

The Commercial Review

Apron project set to start in August

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

One project is on schedule to start next month. Plans for another are moving forward.

Portland Board of Aviation learned Wednesday that the planned apron expansion project at Portland Municipal Airport is on track to start as scheduled in August and that a Federal Aviation Administration grant has come through to begin design of runway pavement improvements.

The board also approved its budget for 2026.

Jason Clearwaters of engineering firm Butler, Fairman and Seufert informed board members Faron Parr, Clyde Bray, John Ferguson and Caleb Lutes that all Federal Aviation Administration funding is in place and Kwest Group of Perrysburg, Ohio, is on track to start the apron expansion project in mid-August. The work will expand the apron — the area where aircraft are parked, unloaded or loaded, refueled, boarded or maintained — by 1.32 acres (57,700 square feet).

The project's cost is \$965,497.15, with 95% of the funding coming from federal grants and 2.5% each from state and local sources. Completion is expected in October.

Clearwaters also reported that the FAA announced grant funding approval on July 8 for the design of a runway rehabilitation project. It will cover improvements for the 4,000 feet of original runway at the airport. He told local officials to expect paperwork for the grant to come through in the next few weeks, after which his firm will begin design work.

The project is planned for bidding and construction in 2026.

Also Wednesday, Clearwaters told board members he expects the city will have approximately enough funding left over from its current year and upcoming year of funds from the 2021 federal infrastructure bill to cover the cost of replacing the airport's automated weather observing station. He said he is working with two other airports on similar projects, with costs ranging from \$180,000 to \$210,000.

The board also approved its 2026 budget at \$270,700, up from \$236,000 for the current year.

The biggest changes include a \$15,000 increase in the repairs and maintenance budget to \$75,000, a \$10,000 increase for other contractual services to \$6,500, a \$5,000 increase for the airport manager's salary and a \$2,500 increase for equipment. Parr noted that the airport manager had not received a pay raise in at least five years.

In other business, the board:

- Heard from Tavzel that the airport sold \$2,878 gallons of fuel for \$22,885.66 in June.

See **Apron** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

A play with a K

Arts Place's theatre camp through its Arts in the Parks program concluded with a performance of the play "Khaos (with a K)" on Wednesday night. The play was written by the camp participants.

Math scores up, English unchanged

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana students continued to make gains in math this spring, but statewide reading scores remained largely unchanged, according to new ILEARN assessment data released Wednesday.

The results, presented at the State Board of Education's monthly meeting in Indianapolis, show that 42.1% of students in grades three through eight scored at or above proficiency in math on the 2025 ILEARN exam, up more than five percentage points since 2021.

Proficiency in English/language arts, or ELA, however, held steady at 40.6% — up just 0.1 points from last year and essentially flat over the past four years.

Data released by IDOE reported 31.2% of Hoosier students passed both the math and ELA sections of ILEARN. That's also slightly up from last year's spring test results, which showed that 30.8% earned dual passing scores.

Proficiency rates were 41.2% and 40.6%, respectively

"While we are positively moving and improving in math, there is an urgent need to support middle school students in English/language arts," said Indiana Secretary of Education Katie Jenner. "It is essential that our schools and parents/families continue to work together and stay laser-focused on increasing student learning and success."

The annual ILEARN assessment is administered digitally by Hoosier schools each spring and serves as Indiana's primary K-8 standardized test.

Board members expressed greatest concern with reading declines among middle schoolers, which

officials said is closely tied to the lingering effects of pandemic-era disruptions.

"Math scores are moving," Jenner said at Wednesday's board meeting. "But that adolescent, middle school, ELA period — still struggling."

Seventh-grade ELA scores dropped 3.9% from last year — the sharpest decline of any grade level — while eighth-grade scores fell 1.2%. By contrast, third-grade students, who were in early elementary school during the pandemic and have since received additional literacy support, posted the strongest gains, with a 1.7% increase since last year.

Board member Pat Mapes said he's confident educators are helping middle schoolers make progress, but he emphasized that gaps remain for those students.

"They're going to constantly be catching up," he said. "These are our students who intermittently came to school during the pandemic, and we've still not caught up. The skills that they lost during that time — this is kind of just what we're going to see for a while until we can get their skills developed."

Compared to 2024, all grades except third showed math improvement. Eighth-grade students posted the largest year-over-year gain of 3.1%, according to IDOE data.

Third grade proficiency dropped nearly a percentage point, however.

The 2025 results revealed passing math scores for 51.5% of third graders; 49.2% of fourth graders; 41.5% of fifth graders; 39.7% of sixth graders; 35.9% of seventh graders; and 34.5% of eighth graders.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Dunkirk Head Start

Save the Children Head Start hosted a community outreach event Wednesday outside West Jay Community Center in Dunkirk to gauge community members' interest in a Dunkirk-based Head Start education program. Pictured above, a woman writes on the list for those interested in enrolling their children.

