

Rate goes up to 3.3%

County slips in state rankings

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

After two great months in terms of unemployment trends, number shifted in the other direction in May.

Indiana Department of Workforce Development estimates released this week show Jay County flipped in the unemployment rankings in May, tying for the 39th-highest rate among the state's 92 counties after tying for 24th-lowest in April.

The local unemployment rate came in at 3.3%, up by 0.6 percentage points from the previous month. That number was down by 0.3 percentage points from May 2024.

Jay County's rate had plummeted in March and April after coming in at 4.1% in February.

Every county in the region saw an increase of 0.2 percentage points or more in May, with Adams, Blackford, Delaware and Randolph counties all going up by at least 0.5 percentage points.

Indiana's unemployment rate came in at 3.4%, returning to the same mark it was at in March after falling to 3% in April. It was down 0.6 percentage points from the same month last year.

Union and Daviess counties, which were tied for the lowest rate in April at 2.1%, were among five counties with the low mark of 2.7% in May. Others were Wells, Pulaski and Boone counties.

Howard County continued its run of having the highest unemployment rate in the state, coming in at 5.6%.

Lake County was next at 4.9%, and every other county in the state came in at 4.2% or lower.

See Rate page 2

All fired up



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Fireworks light up the sky on the north side of Jay County Fairgrounds on July 16, 2022, in celebration of the 150th year of the Jay County Fair. Fireworks will be involved with the fair again this year as a change in dates put the annual event in the same week as Independence Day.

Shift in Jay County Fair dates brings event together with traditional 4th of July festivities

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Two major Jay County celebrations will come together this year.

The Jay County Fair kicks off this weekend — a week earlier than in recent years — and will continue through next weekend, including the Independence Day holiday.

The fair has moved around the calendar throughout its more than 150-year history, from as early as June to as late as September. In recent years, it has fallen on the first full week following Independence Day.

The change for 2025 came as the fair board parted ways with Primetime Carnival Company, which had provided midway entertainment for the previous three years. As the fair board

considered new carnival companies, all would have required a change in fair dates. The board made the decision for the coming week in consultation with Jay County 4-H.

Kissel Entertainment (Kissel-Fun.com) was founded by Russel and Ralph Kissel in 1932 when they began offering pony rides at a Coney Island amusement park near Cincinnati. The company is at the Bartholomew County Fair this week and will play the Kentucky State Fair in August.

"I'm excited for the ride company and then also having it on the 4th of July," said fair board president Aaron Loy. "Fourth of July has always been big, the fair has always been big, so you put two of the biggest events in Jay County together that's one hell of a party."

Jay County 4-H has shifted its schedule by a day in order to complete its activities before July 4. Events begin with opening ceremonies at 11:45 a.m. today, followed by the dog and rabbit shows at noon. The 4-H auction will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, July 3.

Country music artist Nate Smith highlights the grandstand entertainment this year. Other events at the grand stand include demolition derbies on the opening and closing Saturdays and a new attraction to the fair with Queen City Stunt Circus performing at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 3.

The fair will have activities for extended hours on Thursday evening, July 3, with a beer tent on the Farmer's Building lawn from 5 p.m. to midnight and East

On Division Performing in the Farmer's Building from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

"Going into the holiday weekend, we know people are going to be off (work)," said Loy, "so we're just trying to provide as much information as possible."

Traditional Jay County 4th of July activities will continue, starting with the Firecracker 5K race at the fairgrounds at 8 a.m. July 4, the parade from East Jay Elementary School along Meridian and Votaw streets to the fairgrounds beginning at 11 a.m., a flag ceremony at the front entrance to the fairgrounds at noon, free inflatables and a "foam party" at the fairgrounds following the parade and fireworks at the north end of the fairgrounds at 10:30 p.m.

See Fired page 2



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Majid Saeedi

Demonstrators wave flags and cheer during a gathering to honor Iran's military forces, following the announcement of a ceasefire between Israel and Iran, on Tuesday in Tehran, Iran.

Talks planned for next week

By JOSH WINGROVE, JENNIFER A. DLOUHY and ANNMARIE HORDERN
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said the U.S. would hold a meeting with Iran next week but cast doubt on the need for a diplomatic agreement on the country's nuclear program, citing the damage that American bombing had done to key sites.

"We're going to talk to them next week," Trump said Wednesday at a press conference during the NATO summit at The Hague, without giving more details. "We may sign an agreement. I don't know, to me, I don't think it's that necessary."

He reiterated that

Trump says war in Middle East is over for now

the U.S. strikes on the Natanz, Isfahan and Fordow facilities had "obliterated" them, again disputing an American intelligence assessment that said Tehran's nuclear program had only been set back by a matter of months.

The comments came on day two of a ceasefire between Israel and Iran, ending 12 days of conflict that threatened

to escalate into a wider regional war and upend energy markets. As the missiles fell silent and oil prices plunged — wiping out most of their increase during the hostilities — focus has switched to a possible next stage of nuclear diplomacy.

Trump said the conflict was effectively "over" after the U.S. bombing mission — though he also warned: "Can it start again? I guess someday it can. It could maybe start soon."

Iran has been sending signals that it's ready to resume talks, which were to resume with the U.S. before Israel attacked. "The logic of war has failed — return to the logic of diplomacy," Iran's mission to the United Nations said Wednesday.

See Talks page 2

Deaths

Raymond Martyne, 61, Convoy, Ohio
Jessica Hunt, 39, rural Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 91 degrees Wednesday. The low was 75.
Showers and thunderstorms are expected tonight with a low in the lower 70s. Expect a high in the mid 80s Saturday with showers and thunderstorms possible.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

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

Coming up

Saturday — New judge's stand in place at the Jay County Fairgrounds grandstand.

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

Wednesday — Photos from the various activities at the Jay County Fair.

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Obituaries

Raymond Martyne
Dec. 30, 1963-June 24, 2025

Raymond Matthew “Matt” Martyne, 61, of Convoy, Ohio, died Tuesday evening at Van Wert Manor Nursing Home.

He was born Dec. 30, 1963, in Dayton, Ohio, to Jean Martyne. He married the former Bonnie J. Myers.

Matt graduated from Jay County High School in 1982. He then enlisted and proudly served his country in the United States Army from 1982 to 1985.

He retired from the Tool Service staff at Celina Aluminum Precision Technology.

Matt enjoyed riding motorcycles, history and taking trips to the casino.

He is survived by his wife, Bonnie J. Martyne of Convoy; daughters, Alissa and Elizabeth; stepsons, Chad (fiance: Shelley White-McMahon) McIntosh of Decatur and Nick (Tiffany) McIn-



Martyne

stosh of Huntertown; a granddaughter, Ashlyn McIntosh of Decatur; a sister, Christy Campbell of Portland; a sister-in-law, Deb Martyne; nieces, Monica and Katy; and a nephew, Logan.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Jean Martyne; and brothers Anthony, John and Dave Martyne.

Funeral services will be held at noon Monday at Alspach-Gearhart Funeral Home & Crematory, Van Wert, Ohio. Burial will immediately follow in Woodland Cemetery, Van Wert.

Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to noon on Monday at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the American Cancer Society or the Van Wert County Humane Society.

Condolences may be expressed at alspachgearhart.com.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Alspach-Gearhart Funeral Home and Crematory, 722 S. Washington St., Van Wert.

Services will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Williams-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

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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 6/28	Sunday 6/29	Monday 6/30	Tuesday 7/1	Wednesday 7/2
85/69	91/72	87/69	86/64	86/63
Saturday's forecast shows a 60% chance of showers with heat index values in the mid 90s again.	Mostly sunny with a 30% chance of rain. Otherwise, highs in the upper 80s.	Another 70% chance of rain is expected Monday with a higher chance later in the day.	Mostly sunny skies are expected Tuesday when there's a 30% chance of rain.	Wednesday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with highs in the 80s.

Lotteries

Powerball
2-12-37-51-61
Power Ball: 22
Power Play: 3
Estimated jackpot: \$155 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$348 million

Hoosier
Wednesday
Midday
Daily Three: 1-4-7
Daily Four: 5-7-7-3
Quick Draw: 5-7-22-30-33-40-41-43-50-51-55-57-64-65-72-73-75-76-78-79
Evening
Daily Three: 1-3-8

Daily Four: 5-0-6-9
Quick Draw: 2-3-8-10-17-27-29-30-31-32-33-39-45-47-70-72-74-76-77-78
Cash 5: 4-12-15-25-26
Estimated jackpot: \$460,500

Ohio
Wednesday
Midday
Pick 3: 7-4-9
Pick 4: 8-2-0-7
Pick 5: 0-1-0-1-1
Evening
Pick 3: 9-1-6
Pick 4: 6-3-0-6
Pick 5: 1-1-9-1-7
Rolling Cash: 6-10-13-17-35
Estimated jackpot: \$100,000

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery
Corn.....4.52
July corn.....4.55
Aug. corn4.65

POET Biorefining Portland
Corn.....4.53
July corn.....4.53
Oct. corn4.09

The Andersons Richland Township
Corn.....4.45
July corn.....4.45
Beans10.22

July beans10.22
Wheat 4.89

ADM Montpelier
Corn.....4.26
July corn.....4.28
Beans.....10.06
July beans10.01
Wheat4.88

Heartland St. Anthony
Corn.....4.47
July corn.....4.47
Beans10.01
July beans9.61
Wheat4.75

Today in history

In 1829, British scientist James Smithson died, leaving an endowment “to the United States of America, to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an ‘establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men.’”

In 1871, Japan officially made yen its monetary unit. Yen was first minted two years prior.

In 1917, Greece declared war on the Central Powers amid World War I.

In 1922, the first Newbery Medal was awarded to Hendrik Willem van Loon for children’s literature. The American Library Association honored Loon for his work, “The Story of Mankind.”

