

The Commercial Review

Council debates future of facility

Financial review sparks questions about viability

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

County officials took another look into the county home’s finances. Jay County Council discussed a five-year review of Jay County Country Living’s financial information during its meeting Wednesday.

Documents presented to council Wednesday included figures on revenue and expenses for the facility between 2020 and 2024, as well as expenditures paid out of other funds, a list of the directors who have run the facility in the last 10 years — there have been six — and a report of the number of residents living at the facility in that time-frame.

Revenue includes dollars from state funding such as Residential Care Assistance Program, residents’ rent and money from renting out the farm, hay field and barn and pasture properties. Revenue came in as follows: nearly \$345,600 in 2020, \$290,000 in 2021, \$316,600 in 2022, \$362,250 in 2023 and \$340,620 in 2024.

Expenses, which includes wages, supplies, food, utilities and other needs, were as follows: \$465,850 for 2020, \$445,950 for 2021, \$459,575 for 2022, \$467,080 for 2023 and \$434,230 for 2024.

Council member Bryan Alexander asked for council member and Jay County County Living Advisory Board president Cindy Bracy’s perspective on Jay County Country Living’s outlook.

“Because to me, as a financial person, I see this thing as a train wreck,” Alexander said.

Bracy noted she pushed for the county to take a deeper look into the facility’s finances and future in past years. She said she also initially saw the facility as a “train wreck.”

She listed various changes that have been made since the advisory board was created, including developing agreements for residents’ rent, establishing training, safety and disciplinary protocol, forming a partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank for meals — she pointed out that has recently started and won’t be visible in last year’s financials — planning for building repairs and renovations and other adjustments.

“There were a lot of things that were neglected and not done right,” she said, adding that she thinks now the county is headed in the right direction.

Comparing losses from 2021 to 2024, Bracy said there was almost a 60% savings. With 9,312 tax filers in Jay County, she added, that would equate to each of those taxpayers contributing \$10 toward the facility.

See Facility page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

In a fog

Foggy conditions crept into Jay County after 7 a.m. Thursday. Pictured, fog shrouds Portland Golf Club in this view from its entrance on county road 200 South. Cooler temperatures will remain today and tomorrow before climbing into the 60s Sunday and then a high of 70 on Monday.

House, Senate split on education \$

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Much of the newly introduced budget from Senate Republicans closely aligns with the one proposed by House Republicans, but the two caucuses diverged when it came to key education priorities.

The Senate Appropriations Committee voted to accept the proposed amendment into the budget on a 10-3 vote, adopting the language proposed by members of the Senate Republican caucus.

Republican budget writers in the House, and even Gov. Mike Braun, signaled their desire to

GOP senators choose to keep voucher eligibility requirements

eliminate eligibility requirements for the school voucher program, meaning that even the wealthiest Hoosier students attending private schools would receive state dollars.

In a tight budget year, Senate Republicans opted to keep current eligibility requirements.

The difference for funding virtual students was even more stark: House Republicans sought to increase the reimbursement from 85% of an in-person student to 100%. Senators, on the other hand, proposed a cut to 70%, alluding to concerns about accountability amid an ongoing

corruption investigation into a now-closed virtual school.

Overall, K-12 schools will see the same 2% baseline increase each year — with additional dollars to offset curriculum costs, though schools have previously shared concerns about whether the funds would be sufficient.

Similar to earlier versions of the budget, spending increases were largely absorbed by three different line items: Medicaid, the Department of Child Services and the Department of Correction.

But the bill is far from finalized. A new two-year revenue forecast is scheduled for April 16, which could shift how much money lawmakers have to spend.

U.S, Russia officials hold new talks

By HENRY MEYER
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Russian and U.S. officials were holding a fresh round of talks in Turkey, after a prisoner swap in which Moscow released detained American Ksenia Karelina.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in a post on the X platform Thursday that Karelina was “on a plane back home” after President Donald Trump had secured her release.

Karelina was exchanged for Russian citizen Arthur Petrov in a swap conducted at Abu Dhabi through the mediation of the United Arab Emirates, Russia’s Federal Security Service said Thursday, according to the state-run Tass news service.

Karelina, a dual U.S.-Russian citizen who was a resident of Los Angeles,



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/AFP/Yasin Akgul

was sentenced to 12 years for treason in August last year over a donation she had made to a charity that helps Ukraine. She was detained during a family visit to the Urals city of Yekaterinburg.

The Wall Street Journal, which first reported the prisoner exchange earlier Thursday, said Petrov was a dual Russian-German citizen detained in 2023 in Cyprus on a U.S. request for allegedly exporting dual-use electronics. CIA Director John Ratcliffe negotiated the swap and was at Abu Dhabi airport to greet Karelina, the newspaper said.

The U.S.-Russia talks taking place in Istanbul are

A van carrying the U.S. delegation enters the Russian Consulate on Thursday in Istanbul. Russian and U.S. officials are holding talks in Istanbul as part of efforts to normalize diplomatic operations between the two countries.

focused on restoring the two countries’ diplomatic missions, as well as direct flights that Washington suspended following Russia’s February 2022 invasion of Ukraine, Russian Ambassador to the U.S. Alexander Darchiyev told state news service RIA Novosti. The war in Ukraine is not on the agen-

da, State Department spokeswoman Tammy Bruce told reporters on Tuesday.

The meeting comes after President Vladimir Putin’s representative, Kirill Dmitriev, returned from two days of consultations in the U.S. last week and signaled there’d be new talks. Dmitriev met with Trump’s special envoy Steve Witkoff and Rubio in Washington, days after the U.S. president had expressed frustration with Putin over a lack of progress in achieving a ceasefire in Russia’s war on Ukraine.

Darchiyev is leading Moscow’s delegation in the Istanbul talks, while U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Sonata Coulter heads the negotiators from Washington, RIA earlier reported.

Deaths	Weather	In review	Coming up
Jerome Laux , 74, Fort Recovery Details on page 2.	Jay County had a high temperature of 44 degrees Wednesday. The low was 28. Tonight’s forecast calls for a low in the lower 30s. Expect sunny skies Saturday with a high in the mid 50s. Lows will be in the mid 30s Saturday night. See page 2 for an extended outlook.	Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available today. Trailers will be open from 9 a.m. to noon in the shopping center at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, and Dunkirk City Park.	Saturday — Results from the Jay County softball game against Delta. Tuesday — Coverage of Monday’s Jay County Commissioners meeting. Wednesday — Details from next week’s Dunkirk City Council meeting.



New cases of measles confirmed

The Tribune-Star (Terre Haute)
Tribune News Service

The Indiana Department of Health has confirmed five additional cases of measles in Indiana, bringing the total to six in 2025.

The newly-reported cases are three minors and two adults in Allen County. The initial case was reported earlier this week.

All six cases are connected to each other but at this time there are no known links to outbreaks in other states, according to an IDOH news release.

The four minors were unvac-

cinated and the adults' vaccination status is unclear.

"All are recovering well," the health department said.

State and local public health officials are working together on the investigation to contact those with known exposure to help prevent further spread of infection. The risk to the general public remains low.

Measles is caused by a highly contagious virus that spreads easily from person to person. It is an airborne disease, meaning it spreads through the air when an infected person breathes, coughs, sneezes, or talks.

The virus can stay alive in the air and on surfaces for up to two hours. Because measles is so easily spread, a single case is considered an outbreak.

Two doses of MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine are 97% effective at preventing measles. Individuals born before 1957 are presumed to be immune.

Consult with your healthcare provider if you are unsure of your vaccination status.

Children are routinely vaccinated for measles at 12 to 15 months, and again at 4 to 6 years of age before going to

kindergarten, but children as young as 6 months old can receive the measles vaccine if they are at risk.

Measles begins with a fever, cough, runny nose and red eyes usually about 7 to 14 days after exposure to measles but can occur up to 21 days. The fever increases and can get as high as 105 degrees.






Tiny white spots (Koplik spots) may appear inside the mouth two to three days after symptoms begin. Then two to four days after symptoms begin, a rash starts on the hairline and face.

Obituaries

Jerome "Jerry" Laux, Fort Recovery, March 3, 1951-April 8, 2025. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, April 14, at St. Anthony Catholic Church.

The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.
There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Saturday 4/12	Sunday 4/13	Monday 4/14	Tuesday 4/15	Wednesday 4/16
 58/37 Sunny skies are in the forecast for Saturday when the high was in the mid to upper 50s.	 64/53 Mostly sunny skies are expected Sunday with highs in the low to mid 60s.	 66/41 There's a 40% chance of thunderstorms Monday when the high will be in the mid to upper 60s.	 49/31 Tuesday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with lows around 31.	 56/36 Mostly sunny on Wednesday when the low will hit the mid to upper 30s.