UK to lower its voting age

By ELLEN MILLIGAN
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

LONDON — The U.K. plans to lower the voting age to allow 16- and 17-year-olds to participate in the next general election, as part of a package of electoral reforms that also include clamping down on political donations from foreign donors.

The lower voting age will bring U.K.-wide elections in line with those in Scotland and Wales, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government said on Thursday in a statement. The current voting age in national ballots is 18, and the changes to the law will be brought in through a new elections bill. The next election could be held as late as mid-2029.

The government also

pledged to "boost transparency and accountability in politics" by closing loopholes which currently allow foreign donors to use shell-companies to donate to political parties. Checks on donations over £500 will also be required to tackle foreign interference, the government said in a statement.

The plans — which also broaden the voter identification options to include U.K.-issued bank cards — aim to strengthen British democracy by increasing transparency around political funding and making it easier for more people to vote. There are also potential benefits for Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Labour government because younger voters were more likely to vote for the party at the last election.

Deaths

John Vore, 78, Portland
Roger Timmerman, 57, Fort Recovery
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 89 degrees Wednesday. The low was 75.

Tonight's low will be 70 with a 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms after midnight. Showers and storms are expected Saturday with a high in the mid 80s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

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

Correction

A Portland man's address was incorrectly published in the felony court news section of Wednesday's newspaper. Brandon L. Fisher's address is 401 Canterbury Lane.



Capsule Reports






Left of center
An Ohio man drove into the opposite lane of travel on Indiana 67, causing an accident about 7:43 a.m. Tuesday.
Antonio J. Mitchem, 24, Celina, was driving a 2001 Honda CR-V east on the highway near county road 850 East when the vehicle went left of center and into the westbound lane of travel. At the same time, William E. Slavin, 55, Maplewood, Ohio, was driving a 2024 Volvo semi truck west on the highway.

Slavin attempted to pull to the left but couldn't avoid the accident, with the two vehicles colliding. The car Mitchem was driving overturned several times and stopped upside down. Mitchem told police he didn't know why he crossed the center line and couldn't remember the crash details. He complained of arm pain.
Both vehicles were towed, with damage estimated between \$50,000 and \$100,000. The semi is registered to Mid-

west Logistics Systems of New Castle.
Rear crash
A Bryant man crashed his car into the back of another Bryant man's vehicle on U.S. 27 about 4:43 p.m. Wednesday.
Shannon P. Kuhn, 22, was driving his 2019 Ram 1500 south on the highway near county road 500 North when he looked down at his center console. At the same time, the 2007 Honda Odyssey driven by 32-year-old

Jacob C. Coy in front of him had slowed down before passing a horse and buggy. Kuhn's truck hit the back of Coy's vehicle.
Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.
Turning accident
A Dunkirk woman turned her car into a truck at the intersection of Indiana 26 and Indiana 1 about 9:30 a.m. Wednesday.
Rebecca A. Stafford, 81, was

driving a 2017 Kia Niro east on Indiana 26 and approaching its intersection with Indiana 1. She told police she was watching cyclists as she began turning north onto Indiana 1. Her vehicle struck the trailer on a northbound 2017 Ram 2500 driven by Timothy D. Barricklow of Connersville.
Stafford's vehicle was towed, with damage estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000. The truck is registered to Parsley Equipment of Connersville.

CR almanac				
Saturday 7/19	Sunday 7/20	Monday 7/21	Tuesday 7/22	Wednesday 7/23
 84/71 Saturday's forecast shows an 80% chance of showers throughout the day.	 82/66 Mostly sunny skies on Sunday when there's a 50% chance of showers.	 81/66 More rain is in the forecast for Monday with a 40% chance of showers.	 86/72 Tuesday's weather looks to be mostly sunny with heat index values in the upper 90s.	 90/75 Mostly sunny skies on Wednesday when the heat index values may reach up to 100.

