingredient with gut health and nutritional benefits for broiler chickens.

The researchers turned to the water-soluble fraction of brewers' spent grain, making an extract without the grain's protein and dietary fiber, which can limit nutrient absorption. They used this extract to determine effects on broiler chickens' gut development, function and microbial populations.

The corresponding author is Elad Tako, associate professor in the Department of Food Science in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Co-authors are Melissa Huang, doctoral student in the field of food science, and Louisa Smieska, a project scientist at the Cornell High Energy Synchrotron Source (CHESS), where synchrotron X-ray imaging of the intestinal tracts of embryonic chickens was conducted.

BSG contains a variety of compounds known for their immunoregulatory, anti-microbial and antioxidative benefits. They found the extract improved development of the small intestine and decreased the presence of potentially harmful bacteria like *E. coli* and *Clostridium*. This is promising because the poultry industry is mandated to keep harmful bacteria out of meat



Jason Koski/Cornell University

Melissa Huang, doctoral student in the field of food science, examines a cross section of an embryonic chicken's small intestine in a Stocking Hall lab. Researchers are exploring how to optimize spent grain as a sustainable dietary ingredient with gut health and nutritional benefits for broiler chickens.

while reducing reliance on antibiotic use.

"We were also able to detect iron and zinc via synchrotron X-ray imaging in the small intestinal tissue samples post-treatment," Tako said, adding that both are essential for growth.

With the global poultry feed market projected to reach \$238.9 billion by the end of 2025, the broiler feed industry could benefit from a nutritionally advantageous ingredient that also happens to be more affordable because it comes from a waste stream, he said. Tako said that from a consumer perspective, many sustainability-minded shoppers prize foods that find new purposes for ingredients that

might otherwise have gone to a landfill.

They made their extract from spent grain sourced from Harpoon Brewery in Boston. Using a method called "intra-amniotic administration" by which a substance is directly injected into the amniotic sac inside of eggs, they essentially "fed" 36 Cornish Cross broiler embryos through the natural amniotic fluid to determine precise gut health effects. The eggs were then incubated and the intestinal tracts of the broiler embryos examined.

"One thing in this study that had never been done before was because of our collaboration with CHESS," Tako said. "We reached out to our co-author, Louisa

Smieska, and she said they had previously used this technique to look into mineral distribution. She said it could be adapted to look at the content and distribution of iron and zinc in the tissue."

Synchrotron X-ray imaging could be an exciting and powerful new technique to measure mineral status in biological samples, he said.

According to Huang, the results demonstrate a benefit that supports longer-term studies with adult birds or other animals. She says the team's next study involves the use of upcycled grape pomace, the solid waste product from the winemaking process, which is also believed to

have anti-inflammatory properties.

Since the start of the avian flu outbreak in 2022, more than 82 million birds — around 22% of the American poultry flock — have been culled. And while it affects laying hens more frequently than broiler chickens, all poultry farmers are focused on prevention and prioritizing flock health.

"The poultry industry is always looking for ways to optimize the way they raise their flock," Huang said. "And along with a rising demand for chicken, there is an incentive to look at upcycled products to incorporate into a circular economy that minimizes waste."

Tribal experts want to save wild rice

By SHERI MCWHIRTER
mlive.com

Tribune News Service

EAST LANSING, MI — There's a new plan to help restore and protect Michigan's remaining native wild rice beds.

Michigan's wild rice, or manoomin stewardship plan was discussed in depth on Jan. 24 during an environmental conference hosted by Ann Arbor-based nonprofit The Stewardship Network. Both Indigenous and academic experts explained how the plan was a project of the Michigan Wild Rice Initiative during presentations at Michigan State University in East Lansing.

The stewardship plan

Most of Michigan's historical beds were destroyed during European settlement

comes one year after manoomin — or "the good berry" in the Anishinaabemowin language — was officially made Michigan's state native grain. It's a symbolic designation like the white pine being the state tree or the Petoskey as the state stone.

Advocates don't want progress to end there.

"We at the Initiative are

hoping that we can leverage this to keep going and this would not just be an honorary thing," said Roger LaBine, manoomin expert and tribal elder at Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in the western Upper Peninsula.