In 1971, six people were injured in a two-

vehicle collision on Indiana 28 east of Indiana 3 in Delaware County. Carl Imel of rural Portland was involved in the accident when another vehicle pulled in front of his car.

In 1971, Atari Incorporated was founded by Nolan Bushnell and Ted Dabney in Sunnyvale, California. The company made the Atari video game system and home computers.

In 1973, “Live & Let Die” was first released in the United States. The eighth film in the “James Bond” franchise starred Roger Moore and Jane Seymour.

In 2022, Portland City Council agreed on a 4-2 vote to put the former Sheller-Globe south site at 510 S. Bridge St. up for sale.

—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 Solid Waste Management District Board, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland.

Tuesday
7 p.m. — Salamonina Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center.

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

Fired ...

Continued from page 1

Traditional fair activities will occur simultaneously, with concerts in the Farmer’s Building beginning at noon and the big country concert with Nate Smith at the grandstand at 7:30 p.m. Rides on the midway will be open from noon to close.

“We’ve got great free activities,” said fair board secretary Dillon Muhlenkamp. “We’ve got great activities in front of the grandstand.

“Overall, I’m excited about the 4th of July happening, incorporating two already amazing events into even bet-

Fired ...

ter events and really showcasing what Jay County has to offer to our community.”

Another change this year involves gate admission times. Gate admission will now begin at 3 p.m. — it’s “free before 3” — and run until 8:30 p.m. Admission will be \$5 per car load this weekend, and then \$5 per person from Monday, June 30, through Saturday, July 5. (Season passes, which are good for entry to the fair all week, are \$15 if purchased by today and \$20 beginning Saturday. Other passes are also available.)

Fired ...

“With the ever-increasing costs of the entertainment ... utilities and everything else, we knew that we were going to have to make changes,” said Loy. “It was either less entertainment and less quality entertainment or continue on the same path we have been. We knew this community expects a high-quality fair, so we made the adjustment to change the gate time. We felt just increasing it by a couple hours would be enough to offset those costs. We want to do everything we can to not do an all-day charge like a lot of other fairs.”

Capsule Reports

Lost control

Four Albany residents were injured after the vehicle they were in collided with railroad tracks along county road 1100 West, causing it to roll about 4:45 a.m. Tuesday.

Stevie N. Hylton, 15, was driving a 2008 Chrysler Town and Country south on the road near its inter-

section with county road 500 South. As Hylton approached the intersection — there’s a railroad crossing at the intersection — she disregarded the stop sign, according to a Jay County Sheriff’s Office report. Hylton continued driving at a high rate of speed through the intersection, off the road and onto the railroad tracks. The tire and undercarriage of the Chrysler struck the tracks, causing the vehicle to roll over. It came to a rest on the driver’s side.

Two of Hylton’s passengers, James D. Durston II, 47, and Delaney K. Wells, 19, were ejected from the vehicle. Durston sustained

severe head, neck and pelvis injuries. Wells also sustained severe injuries all over her body, according to the report.

Passenger Camden L. Ladig, 18, complained of abdominal pain. Hylton complained of pain all over her body.

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

Talks ...

Continued from page 1

“The mission didn’t immediately respond to requests for comment on Trump’s hint at new talks.

Before Israel’s June 13 attack on Iran, Trump envoy Steve Witkoff had taken the lead in five rounds of talks with the Islamic Republic, seeking a deal to replace the 2015 nuclear agreement that Trump abandoned during his first term.

Talks ...

“We’re hopeful for a comprehensive peace agreement,” Witkoff said Wednesday on CNBC when asked what the next steps are for diplomacy with Iran. “We were hopeful when we first started negotiations. It didn’t quite work out that way, but today, we are hopeful. The signs are there.”

Witkoff said the U.S. has been “having conversations with the Ira-

Talks ...

nians” and that “multiple interlocutors are reaching out to us,” adding that his “strong sense” is that “they’re ready.”

“For Iran, a diplomatic track makes as much sense today as it did before the attack,” said Ray Takeyh, a senior fellow at the New York-based Council on Foreign Relations. “It seems that the Iranian program was not fully disabled. “

Felony arrests

Methamphetamine

A Portland man was arrested Wednesday for possession of methamphetamine. Joseph A. Lessing, 36, 1237 N. U.S. 27, was preliminarily charged with a

Level 6 felony for possession of methamphetamine and Class A misdemeanors for possession of marijuana and driving with a suspended license. He was being held on a \$4,500 bond.

Rate ...

Continued from page 1

Area unemployment rates are as follows:

Adams County: 3.2%, up 0.5 percentage point, tied for 38th-lowest

Blackford County: 3.8%, up 0.5 percentage points, tied for 10th-highest

Delaware County: 3.8%, up 0.7 percentage points, tied for 10th-highest

Jay County: 3.3%, up 0.6 percentage points, tied for 39th-highest

Randolph County: 3.5%, up 0.2 percentage points, tied for 23rd-highest

Wells County: 2.7%, up 0.5 percentage points, tied for lowest in Indiana

SERVICES

Monday
Martyne, Raymond: noon, Alspach-Gearhart, Funeral Home & Crematory, 722 S. Washington St., Van Wert, Ohio.

Tuesday
Hunt, Jessica: 7 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

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High school students make honor roll

Fort Recovery High School released its second semester honor roll.

Making the list with all A's were seniors Madison Bihn, Samantha Brackman, Nicole Braun, Cassidy Dues, Evan Evers, Gavin Evers, Marlee Fiely, Sarah Fritz, Ava Grisez, Kayla Heitkamp, Joelle Kaup, Cody Klenke, Gabe Knapke, Bailie Muhlenkamp, Kennedy Muhlenkamp, Karlie Niekamp, Ben Reinhard, Anna Roessner, Ella Schoen, Reid Timmerman and Emma Will.

On the honor roll with A's and B's were seniors Jordyn Aisenbrey, Olivia Albers, Alivia Bergman, Mitchell Bertke, Layla Bihn, Calaeb Brickley, Kaleb Coleman, Mason Diller, Amber Dirksen, Brennan Dues, Gavin Dues, Jacob Foote, Darlin Garcia Rivera, Caden Grisez, Ethan Hartnagel, Kyle Huntsman, Eva Kahlig, Lindsey Knapke, Kennedy Kunkler, Emily Lauber, Norah Meyer, Keegan Muhlenkamp, Aleigha Overman, Briggs Overman, Kylie Post, Olivia Rammel, Kruise Sieftring, Eowyn Vela, Mara Wenning and Brooklyn Wycuff.

Making honor roll with all A's were juniors Evvie Briner, Rylee Bubb, Kyla Dues, Elisa Evers, Mallory Evers, Carson Fullenkamp, Alivia Grube, Jameson Heitkamp, Madison Heitkamp, Maleiah Kaffenberger, Cayson Kaikala, Olivia Knapke, Brylee Kremer, Reece LeFevre, Lily Schwieterman, Jesse Springer, Reece Wendel and Georgia Wenning.

On the list with A's and B's were juniors Gabe Acheson, Ella Bechtol, Douglas Bihn, Alexis Braun, Aiden Brunswick, Parker Brunswick, Ryker Brunswick, Emma Coleman, Garrett Diller, Zoe Dues, Nevaeh Elsass, Hannah Ervin, Yaneth Esparza, Luke Fortkamp, Alex Gaerke, Brodie Hart, Isabell Hartings, Eli Hawk, Aubrie Heitkamp, Caden Homan, Jenna Homan, Bella Kahlig, Wes Keller, Dylan Klenke, Cora Kremer, Autumn Leuthold, Luke Lochtefeld, Colson Post, Troy Post, Anthony Roessner, Dani Schmitt, Hayden Sieftring, Drew Stammen, Lane Ward, Megan Weitzel and Leah Wuebker.

Memory during breakdown remains fuzzy

DEAR ABBY: I live in a very small town. My husband died a year ago and, since then, I have felt like some of these people are angry with me. Six months after he died, I had what my therapist called a “nervous breakdown.” I know I wasn’t myself for some time, and I can’t remember much of what I did or said. I have been told I said things to close friends that were unkind and even swore at them. This happened over, maybe, a three-day period.

My friends won’t tell me what I said. I belong to a card club with these women, and I guess I swore at them and said or did some things that were awful. I haven’t been able to express my sorrow for it. I have tried, but no one will tell me what happened.

Dear Abby



turned their backs on you. Were any of them ever told that you had a psychological break after your husband died and you were under the care of a psychotherapist? If they knew and cannot understand and forgive your outburst, shame on them.

Because you can’t force anyone to cut you some slack and be kind enough to explain what it was you were saying when you weren’t yourself, you will have to look elsewhere for friendship. A discussion with your religious adviser in that small town might be a place to start.

P.S. I wonder if what you said to those ladies when you were “not yourself” was true,

which is why they aren’t speaking to you.

.....

DEAR ABBY: A co-worker of mine is always bashing teachers, mostly about salaries and summers off. If her daughter has to stay after school to get caught up on assignments, it is invariably the teacher’s fault. My husband is a retired teacher. He knows that student success is a triangle of teachers, students and parents working together.

I know her complaints are not directed at my husband, but I bristle every time I hear them from her. When we moved here for his job 25 years ago, his starting salary was barely above poverty level. Her father was a state legislator who not once

voted for teachers. When she speaks, I imagine I am hearing him. Her husband is a former law enforcement officer, and I would never dream of bashing his profession day in and day out. How can I get a word in edgewise and what should it be? — WONDERING UP NORTH

DEAR WONDERING: The next time your co-worker starts in, summon up the backbone to tell her how hard your husband worked for low pay, trying to cram an education into the heads of mostly disinterested students, and how her comments affect you. Say it with feeling, and perhaps she will think twice before opening her mouth on that subject with you.