Lotteries	
Powerball 4-21-43-48-49 Power Ball: 22 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$288 million	Daily Four: 7-6-2-0 Quick Draw: 3-6-14-16-25-26-27-39-49-52-56-60-67-70-71-74-76-77-79-80 Cash 5: 2-23-27-28-41 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$100 million	Ohio Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 3-8-8 Pick 4: 4-3-9-3 Pick 5: 7-3-0-2-2 Evening Pick 3: 7-7-4 Pick 4: 4-0-2-2 Pick 5: 9-8-2-3-3 Rolling Cash: 4-13-16-27-28 Estimated jackpot: \$223,000
Hoosier Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 8-8-9 Daily Four: 7-8-5-7 Quick Draw: 2-3-4-5-7-11-14-17-20-26-39-43-46-55-60-63-65-70-73-79 Evening Daily Three: 1-4-6	

Markets	
Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.60 Aug. corn4.65 Sept. corn4.60	Aug. beans.....9.93 Wheat 5.06
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.60 Aug. corn4.55 Sept. corn4.45	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.35 Aug. corn4.33 Beans10.35 Aug. beans.....10.15 Wheat5.05
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.47 Aug. corn3.05 Beans10.35	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.50 Aug. corn4.50 Beans10.13 Aug. beans.....9.73 Wheat4.81

Today in history	
In 1864 , United States president Abraham Lincoln asked for 500,000 men to volunteer to be in the military. The American Civil War lasted for another nine months after his plea. In 1921 , John Glenn was born in Cambridge, Ohio. Glenn became the first United States astronaut to orbit Earth. He orbited the planet three times in 1962. In 1925 , Adolf Hitler published the first volume of Mein Kampf, a political manifesto leading to the rise of Nazism in Germany's Third Reich. Two years later, the second volume was published.	In 1927 , Ty Cobb, an American baseball player, scored his 4,000th hit in the Major League Baseball division. In 1968 , Intel was founded in Santa Clara, California. The corporation is known today as the world's largest semiconductor chip manufacturer. In 2016 , Jay School Board voted to give raises between 1.5% and 6.7% to Jay Schools administrators, as well as a variety of per-hour and percentage raises to support staff. It led to an annual increase of \$34,678. — The CR

Citizen's calendar	
Today 5:30 p.m. — Redkey Town Council executive session, park cabin, 50 Mooney St. 6:30 p.m. — Redkey Town Council special session, park cabin, 50 Mooney St.	5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 6:15 p.m. — Portland City Council public hearing, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Local Schools, community room, high school, 400 E. Butler St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
Monday 4 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, Port-	

Obituaries

John Vore
Feb. 21, 1947-July 15, 2025
John Vore, age 78, a resident of Portland, passed away on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at IU Health Jay in Portland.
John was born Feb. 21, 1947, in Portland, Indiana, the son of Luther and Wanda (Younger) Vore. He graduated from Portland High School in 1967 and earned an associate's degree from Ivy Tech.
John dedicated a significant portion of his professional life to Borg Warner in Muncie, where he served as an electrician and maintenance supervisor.
In addition to his professional achievements, John had a variety of personal interests that brought him joy throughout his life. He was an avid collector of marbles, enjoyed riding his motorcycle, found pleasure in trap shooting, wood working, softball and bowling, and enjoyed his cats.
He married Joetta Hartzell on May 20, 1967.
Survivors include:
His wife — Joetta Vore, Portland, Indiana
His son — Mark Alan Vore (wife: Bobbi), Redkey, Indiana
His siblings — Tim Day (wife: Joy), Cleveland, Tennessee, and Virginia Crump (husband: Daniel), Hartford City, Indiana
Two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren
He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Tom Vore, Clarence Vore and Ervin Vore; and a sister, Mary Lou Bowlan.
Visitation will be held on Monday



Vore

from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will follow at 2 p.m. on Monday at the funeral home.
Memorials may be directed to Cat Tales in Portland.
Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

Roger Timmerman
March 11, 1968-July 15, 2025
Roger Jude Timmerman, age 57, of Fort Recovery, passed away on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at St. Rita's Medical Center in Lima.
He was born on March 11, 1968, in Coldwater to the late Gerald "Jerry" and Irene (Gruss) Timmerman.
In addition to his parents, Roger was preceded in death by his siblings Edward (Jeanette) Timmerman, Patricia Stammen, Tony Timmerman, Kevin Timmerman, Sally Siegrist and infant sister Mary Timmerman; and his brother-in-law, Ken Flory.
Roger is survived by his siblings Thelma (Bob) Parks of Greenville, Ohio, Sue Flory of Portland, Indiana, Mark (Dixie) Timmerman of Fort Recovery, Lois (Steve) Vogel of Fort Recovery, Dave (Lisa) Timmerman of Fort Recovery and Joyce (Tom) Fullenkamp of Fort Recovery; his sisters-in-law Ginny Pugh and Lucy Homan; his brothers-in-law Ken Stammen and Don Siegrist; and numerous nieces and nephews.
Roger's life, though shaped by challenges as a quadriplegic for the last 34 years, was filled with