Manoomin is integral to the Anishinaabe migration story, the history of how

the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples came to settle in the Great Lakes region. Those tribes are collectively known as Anishinaabe, and they consider wild rice to be a sacred relative with its own spirit.

Most of the state's historical wild rice beds were destroyed during European settlement, particularly

across the Lower Peninsula. It created "ecological amnesia" through generations of lost knowledge, said Barb Barton, who wrote the book "Manoomin: The Story of Wild Rice in Michigan."

In more recent years, individual Michigan tribes worked on their own manoomin programs, trying to restore some of what was lost and protect what remains. State natural resources managers also planted wild rice in northern floodings along Lake Superior.

Now collective efforts to bolster wild rice are coalescing under this new stewardship plan — a roadmap to more

manoomin across Michigan.

LaBine said it's important to restore as much wild rice as possible because of its cultural significance to Michigan's Indigenous tribes.

"If manoomin disappears, the Anishinaabe will disappear," he said. "The manoomin spirit is returning to these tribal communities."

Goals of the plan are to increase awareness among all state residents that wild rice exists to reduce it being accidentally destroyed, grow appreciation for its cultural importance, and highlight its role as an ecological indicator of good water quality.



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Badger ...

Continued from page 8
So, I have been listening to Ueck on the radio more often these past six years, even if I was still watching on a muted TV. The call I will remember the most came in a situation just like that.
As a college freshman in 2019 when the Brewers had to play the Chicago Cubs in a game 163 to decide the National League Central Division champion, I had the TV tuned to the game while my phone played the radio broadcast of the game. There was something special

about that experience, sitting in my dorm room, watching Anthony Rizzo pop the ball up to Keon Broxton in right field while Ueck made the call, “Swinging, fly ball into right-center. Broxton is there! And they’re the champions! They have done it!”
It’s a call I’ll remember forever.

Ultimately, the writing was on the wall. He had slowed down in the final seasons, only calling home games and sometimes making the short trip to Chicago.

Yet, it feels like I’ve wasted my time. Not the time I’ve spent listening to him these past years, but rather, that for the first 18 or so years of my life I hadn’t tuned in to the radio.

I am lucky enough to live in the time of the internet. If I want to hear that old familiar voice, all I have to do is fire up YouTube to listen to some of his greatest calls. If I want to take it a step further, I can dust off a copy of the movie “Major League” to hear some of his best quips.

But my heart aches to know that I’ll never again get to hear that iconic “Get up! Get up! Get out of here and gone!” he would belt after a Milwaukee home run live.

While I will never be able to tune in to listen to Ueck on the call again, his fingerprints will be left on the Brewers forever. From his statue outside of right field, the Mr. Baseball slab on the American Family Field Walk of Fame, his plaque on the Milwaukee Brewers Wall of Honor and his “I must be in the front row” statue

above section 422, it will be hard to attend a game without getting a glimpse of the legend. But learning of Uecker’s death called to mind the final words the legend ever spoke on a broadcast. And with the newfound knowledge that he was aware the 4-2 loss to the New York Mets in the Wildcard round would likely be the last game of his broadcasting career, his final words from that night ring true all the more.
“I’m telling ya, that one ... had some sting on it.”



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Schoenlein shoots

Fort Recovery High School sophomore Madie Schoenlein fires up a 3-pointer during Monday’s 64-17 victory over South Adams. Schoenlein finished with an assist and a rebound in the win.

Logano ...

Continued from page 8
“As great as it is, the first 20 minutes is amazing, because you’re celebrating with your team and your family. And then every day it becomes a little less exciting, and more thoughts of: ‘We’ve got to do it again.’”

Championship format to remain unchanged in 2025

NASCAR gave an update on its playoff system during a competition briefing Monday.

The format that decides the sport’s end-of-season champion will stay the same, with the possibility of making changes for the 2026 season.

Logano, who initially entered the playoffs as the No. 9 seed of 16 drivers, had only won one regular-season race. But he took the checkered flag at Atlanta, Las Vegas and Phoenix during the postseason and advanced through the rounds, including after Alex Bowman’s disqualification following the Charlotte Roval.

William Byron, the Charlottean and defending Daytona 500 winner, noted the discourse at the conclusion of last season regarding the playoff format and agreed it could eventually see a change. While he doesn’t know what that looks like, the idea of varying late-season tracks — particularly that of the championship

race — are critical in playing to the strengths of certain drivers.