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. To learn more information, please 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.

Sunday
A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA’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.

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 Min-

istries, 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.

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA’S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

Wednesday
WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

PING PONG — Will be played from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays at West Jay Community Center.

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

SINGLES AND SEPARATES SUPPORT GROUP — For anyone who’s lost a loved one or has a spouse living in long-term care or suffering from an illness, the group will meet at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in the Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion in Berne. For more information, call Sarah Conrad at (260) 589-4496.

JAY COUNTY FARM BUREAU — Will host its annual meeting from 3 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 2, at the Farmer’s Building

at Jay County Fairgrounds. During that time, farm bureau members may pick up meal voucher, redeemable at stands for Jay County Lion’s Club, Jay County Optimist Club or Jay County Conservation Club. There will also be a pedal tractor pull beginning at 4 p.m. Door prize winners will be drawn and awarded at 6 p.m. on stage, with prizes including \$100 and several gift cards.

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA’S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

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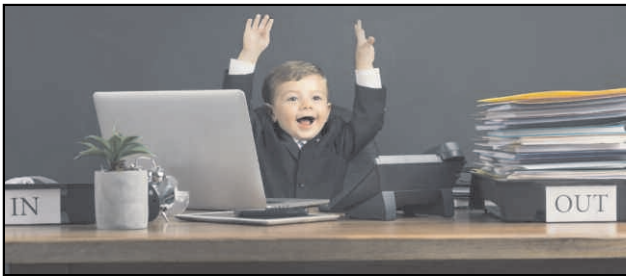
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					6			3
4								5
	5				9	6		
2				9				
		8		6		3		
	6		5		2	7		
	7							8
6						2		
5		1	2				3	

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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

Commuting is often unappreciated

By MORTON J. MARCUS

They leave home, cross an imaginary line and bring money back home. They are not bandits or thieves, they are commuters, serving households and enriching businesses on both sides of those ancient lines.

But our minds have a fixation with the entities of our imagination. Local officials and narrow-minded activists talk about bringing jobs to our county. Maintaining our roads. Training our workforce. Protecting our environment. Educating our children.

We create organizations to do just that without recognizing that our well-being is determined in large measure by the actions and attitudes of our neighbors

Morton J. Marcus



who may live at some distance from us.

The gross flow of earnings (GFE), the money crossing Indiana county lines via commuting, was 36.8% of Indiana's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2023, the last year for which we have data. That flow depends on how well we reduce the barriers between here and there.

Do we have the information

flow necessary to keep workers and employers informed about jobs and skills? Do we have the transit to make safe, low-cost, daily journeys to and from work? Do we locate jobs where they are good for the workers and the firm, or are we concerned only with the cost of transporting the material inputs and outputs of the firm? Do we use our land efficiently or are we wedded to zoning concepts that preserve the privilege of a landed elite?

The story is different in each county, but the principles are the same everywhere. Martin and Spencer counties each had more than 65% of the earnings produced in their counties leaving via commuting in 2023. Washington and Parke counties retained

more than 86% of the earnings they generated.

Spencer and Brown counties both relied on inflows from more than 80% of earnings of their residents. Tippecanoe County relied on such inflows for less than 10% of its residents' earnings, followed by Allen County at just over 11%.

Is it economically desirable to maximize the earnings retained? It might cut down commuting and environmental pollution. It might also reduce diversity and inclusion in the labor force. What are the benefits and costs of those actions?

New developments change these relationships. A new factory without an accompanying increase in the housing stock

may have little effect on the income of residents, as workers flow in and carry earnings out with them. Whereas an increase in the housing stock can reduce the outflow of earnings from existing facilities.

Critics of Interstate 64 and Interstate 69 bemoan the lack of adjacent development, without considering what that road means for commerce via commuting. But that would require some research, which might be contrary to the thinking of our state and federal decision makers.

Marcus is an economist formerly at the Kelley School of Business. Email him at mortonjmarcus@gmail.com.

Stopping nukes can't be partisan

New York Daily News

Tribune News Service

If the Pentagon had used bunker buster bombs and cruise missiles to destroy Iran's nuclear weapon facilities last year, a necessary act as the fanatical mullah regime in Tehran will never voluntarily give up on nukes, the congressional Republicans would be calling President Joe Biden's action unconstitutional and saying that he was starting a war, while Democrats would be praising the president for ending a threat to the whole world.

What's changed is that a Republican president ordered the strikes, so the Democrats are crying foul, while GOP leaders on the Hill are lining up behind President Donald Trump.

Democrats and Republicans agree that Iran cannot have nuclear weapons. If the ayatollah would not abandon his nukes program through diplomacy, and after years and years of talks and deceptions and delays, he wouldn't, then it would have to be ended by other means, including being bombed to bits. It shouldn't matter which political party the president is.

Such partisanship is not about the consensus foreign policy, stopping Iran from having the bomb, but about who is in the White House. And that's a bad prescription, especially since for decades, every president, of both parties, has been trying to deal with the world's leading sponsor of terrorism, home to chants of "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" seeking to acquire atomic weapons.

It was former President Barack Obama who showed the world that Iran was building a secret underground uranium enrichment factory at Fordo in 2009. It was also Obama who authorized the creation of a bomb big enough to destroy Fordo, buried inside of a mountain, the GBU-57A/B MOP. That stands for Guided Bomb Unit and Massive Ordnance Penetrator, a 30,000 pound, 20-foot long giant.

A squad of seven B-2 bombers flew the 37 hours roundtrip from Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri to Iran to drop their payloads of two bombs each. That equals 14 of these things, which is 420,000 pounds of bomb, landing on Fordo and Natanz, another nuke site.

Meanwhile, a U.S. sub

Guest Editorial

If the ayatollah would not abandon his nukes program through diplomacy ... then it would have to be ended by other means, including being bombed to bits.

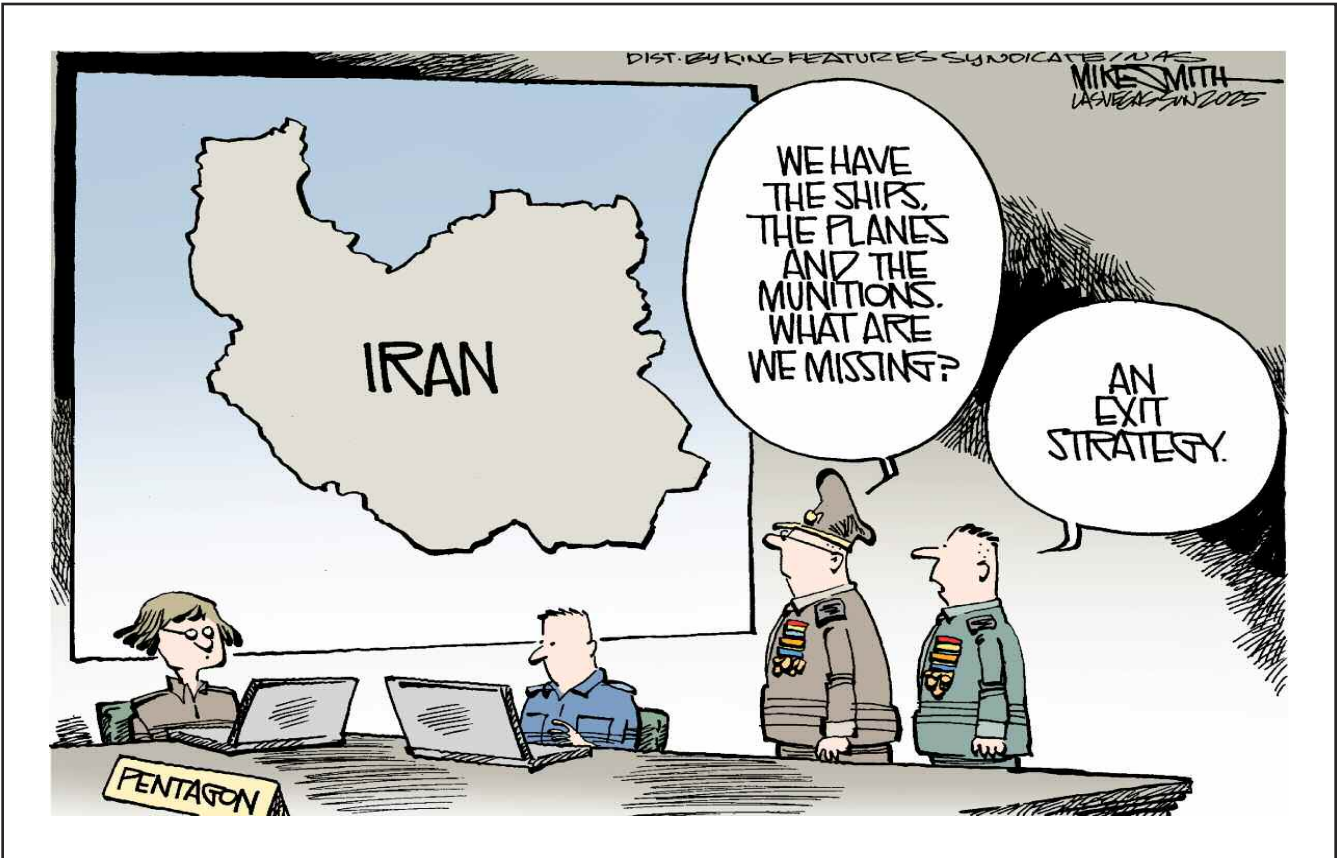
offshore of Iran launched 30 Tomahawk missiles at Isfahan, the third nuke target hit in Operation Midnight Hammer in the dead of night in Iran over the weekend.