Lotteries

Powerball 4-29-37-55-67 Power Ball: 10 Power Play: 4 Estimated jackpot: \$82 million	Daily Four: 0-0-6-1 Quick Draw: 5-7-8-9-14-16-19-21-29-31-35-40-46-52-57-58-59-61-68-80 Cash 5: 9-10-19-23-32 Estimated jackpot: \$135,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$72 million	Ohio Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 3-5-4 Pick 4: 5-3-0-9 Pick 5: 7-4-8-6-8 Evening Pick 3: 2-0-1 Pick 4: 6-9-2-3 Pick 5: 1-2-8-2-3 Rolling Cash: 1-3-11-28-33 Estimated jackpot: \$160,000
Hoosier Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 8-0-2 Daily Four: 8-7-8-6 Quick Draw: 5-7-8-9-14-16-19-21-29-31-35-40-46-52-57-58-59-61-68-80 Evening Daily Three: 6-2-3	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.83 May corn.....4.86 June corn.....4.90	May beans10.15 Wheat 4.97
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.93 May corn.....4.98 June corn5.00	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.82 May corn.....4.84 Beans.....10.14 May beans10.17 Wheat5.01
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.87 May corn.....4.87 Beans10.15	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.73 May corn.....4.78 Beans.....9.97 May beans10.02 Wheat4.84

Today in history

In 1814, Napoleon abdicated leadership of France at Fontainebleau.

In 1973, Jay County Hospital Board elected officers for the year including Joe Wool-slager as president, Max Lyons as vice president and Wayne Hobson as secretary-treasurer.

In 1998, Portland Board of Zoning Appeals granted a variance to Dr. David Ful-

lenkamp to allow for expansion of his practice at 1111 N. Meridian St., Portland.

In 2022, Dunkirk City Council voted to allocate \$400,000 from its federal coronavirus relief funds through the American Rescue Plan Act for a flood mitigation project that called for the creation of two detention ponds on the southeast edge of the city.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday
9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
4 p.m. — Jay School Board executive session, General Shanks conference room, 414 Floral Ave., Portland.
4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community room, library, 315 N.

Ship St., Portland.
6 p.m. — Jay County County Living Advisory Board, living facility, 1194 E. 200 North, Portland.
6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Local Schools, community room, high school, 400 Butler St.
7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.
Wednesday
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.

Facility ...

Continued from page 1

Looking at a roughly \$100,000 deficit for the facility, Alexander asked if that is a good use of taxpayers' dollars. He also said he'd like to see five- to 10-year plans for how to keep the facility running.

Bracy pointed to efforts to increase grant opportunities. With the county population becoming older and poorer, she said, Bracy questioned if Jay County should cease operations at the facility. She pointed to a need for affordable housing in the community, saying the living facility is available for that purpose.

"It should be a jewel in the crown of Jay County," she said.

Alexander pointed to high bills for the facility. He noted certain departments are a service provided to the community and aren't expected to turn a profit.

"The question becomes, how viable is this thing, and there's a reason there's not a lot of these (living facilities) left, and my two cents is because I think the federal government stepped in," he said.

"Back in the day, these kind of facilities, if you couldn't pay your debt, you'd go out there and work it off."

Bracy said Jay County Country Living can house up to 30, although changes are still being made to the building and procedures before they hope to bring in more residents.

Council member Harold Towell, who also serves on the advisory board, voiced frustrations with the facility. He said that while the facility can house up to 30, it hasn't been able to sustain more than 20 residents in the last two years. He pointed to other issues at the facility, such as requirements for residents, officials not enforcing rules and the state of the building.

"I'm just saying if we can find places for these people, like the

rest of the 80 counties in the state have, it's not feasible to keep out there," he said.

Towell pointed to \$350,000 in outstanding debt for the facility, with Bracy saying those dollars trace back to mismanagement as far back as nine years ago. She criticized previous county officials for not paying attention to the facility's finances at that time.

Minnich later shared his thoughts, highlighting perspectives from both sides.

"At least the last three years I've been on council, it's, 'Well, we want to see what next year brings,' and every year, 'We want to see what next year brings,'" he said.

"And I would say, we've seen some improvement in people paying and the number of residents, but at the end of the day ... we're still looking at very similar losses, so something I think drastic needs to change to say we're going in the right direction."

Also Wednesday, council heard an update from Alexander regarding development of the county's 68 acres on the western edge of Portland.

Alexander talked about a meeting Tuesday involving county and Portland representatives as well as CWC Latitudes and Rundell, Ernstberger and Associates. He pointed to misunderstandings regarding funding on the project that were discussed at the meeting and shared plans for officials to "green light" survey work for the project within a week.

In 60 days, he said, the county should be in a position to prepare construction contracts. The most pressing issue is timing involving grant dollars to be potentially released to Jay County through the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) 2.0.

Alexander also pointed to hesi-

tancy from Jay County Redevelopment Commission to move forward with the project without READI 2.0 funds.

After some discussion about the project, council agreed, with Bracy and Towell opposing, to make an additional appropriation of \$1,281,946.07 to Jay County Redevelopment Commission for the 68-acre development and \$2,200.06 to Rundell, Ernstberger and Associates for work related to the project. (Contracts for the funding have been approved previously.)

In other business, council members Faron Parr, Randy May, Michael Brewster, Towell, Alexander, Bracy and Minnich:

• Heard an Easter egg hunt is scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday at Jay County Country Living.

• Made the following additional appropriations: \$4,500 from Ritter Strategic Services for ongoing work related to purchasing new radios for emergency responders with Towell opposing, \$3,760 in Jay County Commissioners' budget for professional services and \$3,000 for East Central Indiana Regional Planning District to pursue Indiana Department of Transportation Community Crossings grant dollars for Bryant, Pennville and Salamonie communities.

• Appointed Towell to serve as council's representative on Jay County Solid Waste Management District Board. (May previously served in the role.)

• Approved — Towell dissenting — Jay County Redevelopment Commission's tax increment financing report for 2024.

• Transferred \$2,000 in Jay Superior Court's budget from the overtime wages fund to the translator fund and \$1,000 in Jay County Treasurer's Office budget from the office supplies fund to equipment repair fund.

SERVICES

Saturday

Best, Pamela: noon, Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Monday

Laux, Jerome: 10:30 a.m., 471 St. Anthony Road, Fort Recovery.

Harriett, Thomas: 11:30 a.m., Pennville Community Gym, 390 W. Pleasant St., Pennville.

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Felony arrests

Child exploitation
A Hartford City man was arrested Wednesday for child exploitation.

Bradley J. Donner, 25, 2773 N. Indiana 3, is charged in Jay Circuit Court with a Level 5 felony for the alleged crime, along with a Level 6 felony for dissemination of matter harmful to minors and a Level 6 felony for possession of child pornography.

He was being held on a \$15,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Domestic battery
Two Jay County residents were arrested this week for domestic battery.

Kelsey L. Johnson, 30, 363 W. Commerce St., Dunkirk, was arrested Monday and charged in Jay Superior Court with a Level 6 felony for domestic battery committed in the presence of a child younger than 16 years old. She was being held on a \$3,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Travis J.L. Callahan, 31, 190 E. Maple St., Pennville, was arrested Wednesday. He's charged in Jay Superior Court with a Level 6 felony. He was being held without bond in Jay County Jail.

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WHO DO YOU KNOW

That deserves to be recognized for their lifetime of volunteer service in the Jay County Community?

Tell us what their various volunteer service activities are, or have been, including the number of years and mail to:

Cincinnatus League

"Service Before Self"

P.O. Box 513, Portland, IN 47371

Questions? Contact Karen Bailey 260-729-1249 or karenannbailey9@yahoo.com

Deadline to receive nominations is May 2, 2025!!

<p>Fort Recovery High School recently announced its third quarter honor roll.</p> <p>Seniors making the list with all A's were seniors Olivia Albers, Madison Bihn, Samantha Brackman, Nicole Braun, Calleigh Crabtree, Mason Diller, Gavin Evers, Marlee Fiely and Sarah Fritz.</p> <p>Also Ethan Hartnagel, Kayla Heitkamp, Kyle Huntsman, Cody Klenke, Gabe Knapke, Bailie Muh-</p>	<p>lenkamp, Kennedy Muhlenkamp, Karlle Niekamp, Anna Roessner, Ella Schoen, Reid Timmerman, Mara Wenning and Emma Will.</p> <p>On the honor roll with A's and B's were seniors Drew Backs, Alivia Bergman, Mitchell Bertke, Layla Bihn, Calae Brickley, Tucker Brockman, Kaleb Coleman, Amber Dirksen, Brennan Dues, Gavin Dues, Kassidy Dues, Ava</p>	<p>Englehardt, Evan Evers, Jacob Foote, Jake Fortkamp, Darlin Garcia Rivera, Ava Grisez, Caden Grisez, Eva Kahlig, Joelle Kaup, Lindsey Knapke, Kennedy Kunkler and Emily Lauber.</p> <p>Also Norah Meyer, Keegan Muhlenkamp, Aleigha Overman, Briggs Overman, Clint Pottkotter, Olivia Rammel, Ben Reinhard, Zach Schoenlein, Kruise Siefring, Cooper Thompson,</p>	<p>Eowyn Vela, Brooklyn Wycuff and Gage Zehringer.</p> <p>Juniors making the honor roll with all A's were Evvie Briner, Emma Coleman, Kylia Dues, Elisa Evers, Carson Fulenkamp, Alivia Grube, Jameson Heitkamp, Madison Heitkamp and Maleiah Kaffenberger.</p> <p>Also Cayson Kaikala, Olivia Knapke, Autumn Leuthold, Lily Schwieterman, Reece Wendel, Geor-</p>	<p>gia Wenning and Leah Wuebker.</p> <p>Making the list with A's and B's were juniors Gabe Acheson, Ella Bechtol, Douglas Bihn, Alexis Braun, Aiden Brunswick, Parker Brunswick, Ryker Brunswick, Rylee Bubb, Zoe Dues, Nevaeh Ellsasser, Yaneth Esparza, Mallory Evers, Luke Fortkamp, Alex Gaerke, Brodie Hart, Isabell Hartings, Eli Hawk, Aubrie Heitkamp, Drew Heitkamp, Caden</p>	<p>Homan and Jenna Homan.</p> <p>Also Bella Kahlig, Wes Keller, Dylan Klenke, Brylee Kremer, Cora Kremer, Reece LeFevre, Luke Lochtefeld, Matthew Marshall, Colson Post, Troy Post, Anthony Roessner, Dani Schmitt, Hayden Siefring, Jesse Springer, Lane Ward and Megan Weitzel.</p> <p>Sophomores and freshmen on the list will be announced at a later date.</p>
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DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are the parents of three grown sons. Our middle son ("Kurt," age 29) has been in conflict with his younger brother ("Jared," age 26) for more than a year. Kurt started doing stand-up comedy but still works a day job to pay his bills. Jared now has also started doing comedy. We suspect the disagreement started well before they did stand-up, but now there is name-calling, and both refuse to be in the same room as the other.