Timmerman

resilience, hope and an indomitable spirit that inspired those around him. A graduate of Fort Recovery High School in 1987, Roger worked at 3W Construction and later at J&M Manufacturing, where he built relationships and lasting memories. His perspective on life was one of gratitude, positivity and unwavering determination. Roger touched countless lives with his uplifting outlook and genuine kindness.
He was a member of Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church and the Fort Recovery Sons of the American Legion. Roger's legacy will be remembered by many, as he leaves behind a profound impact that transcends words.
A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 19, 2025, at Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, Fort Recovery. Burial will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery.
Guests may visit with Roger's family on Friday, July 18, 2025, from 4 to 7 p.m. and again on Saturday from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, Fort Recovery.
The family would like to extend their sincere gratitude and appreciation to the staff and volunteers at the St. Peter/Burkettsville Neurological Center, his home health aides, the volunteers who helped take him to the neurological center weekly, the staff at the Gardens at St. Henry and his close friend Bryan Davenport, who was there for Roger since the beginning.
Memorial contributions may be given to Center for Neurological Development.
Condolences may be shared with his family by visiting brockman-boeckmanfh.com.

Apron ...

Continued from page 1
That's down from 7,090 gallons from June 2024 and 6,210 in June 2023. (Tavzel noted that activity with lessons, crop dusting and charters has been up recently and he expects a significant jump in fuel sales for July and August.
•Learned Ryan Green of Decatur recently earned his commercial pilot's license through the flight school at Portland Municipal Airport.
•Heard Ferguson ask about the status of a request from Tim Homan of Celina, Ohio, about possibly building a hangar at the airport. Parr and Tavzel said he is still interested, but no firm plans have been presented thus far.
•Was reminded that the annual fly-in is scheduled for Aug. 23. There will be a breakfast including pancakes, sausage, biscuits and gravy and breakfast burritos. Flights will be available for \$20 per person.
•Heard a Young Eagles event is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept.

6. Young Eagles offers free flights to those 8 through 17 years old.
•Was asked to be ready to discuss the airport's capital improvement plan at next month's meeting. It will be due to the FAA by Dec. 1.
•Approved \$1,223.13 in claims.

SERVICES

Saturday
Timmerman, Roger: 10 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery.

Monday
Vore, John: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Service listings provided by
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12:00 pm - real estate will be auctioned, 1140 sq ft. home with 2 bedrooms, office, deck, central air (10% nonrefundable down payment will be due day of auction)
Located near the school
Preview by appointment with Chad

July 26th - Forest Land Auction & 3 Ring Auction
Live/Webcast

1 @ 9 AM: Outside items for the farm and more! LIVE ONLY!
2 @ 10 AM: Forest Land Auction - 2 Tracts, Forest located at 650 N and 650 W in Bryant, IN in Penn Township
10:30 AM: Multi Estate Simulcast!
3 @ 11 AM: Small Animal Auction. Simulcast!

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Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm

Paint Out event slated for Saturday

Alcove Artists’ Collec- tive will hold a paint out pop up event Saturday.

Local artists will dis- play their skills and art- work outside Mrs. P’s Kitchen and in the brick alley next to the business from 8 a.m. to noon.

Senior learning

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 set for Aug. 7.

Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. with the presenta- tion to follow.

Reservations are \$5 and

Taking Note

are intended for seniors 55 years old and up.

Summer meals

Jay School Corporation is providing free meals again for children under 18 this summer.

Drive-thru pickup meals are offered from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednes- days at Jay County Junior-Senior High School. They’ll be available at Door 16 behind the auxil- iary 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 serv- ice director at (260) 726-9306.

Series continues

The Muncie Three Trails Music Series is in full swing.

Its next concert, a per- formance by Blue Moon Marquee, opens at 7 p.m. Aug. 16 at Canan Com- mons.

Dates for other shows are as follows:

•Saturday, Aug. 23 — Vanessa Collier at Brown Family Amphitheater at Ball State University

•Saturday, Aug. 30 — Jennie Devoe at Canan Commons

•Saturday, Sept. 6 — Colby T. Helms & the Vir- ginia Creepers at Brown Family Amphitheater

•Saturday, Sept. 20 — The Afro Peruvian Jazz Orchestra at Brown Fam- ily Amphitheater

Selfish mother-in-law paints herself victim

DEAR ABBY: I am married to a man who is incarcerated. As you can imagine, it’s been hard on our family. I have two kids with him. I was pregnant with our youngest when he was arrested. According to his mother, since my husband went to prison, I can’t do any- thing right. She yells at me that she has it worse than I do regarding my husband. Her reason is that she’s his mother, and nothing can change that, while I can always “throw him away” as a husband. She also resented it when I went to counseling because she wants me to tell her my troubles. When I tried, she’d always turn it back to her problems. She’s judgmental and mean. She calls it being “outspoken.”

Abby, am I wrong for being upset? Do you think she wants me to divorce her son or some- thing? I think it was rude and stupid of her to say that to me.