A week ago, as Israel was attacking Iran's nukes and ballistic missile infrastructure (along with its military leaderships and atomic scientists and air defenses) the G-7, which consists of the U.S., U.K., France, Germany, Canada, Italy and Japan, issued a joint statement that said "Iran is the principal source of regional instability and terror," and "We have been consistently clear that Iran can never have a nuclear weapon." Let's highlight that: "Iran can never have a nuclear weapon."

Trump gave Iran chance after chance, even as Israel struck. But Iran would not cease its pursuit of nukes.

Iran has threatened retaliation, but they are very weak, their proxies of Hezbollah, Hamas, the Houthis, either destroyed or degraded to impotency. Iran's puppet state of Syria is no more and the militias in Iraq are far less a danger. Half their missile launchers are gone and Israel controls the skies over the country.

Give up the nukes for good and all the fighting ends, which is something everyone in Washington can agree on.



Exponent's story needs to be told

By MICHAEL LEPPERT

IndianaCitizen.org

I am working on publishing a new book this year. So, I'm spending time with other writers, readers, editors and consultants to make sure the finished product is as good as it can be. While online the other day, an editor wrote: "The purpose of fiction is to ask the audience questions to consider; the purpose of non-fiction, is to give them answers."

I assumed that was a famous quote, because it's so wonderful, but I can't find its originator for attribution. "Who said that?" is a question in need of an answer. I don't ever seem to run out of questions, and neither does humanity. Answers, on the other hand, are scarce and precious. We should treat them that way.

As reported by the Indianapolis Star on June 5th, "Purdue University announced it will no longer help distribute its student newspaper on campus — one of a handful (of) decisions distancing itself from the independent student publication." The Purdue Exponent has been a vital news publication during my 30-year career in the Indiana media space. The student newspaper is 135 years old and has been invaluable to students, the Purdue community and to the state for the entirety of that time.

This decision by Purdue follows similar moves made by Indiana University in 2024 directed toward its student newspaper, the Indiana Daily Student.

A particularly curious part of the Purdue announcement is the instruction that the newspaper "should" omit the use of "Purdue" in its name moving forward, even though the publication has the name trademarked until 2029. Expansive explanations for this kind of hostility toward the paper have not been provided yet, but questions about that specifically are things we all should ponder.

On June 8, Lauren Tomasi, a correspondent for 9News of Australia was shot by a rubber bullet while covering the Los Angeles protests. The video of the incident can be seen here.

On the same day in LA, British photojournalist Nick Stern was also

Michael Leppert



struck by "non-lethal" rounds fired by law enforcement. He said in an interview with The Guardian, "I'm walking around taking photos ... walking across the road when I felt a mighty pain in my leg. I put my hand down and felt a lump kind of sticking out the back of my leg." He is currently recovering from surgery that was necessary to treat his injury.

Questions abound. Here, in the once shiny city on the hill known as America, our institutions of authority are turning on our nation's "Fourth Estate."

According to ThoughtCo.com, the term is often attributed to British politician Edmund Burke, who died in 1797. Thomas Carlyle, in "Heroes and Hero-Worship in History," wrote: "Burke said that there were three Estates in Parliament, but in the Reporters' Gallery yonder, there sat a fourth Estate more important far than them all."

The free press is the only industry of any kind specifically protected by the U.S. Constitution. I have often cringed at the thought of what America would be without that foundational protection of the First Amendment. With hostility growing toward journalism and journalists throughout our institutional cultures, I now cringe at what America will become.

Truth telling can be difficult, especially for those not conditioned for it. Sadly, receiving the truth has now become difficult too. The assault on facts has grown slowly in recent years, culminating in a populace that doubts every report that is uncomfortable or inconvenient to its preferred version of reality.

The fiction telling in these questions my audience to ponder the many. When universities fear the truth-telling work of student journalists, why is that? When law enforcement

of any kind in America is shooting journalists at a protest without any legitimate justification, why is that? More importantly, where does it all lead?

Ironically, about the same time Purdue was pulling support from the student newspaper, U.S. Senators were celebrating the 39th anniversary of C-SPAN 2, which is part of the C-SPAN network founded by Purdue University graduate Brian Lamb. In fact, the university honored its alumnus' work to make government more accessible by permanently affixing his name to the campus with the Brian Lamb School of Communication.

Sen. Todd Young, R-Indiana, joined his Senate colleagues in introducing a resolution that urged all television providers, including streaming services, to carry C-SPAN.

Good. However, it does inspire a good list of broad questions for the senator about the health and future of our Fourth Estate.

Back to my books. I write historical drama, which for me means that I take settings that actually existed, blend them with events that have actually occurred, and then create a story that could have, but didn't actually happen.

Why would I do that? Because I want to ask my audience to think about possibilities. Specific and meaningful possibilities.

What will America look like if, or when, the First Amendment no longer exists? The answer is scarier than telling the truth.

Leppert is an author, educator and a communication consultant in Indianapolis. He writes about government, politics and culture at MichaelLeppert.com.

Editor's note: The Graphic Printing Company has employed alumni from The Purdue Exponent, including reporter Steve Garbacz. After more than four years with The Commercial Review, Steve went on to a job with The Daily Journal in Franklin and later became executive editor for KPC News in northeast Indiana.

The Commercial Review



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

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AI helps understand nature

By STEVE KOPPES
Purdue Ag News

For millennia, the development of new tools has been key to major leaps forward in agricultural efficiency and environmental management. But what kind of tool could help us monitor the welfare of cattle, assess the response of rice yields to climate change, make it easier to detect early signs of crop disease from drone data, provide data-driven decision-making tools for productive food systems, or sort the complexities of urban ecosystems?

Purdue Agriculture researchers are harnessing the power of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) to amplify their ability to solve agricultural and environmental problems. With AI, they enable computers to mimic human intelligence. With ML, a branch of AI, they teach computers to learn from experience and detect patterns in large masses of data.

Understanding those patterns helps researchers in the departments of Forestry and Natural Resources, Agronomy and Agricultural and Biological Engineering advance their research and share valuable information with the stakeholders who need it most.

Understanding systems

Last year a special issue of *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* called out the importance of applying AI and ML to process the massive 3D datasets that digital technology now generates.

Serving as a co-editor of that special issue was Brady Hardiman, associate professor of forestry and natural resources and environmental and ecological engineering. Hardiman routinely uses AI and ML in his work.

“I’m fascinated by cities and motivated to study urban ecosystems because in the US, 80% of us live in a city or an urbanized area,” Hardiman, also a member of Purdue’s Institute for Digital Forestry, says. “If you want to improve lives, that’s where you’re likely to have the biggest impact.”

The contrasts between cities makes studying them complicated. “Cities like Baltimore and Chicago have very different histories, cultures, policies and infrastructure in ways that can make it really difficult to generalize what you know about Chicago to make predictions about Baltimore, let alone Phoenix or Portland,” he says. “It’s all the complexity of the natural world plus all the complexity of the human world layered on top.”

Hardiman’s group analyzes large amounts of remote sensing data and high-resolution imagery covering complex urban landscapes over large spans of space and time. AI and ML help detect patterns, processes and structures that are invisible to the naked eye.

“In urban contexts, we want to know, is a tree a maple or is it an oak? Some species grow better in certain parts of the city than others,” he says. “Putting the right tree in the right place is important in cities, and being able to know what trees are growing on the landscape is an important part of managing urban forests.”

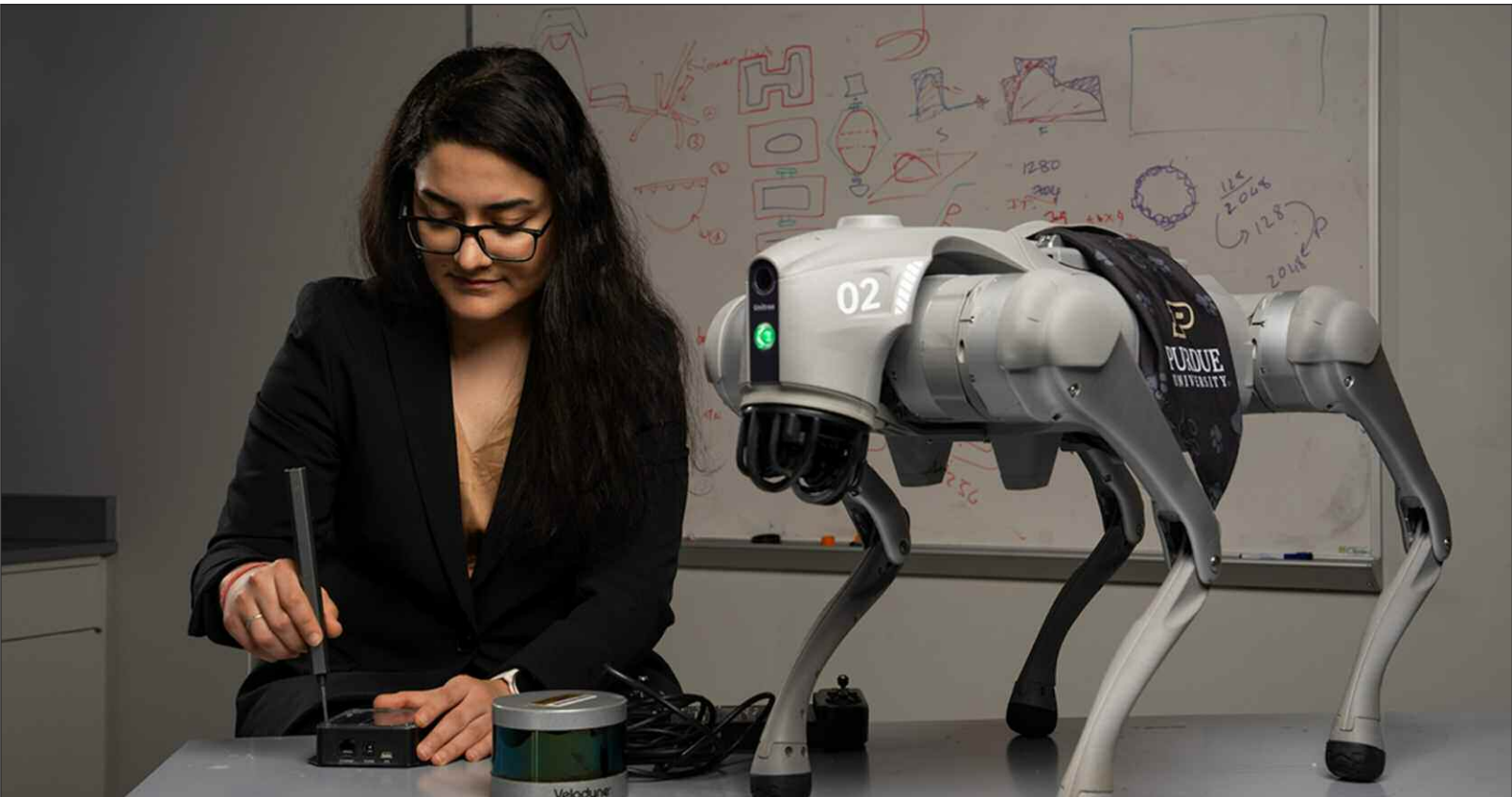
For a project in Chicago, Hardiman’s team tracks the spread of invasive buckthorn shrubs through city forest preserves with aerial light detection and ranging (LiDAR) data.