Kurt has not attended a family gathering where Jared is in attendance for more than a year. Recently, Kurt said he would attend our holidays and could be civil, but now Jared says he won't be in the same room with him since they have had no dialogue, and the personal attacks were not addressed. He wants Kurt to be held accountable.

They had one joint counseling session. Both found it counterproductive. My sons are adults, and we can't tell them how to live their lives. Kurt wants Jared to quit comedy because he feels it is an invasion of his life as well as his friend circle. Kurt has said mean things to these shared friends. Jared has apologized to Kurt for his past behavior, which included excessive drinking and other destructive activities.



As you can imagine, we don't find any of this funny. We, as parents, don't know how to handle this. Your advice is greatly appreciated. — PARENTS IN TURMOIL IN OHIO

DEAR PARENTS: YOU can't fix this. Your sons are adults and will have to reach a detente on their own. Continue to invite both of your sons to family gatherings, and hope that eventually Jared will mellow. Comedy is a tough field. May the best comedian be left standing.

DEAR ABBY: I have had a housecleaner helping me to take care of my home for the last 30 years. She comes sometimes every week, sometimes every other week. She works part-time at another job, and we work around her schedule. When I retired five years ago and the pandemic began, I was sitting full-time for my grandkids. Everyone

is in school now, and I think I would like to clean the house myself. I enjoy cleaning, but I welcomed the help when I was working full time with my kids and then the grandkids.

My housecleaner and I are friendly and visit when she's here. I am wondering how to go about ending this relationship, as well as what I owe her for her loyalty and help. — CLEANING HOUSE IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR CLEANING HOUSE: Talk to your housekeeper and explain to her what you are thinking. Offer her several months' salary. Then, instead of cutting her off completely, ask if she would come to you once a month "to catch any spots you miss, as well as to visit." (You said you have become friends.) After doing the housecleaning for a month or so, you may find it isn't as enjoyable as you remembered and increase the woman's visits IF she is still available. Good housekeepers are hard to find, and she may be busy.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter is being married in a few weeks and is insisting I sit with her father at the ceremony. Abby, we have been divorced for 20 years. I have been

remarried for 12. Her father has not remarried.

My husband has not tried to replace my father, and I think it's rude that he would be expected to sit with the guests instead of with me, his wife. I was forced to do this at my other daughter's wedding a few months ago, and it was very uncomfortable. I want to look forward to my daughter's day. What is your take on this? —

MUSICAL CHAIRS IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR MUSICAL CHAIRS:

You shouldn't have agreed to that seating arrangement at your other daughter's wedding, and you shouldn't do it at this one. Your husband belongs next to you. If you and your ex are friendly, your ex could sit on the opposite side of you from your husband. If you're not, he could sit at the end of the row on the aisle. But your husband should not be forced to sit "with the other guests" because he is more than a guest, he is a family member.

DEAR ABBY: I worked for a supervisor for more than five years who hated me and let me and everyone else know it. She would bring treats for the crew but not for me. During my fifth

year of working for her, I just lost it one day. She walked up to me and after some back and forth said, "F— you!" I said it back to her, loud enough for everyone in the front office to hear.

It was a big mess, but I couldn't hold it in anymore. I'd been picked on and harassed and worked in a hostile work environment. Anyway, that supervisor was ultimately forced to retire, as were some of her favorites.

My problem now is that my ex-supervisor's friends who still work in the office are making it difficult for me not to curse them out as they are making snide remarks. I was told that if I had any more outbursts, I would be terminated immediately. I've even been to therapy. I don't know what else to do. Please help. —

PERSECUTED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR PERSECUTED: If you haven't already done so, start documenting those snide remarks. Then present them to the front office management or HR and point out that although the original abusers are gone, there are still employees creating a hostile work environment. If it isn't corrected, talk with an attorney. At the same time you are doing that, keep your eyes open for another job.

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

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.

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.

A BETTER LIFE – BRI-

ANNA'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.

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.

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

EUCHRE — Will be

played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 1225 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

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

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

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.

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.

REDISCOVERING JOY — The support group of widows and widowers meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at R & R Fabrications, 601 E. Washington St., St. Henry, Ohio. For more information, email rediscoveringjoy@yahoo.com.

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.

JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 11:30 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in the chapel at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital.

Sudoku

	1				3	7		
						5		
				4			1	3
	3	9						8
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Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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



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The Commercial Review

Quality points
turned to hysteria

To the editor:
The recent column
headlined “Congress is a
reverse Robin Hood” has
some very good points
about problems with var-
ious aid programs to the
poor.

Then of course, in typi-
cal liberal fashion, Joce-
lyn Smith has to go hys-
terical with lies about
Republicans.

She says, “In fact, the
GOP budget proposal
would slash \$880 billion
dollars from Medicaid
and \$230 billion from food
assistance. They’re also
cutting agencies that
assist with affordable
housing, transportation,
safety, veterans, and chil-
dren with disabilities.”

The truth is, \$880 bil-
lion is more than the
entire Medicaid budget
that Trump promised not

Letters to
the Editor

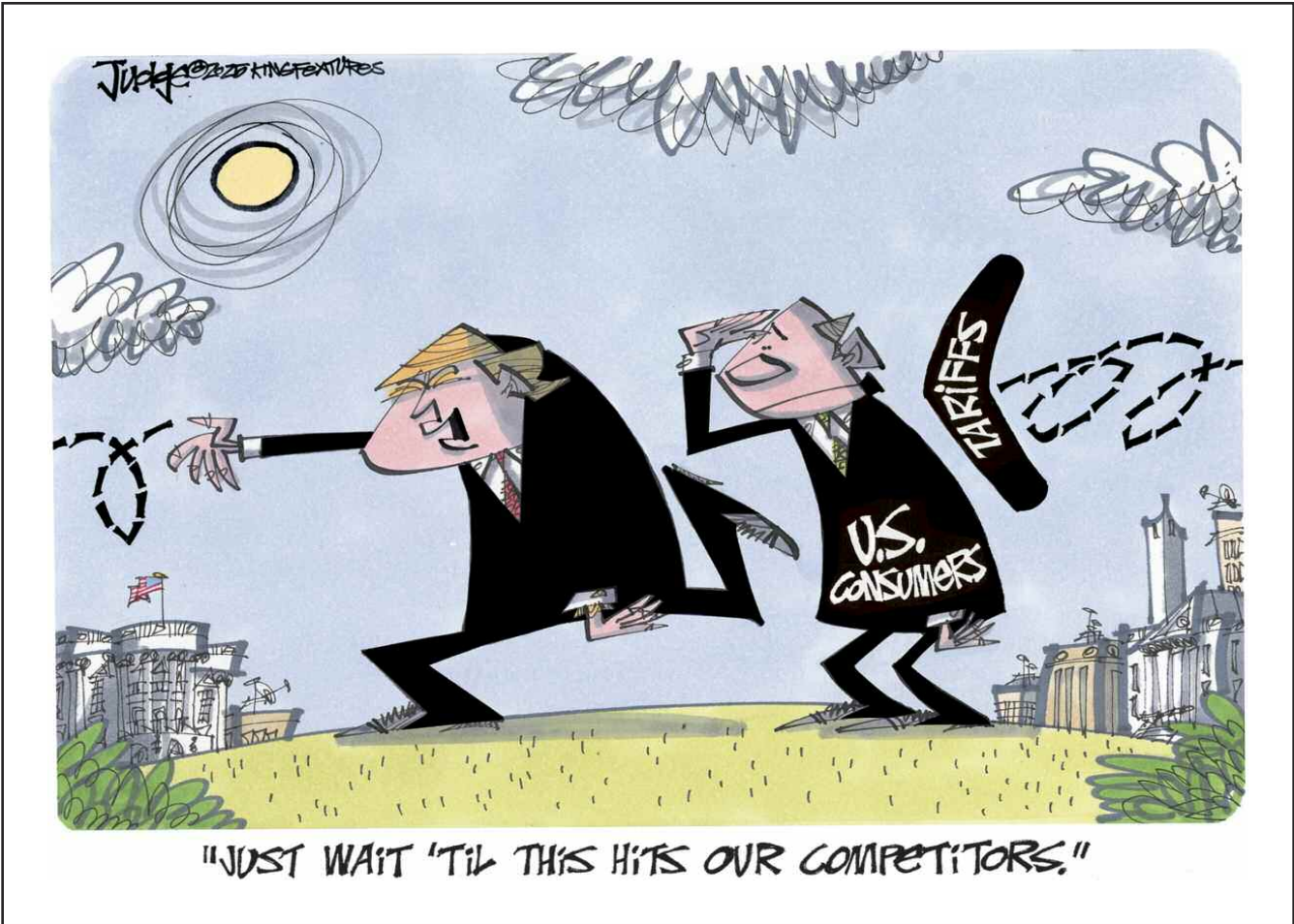
to cut except for fraud
and abuse in the pro-
gram. The entire depart-
ment of agriculture
might or might not be cut
by \$230 billion with no
specific direction to cut
food aid.