Dear Abby



is. Stay out of her way as much as possible until your husband’s release. Do NOT confide in her. You have enough to contend with without her stirring the pot, and you can rest assured she will.

.....

DEAR ABBY: I have been put in a difficult position between my daughter and her husband. My daughter, who has a genius IQ, double college majors, etc., hasn’t worked in a year and a half. Her husband of four years has tried to tell her it’s putting a strain on him, not only financially, but also in terms of health. When he went to the hospital, his blood pres- sure was through the roof. He even had bloodshot eyes. He says he thinks she’s waiting for him to die so she can live off his investment earnings.

My daughter is very picky, and no job seems to be good

enough for her. If I interfere, she’ll stop talking to me, and she’ll know he has talked to me, which will hurt their rela- tionship as well. What can I do? I want her to be a produc- tive person and not take every- thing for granted. — GRASP- ING AT STRAWS

DEAR GRASPING: The time has come for you to step back. You can’t control your adult daughter. Obvi- ously, she and her husband do not communicate effec- tively. Because of the stress your son-in-law is under, his fear that she may be trying to pressure him into a coro- nary should be discussed with a marriage and family therapist. He should be free to talk with anyone he wish- es, including you, and possi- bly a lawyer, and if your daughter (the genius) can’t accept it, stop allowing her to make it your problem.

.....

DEAR ABBY: After my father passed away, I started doing some family genealogy. Everyone, including family, thinks he was a great WWII hero. But while researching military records, I discovered it was all a lie. In my opinion, he committed “stolen valor.” Do I tell the truth, or let sleep- ing dogs lie? — TRUTHFUL IN THE WEST

DEAR TRUTHFUL: Your father has gone to his great reward. If you feel the record should be set straight, show your family the research you did and tell them the truth.

.....

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

Community Calendar

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

Today

DUNKIRK HISTORI- CAL MUSEUM — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the third Friday and Sat- urday of each month at Webster Depot, 132 W. Railroad St.

PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addic- tion Support Team recov- ery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coali- tion office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. To learn more informa- tion, please call (260) 251-3259.

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will hold its next meeting at noon Fri- day, July 18, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONY- MOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call

(260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

DUNKIRK HISTORI- CAL MUSEUM — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the third Friday and Sat- urday of each month at Webster Depot, 132 W. Railroad St.

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is museumofthesoldier.com .

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE – BRI- ANNA’S HOPE — A faith- based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fel- lowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

PORTLAND BREAK- FAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for break- fast at Richards Restau- rant.

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 preg- nancy testing with ongo- ing support during and after pregnancy. The cen- ter 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 appoint- ment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

BREAD OF LIFE COM- MUNITY 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 ANONY- MOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridi- an St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SUICIDE GRIEF — Meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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

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How can we close budget deficit?

By MORTON J. MARCUS

Not too many days ago there was panic in the streets of Indianapolis. The state had planned for \$2 billion too much revenue. Our Legislature had to cut spending and raise revenues to meet the new forecast.

As I read coverage of that crisis, I didn't notice who made the erroneous forecast. Was it a state agency? Perhaps a panel of economists from the state universities? Or some outside, commercial forecasting business?

Was there to be any retribution, any punishment, for the dastardly deed?

Now I must pause. Lately, a good friend has upbraided me for failing to suggest solutions to

Morton J. Marcus



problems identified in these columns. I will attempt to do that.

Kneecapping. Take the miscreant(s) out into the alley and break some kneecaps. It will be a deterrent and influence future forecasters, proving our state's bold sincerity about fiscal matters.

What did our sullen solons

actually do? They raised the cigarette tax by \$2/pack and announced an additional \$800 million would be raised by that act alone.

That was good. It might deter some smoking activity. But we should also issue tickets to all those folks smoking outside in the open air. You've seen them in front of buildings, furtive fumers, exercising their rights as they understand them. Fine them and confiscate their smoking materials.

My positively positive program would have included increasing taxes on tickets for professional athletic competitions and musical events where the music was written within the past 50 years.

Further, terminate the reduction of the Indiana income tax rate. Next, place a 1% added tax on household incomes over \$200,000 a year. This should yield Indiana \$100 million or more annually.

The major problem of America is too much money in the hands of consumers and too little money in the hands of governments.

Our streets and infrastructure are in poor repair. Our children are poorly educated. Our TV sets and vehicles are egregiously oversized. The solution: reduce consumer consumption.

This is only a matter of tactical taxation and robust regulation. Start with automobiles.

Tax them by their weight and footprint. Those data are readily available for all vehicles on the road. It could be put in place within the next year.