“We’re using machine learning approaches to analyze the data and identify structural signatures of forests that have been invaded by this invasive species. We can map it across the landscape, which is important for forest managers trying to conserve those forests.”

In rural environments, ML similarly helps the researchers extract features of interest from high-resolution remote sensing data. “We want to know the identity of the trees growing in our forests for timber production, for high value applications. Furniture making or barrel staves from white oaks for the bourbon industry in Kentucky, for example, are a big deal in southern Indiana,” he says.

Medical robots

Animal scientists often need little more than their hands and a syringe to take biological samples from cows. But obtaining highly accurate data for nutrition, sustainability practices and even methane output call for



Purdue Ag News/Joshua Clark

Upinder Kaur, assistant professor of agricultural and biological engineering, is developing an AI-enhanced medical robot that readily collects data for nutrition, sustainability practices and even methane output. “This robot is the first such medical robot for animals. It can swim inside the stomach of the cow. It can monitor methane, temperature, pH and other biomarkers to give you a much richer detail of how the rumen is working,” Kaur said.

far more precise methods. Upinder Kaur, assistant professor of agricultural and biological engineering, is developing an AI-enhanced medical robot that readily collects this data.

“This robot is the first such medical robot for animals. It can swim inside the stomach of the cow. It can monitor methane, temperature, pH and other biomarkers to give you a much richer detail of how the rumen is working,” Kaur says.

AI helps reduce the computational, power and memory resources required to operate the robot. Its performance is more consistent and lasts longer without recharging the batteries or periodically changing the robot.

The robot can provide better data regarding methane emissions from beef and dairy cattle for greenhouse gas studies. The instrument that measures methane emissions from cattle is expensive and involves a mask that monitors only one cow at a time — and even then, only for 10 or 20 minutes each time.

“You cannot capture this data when they’re moving, lying down, eating and drinking water,” Kaur says. But experiments with her robot have shown that these activities exert a major impact on the daily cycle of methane production.

“It’s not a constant value. Breathing changes with the activity,” Kaur says. The current methane data lack these nuances, which lead to imprecise models that fail to match large-scale observations. Kaur’s team is working to make the robot, now about the size of a cell phone, small enough for a cow to swallow.

The current model is inserted through a cannula, a surgically created port that provides access to the cow’s stomach for sampling studies. Kaur’s robot also contributes to animal welfare by providing highly detailed methane volume data every 10 or 20 seconds for a full day.

If a cow is giving birth, for example, the robot can provide a variety of biomarker data every 10 seconds until delivery. This means that farmhands can act fast if they see a cow’s condition worsening.

“Our goal has always been to deliver solutions that will improve not only the life of these animals, but also to reduce the burdens on farmers,” she says.

Also in development in Kaur’s lab, with colleagues Catherine Hill, professor and head of the Department of Entomology, and Maria Murgia, a research scientist, is a robot “dog” that uses sensors to find hidden ticks and identify hotspots of tick activity. Tracking tick populations is essential for controlling tickborne diseases, and using a robot spares humans this complex task.

Crops and climate

Sajad Jamshidi fished at Parishan Lake as a boy. Years later, he questioned why Parishan, once the largest freshwater lake in Iran, had dried up. He wondered how climate had affected the lake.

“It happened all over the world. This will happen again and again if we don’t find a solution,” says Jamshidi, a postdoc-

toral scientist in agronomy. “Then I got interested in using statistical analysis to see how climate works, how it affects natural resources.”

Jamshidi now specializes in agriculture, hydrology and geospatial analysis. Working in the laboratory of Diane Wang, associate professor of agronomy, he simulates crops yields under various future climate scenarios. Last March Jamshidi and Wang co-authored a paper in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* that combined 10 machine learning models to assess the effect of public breeding trials on rice yields and which might perform best under future climate conditions.

“Using machine learning to apply genotypic information at a broad spatial scale, integrating genetic traits across diverse environments, represents one of the first attempts in this specific context,” he says.

The researchers initially relied on one model to generate their results. “It wasn’t our intention to use this ensemble approach,” Jamshidi says. But after seeing the results generated by the first model, he decided to try another one. He saw somewhat different results generated by the second model.

“And then I used another one and another one,” he says. In the end, he decided to use the ensemble approach because it could combine the strengths of multiple models to generate more accurate results.

Wang’s team worked with data from the Southern U.S. rice growing region from 1970 to 2015. During that time, public, state-based breeding programs developed more resilient rice varieties, the team found.

The breeders had managed to develop rice varieties more resilient to a warming climate without intending to. Their goals were focused on developing higher-yield rice varieties. But as they tested these varieties, the climate in the rice-growing region of the Southern U.S. became warmer.

“They were testing varieties that were naturally interacting with the warming climate without them knowing,” he says. “It happened naturally, over time, without that specified goal.”

Using the framework that the Purdue team developed, breeders can rapidly test the response of different rice varieties to factors such as climate, temperature and rainfall in a few simulations rather than spending years growing them in the field.

Technology tethers

As a child growing up in Kenya, Ankita Raturi, assistant professor of agricultural and biological engineering, received her introduction to AI via video games. By the time her family moved to Papua New Guinea when she was in middle school, Raturi already knew how to code.

“You’re in a small island in the middle of the South Pacific. It’s kind of lonely out there. All of a sudden, the internet appears, and technology has now given you this tether to the universe,” she says.

At Purdue, Raturi develops technologies that help agricultural stakeholders tether to useful data. In one of her projects,

she developed a web-based recommender system that she sometimes describes as “Netflix for crops.” Much like Netflix’s interactive menus of programming options, Raturi’s cover crop decision support tools similarly allow users to filter data by factors that include location, soil, weather and goals.

“You’re helping people filter through this glut of data to identify the right crop for the right time in the right place,” she says. That theme recurs throughout all seven projects underway in her Agricultural Informatics Lab.

Netflix for crops doesn’t always require complex algorithms, just good data. With or without AI, her main concern is taking a human-centered approach to building innovative technologies that help food system stakeholders do their work.

“We use many types of technology to identify appropriate tools for different problems. AI is just one way we can do this,” Raturi says. “I don’t necessarily see AI as a novelty. It’s more the way in which we’re building it. You can build better and faster together in large groups for more diverse use cases.”

One such project, in collaboration with doctoral student Megan Low, uses agent-based models — computer simulations that study entities interacting with each other — to represent foodsheds for data-driven policymaking. Derived from the watershed concept, a foodshed encompasses a region where food flows from production to consumption. They design the foodshed models to allow both policymakers and food coordinators to ask questions that balance food security outcomes with their own needs.

Yet another project stresses regenerative or small-scale, diversified agriculture. “Usually, you increase resilience of agriculture by introducing diversity into food and farming systems to support sustainable ag practices that we know are proven,” she says.

“To make decisions that consider their own needs along with the needs of the people they serve, a policymaker or a farmer needs to be able to weigh the tradeoffs by asking ‘what-if’ questions of the data. There is no such thing as the right decision. It’s just a good decision for this specific area of work.”

Building algorithms

Somali Chaterji, associate professor of agricultural and biological engineering and electrical and computer engineering, applies ML to build algorithms that use input data to provide outputs that help answer questions in fields including computing, health and agriculture.

For example, ML can help farmers scout their fields for signs of crop diseases more efficiently. In digital agriculture, detecting rare or emerging disease outbreaks is critical to prevent small problems from becoming widespread outbreaks. Chaterji’s recent work on semi-supervised semantic segmentation — a term that refers to models trained on both labeled and unlabeled data — achieves its largest gains when only a small fraction of samples is labeled, making it ideal for

those hard-to-capture outbreaks.

Labeled data provides the context that guides the model’s learning, while unlabeled data forces the model to discover patterns on its own. Chaterji’s models start with a handful of expert-annotated leaf images, then automatically “fill in the blanks” by tagging other photos the algorithm is very confident about. This expands the training set without extra human effort and maintains top-tier accuracy even when initial labels are sparse or uneven.

This capability has direct applications in networks of ground sensors and drone fleets for continuous agricultural surveillance. Low-cost cameras capture vast swaths of cropland, the model flags suspicious patches in real time, and farmers can target treatments precisely — saving time, reducing chemical use and boosting yields.