As for cutting the other
mentioned agencies, the
cuts are supposed to be in
waste and fraud.

So far there is no proof
that any actual aid will
be cut.

All we actually have is
Democrat hysteria and
misinformation.

Stephen Erwin
Portland



"JUST WAIT 'TIL THIS HITS OUR COMPETITORS."

We can't silence universities

By **ANDREW V. PAPCAHRISTOS**
Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

A rare point of agreement
across the political spectrum
for several decades was that
money didn't matter much in
education. Conservatives
opposed spending
increases as wasteful; many
progressives focused instead
on structural reforms.

But a recent Albert Shanker
Institute report traces the
crucial shift in thinking on
K-12 education spending,
underscoring how more
sophisticated data and
methods have recast that
belief. And it applies to
higher education as well.

Citing analyses from experts
such as Northwestern
University economist Kirabo
Jackson and statistician
Larry Hedges, the report
authors write, "To whatever
extent the idea that 'money
doesn't matter' was ever
credible, it is no longer."

Polymakers from both
parties have now
reconsidered long-held
positions. In state capitals
from Kansas and Virginia
to Pennsylvania, education
budget discussions now
focus less on whether to
invest and more on how
to invest effectively.

This shift appears driven
not by politics but by
research that followed the
evidence. At its best, the
power of university
research can transcend
partisan divides and
provide evidence that
improves policy for all
Americans.

Yet today, this essential
bridge between science
and policy faces
unprecedented threats
as the new Department
of Government Efficiency,
under the second Donald
Trump administration,
has called for the
elimination of the
Department of Education
after the slashing of
half the department's
workforce, eliminating
thousands of jobs,
funding and oversight
— and affecting
fundamental research.

As director of Northwestern's
Institute for Policy Research
(IPR), I lead an institution
that has weathered many
political storms. For 55
years, this research has
remained relevant
through nine presidential
administrations — not
by following political
trends but by following
evidence.

In 1968, amid urban
unrest eerily similar to
the tensions today,
dedicated scholars
built institutes such as
the Urban Institute and
Johns Hopkins' Center
for Metropolitan Planning
and Research to bring
rigorous evidence to bear
on pressing social
problems. The country
faced deep divisions
over racial discrimination,
civil rights and war.
Universities were under
fire then, too, criticized
simultaneously as
hotbeds of radicalism
and bastions of elitism.

From that turbulent
era, research emerged
that transformed
American life for the
better. In the early
1970s, IPR

Andrew V.
Papcahristos



researchers documented
discriminatory redlining
practices in Chicago
neighborhoods. Their
evidence helped secure
passage of landmark
fair housing legislation
that opened
homeownership to
millions of Americans
previously excluded
because of their race
or where they hoped
to live.

When Chicago launched
its Chicago Alternative
Policing Strategy in the
early 1990s, researchers
began what would
become a two-decade
study spanning four
presidencies. The
research didn't advance
a partisan agenda but
documented what
worked across
changing political
landscapes. The
findings on community
engagement and
neighborhood-specific
approaches have
shaped policing in
both progressive
cities and conservative
towns — proof that
research can transcend
divides when focused
on outcomes rather
than ideology.

When a Republican
Congress and Democratic
President Bill Clinton
enacted welfare reform
in 1996, researchers
tracked its effects
without ideological
preconceptions. The
resulting evidence
helped state
polymakers from both
parties design more
effective programs
for working families.

IPR researchers showed
that six years after
mothers left the welfare
rolls for work, their
preschoolers and young
children didn't suffer
any serious setbacks
— and teens even
experienced some
improved outcomes.
Another study painted
a more complex
picture for 1,300
Illinois families,
revealing that welfare
reform worked for
those who found and
kept jobs, but not for
those who didn't.

These weren't partisan
pursuits. They were
investigations guided
by scientific method
rather than political
preference — exactly
what America needs
today.

The White House has
proposed slashing the
funding that maintains
university research
infrastructure, placed
politically motivated
"holds" on federal
research grants and
launched investigations
that could result in
massive funding cuts
— including the
recent announcement
of a Justice Department
task force targeting
university practices.

Why should Americans
who aren't faculty,
academics, university
administrators or
polymakers — or those
who have never set
foot on a college
campus — care?

These actions threaten
America's global
leadership position.

University research
drives innovation,
which is essential for
economic growth.
When political
interference disrupts
research, the country
cedes advantage to
international competitors
that are rapidly
expanding their
investments in
knowledge creation.

Without rigorous
evidence, policy
decisions default to
ideology and business
as usual. When
studies on economic
opportunity get
blocked, effective
pathways out of
poverty remain
undiscovered, and
families struggle to
make ends meet.
When research on
climate adaptation
gets shelved,
communities remain
vulnerable to floods
and fires. When
health research gets
politicized, lifesaving
treatments remain
undeveloped, and
health care costs
continue to rise.

The current threats to
university research
aren't about fiscal
responsibility or
accountability —
they're about control.
Administration
officials want to
dictate what
questions to ask
and which evidence
is acceptable to
fit their worldviews
and further their
aims. This approach
undermines the
very process that
makes university
research valuable:
the freedom to
follow evidence
wherever it leads.

In recent research
on child poverty,
economists have
shown that nutrition
assistance programs
not only reduce
hunger, addressing
humanitarian
concerns, but also
improve children's
long-term health
and economic
self-sufficiency.

This evidence has
informed congressional
decisions regardless
of which party held
power.

Similarly, researchers
studying water
security have
developed measures
now used globally
to identify
communities at risk.
This work helps
prevent humanitarian
crises while
enabling more
efficient resource
allocation — goals
that transcend
partisan divides.

America faces complex
challenges that
require sophisticated,
evidence-based
responses: economic
opportunities,
health care access,
educational
opportunity and
public safety.
Without robust
university research,
it is the same as
flying blind, left to
navigate by the
dim light of
ideology and
special interests.

Certainly, America's
universities aren't
perfect. They require
reform and renewal
like any other
institutions. But
their capacity to
produce knowledge
that improves
lives shouldn't be
sacrificed for
short-term
political goals.

What is at stake is
not just the future
of higher education,
but also America's
ability to address
its most pressing
challenges with
clarity, creativity
and evidence.

.....

Papachristos is a professor of sociology and director of the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University.

What's a 'living wage' in Indiana?

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

Why do people move
where they do?

It's the kind of
question many bright
folks love to put in the
pot, stir and come up
with an answer.

Some will say it's for
the weather. Good
schools are a popular
idea. Creative people
have their advocates.
College towns offer
both culture and
sports programs.

Today we'll look at
population growth,
per capita personal
income and its big
brother, per capita
Gross Domestic
Product (GDP). Our
focus is on just 22 of
the 384 metro areas
with significant
colleges relative to
their communities.

We're looking at the
places where a college
or university has a
significant role in
social and economic
life of the metro
complex. However,
there can't be too
much competition
from other activities.
Hence Austin, Boston,
Lincoln and Phoenix
are not in our sample
since each also serves
as its state capital.

The metro areas of the
United States gained
91% of the population
increase from 2003 to
2023. They had an
average annual
population increase
of 0.82%, ahead of
the nation's 0.75%
rate. Our non-
scientific sample of
22 "college" metro
areas had population
growth at an annual
rate of 0.78%,
somewhat faster than
the nation but not as
fast as all metro areas.

The leaders in
population growth
rates among our 22
metros were College
Station (Texas A&M) at
1.82% average annual
growth, followed by
Iowa City (the University
of Iowa) at 1.34%, and
Tuscaloosa (the University
of Alabama) at 1.25%.

The slowest growing
college metros were
Ithaca (Cornell University)
at 0.22%, trailed by
South Bend-Mishawaka
(Notre Dame).
Muncie (Ball State
University) was the
only "college" metro
in our sample to lose
population, declining at
a 0.33% annual rate.

In per capita personal
income, our 22 metros
had a collective 3.78%
growth behind all metros

Eye
on the
Pie



The metro areas of the United States gained 91% of the population increase from 2003 to 2023.

and the nation as a
whole. The growth rate
leaders were
Charlottesville,
Virginia, Missoula,
Montana, and
Boulder, Colorado,
each above 4.4%.
They bested the
nation and the
national metropolitan
statistical areas.
This indicates strong
personal income
growth that was
not knocked down
by their relatively
high population
growth.

Finally, six of our 22
metropolitan statistical
areas, including our
own Lafayette-West
Lafayette, exceeded
4% growth in per
capita GDP, the
productivity of a
population. The
nation, its aggregation
of metropolitan
statistical areas and
our collective of
"college" metropolitan
statistical areas fell
short of that
annualized growth
rate.