Worried about data centers? Easy! Use marginal cost pricing. If the amount of energy used rises, charge those who use more than they did previously for the added costs of production. Don't push the bill onto Steady Eddy, the consumer.

Simple solutions for serious problems. Perfectly cheerful and consistent with both Conservative and Liberal thought.

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

ICE needs to focus on national security

Enid News & Eagle
(Oklahoma)

Tribune News Service

If the goal for Immigration and Customs Enforcement is to remove the "worst of the worst" undocumented immigrants, we fail to see how the detainment of Oklahoman Octavio Mota meets that goal.

Mota is most certainly an Oklahoman. Having immigrated with his family when he was 2, mostly growing up in Enid before a recent move to Stillwater so his fiancée could study at Oklahoma State University, Mota has been a green card-holding legal permanent resident for much of his life. While ICE used some misdemeanors to make its arrest — the kind of offenses that by all accounts probably could have been expunged by now — Mota is not the "worst of the worst." According to reporting from The Frontier, he's someone who works, pays taxes and was raising a family.

"Our great Farmers and people in the Hotel and Leisure business have been stating that our very aggressive policy on immigration is taking very good, long time workers away from them, with those jobs being almost impossible to replace," President Donald Trump posted to his social media in June. "In many cases the Criminals allowed into our Country by the VERY Stupid Biden Open Borders Policy are applying for those jobs This is not good. We must protect our Farmers, but get the CRIMINALS OUT OF THE USA. Changes are coming!"

Yes, a lot of American industry leans heavily on immigrant labor and it's little shock that it's often jobs that many natural born Americans seem unwilling to do. Words and deeds, apparently, are very different in these cases because White House Chief of Staff Stephen Miller has pushed a huge quota onto ICE in an effort to make a campaign promise of "mass deportations" a reality.

The reality is that ICE is now operating like the IRS. There's a reason the IRS is more likely to audit someone making \$50,000 a year than millionaire tax cheats — the people making 50K a year don't have lawyers on retainer, they can't drag

Guest Editorial

ICE, in an effort to meet its quota, is going for low-hanging fruit regardless of the human cost because it's easier than infiltrating criminal organizations.

audits out for years and tie up the system. ICE, in an effort to meet its quota, is going for low-hanging fruit regardless of the human cost because it's easier than infiltrating criminal organizations.

Few people would argue that our borders should not be secured or that criminal gang members should not be deported. If your argument is that people should behave themselves once they come to this country, we'd argue it should be pretty easy for anyone to weigh the justice of penalizing a youthful indiscretion like public intoxication against violent crimes or trafficking. How could it not be better for society if a father remained here to raise his child, do work that others won't and contribute to the tax base? If your argument is that people should be allowed to immigrate but must do it "the right way," you're ignoring how increasingly and intentionally difficult that has become.

When people like Mota are deported or threatened with deportation, it means Miller's agenda isn't so much about national security than it is about an effort to reduce the number of brown people in the country. We don't think that was part of the campaign promise.



Violence survivors need safety

By ELISABET AVALOS

The Fulcrum
Tribune News Service

She called me while she walked her dog because it was the only time she could use the phone without being monitored by her husband. Reaching out to me as a program manager for domestic survivors in a major U.S. city, she wanted to see what her options were and where she and her seven-year-old son could go.

I went over the resources in the community for domestic violence survivors, which were few. The 35-year-old mother told me she had been in and out of domestic violence shelters over the years and could not stand to destabilize her son and herself yet again. She was living now in Section 8 housing.

Subsidized housing in this country is confusing as there are many different types. For those who are in the Project-Based Voucher (PBV) program, the rental assistance it provides makes up the difference between the tenant's contribution, 30% of their income, and the unit's total rent and utility costs.

In this country, 530,000 people in nearly 290,000 households use project-based vouchers. Three-quarters of households in public housing are headed by women. And one in three women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime.

That means approximately 72,500 households headed by women in project-based voucher housing could be expected to experience domestic violence at some point in their lives.

Complicating matters is that the latest Donald Trump administration 2026 budget bill heading to the U.S. Senate after passing the House includes drastic cuts to federal housing assistance. A \$26.7

Elisabet Avalos



billion cut to rental assistance programs like project-based vouchers and tenant-based (housing choice) vouchers means that there will be fewer vouchers to go around for survivors, where there were already slim pickings at the start. And the restructuring of rental assistance to focus on elderly and disabled people may inadvertently leave out survivors of violence who do not meet this criteria.

When you are a survivor of domestic violence and need to leave for your own safety, it feels like jumping out of a plane without a parachute, hoping you will land on your feet. If you leave that address, you lose your rental assistance because it is tied to that specific unit.