“I feel like we’ve gotten into such a routine of going to the same race track for the final race, and having similar tracks that lead up to it, it’s gotten a little bit predictable,” Byron said. “But you could probably say the same thing in other sports, with the (Kansas City) Chiefs hosting the AFC championship every year. It’s just the nature of sports to get a little bit repetitive.”

Ryan Preece has a new NASCAR home.

The 34-year-old driver is in his first season at RFK Racing after spending the past two years at Stewart-Haas Racing, the former Kannapolis-based team that folded last year.

Preece, who will now pilot the No. 60 Ford Mustang Dark Horse, joins teammates Brad Keselowski and Chris Buescher at the shop in Concord. A six-year full-time Cup Series veteran, Preece reunites with Buescher — after the two were previously together at JTG Daugherty Racing.

Their new era kicks off this weekend in Winston-Salem, as NASCAR heads to Bowman Gray Stadium for its exhibition “Clash” to open the preseason.

“My expectations are high,” Preece said. “They’ve always been high. I don’t set a bar low.

Winning races is the goal. I didn’t move down here and do the sacrifices and put my family through what I’ve done just to be a part of the show. That’s not who I am as a racer: Somebody who wants to win races.

“Doesn’t matter if I’m at my local short track or racing Cup on Sundays, the goal is to win.”

Christopher Bell looks to improve No. 20 team at revamped JGR

The standout Joe Gibbs Racing driver said he’s already had several conversations with Chris Gabehart.

Christopher Bell, the 30-year-old who won last year’s rain-shortened Coca-Cola 600, is set to be a top driver for the Toyota team based in Huntersville once again.

Joe Gibbs Racing has undergone some personnel changes, including Gabehart — the former crew chief of Denny Hamlin — stepping into a new role as competition director.

“A lot of phone calls, a lot of conversations, which I haven’t had with really anybody outside of the 20 team,” Bell said. “(Gabehart) is doing a really, really good job of organizing the teams and making sure that we’re all heading on an aligned path together. He’s been really involved, and I’ve talked to him a lot.”

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys basketball vs. Bluffton — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball vs. New Knoxville — 6 p.m.

Saturday
Jay County — Boys wrestling sectional at Jay County — 8:30 a.m.; Boys basketball at Blackford — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls bowling tournament at Columbus — 11 a.m.; Boys basketball at Arcanum — 6 p.m.

(ESPN2)
6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Butlerr at Georgetown (FS1)
7 p.m. — NBA: Dallas Mavericks at Detroit Pistons (CBS)
7 p.m. — College basketball: Dayton at Saint Louis (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — Unrivaled basketball: Rose BC at Phantom BC (TNT)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Denver Nuggets at Philadelphia 76ers (ESPN)
8 p.m. — College basketball: Indiana at Purdue (FOX)
8:15 p.m. — Unrivaled basketball: Lunar Owls BC at Laces BC (TNT)
8:30 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Arizona at Utah (FS1)
9 p.m. — College Gymnastics: Arkansas at Oklahoma (ESPN2)
10 p.m. — NBA: Phoenix Suns at Golden State Warriors (ESPN)

Saturday
7:30 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Nottingham Forest at Brighton & Hove Albion (USA)
10 a.m. — Premier League soccer: AFC Bournemouth at Liverpool (USA)
12 p.m. — College basketball: Florida at Tennessee (ESPN); Pitt at Wake Forest (ESPN2); Washington at Minnesota (BTN); Fordham at St. Bonaventure (USA)
12:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Wolverhampton Wanderers at Aston Villa (NBC)
1 p.m. — College basketball: Arizona at Arizona State (CBS); Creighton at Villanova (FOX)
1 p.m. — NHL: Chicago Blackhawks at Florida Panthers (TNT)
2 p.m. — College basketball: Kansas State at Iowa State (ESPN2); Wisconsin at Northwestern (FS1); Auburn at Ole Miss (ESPN)

