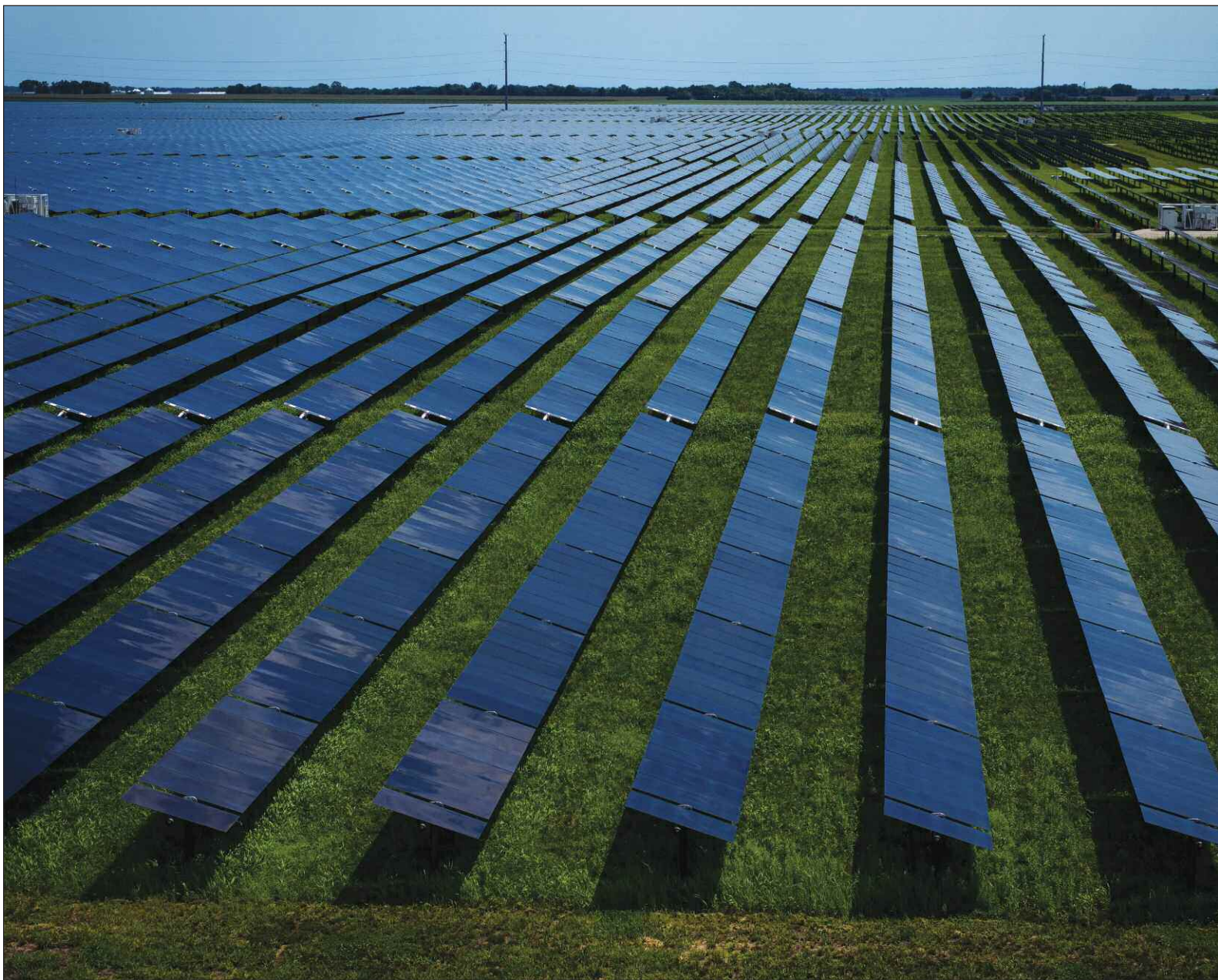


Extension OK'd



Tribune News Service/Chicago Tribune/E. Jason Wambsgans

A solar farm near Waverly, Illinois, south of Springfield, seen on July 31, 2024. Jay County Council approved an amendment to an economic development agreement and tax abatement Wednesday with Hodson Energy, adding a one-year extension to construction plans for New Jay Solar.

Jay County Council approves amended timeline for Hodson Energy's New Jay Solar near Dunkirk

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Another solar farm's construction has been delayed. Jay County Council approved an amendment to an economic development agreement and tax abatement Wednesday with Hodson Energy, adding a one-year extension to construction plans for New Jay Solar. Hodson Energy is one of four renewable energy companies planning solar farms in Jay County. It's also the last of the current roster to seek a timeline change, with the county approving amendments on construction dates for solar facilities

with Invenergy, Leeward Renewable Energy and Scout Clean Energy in 2024. Hodson Energy is planning a 311-acre farm in Richland Township, just east of Dunkirk. The company plans to invest around \$67.5 million into the farm, which is expected to produce up to 39 megawatts of energy and employ one to two full-time solar technicians on site. Hodson Energy signed economic development, road use and decommissioning agreements with the county as well as a development plan and 10-year tax abatement last year. (The company will have 100% of

property taxes abated over the entire 10-year period, saving it \$4.4 million in property taxes.) The economic development agreement stipulates Hodson Energy will provide \$2.516 million to Jay County over four years. The company's original timeline as approved on county agreements set construction to begin no later than June 30, 2026, with the facility to begin generating electricity by Dec. 31, 2027. That timeline has now shifted, with a completion date no later than Dec. 31, 2028. Kyle West, chief development officer of Hodson Energy,

explained there are a couple reasons for the amendments. He pointed to new requirements through regional transmission organization PJM interconnection surrounding procurement of major equipment and sourcing of that equipment. "Global supply chains are not what they were when we first set those dates," he explained. "We still very much will be building the project, going full speed ahead, development is essentially done. It's really just about the timing of getting the major equipment on site." See Extension page 2

Ukraine hit with missile attack

Zelenskyy indicates 'escalation of terror'

By DONATO PAOLO MANCINI and ARNE DELFS
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Ukraine's allies gathering in Rome to discuss the nation's postwar revival will be forced to grapple with the reality that such a prospect is more remote than ever as Russia unleashed its latest deadly air strike on Kyiv. Two people were killed and 16 wounded as around 400 drones, as well as 18 missiles including ballistic ones, targeted the Ukrainian capital and other regions, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on X Thursday. He described the air raid, which lasted for almost 10 hours, as "a clear escalation of terror by Russia." The second consecutive night of relentless attacks follows Moscow's refusal to discuss a ceasefire. U.S. President Donald Trump this week excoriated Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin for "killing too many people" and pledged to send more weapons to Kyiv. All of it sets back any planning for Ukraine's reconstruction after the war as Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni hosts the fourth Ukraine Recovery Conference on Thursday. Instead, allies will regroup on how to muster resources so Ukraine can continue to repel Russia's invasion, currently in its fourth year. "The means of diplomacy are exhausted," German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, who will attend the Rome meeting, told lawmakers in Berlin on Wednesday. He pilloried the Kremlin as a "criminal regime" that threatens Europe's political order — and said he'll do "everything" to keep assistance to Kyiv flowing. See Attack page 2

Brazilian currency plunges

By DANIEL CARVALHO, BARBARA NASCIMENTO and SIMONE IGLESIAS
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