In none of the topics
above did our 22
"college" metropolitan
statistical areas grow
faster than the
entirety of metropolitan
statistical areas.
Perhaps the rate of
population growth is
inverse to the size of
the metropolitan
statistical area.

If that's the useless
secret, some consultant
will write a book and
make a small,
temporary splash on
the speaking circuit.

.....

Marcus is an economist formerly with Indiana University's Kelley School of Business. Email him at mortonjmarcus@gmail.com.

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Birds in the backyard

Owners say raising chickens at home is worth it

By **JOSEPH STATES**
and **RICHARD REQUENA**
Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

As Chicago-area shoppers hesitate to reach into grocery coolers when they see the price of eggs, Jim Irwin enjoys going out to his backyard chicken coop on Chicago's northwest side, and Annie Lawson gathers freshly laid eggs in her Grayslake yard.

Winfield resident Sheena Tovt wishes she were so fortunate.

In west suburban Winfield, residents are banned from raising livestock. Amid soaring egg prices, however, the town held an advisory referendum April 1 on whether the village should rethink its policy on backyard chickens.

The non-binding measure to allow chickens lost by just 51 votes, according to unofficial results. Village President Carl Sorgatz said Winfield put the question on the ballot because the issue has inspired a lot of passionate debate in town.

Despite the pro-poultry contingent's loss, Sorgatz said the Village Board still may reconsider the current ban.

"We'll take a look at it in future board meetings to see whether the board might be willing to move forward in terms of changing the position we have," he said.

That should be welcome news for Tovt, who has been pushing for backyard chickens in her community. The current egg prices played a part in her decision, especially because she buys the organic, pasture-raised eggs that carry a premium price in supermarkets.

"There are a lot of people in our community now wanting chickens, and egg prices are absolutely part of the discussion," she said. "Long term, you are going to recoup your money, especially if you want cage-free, pasture-raised eggs from a chicken that's not sick or stressed. And you're not at the mercy of grocery stores' pricing and availability."

Tovt also saw the educational benefits when her son, at about age five, interacted with chickens



Tribune News Service/Chicago Tribune/Eileen T. Meslar

Jim Irwin lets out his chickens from his backyard coop in Chicago's Albany Park neighborhood on March 17. He said he collects three to five dozen eggs a week for his family, friends and neighbors. "They're personable animals, they're inquisitive and they have a personality," he said. "They're fun to interact with."

being raised at his school, Carmel Montessori Academy in Wrenville.

"He was able to see the coop, gather the eggs, bring one home, cook it and eat it," she said.

Tovt said she believes the "no" votes in her town's referendum came from people who live in subdivisions with homeowners associations that prohibit chickens regardless of village law. She was heartened to see that 1,079 people — about 49% of voters — backed the idea.

"The referendum was to gauge support and interest and you definitely can see support and interest," she said. "I'm just waiting to see if we can move forward."

Though experienced chicken owners caution that the cost of raising chickens might cancel out any egg savings at the supermarket, they encourage the public to give the hobby a try. They say it's entertaining to raise the birds, who become kind of like pets, with their own personalities and quirks.

"It's just very rewarding, hands-on — it's great for kids," said Lawson, adding that chil-

dren in her Grayslake neighborhood love to watch the birds. "It's just a fun community thing."

Irwin works as an IT professional and moonlights as a singer in an AC/DC tribute band. He said he collects three to five dozen eggs a week for his family and sometimes friends and neighbors, too.

"They're personable animals, they're inquisitive and they have a personality," he said. "They're fun to interact with."

Combating bird flu

Stories about bird flu decimating poultry farms and causing jumps in egg prices have been all across the news in recent months.

Numerous dead birds that tested positive for avian flu, mostly ducks and waterfowl, have been found on Chicago's North Shore lakefront. Betty Brucato, an Evanston resident who has owned chickens for 11 years, said she has not had any problems with her chickens, but she is worried.

Her hens are on lockdown, she said, with no yard time at all. She wears separate boots when walk-

ing in their run, and she plans to put up some barriers along the bottom to prevent wild bird exposure.

"We have had many bird flu scares in the past, but never to this frightening extent. I hope this too passes," Brucato said.

Joy O'Keefe, an associate professor and wildlife extension specialist at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, said the risk of bird flu for backyard chickens depends on a few factors.

The greatest risk is if waterfowl, like ducks and geese, are making stops in the same yard, potentially allowing interactions between chickens and wild birds.

Wild birds are the primary spreader of bird flu at this point, but the transfer to poultry poses some risks for other animals. O'Keefe said she's heard of cases of bird flu spreading to cats and advised people to keep their dogs away from dead birds to protect against another potential species transfer.

She advised containing the chickens as much as possible, especially their feeding area.

The big risk with bird flu is

when it begins jumping more between different types of animals, O'Keefe said. While chickens are closely related to wild birds, a mutation could make it transferable between humans.

It's critical to have proper surveillance and monitoring to help prevent the spread of the disease, O'Keefe said. Such measures have come under threat with recent federal funding cuts, she said, and the risks could be enormous.

"This is critical," O'Keefe said, pointing to the COVID pandemic. "Thousands if not millions (of people) could be killed from one of these viruses. We're not at that stage with bird flu at all, but to prevent us from getting there, we need to have regular funding for these agencies that can work on the various angles of this that help protect people."

For now, Brooke Bestwina, who with her sister Blair runs The Feed Store in southwest suburban Summit, offered a practical tip for chicken owners to help prevent bird flu. She recommended covering chicken runs with hardware cloth, a type of metal mesh. It prevents wild birds from landing amidst a flock of chickens to spread avian flu, she said, and also protects the chickens from predators.

'Get three or four'

In Irwin's backyard, he and his family have 15 hens and a rooster. There is a punny sign proclaiming the setup "Coop DeVille." Irwin recently said he has nine dozen eggs, of various colors, in his refrigerator.

He said he enjoys owning a variety of chicken breeds, including silkies, which he described as tiny, fluffy and "are friendly and do a little dance."

Then there are what he called Polish chickens, which have a crown of crested fluffy feathers on their heads, kind of like Big Bird, but in various colors.

He's fond of all of them.

"A chicken will lay eggs for about five years," he said. "Get three or four of them and enjoy it."

Team calls for new approach to crop estimates

By **DAN MOSER**
University of Nebraska

An international team of agronomists is calling for a new approach to estimate crop yield potential and gaps — information that is critical in planning how to meet growing food demand.

University of Nebraska–Lincoln researchers made major contributions to the study, published online April 8 in the journal Nature Food.

"We are in a race to feed the world and to try to feed the population with the available agricultural land that we have," said Patricio Grassini, Sunkist Distinguished Professor of

Agronomy and one of the paper's authors.

To do so requires estimates that predict both yield potential, as determined by weather and soil properties, and yield gaps, which is the difference between yield potential and current farm yields, which indicates the room that exists to increase food production on existing cropland.

At issue is how best to compile those estimates.

In the Nature Food paper, a team that includes scientists from Nebraska and three other institutions calls into question the statistical methods now widely used.

In the United States, for example, current statistical models tend to rely too heavily on best-case scenarios — the most productive counties with the most fertile soils in a year with the most favorable weather, Grassini said. The methods also extrapolate a single yield potential across large regions with a wide diversity of climates and soils that likely would produce a similarly wide range in yield potential.

"Therefore, if you use that year as a reference, you are going to be overestimating your production potential because the best county with the best soils in the best year doesn't

really represent your average climate or your most typical soil across the state," Grassini said.

But in other parts of the world — Africa, for example — these models might underestimate crop yield. There, farmers may have limited access to inputs compared to producers in other areas, thus attaining yields far below what the climate can support.

This statistical approach also leads to conflicting results, with production potential estimates almost doubling from one method to another.

The study compared estimates of yield potential and yield gaps of major

U.S. rainfed crops — corn, soybeans and wheat — derived from four statistical models against those derived from a "bottom-up" spatial scaling approach based on robust crop modeling and local weather and soil data, such as the Global Yield Gap and Water Productivity Atlas developed at Nebraska.

Process-based crop models used in this study have been rigorously validated for their capacity to estimate yield potential based on experimental data from well-managed crops grown across a wide range of environments. This bottom-up approach, which

better incorporates long-term data and regional variations, is clearly superior, the team found.

The approach recommended by the team should better capture yield gaps, which "can help identify regions with largest room to increase crop production, which, in turn provides a basis to orient agricultural research and development programs."

"This is a call to set the record straight because if we are going to use this information to inform policy and our investments, we better make sure that the information is sound and has been validated," Grassini said.