Yes, the Violence Against Women Act allows a public housing authority to bifurcate or split the household on the lease. With a bifurcation, the housing authority will not create two subsidies, meaning that the abuser will no longer be offered assistance.

Ironically, bifurcation is supposed to work so that the survivor stays in the unit with rental assistance and the abuser is evicted. But in reality, it becomes a non-starter, as many survivors will not pursue bifurcation out of fear that their abusers will retaliate against them for causing their eviction.

Still, a survivor can apply for an emergency transfer to another unit, which is much more complicated than it sounds. Emergency transfers allow the individual to

move to a unit where they would not be considered a new applicant.

But in my experience of serving survivors experiencing homelessness, they are often offered units in the very same neighborhood, even across the street from where they were victimized. Survivors in this situation become walking targets for continued stalking, threats, and repeated violence.

And unfortunately, the emergency transfer lists are long. A U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) study of 60 Public Housing Authorities shows that emergency transfers took between six months to one year to complete.

Survivors can also apply for a new Section 8 waitlist for either another project-based voucher or a housing-choice voucher. But most communities' waitlists do not prioritize survivors of violence. So, it's a waiting game when survivors cannot afford to wait.

A few communities in the U.S., such as Oakland and Boston, do prioritize survivors. Many more communities need to follow suit.

What survivors in public housing need are more flexible options. These include hotel vouchers to have an immediate safe place to go to when domestic violence shelters are not available or not viable for a specific survivor's situation.

Options such as Housing Choice Vouchers specifically for survivors could be honored nationwide without a waiting period.

Survivors simply cannot afford to wait while their lives are on the line.

Avalos is a leader in housing justice, developing programs for survivors of violence experiencing homelessness, and a Public Voices Fellow of The OpEd Project on Domestic Violence and Economic Security.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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University of Illinois

A USDA Agricultural Research Service employee displays “John Deere corn,” named for the green coloration in the kernel’s aleurone layer. Despite the Maize Genetics Cooperation Stock Center’s efficient, smooth operation, low operating costs, and industry support, the corn genetics community is concerned about the facility’s future.

Budget threatens corn stocks

By LAUREN QUINN
University of Illinois

When most growers plant corn, they expect perfect, uniform rows and plump and pearly yellow kernels lining the cob. But a group of USDA Agricultural Research Service scientists intentionally plant the misfits — some gnarled and speckled, others sprouting tassels where ears should be — to perpetuate the wide array of genetic variation in the Midwest’s most economically important crop.

The Maize Genetics Cooperation Stock Center, located on the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus, contains 100,000 corn stocks representing genetic mutants. Why preserve the weirdos? Because mutant genes confer some of the most important traits in modern corn hybrids.

“Compared to the maize collection at the North Central Regional Plant Introduction Station (NCRPIS) in Ames, Iowa, which focuses on natural and breeding-derived diversity, the mutant collection is a functional genomics engine,” said Martin Bohn, professor in the Department of Crop Sciences, part of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at Illinois. “These lines allow us to dissect gene function directly — something not possible with conventional panels. It’s the difference between observing variation and understanding its genetic basis.”

Take the sweet corn you enjoyed at your 4th of July cookout. The gene responsible for its bursting sweetness and long shelf life — *shrunken2* — was first identified by U. of I. professor John Laughnan, who was experimenting in the collection in the early 1950s. From there, Illini Supersweet Corn was born. The crop has since been improved further, growing into a major summertime staple — and a major boon for agribusinesses.

“Without the stock center, sweet corn would be a little less sweet. And Illinois Foundation Seed, Inc.’s sweet corn research wouldn’t be here today,” said Charlie Thompson, vice president and

Genetic mutants features many important hybrid traits

director of research for IFSI’s vegetable business unit. “IFSI worked with U. of I. in those early years. We were the first to market Dr. Laughnan’s sweet corn hybrids, which were a primary driver for our business. It’s cool that a local connection has had such a global impact.”

Thompson’s Central Illinois-based team, like other companies and research groups around the world, routinely dips into the collection to improve corn traits, including disease resistance and stress tolerance. That’s possible because, as part of the USDA’s National Plant Germplasm System, seeds are made freely available to any requestor.

Enabling innovation

Among the most frequent requestors are U. of I. crop sciences professors, who use the stock center for basic and applied research, not to mention training the next generation of corn breeders and geneticists.

For example, Bohn, along with College of ACES faculty and graduate students, recently used the collection to identify genes that influence the root microbiome, revealing that corn can actively select for microbes that suppress nitrogen loss or even promote nitrogen fixation.

“These insights are now informing breeding strategies aimed at reducing fertilizer inputs and improving environmental outcomes,” Bohn said. “None of this would be possible without access to the materials provided by the maize stock center.”