President Donald Trump's threat to impose 50% tariffs on Brazilian goods sent the country's currency plunging as the U.S. leader sharply escalated a dispute with Latin America's largest nation and leftist leader Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. In a letter posted to his social media account, Trump cited Jair Bolsonaro — the right-wing former president and Lula rival who is facing a trial on charges that he attempted a coup following his 2022 election defeat. Trump made a direct link to politics, saying he was making the change "due in part to Brazil's insidious attacks on Free Elections, and the fundamental Free Speech Rights of Americans." The charges against Bolsonaro,

Steep decline follows Trump threat of 50% tariffs

a leader who mimicked Trump's political style during his presidency, stem from an investigation into post-election riots in Brazil's capital that have drawn comparisons to the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection attempt in Washington. Bolsonaro has repeatedly appealed for Trump's help as his legal woes mount. The Brazilian real slumped nearly 3% against the U.S. dollar on the back of the announcement, while the iShares MSCI Brazil ETF — the largest US-listed exchange-traded fund tracking the nation's equities — was

down almost 2% in postmarket trading. Brazil had been set to face the minimum 10% levy under the so-called "reciprocal" tariffs Trump originally unveiled in April. The letter, the latest of more than 20 posted by Trump in recent days, was the first substantial upward revision from previously announced rates. While it borrows language about "reciprocity" from the others, Brazil is the first receiver that does not run a goods trade surplus with the U.S. — suggesting particular frustration on the part of Trump.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Last ride

Abby Reef (left) and Maddy Reef laugh while riding the sizzler at the Jay County Fair on Saturday. The final day of the fair included rides on the midway, a demolition derby at the grandstand and A Touch of Mexico in the Farmer's Building. The 2026 Jay County Fair is scheduled for June 27 through July 4.

In review

It will be a busy Saturday with the grand opening of the Canoper Trail from Berne to Geneva at 10 a.m. Saturday in Berne; the Jay Lodge #87 anniversary celebration at 11 a.m.; motorcycle races at Jay County Fairgrounds at 3 p.m.; and the marching band contest at Centerville High School at 8 p.m.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 85 degrees Wednesday. The low was 71. Tonight's low will be in the lower 70s. There is a 20% chance of rain. Skies will be mostly sunny Saturday with a 50% chance of rain and a high in the upper 80s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday in the parking lot at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, and Dunkirk City Park.

Coming up

Saturday — Photos from the Community "Hero" event at Jay County Public Library.
Tuesday — Coverage of Monday's Jay County Commissioners meeting.
Wednesday — Details from next week's Dunkirk City Council meeting.



Attack ...

Continued from page 1

The potential long-term commitment was laid bare by considerations in the European Union to set up a €100 billion (\$117 billion) fund to assist Kyiv. It may be included in a proposal for the bloc's next seven-year budget, people familiar with the deliberations said. If accepted, the funds would start to be disbursed in

2028, they said on condition of anonymity.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal drove home the war-battered nation's current fiscal drain. In an online meeting Wednesday, he said 2026 "is challenging" — with a budget shortfall of more than \$40 billion that needs to be compensated from external financing.

The latest attacks — Russia also fired a record of some 730 drones as well as ballistic and cruise missiles overnight into Wednesday — came after Trump signaled that he would dispatch weaponry to Ukraine and said that he was "not happy" with the Russian leader. Just days earlier the U.S. administration unexpectedly halted the deliveries.






"He's killing too many people, so we're sending some defensive weapons to Ukraine and I've approved it," the U.S. leader told reporters at a Cabinet meeting in Washington Tuesday.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune said Wednesday he expects a vote as soon as this month to place severe new sanctions on Russia.

Representing the U.S. admin-

istration in Rome will be Keith Kellogg, the special envoy for Ukraine, who will also take part in a call with European leaders from the so-called coalition of the willing nations on the sidelines of the meeting.

France's Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer will join from the U.K., where the French president is on a state visit.

CR almanac				
Saturday 7/12	Sunday 7/13	Monday 7/14	Tuesday 7/15	Wednesday 7/16
 90/70 <small>Saturday has a 50% chance of thunderstorms with heat index values in the mid 90s.</small>	 86/64 <small>Sunday's forecast also shows a 50% chance of showers with thunderstorms also possible.</small>	 88/67 <small>Mostly sunny on Monday, when the high will be in the mid 80s.</small>	 90/69 <small>Tuesday's weather looks to be mostly sunny with a slight chance of rain.</small>	 88/67 <small>Mostly sunny skies on Wednesday with a 50% chance of showers.</small>

Lotteries

Powerball 5-9-25-28-69 Power Ball: 5 Power Play: 22 Estimated jackpot: \$234 million	Daily Four: 2-1-3-2 Quick Draw: 11-14-19-24-26-29-31-33-35-36-38-46-47-59-63-66-67-73-75-76 Cash 5: 6-8-9-19-24 Estimated jackpot: \$75,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$80 million	Ohio Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 2-6-5 Pick 4: 0-2-9-9 Pick 5: 7-8-4-1-0 Evening Pick 3: 1-1-0 Pick 4: 5-3-7-9 Pick 5: 6-1-4-1-9 Rolling Cash: 16-26-33-38-39 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
Hoosier Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 7-0-9 Daily Four: 1-9-3-6 Quick Draw: 2-6-11-14-18-31-39-41-44-48-53-56-60-61-62-65-68-73-75-80 Evening Daily Three: 3-2-5	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.51 July corn.....4.59 Aug. corn4.54	Aug. beans.....9.73 Wheat5.20
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.54 Aug. corn4.49 Sept. corn4.39	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.28 Aug. corn4.26 Beans.....10.12 Aug. beans.....9.92 Wheat5.20
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.41 Aug. corn3.95 Beans10.15	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.44 Aug. corn4.39 Beans.....9.93 Aug. beans.....9.53 Wheat4.95

Today in history

In 1274, Robert the Bruce was born Robert VIII de Bruce in Cardross, Dumbartonshire, Scotland. He was king of Scotland from 1306 to 1329 and was the leader who freed his country from English rule.

In 1804, Aaron Burr fatally shot Alexander Hamilton in a duel in Weehawken, New Jersey. Burr had challenged Hamilton over alleged remarks he had made against Burr.

In 1900, Charlotte Cooper became the first female Olympic champion as she beat Helene Prevast in Olympics tennis.

In 1953, boxer Leon Spinks was born in St. Louis, Missouri. He won the heavyweight championship after defeating Muhammad Ali in a split decision match in 1978.

In 1960, "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee was published.

In 2013, Portland Board of Works approved \$53,700 to upgrade computers at the city's wastewater treatment plant.

In 2022, Jay County Emergency Management Agency director John Hankins submitted a two-week notice of resignation to Jay County Commissioners. He had served in the role for less than two months.

—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 County Public Library, community room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Jay County Country Living Advisory Board, living facility, 1194 E. 200 North, Portland.	7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.
Tuesday 7 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council public forum, Cooper Brothers Community Pavilion, Community Park, 401 W. Milligan St.	
Wednesday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North, Portland.	

Extension ...

Continued from page 1

Attorney Maura Hoff of DeFur Voran, Muncie, shared a few minor adjustments made with the amendments, with county attorney Wes Schemenaur noting the main differences are the timeline change and payment structure. (Like other amended agreements with solar companies, Hodson Energy will make its first economic development payment to the county at the start of construction.)