2 p.m. — LPGA Tour: MHilton GV Tournament of Champions (NBC)
2 p.m. — College wrestling: Michigan at Ohio State (BTN)
2:30 p.m. — College basketball: George Washington at La Salle (USA)
3 p.m. — PGA Tour: AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am (CBS)
3:30 p.m. — College basketball: Michigan at Rutgers (FOX)
3:30 p.m. — NHL: New York Rangers at Boston Bruins (TNT)
4 p.m. — College basketball: Georgia at Alabama (ESPN2); Kansas at Baylor (ESPN)
4 p.m. — College wrestling: Indiana at Northwestern (BTN)
5 p.m. — NBA: Atlanta Hawks at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)
5:30 p.m. — College gymnastics: UCLA at Michigan State (FOX)

6 p.m. — College basketball: Texas Tech at Houston (ESPN2)
6 p.m. — College hockey: Wisconsin at Minnesota (FOX); Penn State at Michigan (BTN)
6 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Busch Light Clash at Bowman Gray (FS1)
6:30 p.m. — College basketball: North Carolina at Duke (ESPN)
8 p.m. — College basketball: UConn at Marquette (FOX); Notre Dame at Miami (ESPN2)
8:30 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Lakers at New York Knicks (ABC)
9 p.m. — College basketball: Arkansas at Kentucky (ESPN)
9:30 p.m. — College basketball: New Mexico at Utah State (FS1)
10 p.m. — College basketball: Syracuse at Cal (ESPN2)
11 p.m. — College basketball: Gonzaga at St. Mary’s (ESPN)

TV sports

Today
5 p.m. — College basketball: Yale at Princeton

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Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of Jay County, Indiana that the proper legal officers of Jay County Council at the Jay County Court House, at 6:00 o’clock p.m., on the 12th day of February, 2025 will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the budget for the current year.

	Amount Approved
COUNTY GENERAL	\$80,500.00
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1000-006-40-0016 Surveyor- Truck	\$55,000.00
1000-068-30-0084 Commissioners- Repair Building & Structures	\$25,000.00
LIT- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$163,000.00
1112-001-30-0027 Contractual Services- ECI Regional Planning	\$63,000.00
1112-001-30-0027 Contractual Services- JCDC	\$100,000.00
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INNKEEPERS TAX-TOURISM	
7304-001-30-0027 Contractual Services	\$131,346.91
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9116-001-10-0017 Employer Social Security	\$10,040.00
9116-001-10-0018 Employer PERF	\$14,699.00
9116-001-10-0048 Wages- Executive Director	\$74,298.00
9116-001-10-0049 Employer Health Insurance	\$2,464.00
9116-001-10-0127 Wages- Deputy Director	\$56,939.00
Total	\$564,622.10

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 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 the action time.

Emily Franks, Jay County Auditor
CR 1-31-2025 -HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY, SS: IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT CAUSE NO: 38C01-2309-EU-000022 IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF: WAUNETA A. KEGERRIS (Deceased)
NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that Phillip Kegerreis and Nathaniel Kegerreis were appointed as Personal Representatives of the Estate of Wauneta A. Kegerreis, deceased, on the 20th day of September, 2023, who died on the 8th day of September, 2023.
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent’s death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated 1-27-2025
Melissa Elliott
CLERK OF THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
COLDREN, FRANTZ & SPRUNGER
Attorneys at Law
940 N. Meridian St.
Portland, IN 47371
260-726-4220
CR 1-31,2-7-2025-HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY, SS: IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT CAUSE NO: 38C01-2411-EU-000032 IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF: LARRY LEE BICKEL (Deceased)
NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that Kent L. Bickel was appointed as Personal Representative of the estate of Larry Lee Bickel deceased, on 11-14-2024, who died on the 7th day of October, 2024.
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent’s death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated this 11-15-2024
Jon Eads
CLERK OF THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
COLDREN, FRANTZ & SPRUNGER
Attorneys at Law
940 N. Meridian St.
Portland, IN 47371
260-726-4220
CR 1-31,2-7-2025-HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice
STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY, SS: IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT CAUSE NO: 38C01-2411-EU-000032 IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF: LARRY LEE BICKEL (Deceased)
NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that Kent L. Bickel was appointed as Personal Representative of the estate of Larry Lee Bickel deceased, on 11-14-2024, who died on the 7th day of October, 2024.
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent’s death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated this 11-15-2024
Jon Eads
CLERK OF THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
COLDREN, FRANTZ & SPRUNGER
Attorneys at Law
940 N. Meridian St.
Portland, IN 47371
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Here's to Ueck! Cheers to so many years of Brewer memories

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

Most people hope when they die, friends, family and other loved ones will leave flowers at their graves or memorials.