“Typically, you don’t have copious amounts of labeled data, especially when you’re going into uncharted territory,” Chaterji says. “Evaluation against standard baselines — benchmark algorithms run on the same small, labeled fractions — shows our lead only widens as labels become scarcer. Thus, we outperform algorithms using fewer labels. And as we tap into more unlabeled data, our advantage grows.”

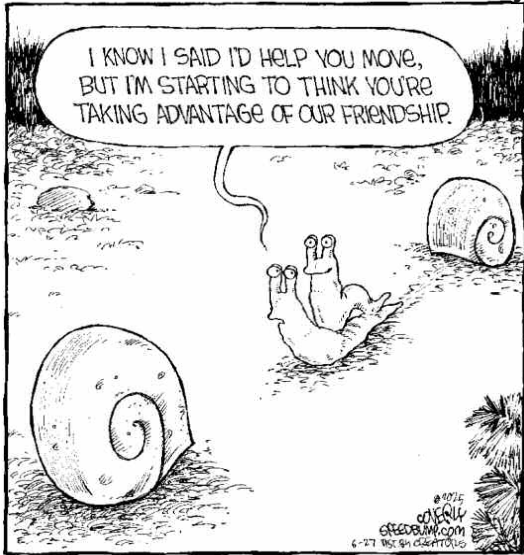
Algorithms for assessing crop diseases work best when fed multiple datasets from fields that assign specific diseases to certain percentages of the crops based on leaf discoloration.

Some of the latest work in Chaterji’s Innovatory for Cells and Neural Machines (ICAN) lab is the recently developed Agile3D, a LiDAR-based perception algorithm for resource-constrained platforms such as drones, self-driving cars and autonomous tractors, so that everyday devices can run sophisticated models without draining batteries or relying on constant connectivity.

A recurrent theme across her projects is resource-aware training and inference. The methods are designed to use as few computing resources as possible, so they can run directly on small devices or sensors in the field, without needing expensive hardware or constant network connections to the cloud. ICAN has recently also incorporated training to make the algorithms resilient to noise — random or irrelevant variations in the data — whether caused by natural factors like weather or by malicious tampering. Both of these explorations are funded by Chaterji’s prestigious National Science Foundation CAREER award, and she regularly presents her research at top conferences for computer vision and mobile systems.

“As the world generates more data in various forms — be it video, audio, LiDAR, even multispectral images — it becomes increasingly important to process this data close to where it is generated. My work on ML execution on small devices is geared toward achieving this, rightsizing algorithms to their host platforms,” Chaterji says. “This enables real-time decisions, cuts energy use and broadens access to AI.”

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



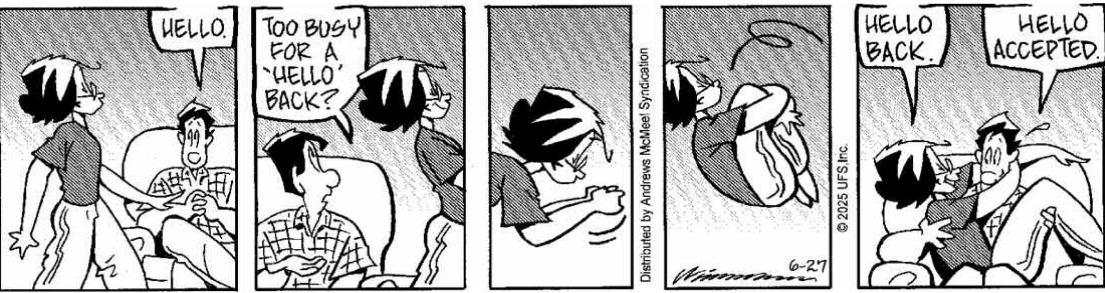
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Peanuts



Rose is Rose



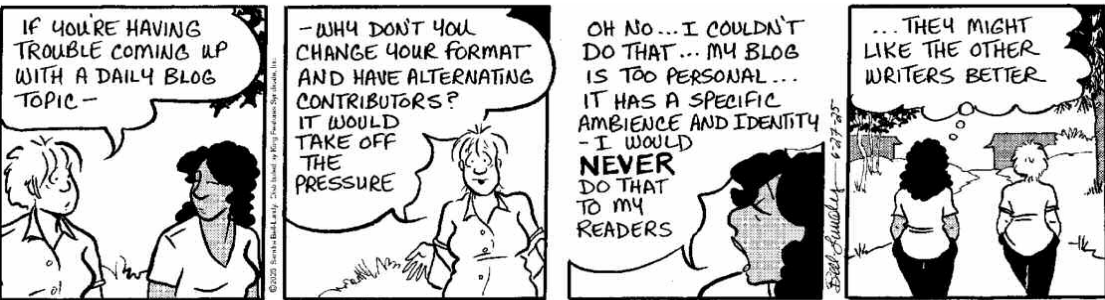
Agnes



Hi and Lois



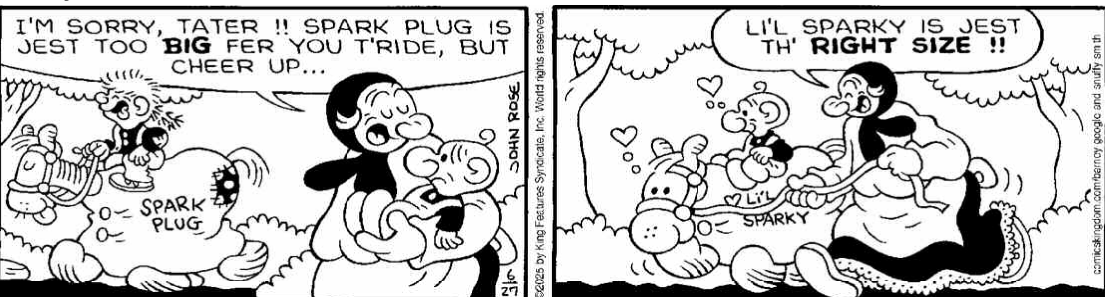
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has gone:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠	Pass

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

- ♠ KJ64 ♥ QJ9852 ♦ AK ♣ 3
- ♠ 832 ♥ AKJ964 ♦ J5 ♣ K3
- ♠ 95 ♥ AQ8753 ♦ AQ ♣ Q102
- ♠ AJ ♥ KJ7542 ♦ 93 ♣ K86

1. Four spades. The value of a hand goes up and down as the bidding progresses. Here, when you open the bidding, your hand is considerably better than a minimum opening bid. Although you have only 14 high card points, the 4-6-2-1 distribution increases the value of the hand by two or three points, pending subsequent developments in the bidding.

When partner bids two clubs, your hand certainly does not improve and actually shrinks somewhat in value. The club response doesn't help your hand one bit, and about all you can count on at this stage is your 14 high-card points. But when partner next bids

spades, the situation changes again. Your hand becomes worth an additional three or four points in distribution values, and you show this by jumping to four spades to inform partner about the improved nature of your hand.

2. Three hearts. This time, you have no choice but to stick to your story that you opened with minimum values, since neither of partner's responses has helped you at all. Partner might go on, depending upon his hand, but you've done your duty by hoisting a red flag.

3. Three notrump. Your two-heart bid on the preceding round was a slight underbid, and you now make up for it by jumping to three notrump. A two-notrump bid at this point would make it appear that you started with a bedrock minimum, which is clearly not the case.

4. Three clubs. All you can do here is to show a simple preference for partner's first suit. How partner proceeds in the face of your two minimum rebids depends on the nature of his hand, but he has been warned not to expect anything more than what you have described.

Tomorrow: Sherlock Holmes.
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6-27

CRYPTOQUIP

TMXY TUDBV NC X RDHYXNBC
FCPZC PXLC QUZ RUPFR XNUDY
YMC CHFMYM EBPXCY QZUL

YMC RDP? PCE-YDPCR.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEONE MAKES WHISKEY WHICH USES ONLY A SLIGHT AMOUNT OF CEREAL GRAIN, IT'S BARELY BARLEY.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals W

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	41 Scary cry	DOWN	19 Duck
1 Lathered up	43 Apr. addressee	1 Blue	down
6 Cushion	44 Farm unit	2 Spanish gold	21 Baseball's Ripken
9 Recipe abbr.	45 "Consider this a donation"	3 "Still I Rise"	22 "Evil Woman" band
12 Golfer Palmer, to fans	47 "To a Skylark"	4 Fine cotton	24 Sushi fish
13 Boxing legend	49 Fess up	5 Babka-making need	26 Canine coat
14 Mimic	52 X, at times	6 Spanish dish	28 Kayak's cousin
15 Firm belief	53 Verse by Neruda	7 Charitable donation	30 Family docs
16 "Each and All" poet	54 Andean beast	8 Conk out	32 "Leaves of Grass" poet
18 Art props	55 Mrs. in Mexico	9 Flavor	33 — Lingus
20 Heaps	56 "Mad Men"	10 Thread holder	34 QB's stats
21 Animation frame	hallucination	11 Tubular pasta	36 Heeded
23 Up to	57 Religious council	17 Speed checkers	38 Endures
24 "Rumour Has It" singer			39 Earth tone
25 Hand lotion ingredient			40 Concert venue
27 Russian villa			42 Lustrous gems
29 Hotel area			45 Sneakers brand
31 Ventilation shaft			46 Without acting
35 Cook's garb			48 Texter's guffaw
37 Molt			50 "As I see it," to a texter
38 Rich soils			51 Wee bit

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-27

00 CLASSIFIEDS

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Misorowski wins showdown with Paul Skenes

By NOAH HILES
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Tribune News Service

MILWAUKEE — In a season filled with disappointments, the Pittsburgh Pirates delivered another flop Wednesday afternoon, falling to the Milwaukee Brewers by a final score of 4-2 at American Family Field.