Council president Matt Minnich questioned if changes at the federal level will impact Hodson Energy's project in Jay County. West said New Jay Solar is far along enough in the process that it will qualify for construction.

Council then approved the amended agreement and abatement.

Also Wednesday, council OK'd moving forward with information technology service provider LEAP Managed IT.

Jay County officials formed a cybersecurity task force in the fall to assess cybersecurity risks, plan for incidents and provide recommendations for county cybersecurity and information technology issues. Recently, longtime information technology provider Randy Cleaver announced he will retire at the end of the year.

The task force reviewed presentations from LEAP Managed IT, Perry Pro Tech and Allstar Technologies for information technology support services. According to a prepared statement from task force member and Jay County Emergency Management Agency director Samantha Rhodhamel — she was undergoing a training session during the meeting but arrived later — task force members recommended a fully managed service with LEAP Managed IT along with a co-managed option for Jay County Security Center, which will keep working with current information technology provider Cameron Clark.

The fully managed option, she said in the statement, would prevent a lapse in support if an employee leaves, would allow the company to report directly to Jay County Commissioners and council, will grant equal access to information technology support and will help comply with new state cybersecurity rules going into effect in the future.

The company will begin transitioning to become the county's information technology provider role Sept. 1.

The cost is estimated at \$14,391.10 per month and, as it has in the past, will come out of the commissioners' budget.

Council agreed to move forward with the task force's recommendation.

Also, council agreed to host a joint session with Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Country Living Advisory Board at 5:30 p.m. Aug. 13. County officials plan to discuss the future of Jay County Country Living (formerly known as Jay County Retirement Center), with its advisory board having recently recommended the county close the facility.

Commissioners tabled a decision June 30 on whether to close Jay County Country Living and said they would like to hear council members' perspectives first.

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

- Approved the following: amending the salary ordinance, adjusting Jay County Health Department's immunization clerk position — the former clerk recently moved to a different job in the department, leaving the position vacant — to a part-time role, with health department administrator Heath Butz noting large cuts to the department's state funding moving forward; and keeping the local income tax rate the same for next year.
- Heard a quarterly update from

Jay County Development Corporation executive director Ceann Bales, who noted it's been three months since she started in the role. Bales shared a variety of statistics. Jay County's unemployment rate has averaged about 3% since at least March, saying it reflects a stable labor market and steady workforce participation. Among other notes, Bales pointed out the county's current early learning facilities encompass just under 30% of the child care capacity needs in Jay County.

- Reviewed budget proposals from department heads and other data gathered by Franks regarding the 2026 budget. Alexander voiced concerns, saying he wouldn't feel comfortable approving a budget with a deficit as it currently stands. Franks suggested council members think about their funding priorities over the next month.
- Heard concerns from George McGinnis of Jay County Solid Waste Management District regarding illegal dumping at recycling trailers across the county. McGinnis pointed to the county ordinance approved in 2022 setting fines for violations and noted issues continue. Schemenaur suggested McGinnis purchase trail cameras to set up around the dumpster located next to Jay County Sheriff's Office. When a violation occurs, McGinnis' office could share the footage with law enforcement for legal action, he explained.
- Made the following additional appropriations: \$14,100 in Jay County Community Corrections' budget for group health insurance; \$2,400 for services rendered by Ritter Strategic Services amid the procurement of new radio equipment for local responders; and \$1,000 for resident activities at Jay County Country Living.
- Transferred \$26,500 in commissioners' budget from employer health insurance to workers' compensation funds.

Capsule Reports

Holdman assigned

State Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle), who represents Jay County, has been named to chair the Indiana Senate's Interim Study Committee on Fiscal Policy in preparation for the 2026 legislative session.

Holdman will also serve on the Legislative Council, Legislative State of Emergency Advisory Group, Medicaid Oversight Committee, Northeast Indiana Strategic Development Commission and Simplified State Sales Tax Administration Delegates.

Legislators meet during the summer and fall to discuss topics that have been approved by the bipartisan Legislative Council.

SERVICES

Today

Geesaman, Angelina: 11 a.m., Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland.

Saturday

Hartvig, James: 1 p.m., Union Chapel Church, 6200 N. 375 West, Bryant.

Service listings provided by

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Jay Lodge #87

175th Anniversary Celebration

On July 12, 2025, The Masonic Lodge, Jay Lodge #87 will be celebrating 175 years.

As part of the celebration, The Grand Lodge of Indiana will be performing a Re-dedication of the Lodge. This is a public ceremony and all are welcome to attend.



The rededication ceremony will begin promptly at 11am.

FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY:

There will be a Community Cookout along with fun activities beginning at 12pm in the parking lot. There will be grilled hot dogs, bags of chips, and bottled water all sponsored by the Jay Chapter of the DeMolay Youth Group. Free will donations will be accepted but not required.

Activities include: Dunk Tank, Bounce House, Popcorn Cart, and tours of the lodge accompanied by Master Masons ready to answer any of questions you may have. Overflow parking will be at the Ashury Church parking lots.

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Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm

Parents don't accept denial

DEAR ABBY: I have suspected for many years that my son is gay. I don't understand why he would feel he can't talk to me about his relationships. I would love him regardless. Everything was fine when his father and I lived hundreds of miles away, but when I mentioned we might move closer, my son got very upset and made it clear that he didn't want it to happen. At the time, I didn't understand why.

We moved closer anyway, and now there's an invisible curtain between us. His dad is disabled. I'm his caretaker, which can be very stressful at times, but I do everything I can to take care of myself emotionally and physically so I can do it right.

My husband's dad turned out to be gay and divorced his mom. My husband is still angry at his father, which I understand. I suspect that may be one reason our son is distant. Several of his contemporaries (both male and female) have mentioned their suspicions to me. I love my son and want to be closer. I have contacted PFLAG for assistance. Can you provide me with any insight? — TRYING IN VIRGINIA

DEAR TRYING: IF your son is gay (and he may NOT be), it is understandable that he would stay away from his

Dear Abby



possibly homophobic father. I find it strange that any of your son's friends would make unsolicited comments to you concerning their "suspicions" about his sexual orientation. You were wise to reach out to PFLAG for information. It's a respected resource that I have mentioned in my column many times. But I can't help wondering why you moved closer to your son despite him indicating that he didn't want it. It may be time to give him the space to live his life in private, and because you need emotional support, seek it elsewhere.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 71-year-old only child who's been married for 54 years. I have a terrible habit of interrupting when my wife is speaking. I'm trying to break this habit, which is difficult after so many years.

We had a bad argument today when she asked me to watch

some "funny" YouTube clips. I declined because I was doing the weekly chore of setting up our many medical prescriptions for the week. She blew up saying it was OK for me to interrupt her but not the reverse. She then went on to say how I interrupt her when she's cooking, reading, on her computer or doing other activities. I asked when a good time was to talk to her and was told maybe never. Was I out of line or did this turn into an overreaction? — TALK-ATIVE LADY IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR LADY: It turned into an overreaction. Interestingly, your wife did not say you interrupted her while she was speaking. She mentioned interrupting certain activities. Has it occurred to you that the two of you may spend so much time together that you are getting on her nerves? Perhaps getting out of the house separately would give the two of you more breathing room.