We do things a little differently back home.

Just an hour after the news of his death, a single, unopened Miller Lite sat at the base of the Bob Uecker statue outside right field at American Family field, or more affectionately, Miller Park.

It was a true tribute to one of the greatest radio broadcasters to ever put on a headset from the state, city, fanbase and team that he meant so much to.

It's been just a little over two weeks since it was announced that Bob Uecker died after battling a silent affair with small-cell lung cancer.

While it the news of Ueck's death didn't come with much surprise — he would have turned 91 on Jan. 26 — it's hard to imagine what a season of Milwaukee Brewers baseball is going to look, or rather, sound like, without him.

I, admittedly, hadn't listed to the radio broadcast nearly as much as many of my peers had. I was fortunate enough to get to attend a large amount of home games, and often would watch the road series on TV.

I actually only knew who Bob Uecker was because of the statue of him at the top of the stadium in section 422. The statue was an homage to the 1970s and 1980s Miller Lite "All Stars" commercials in which Uecker sits at a game and an usher asks him to get up. "I must be in the front row!" he responds before being moved to the nosebleeds.

Once I got to college and the TV broadcasting rights went to Bally Sports, I started to tune into the radio broadcasts significantly more. Then I got the opportunity to work for Good Karma Brands, the company that owns WTMJ and produced the broadcast that featured Uecker.

I became hooked.

See **Badger** page 7

Patriots end regular season on a sour note

OSSIAN — If the Patriots ended the regular season with their originally scheduled opponent, they would have rode a 28-point victory into the sectional.

Instead, poor weather a week prior pushed an earlier game back and the result was a 55-point loss to take into the postseason.

Jay County High School's girls basketball team suffered an 89-34 loss at the hands of the Class 3A No. 9 Norwell Knights to close the regular season on Tuesday.

The game between Jay County (10-12) and the Knights (15-6) was originally scheduled for Jan. 21, but poor weather pushed the game back to Tuesday.

Hallie Schwieterman scored 76.5% of the Patriots' points, as she poured in a game-high 26. She also had all 11 points for JCHS in the third quarter, hitting a three, a trio of buckets inside the arc and splitting two pairs of free throws.

Outside of the sophomore, Natalie May hit a 3-pointer in the opening period, and Gabi Petro and Elizabeth Brunswick both had hoops in the second. Brunswick also hit one of two free throws in the fourth quarter.

Norwell's Vanessa

Jay girls basketball suffered a 89-34 loss at Norwell heading into the Feb. 7 sectional semifinal

Rosswurm matched Schwieterman with 26 points, but it was three more Knights that put up double digits that made the difference. Macie Saalfrank scored all 18 of her points in the first half. Addie Norris added 13, while Haley Williamson had 10.

The Patriots will open the postseason with a sectional semifinal against the winner of Delta and Hamilton Heights at approximately 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 7 at Connersville. Sitting at 10-12, JCHS will need to make a run to the semi-state tournament to avoid their first sub-.500 season since 2013-14.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Hallie Schwieterman of the Jay County High School girls basketball team goes up for a layup during Tuesday's 57-29 win over Heritage. Schwieterman scored 76.5% of the Patriot's points in a 89-34 loss at Norwell that wrapped up the regular season on Wednesday.

Pistons fall to Pacers in emotional, physical game

By **COTY M. DAVIS**

The Detroit News
Tribune News Service

INDIANAPOLIS — The last time the Detroit Pistons and Indiana Pacers faced off two weeks ago at Little Caesars Arena, tensions flared, reigniting a longstanding rivalry.

As the Pistons entered Gainbridge Fieldhouse on Wednesday for their fourth and final matchup of the season against the Pacers, coach J.B. Bickerstaff emphasized that composure would be the key attribute needed to secure a victory.

"This is going to be a game that's going to be competitive for a bunch of different reasons, but I don't think you would have it any other way," Bickerstaff said. "I think sometimes it is overblown; the NBA is competitive."