The contest had plenty of buildup throughout the week. A pitching showdown between Paul Skenes and rookie phenom Jacob Misorowski generated a slew of national attention and produced the Brewers' first weekday sellout of a non-holiday home game since 2011. But when the action started, only one club showed up to play.

Misorowski continued his dominant tear, allowing just two hits and two walks over five scoreless innings to earn his third major league win in as many starts. Skenes, meanwhile, disappointed, allowing four runs over four innings to fall to 4-7 on the season.

Milwaukee did all of its damage against the Pirates ace in the bottom of the second inning.

Isaac Collins started the frame with a walk, which was followed by singles from Brice Turang and Caleb Durbin to load the bases with no outs. Joey Ortiz, who homered twice Tuesday evening, brought home the game's first run with a fielder's choice groundout to the mound. Eric Haase kept the rally going with a double to shallow center field in the next at-bat, which scored Turang.

Sal Frelick plated the third run on a ground ball to second base. Nick Gonzales fielded the roller clean but delivered a wild throw to the plate, making the score 3-0. Christian Yelich singled home the fourth and final run of the

Brewers rookie has been dealing over first three starts

frame two at-bats later. The four runs were the most Skenes has allowed in one inning at any level as a professional.

Misorowski, meanwhile, had no such troubles. Pitching on four days' rest for the first time as a big leaguer, the 23-year-old right-hander dominated the Pirates lineup, striking out a career-high eight batters. 42,774 fans cheered as the youngster overpowered Don Kelly's lineup with a fastball that topped out at 100.2 mph.

Pittsburgh had better luck against the Brewers bullpen. Tommy Pham gave the Pirates their first run two innings after Misorowski's day ended, singling home Oneil Cruz, who reached on an error by Collins in left field. That run, which was unearned, was allowed by right-hander Grant Anderson, who was one of four relievers Brewers manager Pat Murphy utilized in the game.

Spencer Horwitz made the game even tighter in the top of the eighth with a two-out double to right field that plated Adam Frazier, cutting Milwaukee's lead in half. But no further drama ensued. The score remained 4-2 when Brewers reliever Abner Uribe finished the top of the eighth by getting Gonzales to fly out to center field. Trevor Megill then finished the job in the ninth, recording his 18th save of the season.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Camp race

Emma Robinson (left) and Jay County High School freshman Kaylin Broering race during a game of tic-tac-toe during the JCHS volleyball team's youth camp for third-fifth graders on Wednesday.

Diamondbacks' Ketel Marte broke down due to heckler

By CHUCK SCHILKEN

Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

Arizona second baseman Ketel Marte was in tears after a heckler made comments about his late mother during the Diamondbacks' game against the Chicago White Sox on Tuesday night at Rate Field.

That fan has been banned indefinitely from all MLB parks, The Los Angeles Times learned Wednesday morning.

Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo put his arm around Marte during a pitching change in the bottom of the seventh inning in an effort to comfort the two-time All Star. According to the Diamondbacks broadcast, Marte had also been crying while kneeling behind second base.

Lovullo later said on the Diamondbacks broadcast that he told Marte in that moment: "I love you and I'm with you, and we're all together, and you're not alone. And no matter what happens, no matter what was said or what you heard,

White Sox fan made comments about Marte's late mother

that guy's an idiot and shouldn't have an impact on you."

According to the Arizona Republic, Lovullo said he heard the comments made toward Marte during the player's at-bat during the top of the seventh inning and that he and bench coach Jeff Banister asked for the responsible fan to be removed.

MLB confirmed that the heckler had been ejected from the stadium.

"We commend the White Sox for taking immediate action in removing the fan," the league said in a statement emailed to The Times.

The Diamondbacks and White Sox did not immediately respond to requests for comments from The Times.

Marte is in his 11th MLB season. He played the first two years with

the Seattle Mariners and has been with the Diamondbacks since 2017. His mother, Elpidia Valdez, died in a car accident in the Dominican Republic the same year.

Marte did not speak to reporters after the Diamondbacks' 4-1 win, during which he went 2 for 4 with a solo home run in the first inning.

"I've known Ketel for nine years, and he's had some unbelievable, unbelievably great moments, and some hardships as well, and some really, really tough moments in his life, and I know those," said Lovullo, who has been the Diamondbacks manager since 2017. "And the end of the day, we're human beings, and we have emotions, and I saw him hurting, and I wanted to protect him."

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Fort Recovery ACME baseball vs. TBD – TBD

Saturday
Portland Rockets doubleheader vs. South Bend Royals at Bethel University – 1 p.m.

Sunday
Portland Rockets doubleheader vs. Syracuse Outlaws at Bethel University – 1 p.m.

TV schedule

Today
7:30 a.m. — Formula 1: Austria Grand Prix (ESPN)
3 p.m. — LIV Golf Dallas (FOX)
7 p.m. — NHL Draft (ESPN)
7:10 p.m. — MLB: San Diego Padres at Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana); Minnesota Twins at Detroit Tigers (FOX)
10:30 p.m. — MMA: Professional Fighters League (ESPN)

Saturday

6:30 a.m. — Formula 1: Austria Grand Prix (ESPN2)
9 a.m. — MotoGP: Dutch Grand Prix (FS1)
9:30 a.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: The LiUNA! 150 (FS1)
12 p.m. — FIFA Club World Cup: Palmeiras at Botafogo (TNT)
1 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: The LiUNA! 150 (FOX)
2 p.m. — PGA Tour Champions: U.S. Senior Open (NBC)

2 p.m. — Major League Rugby: Houston SaberCats at New England Free Jacks (ESPN2)
3 p.m. — PGA Tour: Rocket Classic (CBS)
3 p.m. — NHRA: Summit Racing Equipment NHRA Nationals (FS1)
3:30 p.m. — LIV Golf Dallas (FOX)
4:05 p.m. — MLB: Seattle Mariners at Texas Rangers (FS1)
4:10 p.m. — MLB: San Diego Padres at Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana)
7 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Quaker State

400 (TNT)
7 p.m. — Banana Ball World Tour (ESPN2)
7:15 p.m. — MLB: Chicago Cubs at Houston Astros (FOX)
10 p.m. — USL Cup soccer: Oakland Roots at Monterey Bay (FOX)
10:15 p.m. — CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer: Mexico at Saudi Arabia (FS1)

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

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 3563 E 600 N, Bryant IN
Saturday Morning
JUNE 28th, 2025
9:30 A.M.
GUNS AND AMMO
(4) Stack On gun safes; Ranger Model 34 - 22 cal bolt action rifle; Savage Model 220 - 410 single shot; ARMI JAGER Model 8P874 - 22 cal semi-auto rifle; ; Bowlan & Brenner muzzle loader shotgun; Remington Model 788 - .308 cal bolt action rifle with scope; Remington 870 Wingmaster TB 12 ga pump shotgun; Auto Ordnance Model 1911 A1 US Army 45 acp semi-auto pistol; Barnett Crossbow with scope; Recruit Recurve crossbow with scope; AMMO: 20 gauge & 16 gauge slugs; 20 gauge & 12 gauge shot gun shells; 410 shot gun shells; 243 Remington; Black Powder and other ammo not listed.
INDIAN ARTIFACTS
Over 100 lots of artifacts to include Arrowheads of various sizes, Birdstone, Megalodon Teeth, Pestle, Pendants, Horn Stone Blade, Deflowering Tool, Spearheads, Butterfly Banner Stone, Gorgets, Drillheads, Pipe Ends, Hafted Stone Blades, Axes, Scapers, and various Indian Stones. **ARTIFACTS WILL BE SOLD BOTH LIVE AND ON LINE USING HI BID.**
AUCTIONEERS NOTE:
Artifacts will be sold beginning at 9:30 a.m. Guns will start selling at

90 SALE CALENDAR

approximately 12:30 p.m. Guns will not be on site until day of auction. Hand guns will be registered thru local FFL dealer. For more information contact LOY REAL ESTATE & AUCTION at (260) 726-2700.
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Gary Loy AU01031608
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PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 925 West Race Street, Portland IN
FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 11TH, 2025
5:30 P.M.
REAL ESTATE
Single story home with approximately 1036 square feet of living space situated on a 52' x 136' lot. Home features include 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom. A new water heater was installed recently. Property also offers a 12' x 14' deck and a detached garage with approximately 720 square feet. This property will make a great starter home or rental investment property. Terms of Sale: 10% nonrefundable deposit day of auction and balance at closing. Closing to be no later than 45 days from date of auction. Buyer to assume taxes due and

90 SALE CALENDAR

payable in May 2026 and thereafter. expense. Sale of Real Estate is subject to approval of the Jay Circuit Court. For more information or private showing contact GARY LOY, Auctioneer and (260) 726-5160 or KIM LOY, Real Estate Broker at (260) 726-2700.
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PUBLIC AUCTION
SATURDAY JUNE 28th, 2025
TIME 9:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 346 E 400 N, Portland, IN
TRACTOR - EQUIPMENT - GUNS
Ford Jubilee Tractor. 3pt 5' Box Blade. 5' King Cutter 3pt Rotary Mower. 3pt Post Hole Auger. 6' x 10' Single Axle Utility Trailer w/ Winch. Craftsman Rollaway Tool Boxes. Craftsman 20 Gallon Air Compressor. 10i Table Saw. Insulated Dog Houses. Winchester Model 1200 12 Gauge Pump. Ruger .22 Cal Single 6 Revolver. Thompson 45 and 50 Cal Muzzle Loaders. (2) Muzzle Loader Barrels. Compound Bows and

90 SALE CALENDAR

Arrows. Clay Targets and Thrower.
ANTIQUES - MISC
2 and 3 Gallon Crock Butter Churns. Horse Shoes. RR Anvil. Stop-light. Coca Cola Chest Cooler. Coca Cola Carrying Cooler. Bronze Horse Figure. Cross Cut Saw. Miniature Tricycle and Child's Wagon. Old Kitchen Cabinets.3 Cushion Sofa w/ Matching Love Seat. Over-sized Recliner. Rocker Recliner. 2 Person Bicycle and Other Bicycles.
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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Circuit Court of Jay County, Indiana, in Cause No. 38C01-2503-MF-000004 wherein Click n' Close, Inc, was Plaintiff, and Joshua Thomas Jacobs, et al were Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the day of July, 2025, at the hour of 11:00 AM or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 120 N Court Street, Suite 305, Portland, IN 47371, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Jay County, Indiana.