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

Jay Masonic Lodge celebrates 175 years

A local Masonic Lodge is celebrating its 175th anniversary this weekend.

Jay Lodge No. 87 will host a rededication ceremony at 11 a.m. Saturday with The Grand Lodge of Indiana. The public is invited to attend, with a community cookout and activities planned to begin at noon in Jay Lodge's parking lot, 513 N. Meridian St., Portland. Grilled hot dogs, chips and bottled water will be available courtesy of Jay Chapter of the DeMolay Youth Group. The organization will accept free will donations. Activities planned for Saturday include a dunk tank, bounce house, popcorn cart and tours of the lodge.

Senior series

It's time to learn more about mental health as a senior.

Kathy Lawrence of Encompass will share a presentation on seniors and their mental health during the senior lunch and learn series Aug. 7.

Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. with the presentation to follow. Reservations are \$5 and are intended for seniors 55 years old and up.

Summer meals

Jay School Corporation is providing free meals

Taking Note

again for children under 18 this summer.

Drive-thru pickup meals are offered from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays at Jay County Junior-Senior High School. They'll be available at Door 16 behind the auxiliary gym. Pickup meals include five breakfasts and five lunches.

A traditional meal service is also offered at West Jay Community Center in Dunkirk and Jay Community Center in Portland. West Jay Community Center's breakfast will be served from 8:30 to 9 a.m., and lunch from 11:30 a.m. to noon. Jay Community Center's breakfast will be served from 9 to 9:15 a.m. and lunch from noon to 12:15 p.m. Meals must be eaten on site.

All meals will be provided on a first come, first served basis. For questions, contact the Jay Schools food service director at (260) 726-9306.

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.

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, 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.

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.

Tuesday

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.

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.

FRIENDS OF JAY COUNTY LIBRARY — Will meet at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the library.

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.

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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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.

Seeking Full-Time Front Desk Assistant

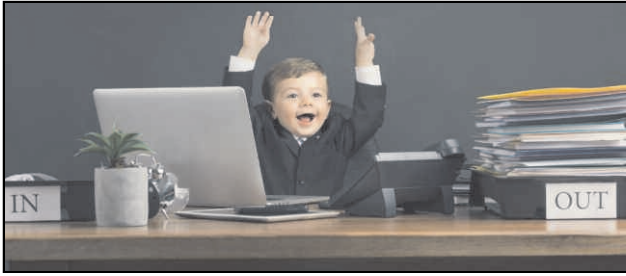
Looking for a person who will:

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Training will be provided.

This position is 32+ hours a week

plus benefits.



Requirements:

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Just who is the average Hoosier?

By MORTON J. MARCUS

Here we go, again, trying to answer an impossible question. Does average mean the most likely to be found? By what means of searching? Is this some image in our heads, depending on how old we are? I can see some corn-cob smoking, Abe Martin cartoon fellow in rustic dress, with a Ma Kettle from the movies (Majorie Main, born in Acton, Indiana). What do you see? Is the average Hoosier male or female? Do we know what we mean any longer by male or female? According to the current administration in Washington, there are only two possible answers, but statistically there can be three.

Morton J. Marcus



The average (modal) Hoosier is a female since 505 out of every 1,000 Hoosiers are identified as female by the folks filling our Census Bureau questionnaires. That leaves 495 males as the remainder of the population. My preference is to give a consolidated response, using s/he. That's no problem for the average (mean) age of a Hoosier, since it is 34 for both

men and women. However, the median age is 38 for the entire population; it would be 39 if we use only women's ages and 37 if we used men's. Where does s/he live? The center of population for the state is located near Sheridan in Hamilton County, along county road 700 North, east of the Boone County line. Our average Hoosier is a non-Hispanic, white home owner, married without children present. That does not mean s/he never had children; the youngsters may have flown the nest. S/he graduated high school, but did not go further. Whether that marriage is with a same-sex or opposite-sex spouse, the labor force participation rate is over 82% and

slightly above the national rate. Perhaps the most perplexing issue with our average Hoosier is income. In the population-at-large, 25 and older, those with a high school degree (including equivalency certification) had a median income of \$39,496. But Hoosier women in 2023 earned a median income of \$31,298 (66%) compared to men who earned \$47,090. This is a discrepancy of \$15,792 (50%). That little fact differs from the wildly circulated 83% women make as a percent of men's earnings. Those data compare full-time, year-round workers. Women actually work fewer hours per year than men and have substantially lower earnings.

If Average She and Average He are sharing income, that's \$78,388 or \$1,171 (1.5%) higher than their national counterparts. Yes, indeed, that edge of being Hoosiers must make our leaders proud. But it fades away as we adjust for race or ethnicity. Media consultants and politicians fixate on the concept of a representative person. That person is just an idea, a convenient figure to avoid diverse reality. Certainly, we should not promote a complex, erroneous idea and transform it into an ideal. Marcus is an economist formerly at the Kelley School of Business. Email him at mortonj-marcus@gmail.com.

Diplomats need to finish the job

Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

American and Israeli forces have done the world a favor by setting back Iran's nuclear program, whether by a little or a lot. But, unless the U.S. now binds the regime to a deal with strict, long-term constraints on its nuclear activities, the risks they've taken may well be for naught. The Beltway debate over whether Iranian nuclear capabilities have been "obliterated" or can be revived within months largely misses the point. An accurate damage assessment will take weeks, not days, and it will likely require the return of international nuclear inspectors to the sites at Isfahan, Natanz and Fordow.

More importantly, the whereabouts of Iran's stockpiles of highly enriched uranium remain unclear. Advanced centrifuges may be hidden away. Not all the country's nuclear scientists have been killed. The possibility that the regime might put those three elements together and race to build a crude nuclear device can't be ruled out. In theory, especially if the damage to Iran's capabilities has indeed been extensive, the U.S. and Israel could hope to monitor the country using satellites and spies, and launch renewed air and missile strikes if a threat is detected. That's risky, however: Some covert activities might go unobserved, and repeated airstrikes would be costly and become increasingly dangerous as the Iranian military rebuilds its defenses. A similar "mowing the lawn" strategy didn't prevent Hamas from launching its deadly Oct. 7 attacks. While the U.S. has a strong hand to play in negotiations, its enthusiasm for them seems to be wavering. At different points, the president has mused that the strikes were so successful a deal might be unnecessary and expressed irritation at Iran's reluctance to talk. Meanwhile, the regime has cut off communications with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Even if those leaders

Guest Editorial

in Tehran who favor diplomacy ultimately win out over hard-line rivals, they won't simply cave to U.S. demands. Reaching a settlement all sides can live with will require patience and discipline — not notable traits of this White House. Nonetheless, the effort is worth it. If the U.S. wants to ensure security for itself and Israel, it should leverage its current advantages to press for a strong deal that will constrain Iran's nuclear ambitions over the long term.