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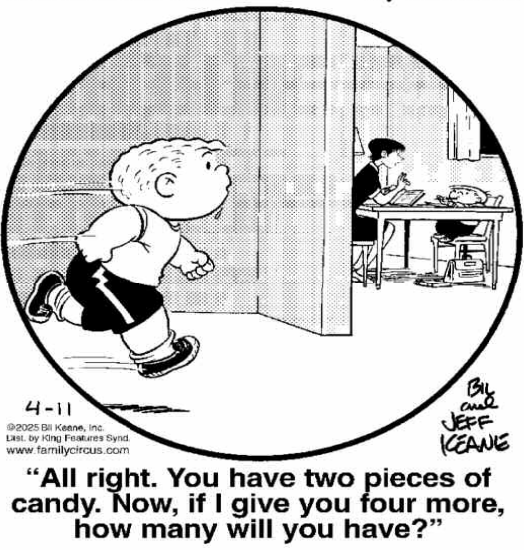
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By Steve Becker

Combinations and percentages

You are declarer in each of the following four situations:

1. You have the A-K-10-2 of a suit and dummy has the Q-3. You need to score four tricks in the suit. You lead dummy's queen and then the three. After your right-hand opponent follows low, should you play the ace or the ten to give yourself the best chance for four tricks?
2. You have the A-J-4-3-2, and dummy has the K-9. How would you play this combination to give yourself the best chance for four tricks?
3. You have the A-K-J-10-9-4-3, and dummy has the singleton deuce. If you need all seven tricks in the suit, should you cash the A-K or finesse the jack?
4. You have the A-10-3-2 facing the K-9-4 in dummy. How would you play to give yourself the best chance for three tricks?

first and then finessing the jack gives you only a 61% chance for four tricks. A first-round finesse of the nine is therefore the better play. If you needed only three tricks in the suit, the best method of play would be the king, followed by a finesse of the jack. This would yield a 94% chance of success. It would also be the best way to play if you needed all five tricks in the suit, but the chance of success would be a meager 18%.

3. If you finesse the jack, you have a 37% chance of scoring seven tricks. If you cash the A-K hoping to catch the queen, you have only a 33% chance of success. The finesse is therefore the better play.

4. Lead the deuce and, if your left-hand opponent follows low, finesse dummy's nine. Assuming that the nine loses to the jack or queen, you plan next to cash the king and then the ace. This gives you a 75% chance (including the 36% chance of a 3-3 break) of making three tricks.

The suggested approach is slightly better than cashing the A-K first in the hope of catching a singleton or doubleton honor in either opponent's hand, which would yield only a 70% chance of success.

1. If you finesse the ten, you have a 50% chance of success. If you cash the A-K instead, hoping to drop the missing jack, you have only a 36% chance of making all four tricks. The finesse is therefore the superior play.

2. Lead the deuce to dummy's nine. This gives you a 68% chance for four tricks. Cashing the king

Tomorrow: Tender loving care.
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4-11

CRYPTOQUIP

YAGGZYXMU TZAJ EIXJ EIY
LAJMN C YXQPNJ IMC TZA
MNPNJ ILLNHGL LZ EXCN XL,
IJN TZA ZGNMQT UJIT?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHY WOULD CINDERELLA BE AN AWFUL CHOICE TO ADD TO A SOCCER TEAM? SHE RUNS AWAY FROM THE BALL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals G

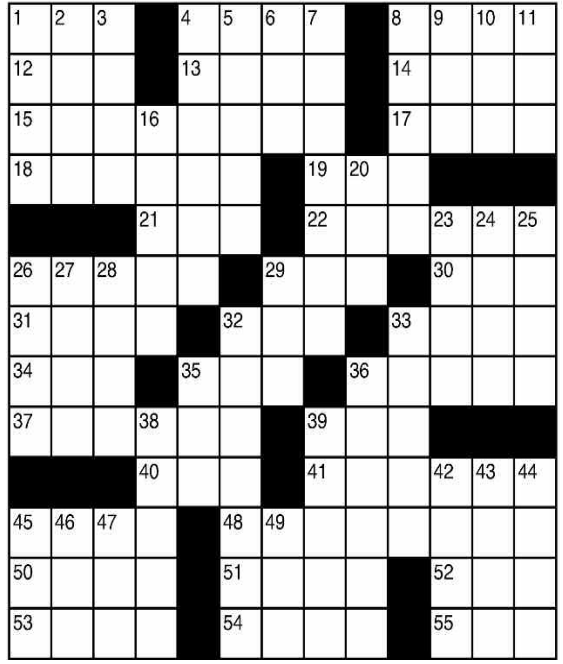
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36 Sorceress	DOWN	23 Engine
1 "Eureka!"	of myth	1 Story	noise
4 Jazzy	37 Butt in	lines	24 "The
Fitzgerald	39 Cleve-	2 Old	Finest
8 Un-	land	cracker	Hours"
repaired	cager	brand	actor
12 Crater	40 Marry	3 Prayer	Bana
edge	41 Lacking	ender	25 Carousel,
13 Chimney	vigor	4 Will	for one
grime	45 Rubik's	subject	26 Smile
14 Euro	brain-	5 Years	broadly
fraction	teaser	6 Singer	27 Shoppe
15 Old joke	48 Maneuver	Rawls	descriptor
17 Make well	50 Rhine	7 Embassy	28 Fireplace
18 Author	feeder	worker	fuel
Susan	51 Pt. of	8 Sneeze	29 Parisian
19 "The	U.S.A.	sound	"yes"
Bear"	52 Person	9 Behold	32 Sharp
actress	behind	Garten	cheese
Edebiri	bars, for	10 Chef	33 Generous
21 UFO	short	11 Cardinal	type
crew	53 Spill the	cap	35 Pub brew
22 Barrel	beans	letters	36 False
maker	54 Crucifix	16 Beer mug	rumor
26 "Let's	55 Financial	20 Greeting	38 Nerd
Dance"	pro	"— hoo!"	39 Star's
singer			bit part
29 "Caught			42 Nero's
ya!"			1300
30 Mentalist			43 Denny's
Geller			rival
31 North			44 Wrestler
Carolina			John
university			45 Uber alter-
32 Pool stick			native
33 Cross-			46 "Friendly
word			skies" co.
diagram			47 Bikini half
34 Hubbub			49 Punk-rock
35 Sushi fish			subgenre

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 4-11



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Yastrzemski, Giants walk off Reds

By JERRY MCDONALD

Bay Area News Group
Tribune News Service

SAN FRANCISCO – Midway through the last game of a six-game homestand Wednesday, the Giants seemed primed to fade into oblivion.

Instead, the Giants rallied from a five-run deficit to the delight of an announced crowd of 35,186 at Oracle Park to eventually tie the game in the eighth inning and win it 8-6 in the 10th. Mike Yastrzemski won it with a two-run home run in the 10th against Emilio Pagan that landed in McCovey Cove.

It came on the first pitch he saw, with free runner Matt Chapman on second base.

“Just wanted to keep this flight happy, you know,” Yastrzemski said after the Giants’ third walk-off win in six games. “Keep everybody going in the right direction.”

After a day off, the Giants begin a 10-game, three-city road trip to New York, Philadelphia and Anaheim, with the Yankees up first Friday night.

Wilmer Flores tied the game with a solo home run leading off the eighth inning against Tony Santillan. The Giants scored one in the fourth inning and four in the sixth after losing the

Reds held a 5-run lead before falling in extra innings

two previous games to the Reds by scores of 1-0 and 2-0.

Those games came after a three-game sweep of Seattle, including two walk-offs.

“You sweep a series in dramatic fashion, then you go ahead and lose three games,” Giants manager Bob Melvin said. “It’s not a terribly good feeling. So it went from what could have been a rough period to one that we feel really good about.”

It was the fifth homer for Flores, one more than he had all of last season. Yastrzemski’s home run was his second.

Erik Miller (1-0) was the winning pitcher for the Giants, pitching a scoreless 10th. The Giants are 9-3, with the Reds falling to 5-8.

Center fielder Jung Hoo Lee finished 3-for-5 with a double and a triple and Flores was 3-for-4.

Trailing by five runs, the Giants rallied within 6-5 in the sixth with one run scoring on a wild pitch and three more coming in on four consecutive two-out hits — a double by Yastrzemski, a single by Flores, a triple by Patrick Bailey and a single by Tyler Fitzgerald.

It was at that point, Melvin said, “I felt like we were going to win the game.”

“That was a huge inning, getting extended four times with two outs,” Yastrzemski said. “To have that kind of fight and drive is huge.”

Cincinnati starter Nick Martinez was replaced by Taylor Rogers before Bailey’s triple, and he finished giving up four earned runs in 5 1/3 innings.

Giants starter Justin Verlander had one bad inning in the third when the Reds scored five

times but he ended up pitching into the sixth, giving up five hits with three walks and nine strikeouts in 5 2/3 innings.

In the first two innings, the 42-year-old right-hander looked like the Verlander of old, rather than an old Verlander. He threw 20 pitches, 18 of them strikes, and struck out the side in the second. It was a welcome sight, coming as it did after a 2 1/3-inning struggle against Seattle in which he gave up three earned runs and threw 65 pitches.

Things changed dramatically in the third. No. 8 hitter Jake Fraley walked, and Austin Wynns drove a single past Chapman at third base. Chapman had his hand checked after scraping it on the dirt and stayed in the game.

TJ Friedl, the five-year veteran from Pleasanton’s Foothill High, doubled off the right field fence for the first Cincinnati run. After Santiago Espinal’s infield single, Elly De La Cruz doubled down the right field line on a bouncer that ticked off the glove of leaping first baseman LaMonte Wade Jr. and Cincinnati led 3-0.

Gavin Lux was next, and with the infield in, he drove a single just under the glove of

Fitzgerald at second base. He scored a hit and drove in two more runs for a 5-0 Reds lead.

Verlander then struck out Will Benson and got Spencer Steer on a popup. But by then he’d faced eight batters, given up five hits, five runs and thrown 34 pitches in the inning.