LOT NUMBER SEVEN (7) IN CORWIN'S SUB-DIVISION OF OUT LOT 3 IN BLOCK 3 IN THE WEST ADDITION TO THE TOWN, NOW CITY OF PORTLAND AS PER PLAT RECORDED AS PLAT BOOK A, PAGE 98, IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF JAY COUNTY, INDIANA. EXCEPT: EIGHTEEN (18) FEET OFF THE WEST SIDE OF SAID LOT.

ALSO: EXCEPT: BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT NUMBERED 7; THENCE NORTHERLY A DISTANCE OF 5.5 FEET ALONG THE EASTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT NUMBERED 7, BEING ALSO THE WESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF A 16.5 FOOT ALLEY; THENCE WESTERLY A DISTANCE OF 54.0 FEET; THENCE SOUTHERLY A DISTANCE OF 4.0 FEET TO THE NORTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF WATER STREET; THENCE EASTERLY A DISTANCE OF 54.0 FEET ALONG THE NORTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF WATER STREET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. CONTAINING 256.5 SQUARE FEET, MORE OR LESS, IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF JAY COUNTY, INDIANA.

ALSO: A PART OF LOT NUMBER SEVEN (7) IN CORWIN'S SUB-DIVISION OF OUT LOT THREE (3) IN BLOCKNUMBER THREE (3) IN THE WEST ADDITION TO THE TOWN, NOW CITY OF PORTLAND, INDIANA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING TWELVE (12) FEET EAST OF THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT SEVEN (7) AND RUNNING THENCE EAST ON THE NORTH LINE THEREOF SIX (6) FEET; THENCE SOUTH PARALLEL WITH THE WEST LINE OF SAID LOT ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-TWO (132) FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT SEVEN (7); THENCE WEST SIX (6) FEET; THENCE NORTH ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-TWO (132) FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF JAY COUNTY, INDIANA. PARCEL NUMBER: 38-07-20-103-155.000-034 COMMONLY KNOWN ADDRESS: 610 West Water Street, Portland, IN 47371

Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisalment laws.

Larry Ray Newton, Sheriff
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Cincinnati, OH 45202

CR 6-13,20,27-2025-HSPAXLP

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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Setting up

Emily Nieport sets a ball over the net during the Jay County High School volleyball team's camp for third to fifth graders on Wednesday.

Rockets continue win streak in Muncie

MUNCIE — The Rockets offense consistently chipped away at the Chiefs and Camden La Fuze took them the rest of the way.

The Portland Rockets picked up its fifth straight victory with a 9-1 win over the Muncie Chiefs on Wednesday.

La Fuze put in six strong innings of work on the mound, striking out eight batters without allowing any hits or runs. Varin Ridgway handled the seventh and eighth innings on the bump, surrendering two hits but keeping the Chiefs scoreless.

Cody Rowles closed out the game, giving up one unearned run.

The Rockets (13-3) scored in seven of the nine innings. Evan Pearce and Cole Luedike led the offense, each driving in a pair of runs.

Corban White had the most hits for Portland at four, including a double, while Joel Kennedy was the only player to cross home plate twice.

Jay wins

The Jay County Summer Swim team beat Wells Community 674-440 on Wednesday at Portland Water Park.

Jay County (3-0) won 38 of 62 events, including 12 of the 20 relays. It swept the 8-and-younger girls — and took second and third in as well — and 13-

Local Roundup

14-year-old girls divisions. Hayden Guggenbiller (50-meter freestyle, 25 butterfly, 50 individual medley) and Maddie Theurer (25 breaststroke, 25 backstroke, 25 freestyle) handled the former, while Elly Byrum (100 freestyle, 50 backstroke and 50 breaststroke) and Maria Laux (50 butterfly, 100 individual medley and 50 freestyle) led in the latter.

Four more tankers won a pair of events for Jay County. Emme Theurer won the 9-10-year-old girls 50 individual medley, 25 breaststroke and 25 freestyle, while Addisyn Champ claimed the 11-12-year-old girls 100 freestyle, 50 backstroke and 50 freestyle.

On the boys side, Grant Glentzer won the 13-14-year-old 50 butterfly, 50 backstroke and 100 individual medley, while Cooper Glentzer claimed the 15-and-older 50 butterfly and 50 breaststroke and the 200 open freestyle.

Keller leads

Thobe Keller led Williams Auto Parts to a 15-3 win over Barnett's

Auto Parts on Wednesday in the first round of the Portland Junior League Rookie baseball tournament.

Williams Auto Parts outthit Barnett's 20-6 and got on top early with five first-inning runs.

Keller went 3-for-3 with a triple and two singles to drive in four runs and score two more. Brett Huntsman and Boone Loche matched Keller by going 3-for-3, while combining for six runs and two RBIs.

Carson Dailey also plated three runs on a pair of triples.

Alex Miller, Chet Chidress and Adam Brunner drove in the three runs for Barnett's Auto Parts.

Cook's wins

Cook's Nursery defeated Matt's Garage 10-3 in the first round of the Portland Junior League Rookie baseball tournament on Wednesday.

Kayden Alberson and Dax Vance led Cook's Nursery by going 3-for-3 at the plate. The former scored a pair of runs.

Bryson Berry, Duke Steed, Steven Robbins, Waylor Huelskamp, Griffin Haffner and Jaxson Toland all supported the effort by notching two hits in the win.

Parker Eley led Matt's Garage with a home run. Seven more players added in one hit.

Mavericks draft Flagg No. 1 to usher in new era

By MIKE CURTIS

The Dallas Morning News Tribune News Service

NEW YORK — The Dallas Mavericks can officially put an end to "the kid from Duke" moniker and call him by his name.

The Cooper Flagg era has officially begun as the Mavericks made him the No. 1 overall pick in Wednesday night's NBA draft.

Flagg, wearing a blue three-piece suit with a black tie, walked across the Barclays Center stage to shake the hand of commissioner Adam Silver, fulfilling a longstanding dream of reaching the NBA.

The Mavericks didn't need the full five minutes they had on the clock to make their choice. They've had more than a month to prepare for the moment since May 12, when they beat the NBA draft lottery odds, which gave them a 1.8% chance of landing the top pick. The probability of Flagg

going No. 1 was never in question.

The 18-year-old is the second-youngest player to be drafted at No. 1, behind LeBron James. He's the sixth Duke player to go first overall and the third player to be drafted from the state of Maine.

The 6-8 forward with a 7-foot wingspan is considered to be the NBA's next generational talent — a positionless player with elite athleticism who can soar above the rim for high-flying dunks and dynamic rejections, handle the ball and score from the perimeter. His processing ability and IQ makes him able to make reads similar to that of a primary playmaker.

Over 1,300 miles away in Dallas, the Mavericks held a draft party at American Airlines Center to celebrate the selection of Flagg, the franchise's second No. 1 pick in franchise history and first since Mark

Aguirre was drafted in 1981 out of DePaul.

Flagg hails from a small city called Newport, where the population is around 3,000. Four separate draft parties in Newport will celebrate Flagg's massive accomplishment, ESPN reported Wednesday. One is hosted by New Balance, who Flagg signed an endorsement deal with last year.

Another is being held at Nokomis High School, where Flagg spent his freshman season before transferring to Monteverde Academy in Florida, where he finished his prep career as a McDonald's All-American. Flagg reclassified up to the 2024 high school class and graduated high school at the age of 17 so he could face a steeper level of competition.

Flagg had a sensational lone season at Duke, where he won the 2024-25 AP Player of the Year and ACC Player of the Year. He averaged 19.2 points,

7.5 rebounds, 4.2 assists, 1.4 blocks and 1.4 steals per game for the Blue Devils last season. He also had efficient shooting splits: 48.1% from the field, 38.5% from 3 and 84% from the free-throw line.

The Mavericks entered Wednesday night with just one selection during the 2025 NBA draft, which featured a two-night format for the second consecutive year. The second round will take place Thursday.

When Dallas won the right to draft Flagg by winning the draft lottery on May 12, Mavericks general manager Nico Harrison and Michael Finley, vice president of basketball operations, jumped out of their seats to celebrate the improbable reversal of misfortune that plagued the franchise since Luka Doncic was traded.

The Mavericks were riddled by injury and hard-capped at the second apron of the collective bargaining agreement,

which limited their options to sign players down the stretch. As a result, they missed the playoffs and wound up as a lottery team.

Winning the lottery was the intended result in 2023 when the Mavericks were fined for tanking. That draft selection became starting center Dereck Lively II, a promising piece for the team's new two-pronged timeline.

This time around, the Mavericks unintentionally hit the jackpot by adding a versatile player like Flagg to their core of All-Stars Kyrie Irving and Anthony Davis, who were selected first overall in 2011 and 2012, respectively. The roster also features sharpshooter Klay Thompson, P.J. Washington, Daniel Gafford, Naji Marshall and Lively.

Thirty teams wanted him, but only one could have the opportunity to draft him.

Dallas has officially captured the Flagg.



July SALE

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