The basic elements are well-known by now: Inspections would have to be more intrusive than before; any enrichment activities would have to take place offshore and be closely monitored by the U.S.; and there must be no time limits or "sunset" clauses on the restrictions. The regime would have to account for and surrender any remaining advanced centrifuges and highly enriched uranium. At the same time, the White House can take steps to bolster its own credibility as a negotiating partner. It can officially forswear regime change as a goal and back up that pledge by scaling back the forces it has surged to the region. It can offer a credible, phased schedule of sanctions relief and ensure that Israel publicly supports its negotiating strategy and commits not to sabotage it. With his sway over Republicans, the president would also have a much better chance than his predecessor of getting a detailed agreement ratified by Congress as a treaty, which would assure Iranian leaders it couldn't be easily reversed by another administration. No one is or should be questioning the bravery of the American B-2 pilots or the tactical skill of the U.S. and Israeli militaries. But only diplomats can finish the job they started.



Leave America in a better place

By JEFF MULLIN
Journal Gazette & Times-Courier
Tribune News Service

Have you ever heard the word semi-quincentennial? How about bisesquincentennial? Get used to them. You will be hearing one or the other, or both, a lot in the next year. Both refer to the 250th anniversary of something, which is fitting because next July 4 will mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Thus the good old USA is turning 250 next year. Of course, July 4 was just yesterday. The barbecue grill has hardly cooled and the smell of gunpowder and the sound of fireworks have barely faded from the air. But welcome to America's semi-quincentennial year, which unofficially begins today. Now in the pantheon of nations, 250 years is merely a drop in the bucket. Egypt, for instance, was founded in roughly 6,000 BCE. India came along in 3300 BCE, followed by Afghanistan (3000 BCE), China (2070 BCE) and Georgia (the country, of course, not the state, sometime in the 15th century BCE). Heck, compared to those old geezers America is practically a toddler. And, like most toddlers, America occasionally does things that make us shake our heads and raise our blood pressure. We were cruel to the indigenous people who were living on this land when we "discovered" and "conquered" it as the nation expanded westward. When the founders put the finishing touches on the Declaration of Independence, they wrestled with the fact that folks in some of the original 13 colonies thought owning other human beings and forcing them to work for them was a good idea. Hence the line "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal" didn't really mean all men. Oh, by the way, where did women fit in all this equality stuff? These days America is sending masked ICE agents around the coun-

Jeff Mullin



try to deport those in this nation illegally who have committed some sort of crime. "We are continuing to go after the worst of the worst — including gang members, pedophiles and rapists," Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin told ABC News. The worst of the worst? How about Sae Joon Park, a 55-year-old from South Korea? He came to the U.S. at age 7 to join his mother. After high school, Park enlisted in the U.S. Army. After basic training he was deployed to Panama, where he became part of the 1989 U.S. effort to topple the regime of dictator Manuel Noriega. He was shot in the back by a Panamanian soldier, returned to the U.S., honorably discharged and awarded the Purple Heart. But Sae Joon Park's war had just begun. He suffered from PTSD, which gave him nightmares and left him living in constant fear. He turned to drugs to try and cope. He was arrested on drug charges, skipped a court hearing and jumped bail. He was rearrested and served three years in jail. After prison he moved to Hawaii, where he worked at a car dealership and raised his son and daughter. He was required only to check in with immigration officials once a year. But when he checked in last month, ICE officials told him he would be detained and deported unless he left the country voluntarily. Recently he boarded a plane for South Korea, knowing he would likely never be able to return. How is an Army veteran, who not only served his country but paid his debt to society, the worst of the worst? Oh, and then there's the president's

Big Beautiful Bill. From now until 2034 it will cost some 12 million Americans their health care, thanks to cuts in Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act and Medicare. That doesn't mean those 12 million folks won't ever get sick, it just means they will go to public hospitals to be treated. Those hospitals must serve them whether they can pay or not, meaning those who have health insurance will wind up footing the bill for those who don't. It is hard to find the sense in that. All of which may have some of you saying, "America, love it or leave it." Or, like a reader recently wrote to me in an email, "I wish you guys could get more positive about the best place in the world ... it could help. Turn a new leaf and at least try to support our president! He's the only one we have." That reader was referring to me and my former boss, Cindy Allen, who wrote a commentary critical of the big parade celebrating the Army's semiquincentennial (there's that word again). I agree with his statement that America is the best place in the world. I disagree that we in the media are somehow required to fall into lockstep with the government and mindlessly support everything the president, Congress and the Supreme Court do. Theodore Roosevelt once said, "To announce that there must be no criticism of the president, or that we are to stand by the president, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public." You can love America, but not always like what it does. Parents of teenagers can relate to this. Criticism is the foundation for growth. In the case of those in power, the job of the press is to keep our leaders on their toes, a job that more often than not requires stepping all over said digits. So happy belated birthday, America, 249 years worth. And here's to many more, beginning with your upcoming semiquincentennial. We're going to need a bigger cake.

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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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CDC ends bird flu emergency response

By JESSICA NIX
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ended its emergency response for bird flu as the outbreak that sickened dozens of people, spread to cattle and drove up egg prices has abated.

The emergency designation ended in the last week, according to a person familiar with the matter who wasn't authorized to speak publicly about it.

The CDC merged its bird flu updates with those routinely reported for seasonal influenza starting on Monday, and will post the number of people monitored and tested for the virus also known as H5N1 on a monthly basis, the agency said. It will no longer include infection rates found among animals on its website.

States that were among the hardest hit have also dialed back their efforts. California ended its emergency declaration in April, a spokesperson for the Department of Public Health told Bloomberg. Washington, which had 11 human cases in 2024, is also downsizing its response, state epidemiologist Scott Lindquist said.

The CDC's emergency bird flu response was deactivated to transition back to regular program activity, according to a spokesperson for the Department of Health and Human Services. Surveillance, readiness and response for bird flu will be included with existing efforts from the CDC's Influenza Division and

other agency programs, they said.

While the states said they're still monitoring bird flu activity and will coordinate with federal officials, doctors and researchers said the moves will make it harder to detect potentially dangerous changes. If the virus continues to jump between species or the human case count grows, there's a greater risk that it could mutate and become more easily transmissible between people, they said.

"We are letting our guard down," said Michael Kinch, an infectious disease expert and chief innovation officer at Stony Brook University in New York.

Ending the emergency response comes amid a broader federal pullback from preparing for another outbreak. Earlier this year, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services canceled a \$766 million federal contract with Moderna Inc. to develop mRNA vaccines for bird flu.

A CDC emergency declaration redirects people and resources to increase testing, surveillance and communications during an outbreak. During the H5N1 response, 375 staff members from the CDC were assigned to work on the outbreak, the HHS spokesperson said.

Reducing attention to the virus could leave a gap when it is still circulating in migratory birds in the U.S., health experts said.

"If you do miss an uptick, then you'll be one step behind and then that could lead to more widespread transmission and more herds being infected,

more people being infected," said Dean Blumberg, head of pediatric infectious disease at University of California, Davis.

The CDC previously held regular calls with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response and the White House to update the press and epidemiologists on the status of the virus and the federal response. The calls ended before President Trump's inauguration in January.

Other factors may also hinder efforts to identify and track infections. Most of the human infections detected in the U.S. occurred among agricultural workers who were in close proximity to sick dairy herds and poultry. State governments and farm owners have to invite CDC investigators to conduct surveillance, a difficult proposition to reach migrant workers during mass immigration raids across the country.

California, which had the highest human case count in 2024 with 38 people infected, started offering \$25 gift cards as an incentive to get people to test for influenza A, the flu strain that contains H5N1, in April.