Melvin chalked it up to Verlander being “unlucky,” lamenting the seeing-eye grounders as well as Friedl’s hit that left the bat at just 91 miles per hour. Verlander didn’t entirely agree, but said that in terms of his pitches having velocity and life, “It’s the best I’ve felt since 2022. Not even close.”

What Verlander did do was pitch into the sixth after the rocky inning — the Reds had just one hit other than the five in the third — so Melvin could set up his bullpen down the stretch.

“It allowed the rest of the game to be covered by the key guys in the back of the bullpen,” Melvin said.

Lou Trivino, Randy Rodriguez, Tyler Rogers and Ryan Walker shut down the Reds until Miller pitched the 10th.

The Giants broke an 18-inning scoreless streak in the fourth on Lee’s triple to right with no outs. It brought home Willy Adames, who walked.

Smith ...

Continued from page 8
Smith had begun seeing a psychologist and been diagnosed with obsessive-compulsive disorder. But even with therapy and medication, Smith’s crisis deepened, causing him to enter a mental-health facility in December. A planned four-week stay ended up lasting 48 days, Erickson reported.

While Smith was diagnosed with religious scrupulosity at the facility, he didn’t leave markedly better than when he arrived.

That led Smith into reaching for a “last-ditch” solution — ibogaine. A plant-derived psychoactive compound that is illegal to use in the United States, ibogaine has shown promise in recent studies in the treatment of traumatic brain injuries for veterans.

Smith went to Mexico in late January for a five-day treatment.

“It legitimately resets your brain,” Smith said. “Imagine your brain as a ski slope, and you create all these grooves, from all these trails that you’re going on, and they keep getting deeper and deeper and deeper. Those are the habits that we create, and over time, like, it’s not going to be possible to create a new trail because that one is so deep. Ibogaine literally will clear off those, like, the receptors in your brain.”

The treatment rid Smith of the “OCD god,” and while he’s undertaken continuing OCD-specific therapy, Courtney Smith said her husband “is exactly who he’s meant to be, and who he’s always wanted to be.”

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Baseball vs. Marion — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high softball vs. Monroe Central — 5:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Baseball vs. Anna — 5 p.m.; Softball vs. Fort Loramie — 5 p.m.

Saturday
Jay County — Track at Wapahani — 9:30 a.m.; Baseball at Mississinewa — 10 a.m.; Boys golf at Yorktown Invitational — 10 a.m.; Girls tennis at Hagerstown — 10 a.m.; Softball at Fort Recovery — 11 a.m.; JV baseball vs. Coldwater — 10 a.m.
Fort Recovery — Baseball vs. Ansonia — 11 a.m.; Softball vs. Jay County — 11 a.m.; JV softball vs. St. Henry — 1 p.m.

TV sports

Today
3 p.m. — The Masters golf tournament

(ESPN)
6 p.m. — IndyCar: Acura Grand Prix of Long Beach (FS1)
7 p.m. — NBA: Orlando Magic at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)
7:30 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: Weather Guard Truck Race (FS1)
8 p.m. — UFL: Arlington Renegades at Birmingham Stallions (FOX)
8:30 p.m. — NBA: Toronto Raptors at Dallas Mavericks (ABC)
10 p.m. — NBA: San Antonio Spurs at Phoenix Suns (ABC)
11 p.m. — MMA: Professional Fighters League (ESPN2)

Saturday
7:30 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Manchester City at Crystal Palace (USA)
8:30 a.m. — Formula 1: Bahrain Grand Prix (ESPN2)
10 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Nottingham Forest at Everton (USA)

11:30 p.m. — IndyCar: Acura Grand Prix of Long Beach (FS1)
12 p.m. — College football: Ohio State spring game (BTN)
12:30 p.m. — NHL: Washington Capitals at Columbus Blue Jackets (ABC)
12:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Arsenal FC at Brentford (NBC)
12:30 p.m. — Bundesliga soccer: Bayern Munchen at Borussia Dortmund (ESPN)
1 p.m. — College baseball: Wake Forest at North Carolina (ESPN2)
2 p.m. — The Masters golf tournament (CBS)
2 p.m. — College lacrosse: Ohio State at Maryland (BTN)
2:15 p.m. — MLB: Philadelphia Phillies at St. Louis Cardinals (FDSN Indiana)
2:30 p.m. — UFL: Houston Roughnecks at Memphis Showboats (ESPN)
2:45 p.m. — MLS soccer: Atlanta United at New England Revolution (FOX)
3 p.m. — NHL: New York Rangers at Carolina Hurricanes (ABC)

3 p.m. — Ama Supercross: Philadelphia (NBC)
3:05 p.m. — MLB: San Francisco Giants at New York Yankees (FS1)
4 p.m. — College baseball: Oregon at Maryland (BTN)
5 p.m. — IMSA SportsCar Championship: Acura Grand Prix of Long Beach (USA)
6:40 p.m. — MLB: Pittsburgh Pirates at Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana)
7 p.m. — NLL lacrosse: Las Vegas Desert Dogs at Ottawa Black Bears (FOX)
7 p.m. — USL League One soccer: Naples at Richmond Kickers (FOX)
8 p.m. — College volleyball: Stanford at USC (BTN)
8 p.m. — UFC fighting: Julian Erosa vs. Darren Elkins (ESPN)
8 p.m. — USL Championship soccer: FC Tulsa at Oakland Roots (FOX)
8:30 p.m. — UFC fighting: Chase Hooper at Jim Miller (ESPN)
9 p.m. — UFC fighting: Virna Jandiroba vs.

Yan Xiaonan (ESPN)
9 p.m. — USL Super League: Spokane Zephyr at Dallas Trinity (NBC)
9:30 p.m. — UFC fighting: Sean Woodson vs. Dan Ige (ESPN)
10 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Seattle Kraken (FDSN Indiana)

Local notes

Registration open
Registration for the 35th annual Flat 50 Plus bicycle ride in Adams County is now open. To register, visit RunSignUp.com.
There are rides ranging from 20 to 100 miles long.
The event will be held at 7 a.m. Saturday, June 21. It will start at Bellmont high school and will have stops in Willshire, Geneva and Monroe with refreshments.
.....
To have an event listed in “Sports on tap,” email details to sports@thecr.com.