"You have 450 guys who every time they step onto the floor they are looking to win. But you have to be able to (control) that and make sure you are using your energy for the best benefit of the team and not getting outside of yourself where it takes away from our focus and what we are trying to do."

After a Pacers 24-8 run, the Pistons did not fulfill Bickerstaff's teaching until midway

through the second quarter. Indiana shot 80.0% from the floor while connecting on seven made 3-point field goals in the first quarter.

By the time the Pistons managed their emotions, the Pacers had taken complete control, resulting in a 133-119 Detroit loss. The game marked the end of Detroit's five-game road trip, and their overall record dropped to 23-24.

The Pacers' All-Star pairing of Pascal Siakam (37 points) and Tyrese Haliburton (30 points) set an early tone for the Pacers by scoring a combined 23 points.

Emotions ran high as Detroit picked up three technical fouls within the first 17 minutes. Isaiah Stewart accounted for two and was ejected after receiving a flagrant 2 foul for shoving Pacers big man Thomas Bryant at the 8:45 mark of the second quarter.

Cade Cunningham accounted for the other first-half technical, displaying his frustration after a questionable shooting foul during Siakam's missed layup. This foul occurred during a stretch that saw Indiana extend its lead to 20 (59-39) following Miles Turner's 3-pointer.

The Pistons were called for four technical fouls. During the

second half, Bickerstaff and Tim Hardaway Jr. received their technicals.

Ausar Thompson's layup two possessions later helped the Pistons outscore the Pacers 25-15 to end the first half. Although they trailed 74-64 at halftime, Detroit built momentum during the final six minutes of the period, which was crucial for their rally in the third quarter.

Cunningham made a layup, reducing the Pacers' lead to four points (82-86) with 5:40 remaining in the quarter. With 13 of his 32 points coming in the third, Detroit entered the final period down 102-96. In addition to recording his 10th consecutive game of 20 or more points, Cunningham also added nine assists and five rebounds.

Malik Beasley scored 20 points on 6-of-10 3-point shooting, while Tobias Harris recorded 19 points and eight rebounds. The Pistons trailed by as many as six (111-105) midway through the fourth quarter before the Pacers embarked on a 25-7 run to close the game.

Observations and notes vs. Pacers

— Thompson helps with ball-handling duties: The Pacers deployed a double-team on Cunningham early, leading to the

Pistons' sluggish start. However, to adjust to Indiana's defensive strategy, Thompson stepped up as Detroit's secondary playmaker. While it wasn't ideal, Thompson's efforts helped the Pistons get their offense going after the slow beginning.

— Pistons lose four-game regular season series: With their defeat against the Pacers, the Pistons dropped their four-game regular-season series, 3-1.

— A disappointing end: The Pistons' loss to the Pacers ended their season-long five-game road trip with a 2-3 record. The trip once looked promising, with wins against the Houston Rockets and Atlanta Hawks. However, the Pistons will return to Detroit on a three-game losing streak, with additional losses to the Orlando Magic and Cleveland Cavaliers.

Up next
The Pistons will begin a six-game homestand on Friday night against the Dallas Mavericks. Sunday's game against the Chicago Bulls will mark the first of a back-to-back set that will conclude against the Atlanta Hawks on Monday night. Tipoff between the Pistons and Mavericks is slated for 7 p.m. at Little Caesars Arena.

Check out the new Jay County Fair building rentals page!

RentJCF.org

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Questions?

Board Director / Rental Manager

Joey Hall

260-251-5559 - halljoey140@gmail.com

Joey Logano wants fourth NASCAR championship

By **SHANE CONNUCK**
The Charlotte Observer
Tribune News Service
CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Three-time NASCAR Cup Series champion Joey Logano is already focused on what could come next.

Logano, the reigning champion in racing's highest circuit, joked it was "pretty immediate" that he pondered the possibility of a fourth Cup Series title.

The 34-year-old Team Penske star has won the Cup Series following three of the past seven playoffs, including in two of the past three years. He's been

among the sport's top drivers throughout his career — and now looks to lift himself among some of the best to do it, starting with four-time champion Jeff Gordon.

"I think we lost four of them that we should have won," Logano said. "So those ones always are in the back of my mind. Probably not until I'm done racing, will I be content with what I have, because I'm not done yet. I'm only 34. I've got a lot of years ahead of me to win more championships and races."

See **Logano** page 7