Bird flu started circulating among cattle last year, and eventually led to 70 infections in people confirmed by the CDC. Signs include flu-like symptoms and conjunctivitis, and it can be treated with the anti-viral medication Tamiflu. While one person died from the disease in January, the current risk to humans remains low, the CDC says.

Feral bees crowd out natives

By NIAMH ORDNER
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

LOS ANGELES — You've probably heard the phrase: "Save the bees." But new research suggests we may need to be more specific about which bees we're saving.

Europeans introduced western honeybees (*Apis mellifera* L.) to the Americas in the early 1600s. They play an essential role in pollinating crops and flowering plants, and are often hailed as the "unsung heroes of our planet." They are both omnivorous and omnipresent: Researchers have found that western honeybees visit more plant species than any other species of pollinator and are the most common visitor to plants in non-managed habitats worldwide, accounting for nearly 13% of all floral visitors.

The problem is that this dominance may be coming at the cost of some native pollinators.

That's what caught the attention of Joshua Kohn, a former biology professor at UC San Diego. "Pollination biologists in general in North America tend to ignore western honeybees because they're not native," he said. "But when I saw just how abundant they were, I thought to myself: They're not just a nuisance, they're the story."

In San Diego County — a global bee biodiversity hotspot — feral honeybee populations have quietly exploded in number since the late 1960s. Many of these bees trace their ancestry to a hybrid of European and African subspecies, the latter known for traits that boost survival in hot, dry climates — places with mild winters and vegetation that blooms year-round. In other words, perfect for Southern California, where previously domesticated populations became feral colonies that thrived independent of human management, nesting in rock crevices, abandoned rodent burrows and other natural cavities.

However, despite their population growth and spread, researchers don't know much about these bees' pollen consumption, or the extent to which



Tribune News Service/Los Angeles Times/Myung J. Chun

A pollen-laden honeybee works a California poppy on a warm spring day at Niguel Botanical Preserve in Laguna Niguel, California, on March 22. In San Diego County feral honeybee populations have quietly exploded in number since the late 1960s.

their foraging habits may be displacing native species.

A new study published July 7 in the journal *Insect Conservation and Diversity* seeks to address that knowledge gap. Drawing from field surveys in San Diego's coastal scrubland, researchers at UC San Diego found that feral honeybees — non-native, unmanaged descendants of domesticated bees — may be monopolizing local ecosystems and effectively squeezing out native pollinators such as bumblebees. In total, these feral bees now comprise about 90% of all bees in the area, according to the study.

"It's like going to the Amazon rainforest to bird-watch and seeing only pigeons," said James Hung, an ecologist at the University of Oklahoma and co-author of the study. "I was shocked. This

was supposed to be a biodiversity hotspot — but all we were seeing were honeybees."

The team also wanted to understand how honeybee foraging affected pollen availability for native species, and what that might mean for the latter's ability to reproduce successfully. The researchers looked at how honeybees interacted with three native plants: black sage, white sage and distant phacelia. They found that in just two visits, a western honeybee could remove more than 60% of the pollen from these flowers. By the end of a single day for all three plant species analyzed, more than 80% of all pollen was gone.

The problem is that this leaves almost no pollen for native bees.

Kohn, a co-author of the study, explained that while western honeybees are prolific foragers,

they aren't always the most effective pollinators. His previous research suggests plants pollinated by these bees often produce less fit offspring, in part due to inbreeding. This is because western honeybees tend to visit many flowers on the same plant before moving on — a behavior that increases the risk of self-fertilization.

What this means for the broader plant community is still unclear, Kohn said. "But it's likely that the offspring of plants would be more fit if they were pollinated by native pollinators. It's possible that if honeybees were not in the system that there'd be more bumblebees, which visit flowering plants much more methodically."

Kohn emphasized that the findings aren't an argument against honeybee conservation, especial-

ly given their importance to agriculture. However, they do suggest we may need to reconsider how to manage domesticated western honeybee populations.

When used for agricultural pollination, managed honeybees are often brought into an area temporarily in what's called a mobile apiary: essentially, dozens or hundreds of hives kept on a trailer or platform, moved from place to place, wherever pollination is needed. While this is essential for crops, stripping nectaring plants of resources before native species have a chance to feed could lead to their decimation.

Hung suggested designating specific forage zones for commercial beekeeping — ideally in areas less vulnerable to ecological disruption — as a way to offset that pressure. "If we can identify ecosystems that are less sensitive to disturbance — those with a lower number of endemic plant or pollinator species — we could scatter seed mixes and produce way more flowers than any comparable habitat nearby," he said. "Then, we could set aside some acres of land for beekeepers to come and park their bees and let them forage in a way that does not disrupt the native ecosystem. This would address the conflict between large-scale managed honeybee populations and the wild bees that they could potentially be impacting."

Rather than replacing crop pollination, the idea would be to offer alternative foraging options that keep honeybees from spilling into and dominating natural areas.

Longer-term, Hung said scientists may need to consider more direct forms of intervention, such as relocation or eradication. "Honeybees have dug their roots very deep into our ecosystem, so removing them is going to be a big challenge," he said. But at some point, he believes, it may be necessary to protect native plants and pollinators.

In the words of Scott Black, director of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, "Keeping honeybees to 'save the bees' is like raising chickens to save birds."

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NCAA ...

Continued from page 8

In a college sports world of unceasing contention, the one thing almost everyone agrees on is that the NCAA men’s basketball tournament is an American sports jewel.

So, of course, the college athletics “powers that be” are determined to mess with that success.

It would be silly to say adding four or eight teams to the existing field of 68 will “ruin” March Madness. It won’t.

But, for multiple reasons, expanding the field will weaken the NCAA tournament and college basketball overall.

Those who favor expansion like to point out that there were 282 NCAA Division I basketball programs in 1985 when the tournament bracket first grew to 64 teams. Last season, there were 364 D-I programs feeding into a 68-team NCAA tourney.

Led by SEC commissioner Greg Sankey, the “expansionists” have taken to clamoring for a larger NCAA tourney bracket as a matter of “access.”

As Matt Norlander of CBSSports.com showed this week via expansive research, the claims that the growth in the number of Division I teams has negatively impacted the chances for power-league schools to make the NCAA tourney do not hold up to scrutiny.

Growing the NCAA tourney not only will lessen the achievement of earning an NCAA tournament berth, it will also further dilute the college hoops regular season.

Almost every one of the teams new to Division I since 1985 have entered so far down the conference “food chain,” they are not competing for at-large bids. Simply put, the presences of Bellarmine and Northern Kentucky in D-I have zero impact on the chances of Kentucky and Louisville making March Madness via at-large bids.

The idea that deserving teams are routinely being left out of March Madness as presently constituted is also contradicted by the evidence.

In the just-concluded men’s hoops season, the first four teams omitted from the NCAA tourney were West Virginia (19-13), Indiana (19-13), Ohio State (17-15) and Boise State (24-10).

Among the last four teams into the field were North Carolina (which was 1-12 vs. Quad 1

opponents) and Xavier (1-9 in Quad 1 games).

Rather than deserving teams being left out of last year’s NCAA tourney, undeserving teams had to be included just to fill the 68-team bracket.

That reality was not a one-year anomaly. In 2024, the first four teams out of the NCAA tournament were Oklahoma (20-12), Seton Hall (20-12), Indiana State (28-6) and Pittsburgh (22-11).