90 SALE CALENDAR	90 SALE CALENDAR	90 SALE CALENDAR	90 SALE CALENDAR	130 MISC. FOR SALE	260 PUBLIC AUCTION
PUBLIC AUCTION Located at 8341 N 400 E, Bryant Indiana (Bearcreek Farms) on Thursday Morning APRIL 12, 2025 AT 9:30 A. M. HOUSEHOLD GOODS - OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS (2) Oak glass sliding door lighted display cabinet, nice; Oak corner lighted cabinet; Berne Haus Furniture sofa, love seat and oversized chair; karaoke machine; THOMAS KINCAIDE: large picture, Wonderland Express tree, iTwas The Night Before Christmas figure, light houses and globes. Large assortment of spittoons; large assortment of metal miniatures; games; toys; cast iron skillets; Atari Flashback 7 game console; Wagner cast iron pot with lid; Wagner skillet; Tasco telescope; large assortment of Christmas decorations; animated witch; gum ball machine; combo; kids bikes; stroller; sleds; golf clubs; cotton candy maker; CEMENT: angel, guy on tractor, owl, raccoon, bird bath and others; and many other items not listed. MOWER - TOOLS Craftsman DLT 3000 mower with 18.5 hp engine; Troy Bilt 5.5 hp snow blower with electric start; Troy Bilt 5500 watt generator; Craftsman table saw; 25T floor jack; Century wire feed welder; and many other items not listed. AUCTIONEERS NOTE: This is only a partial listing of the many items that will be sold Please note that we will be running 2 rings. Doors will open at 8:00 a.m. day of auction for preview. Keith Huey Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auction-	eers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112 Kaden Khayyata AU12400069 PUBLIC AUCTION Located: 505 West Line Street, Geneva, IN Saturday Morning MAY 3, 2025 9:30 A.M. REAL ESTATE: 1 Ω story home with 3 bedrooms, 1 full bathroom and 1426 square feet of living area. Home has gas forced air furnace with central air, gas water heater, a water softener and a partial basement. The kitchen has nice oak cabinets with space for a table along with a dining room. There is a 24i x 26i 2 car detached garage with heat and water, a small utility barn with a walk in cooler and a 32i x 48i pole barn that has a workshop with heat and water. This property sits on 2.06 acres. This property has been well maintained and has a spacious yard. For more information or private showing contact LOY REAL ESTATE KIM LOY BROKER 260-726-2700 OR GARY LOY AUCTIONEER 260-726-5160 REAL ESTATE WILL SELL AT 9:30A.M. Personal property will sell immediately following real estate. KEN & MARCELLA DOHERTY, Deceased By Lois Debolt and Penny Hirschy Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112 Kaden Khayyata AU12400069	PUBLIC AUCTION Located: 8341 N 400 E, Bryant Indiana (Bearcreek Farms) on Thursday Afternoon April 17th, 2025 5:00 P. M. HOUSEHOLD GOODS - OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS - TOOLS Amana washer and dryer; Frigidaire refrigerator; Mid Century Modern wardrobe; Lazy Boy recliner; gentleman's dresser; chrome table with 4 chairs, nice; ; LARGE ASSORTMENT OF RAILROAD MERCHANDISE TO INCLUDE CARS AND TRACK, MOST IS H0 GAUGE WITH MANY OF THEM NIB ñ PLEASE NOTE WE HAVE OVER 10 LARGE TOTES OF RAILROAD ITEMS. Coca Cola bottle bank; wood money display cases; shovels; rakes; aluminum ladder; trimmer; saws; and many other items not listed. TED & KAREN HORN ESTATE Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112 Kaden Khayyata AU12400069 PUBLIC AUCTION Saturday April 19th, 2025 TIME 10:00 A.M. LOCATED: 3202 W 600 S, PORTLAND IN TRACTORS ñ PICKUP ñ RIDING MOWER Ford 9N Tractor. Ford 8N Tractor w/ Sherman trans. 1989 Dodge D100 pickup truck w/ 318 engine. 25 ton log splitter. Simplicity 4212 mower w/ 38i cut. John boat. Sears 3.5 horsepower boat engine. Cement mixer. Fishing poles and supplies.	ANTIQUES ñ FURNITURE - MISC Oak roll top desk. Oak office chair. Liberty wood stove. Cedar chest. Cast iron lawn sprinkler. Cast iron dutch oven. Cycle mower. (2) Kirby sweepers. Window air conditioner. Dog cage. Squirrel cage fan. . Several items not mentioned. OWNER: Mike L Hunt Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos. SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE AC31800004 AUCTIONEERS Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229 Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587 100 JOBS WANTED AMISH CREW LOOKING FOR any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489. 110 HELP WANTED PORTLAND WATER PARK is accepting application for CERTIFIED lifeguards for the 2025 season. Applications are also being accepted for concession stand workers. No certification is required. The Water Park is open 7 days per week and employees will be expected to work weekends. Applications are available at Portland City Hall, The City of Portland website, and Portland Water Park Facebook page. 2025 season runs May 24th through mid to late August. Applications will be accepted at City Hall, 321 N. Meridian St., until Friday, May 2nd at 4:00p.m. The City of Portland is and Equal Opportunity Employer.	SCRATCH PADS ARE BACK various bundles sizes and XL pads. \$1.25 plus tax. Pick up at The Commercial Review Tuesday thru Friday 10am to 4pm. PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information. ALUMINUM SHEETS 23"x30",.007 thick. Clean and shiny on one side. .35 cents each or four for \$1.40, plus tax. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland 260-726-8141. 190 FARMERS COLUMNN AG RENTAL Spreaders: BBI, Artsway Vertical. New Holland 228 skid loaders w/full cab, heat/ac. Fort Recovery 419-852-0309 200 FOR RENT LEASE SPACE available, Coldwater, OH. 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HOUSEHOLD GOODS - OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS - TOOLS Amana washer and dryer; Frigidaire refrigerator; Mid Century Modern wardrobe; Lazy Boy recliner; LG flat screen TV; gentleman's dresser; chrome table with 4 chairs, nice; Blonde dresser; 3 drawer dresser; (8) bookcases; black kitchen table with 4 chairs; pr. of vintage lamps; hall tree; wood rocker; lamps; Canon printer; Robot Rumba sweeper; 2 drawer file cabinet; (5) storage cabinets; fans; pictures; cookware; mixer; CD's; utensils; flatware; LARGE ASSORTMENT OF RAILROAD MERCHANDISE TO INCLUDE CARS AND TRACK, MOST IS H0 GAUGE WITH MANY OF THEM NIB – PLEASE NOTE WE HAVE OVER 10 LARGE TOTES OF RAILROAD ITEMS. #2 crown crock; Coca Cola bottle bank; Pyrex; Hallmark ornaments; Christmas and Halloween decorations; stuffed animals; air bed; milk crates; wood boxes; pictures; baskets; shepherd hooks; world globe; LARGE ASSORTMENT OF BOOKS TO INCLUDE RAILROAD AND WAR AMONG OTHERS (Rock Island RR, Milwaukee Rails, Conrail Central, Southern Railway, Norfolk & Western, Chesapeake and Ohio, WWII, The Epic of Flight just to name a few. There is over 40 large boxes of hardback books); wood money display cases; sprinkling can; apple crates; park bench; DVD’s; VCR tapes; 10 gallon shop vac; shovels; rakes; aluminum ladder; trimmer; saws; and many other items not listed. TED & KAREN HORN ESTATE LOY AUCTION AC31600027 AUCTIONEERS Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112 Kaden Khayyata AU12400069 CR 4-11-2025
Visit Us At: thecr.com					

Luka Doncic scores 45 in return to Dallas

By DAN WOIKE
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

DALLAS — The Lakers fans cheered and the Mavericks fans cheered.

Because they were Luka Doncic fans.

The uniforms were Lakers purple and Lakers gold. They were Dallas navy and Mavericks retro green. They were from the Slovenian national team and a Spanish club basketball.

All of them had the same name across the back.

During the game, they cheered when he touched the ball and erupted when he made his first shot. They booed when

he traveled and stood and
applauded when he checked
out.

Even though he was now a visitor with the Lakers, the Mavericks crowd reminded Doncic at every opportunity that they felt this should still be home.

They showed it pregame, lining the court to watch him go through his routine an hour before tip. They showed it during introductions, roaring as he was introduced as a Laker for the first time in Dallas after a two-minute tribute video.

And they showed it each time the Lakers went to the free-throw line early in the game by chanting “Fire Nico,” the words that have come to define the

Mavericks season after general manager Nico Harrison orchestrated a deal with the Lakers to acquire Anthony Davis, Max Christie and a first-round pick.

Doncic repaid the crowd with the kind of show they'd seen countless times, scoring 31 of his 45 points in the first half of the Lakers' 112-97 win. The victory ensures the Lakers a top-six seed in the Western Conference playoffs.

After his final basket, Dallas called timeout and Doncic embraced his new teammates, falling into LeBron James' arms for the biggest hug. During the huddle, the crowd chanted "Luka" while the Lakers players urged them on.

It was the manifestation of what coach JJ Redick said the Lakers hoped to show Doncic pregame, that the Lakers “got his back.”

Before the game, fans held their phones up at the giant scoreboard above American Airlines Center as the lights dimmed, a two-minute video of Doncic's best moments with the Mavericks, a mixture of big shots, magical passes and the boyish charisma that enchanted the franchise's fans. While the video played, Doncic's lip quivered as tears pooled in the corners of his eyes, his emotion at its most visible.

After featuring him as their primary offensive option for the

first two quarters, the Lakers' defense and transition offense put them in control in the third quarter.

And while Dallas briefly took the lead in the fourth, a Christie two-handed slam nudging them ahead, Doncic and the Lakers closed them out by playing their best all-around basketball of the game while another round of "Fire Nico" chants bounced through the arena.

As he checked out of the game, Doncic got one last standing ovation, turning to show his appreciation to the crowd. For the night, everyone had gotten what they wanted.

But tomorrow, only the Lakers fans get to claim him.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Still safe

Leighton Brown of the Jay County High School baseball team dives back to first base safely during the Patriots' season opener April 4 against Eastbrook. Brown had the team's only hit in the 6-1 loss.

Colt's Braden Smith reveals reason for late-season absence

By MARK INABINETT
al.com

Tribune News Service

As Indianapolis Colts offensive tackle Braden Smith missed the final five games of the 2025 season, the NFL team would not elaborate on what had sidelined the former Auburn All-American. As recently as last month at the NFL Scouting Combine, Colts general manager Chris Ballard declined to divulge why Smith's seventh NFL season had ended early.

On Tuesday, Smith revealed the reason himself, as he and his wife, former Auburn softball catcher Courtney Shea Smith, spoke with the Indianapolis Star's Joel

Erickson and revealed the mental health crisis that disabled the offensive lineman.

Braden Smith also said he's ready to play again.

"I wasn't here last year," Smith said. "I was physically here, but I wasn't. I want to be me again here, and I want the people around me to experience that, because I do feel like I do have something to offer the people around me."

Smith's problem began in March 2024. Eventually, Smith was diagnosed with the obsessive-compulsive disorder subtype religious scrupulosity.

"There's the actual, real, true, living God," Smith said. "And then

Offensive tackle missed the final five games of 2025 after suffering a mental health crisis

there's my OCD god, and the OCD god is this condemning (deity). It's like every wrong move you make, it's like smacking the ruler against his hand: 'Another bad move like that and you're out of here.'"

The International OCD Foundation defines scrupulosity as an obsessive-compulsive disorder involving religious or moral obsessions in which the individual is “overly concerned that something they thought

or did might be a sin or other violation of religious or moral doctrine. They may worry about what their thoughts or behavior mean about who they are as a person. ... Unlike typical religious practice, scrupulous behavior usually exceeds or disregards religious law and may focus excessively on one area of religious practice while other, more important areas may be completely ignored.”

"I was physically present, but I was nowhere to be found," Smith said. "I did not care about playing football. I didn't care about hanging out with my family, with my wife, with my newborn son. ... I

was a month away from putting a bullet through my brain.”

Even so, Smith played all but one of Indianapolis' 732 offensive snaps in the first 12 games of the 2024 season at right tackle. But he did not play after a 24-6 loss to the Detroit Lions on Nov. 24. The next week, Smith did not practice, and the Colts' participation report listed "not injury related – personal matter" as the reason.

After the Colts' 25-24 victory over the New England Patriots on Dec. 1, Indianapolis placed Smith on reserve/non-football illness, and he remained there for the rest of the season.

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