For 2023, the first four teams omitted from the NCAA tourney were Oklahoma State (18-15), Rutgers (19-14), North Carolina (20-13) and Clemson (23-10).

Of the 12 combined teams among the first four out in the past three NCAA tournaments, only Indiana State in 2024 had a meritorious claim for inclusion. Alas, the driving impetus

behind NCAA tourney expansion is not to provide access for deserving teams from “smaller” leagues — such as the Sycamores out of the Missouri Valley Conference.

It is to create more March Madness access for power conference mediocrities.

Growing the NCAA tourney not only will lessen the achievement of earning an NCAA tournament berth, it will also further dilute the college hoops regular season.

In the big picture, the greatest problem facing college basketball is that the regular season carries so little consequence.

The three weeks of March Madness are the best on the American sports calendar. However, the overall college hoops season has become devalued because there are so few regular-season games whose outcomes carry meaningful ramifications.

Adding teams to the NCAA tourney field each year would ensure there are even fewer regular-season games that carry actual consequence.

Enlarging the number of NCAA tournament teams is also potentially detrimental to the fan experience of March Madness. What made the NCAA tourney into a must-see national event is fans filling out

64-team brackets to enter in tournament pools.

The more complicated that completing a bracket becomes, the greater the risk seems that casual hoops fans could “check out” on March Madness.

Even with so much that argues against NCAA tournament expansion, the reason it appears on the verge of happening is that the major conferences — the ACC, Big Ten, Big 12 and SEC — have grown so powerful that they can free themselves of the consequences of their own actions.

The ACC and Big Ten now each have 18 members; the Big 12 and SEC are at 16 schools apiece. Leagues that large are at annual risk of seeing their teams “eat their own” in head-to-head conference play with the result being NCAA tourney exclusion.

For the SEC’s Sankey and other power-league commissioners, the push to expand the NCAA tournament is a move to protect their member schools from the repercussions of having formed mammoth “super-leagues.”

That growing March Madness will be bad for the NCAA tournament itself, bad for college basketball as an institution and mostly bad for hoops fans seems immaterial to those with the power to decide.



Photo provided

Minor awards

The Portland Junior League Minor softball league handed out awards following the season’s conclusion. Pictured at left are Rookie of the Year Ivy Trinidad and Miss Softball Paisley Day. At right are Kara Fenning, Eden Lee, Lizzie Miller and Charlee Taylor with Amelia Imel not pictured.



Photo provided

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Saturday

Jay County Summer swim hosts conference championships – 7:30 p.m.

Portland Rockets doubleheader vs. Fort Wayne Blues – 1 p.m.

Sunday

Portland Rockets doubleheader vs. Syracuse Outlaws at Carrington Field – 1 p.m.

TV schedule

Today

8 a.m. — Tennis: Wimbledon (ESPN)

10 a.m. — LIV Golf: LIV Golf Andalucia (FS1)

3 p.m. — UEFA Women’s Euro soccer: Italy at Spain (FOX); Portugal at Belgium (FS1)

7 p.m. — NBA 2K26 summer league:

Utah Jazz vs. Charlotte Hornets (ESPN)

7 p.m. — PLL lacrosse: New York Atlas at Boston Cannons (ESPN2)

7:10 p.m. — MLB: Colorado Rockies at Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana)

9 p.m. — USL Championship soccer: Monterey Bay at Orange County SC (ESPN2)

11 p.m. — NBA 2K26 summer league: Portland Trail Blazers at Golden State Warriors (ESPN2)

11 p.m. — Liga MX soccer: Juarez at America (FS1)

Saturday

2:15 p.m. — AFL: Geelong Cats at Greater Western Sydney Giants (FS1)

7 a.m. — LIV Golf: LIV Golf Andalucia (FS1)

8 a.m. — Tennis: Wimbledon (ESPN)

9 a.m. — LIV Golf: LIV Golf Andalucia (FOX)

9 a.m. — MotoGP: Grand Prix of Germany (FS1)

12 p.m. — IndyCar: Synk 275 (FS1)

12 p.m. — DP World Tour golf: Scottish Open (CBS)

1 p.m. — WNBA: Minnesota Lynx at Chicago Sky (ABC)

1:30 p.m. — Indy NXT Series: Indy NXT by Firestone at Iowa Speedway (FS1)

3 p.m. — UEFA Women’s Euro soccer: Sweden at Germany (FOX); Poland at Denmark (FS1)

4 p.m. — NBA 2K26 summer league: Dallas Mavericks vs. San Antonio Spurs (ESPN)

4:10 p.m. — MLB: Colorado Rockies at Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana)

5 p.m. — IndyCar: Synk 275 (FOX)

5 p.m. — Copa America Femenina soccer: Peru at Chile (FS1)

6:30 p.m. — NBA 2K26 summer league: Charlotte Hornets vs. Philadelphia 76ers (ESPN2)

7:30 p.m. — MLS: Inter Miami at Nashville SC (FS1)

7:35 p.m. — MLB: Philadelphia Phillies at San Diego Padres (FOX)

8 p.m. — WWE: Saturday Night’s Main Event (NBC)

10:30 p.m. — NBA 2K26 summer league: Memphis Grizzlies vs. Portland Trail Blazers (ESPN2)

Local notes

Tickets available

Jay County Junior-Senior High School will begin selling its super and season tickets on Monday, July 21 from 8 a.m. until noon and from 1 p.m. until 7 p.m.

After July 21, tickets will be available during the high school’s office hours which are between 7:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Regular season tickets for individual

varsity events will cost \$7, while admission to JV, freshman or junior high events will be \$6 for adults.

The Patriot Pass, which gets you into all high school and junior high events costs \$115. The Senior Patriot Pass for those 65 and older will be \$70.

Other deals are as follows:

- High School Adult Super tickets - \$90
- Senior Super Tickets - \$55
- Pre-Paid Sports Pass - \$60
- Basketball season pass - \$60
- Football season pass - \$25

Outing scheduled

United Way will be hosting a golf outing at Portland Golf Club on August 2.

Registration will begin at 11:30 a.m. with the teams teeing off at 12:30 p.m. Teams can register for \$250 each, with lunch included, at www.unitedway-jay-county.org or by going to Portland Golf Club.

Prior to the golf outing, there will be a freewill pancake and sausage breakfast from 7:30-10:30 a.m.

After golf there will be a family fun night. It will cost \$40 for two adults and two kids to play nine holes and eat. There will be live music by Ken Bantz, a bounce house and fireworks.

Tickets available

The next race in the Adams County Challenge series is the Swiss Days Race in Berne on Saturday, July 26 at 8:15 a.m.

There will be a 1-mile kids run and a 5K race. To register, visit www.adamscounty5kchallenge.com.

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

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Midea small chest type freezer; leather chair and a half; Wicker settee with 2 matching swivel rockers and end table, like new; Electric reclining sofa; (2) gaming chairs; marble top dresser; French Provincial bookshelf; Cannon gun safe; Pipka - Reflections of Christmas figurines; Pipka - Stories of Christmas ornaments; #6 Star crock; #3 crock; slate; cement lawn items; David Winter iThe Fisherman’s Wharf painting; Maurice R Bebb color etching iRed Eyed Vines, 1963; several other prints and paintings; Black & Decker battery powered tools; Kids Rechargeable ride-ons to include: Paw Patrol Rubble ride on dump truck, Paw Patrol Marshall ride on fire truck, Flybar bumper car, and Hour dirt bike;

90 SALE CALENDAR

and other items not listed.

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AC#31600027

Auctioneers

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Travis Theurer AU11200131

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5:30 P.M.

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side by side refrigerator; Amana electric range; Maytag washer; Amana dryer; twin bed; Haier air conditioner; 4 drawer chest; kneehole desk; glider rocker; leather sofa; Power XL air fryer; Bissell sweeper; electric recliner; lamp stands; coffee table; cement bird bath; cement angel; wood step ladder; and other items not listed.

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

Wabash Valley Power Alliance (WVPA) (6702 Intech Blvd., Indianapolis, Indiana 46278) is submitting a Notice of Intent to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management of our intent to comply with the requirements of a Construction Stormwater General Permit for construction of an electrical power substation, Mount Zion Substation. This substation will be located at 2016 N 700 E, Portland, IN 47371 in Jay County. Stormwater run-off from the substation project site would flow to East Prong Forks Drain since this is the nearest drain. Please direct questions about this project to Cross Discipline Engineering (417) 859-4441 or by email gborchelt@crossdiscipline.com.

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Lykins, Winner named academic All-State

Mallory Winner and Jaelynn Lykins displayed excellence on the field all throughout the softball season. They recently got an award touting their work in the classroom as well. Jay County High School's battery were two of the 100 players named to the Softball Coaches Association of Indiana

Local Roundup

Academic All-State list for the 2025 season. During the season, Lykins boasted a team-high .593 batting average. She

also led the Patriots (20-3) with a 1.701 OPS, 48 hits, 13 doubles, nine home runs, 11 walks and 57 RBIs, all while only striking out in one of her 96 plate appearances. Winner also put up strong offensive numbers with a .563 average, 1.438 OPS, 40 hits, eight doubles, 21 RBIs and only one strikeout in 86 plate appearances.

In the circle, Winner threw 77 1/3 innings on the year, earning a 10-3 record with a 3.168 ERA, 1.409 WHIP and 67 strikeouts. **Rockets get revenge** FORT WAYNE — The Portland Rockets bounced back from a tough weekend with a 2-0 win over the Fort Wayne Jackers on Tuesday.

The Rockets (16-7) scored their first run in the top of the third inning. Trey Pullins led off with a walk and moved to second on a single by C White. Joel Kennedy pushed the run in with a single to shallow right field. A second run came in during the fifth inning. B Jordan drew a leadoff walk, stole second and

advanced to third on an error. K Bailey then drove him in with another fly ball to right field. Dylan Brammer earned the win by throwing seven innings, in which he gave up three hits and struck out 12 batters. C La Fuze secured the save with two innings pitched. He gave up one hit in the two frames.



Photo provided

Rookie awards

The Portland Junior League Rookie softball league handed out awards following the season's conclusion. Pictured at left are Most Improved award winners Bexley Brunswick, Katarina Conn, Addy Mann and Hadleigh Walker with Addison Root not pictured. At right are Rookie of the Year Acacia Cooper and Miss Softball Annabelle Wiggins.



Photo provided

Djokovic reaches 14th semifinal

By ELEANOR CROOKS
PA Media/dpa
Tribune News Service
LONDON— Novak Djokovic etched his name in the Wimbledon record books again by overcoming the spirited challenge of Italian Flavio Cobolli to set up a semifinal blockbuster against Jan-nik Sinner. Djokovic equaled Roger Federer's mark of 13 men's semifinals at Wimbledon last year and now owns the record outright after recovering from a set down to defeat Cobolli 6-7 (6-8), 6-2, 7-5, 6-4. It was the 23-year-old's first appearance in the last eight at a Slam — just 62 short of his opponent — but he showed more than enough to indicate it will not be his last, never letting his head drop and wowing the Centre Court crowd with the power of his forehand. "First I have to say congratulations to Flavio for an amazing tournament

but also a great battle today," Djokovic said. "He played at a really high level. He's such a talented and skillful player, definitely one of the guys that we'll be seeing in the future much more. "It means the world to me that I'm still able at 38 to play in the final stages of Wimbledon." Next up, Djokovic can expect to face an even stiffer challenge in the shape of world, No. 1 Sinner, who has beaten him four times in a row, including in semifinals at the Australian and French Opens. Sinner advanced after defeating Ben Shelton 7-6 (7-2), 6-4, 6-4. If Djokovic can hope to end that run anywhere, it is surely on the lawns of the All England Club, where no one except Carlos Alcaraz has bested him since 2017. Djokovic, who also becomes the oldest men's semifinalist since Ken

Rosewall in 1974, has a good relationship with Cobolli, the young Italian even hitting with the Serbian's 10-year-old son Stefan at the practice courts earlier this week. Djokovic had beaten him easily in their only previous meeting in Shanghai last year, but Cobolli had been superb this tournament, dropping only one set and two service games on his way to the quarterfinals. This was a big step up, though, given Cobolli had never beaten a top-10 player in a completed match before, let alone a 24-time Grand Slam champion. Cobolli resisted relentless pressure on his serve until the eighth game, but Djokovic was unable to cement the break, his previous invincibility in the big moments one strength that Father Time does appear to have stolen. Djokovic saved one set point in the tie-break, but Cobolli created another

with a blazing forehand and sealed it with a serve clocked at 137 mph. It was not entertaining enough to stop actor Hugh Grant from nodding off in the Royal Box, but the rest of the Centre Court crowd were thoroughly engaged. Despite losing the set, Djokovic had been the better player, and the dam appeared to have burst when he broke through again to lead 3-2 in the second set, going on a run of seven games in a row. Cobolli refused to let the match drift away, though, unleashing a huge forehand to pull even at 2-2. Djokovic had kept his emotions tightly under control, showing his frustration only when Cobolli held for 4-3, throwing his racket high in the air. Patience eventually paid off with breaks for 6-5 in the third set and 5-4 in the fourth. There was still time for

more drama as, at match point, Djokovic slipped behind the baseline and lay face down on the grass for several seconds, prompting umpire Eva Asderaki-Moore and Cobolli to check on his well-being. Djokovic looked a little stiff but picked himself up to book his spot in a 52nd Grand Slam semifinal. "It was a nasty slip but that's what happens when you play on the grass," Djokovic said. "It did come at an awkward moment. Obviously going to visit this subject now with my physio and hopefully all will be well in the coming days." In the women's draw, unseeded Belinda Bencic fended off 18-year-old seventh-seeded Mirra Andreeva 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (7-2) to set up a semifinal showdown with eighth-seeded Iga Swiatek, a 6-2, 7-5 winner against 19 seed Liudmila Samsonova.

Mark Story



Why the NCAA shouldn't expand tourney

By MARK STORY
Lexington Herald-Leader
Tribune News Service
LEXINGTON, Ky. — By the time you read this, the Division I men's basketball committee may have announced an expansion of the NCAA tournament fields for future renewals of March Madness for both men's and women's basketball. It is widely expected that the current 68 team NCAA tourney bracket will be expanded moving forward to either 72 or 76 teams. See NCAA page 7

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