Crop sciences professor Steve Moose says the advancements coming out of the stock center are innumerable, in part because the collection enables basic genetics research that informs commercial innovation years down the line. For example, current industry excitement over short corn — shorter-statured plants that may reduce lodging, increase harvest efficiency, and achieve greater yield — originated from short mutants in the collection.

To make all of these innovations possible, the ARS scientists who run the facility — which consists of three large and precisely calibrated cold storage rooms, a laboratory, and office spaces in College of ACES buildings — meticulously catalog the collection’s 100,000 corn stocks, leveraging their deep knowledge of the genes and traits represented in each stock to advise requestors and pack seeds for shipment. They also grow the stock collection on a 12-year cycle to replenish fresh seeds. It’s a big job for a few very specialized experts, but it works.

‘Touch it, break it.’

Despite the stock center’s efficient, smooth operation, low operating costs, and industry support, the corn genetics community is concerned about the facility’s future. That’s because, in early June, the ARS location in Urbana — which operates both the Maize Genetics Cooperation Stock Center and the National Soybean Germplasm Collection — appeared on a short list of ARS facilities slated for closure and consolidation as part of the proposed 2026 USDA budget. Under the plan, the stock center would be consolidated with the North Central Regional Plant Introduction Station (NCRPIS) in Ames, Iowa.

The survival of the invaluable collection depends on seeds held at precise temperature and humidity set points. Transporting 100,000 stocks and building the required facilities in a new location pose real challenges to the collection’s integrity. And experts argue

there’s little to no benefit to consolidation.

“The stock center is historically rooted at the University of Illinois, and the concentration of expertise, infrastructure, and institutional continuity in Urbana is unmatched and irreplaceable. I also question whether NCRPIS can realistically absorb the stock center without substantial investments in both facilities and personnel. Relocating it would disrupt ongoing research and put a globally unique resource at risk,” Bohn said. “In my view, if you touch it, you break it.”

Legislators and industry groups are voicing support to maintain the three ARS locations facing consolidation, resulting in report language from the House appropriations committee that it “rejects proposed research program terminations.” USDA’s proposal to relocate, rather than terminate the collections and programs outright, may render that advice moot, however. The USDA budget and any enforceable statutory language related to relocation are currently under consideration by the Senate appropriations committee, with full Congressional votes to come. In the meantime, advocates continue to make their case against consolidation.

Brad Stotler, director of government affairs for the Illinois Corn Growers Association, is one of those advocates. “Relocating the collection risks the loss of critical institutional knowledge and slows progress on research that benefits American agriculture — all at significant and unnecessary expense,” he said. “The ARS facility in Urbana and the unique collections of soybeans and maize housed there are critically important to advancing genetic research and improving American agriculture. The maize collection has 72 years of history on the Illinois campus, and it’s more important than ever to invest in these programs and protect the well-established research collaboration between ARS and U. of I. scientists.”

Tomato prices are set to rise

By DOMINIC GENETTI
Jacksonville Journal-Courier (Illinois)
Tribune News Service

The price of tomatoes are expected to go up after a nearly 30-year trade agreement with the U.S. and Mexico is being replaced by a new 20.9% tariff issued by President Donald Trump.

Price increases could be seen in produce departments at grocery stores, manufacturers and restaurants starting Monday, July 14, according to multiple reports. In a document from the Federal Reserve in St. Louis, field grown tomatoes were going for about \$1.70 per pound, and CNN reports Timothy Richards, a professor of agribusiness at Arizona State University, notes tomato prices could go up 10% with demand falling 5%.

“Some US growers say it’s about time for the tariffs, which are meant to fight ‘dumping,’ or the practice of selling cheap exports into a foreign market to undercut home-grown products,” CNN writes.

“Antidumping and countervailing duty orders provide American businesses and workers with a mechanism to seek relief from the harmful effects of the unfair pricing of imports into the United States,” an April 2025 press release from the International Trade Administration reads. “Foreign companies that price their products in the U.S. market below the cost of production or below prices in their home markets are subject to antidumping duties.”

The Tomato Suspension Agreement has been in place since 1996, and according to the USDA, the agreement was between the U.S. Department of Commerce and producers and exporters of tomatoes grown in Mexico was agreed upon the basis that those producers and exporters sell Mexican tomatoes “at or above the Tomato Suspension Agreement reference price to eliminate the injurious (or damaging) effects of exports of fresh tomatoes in the U.S.”

“The Tomato Suspension Agreement provides for mandatory inspections at the border and voluntary inspections at destination,” the USDA website reads. “At the border, USDA will inspect all Round, Roma, and Grape tomatoes in bulk (excess of 2 pounds).”

At destination, USDA may inspect all tomatoes covered by the Tomato Suspension Agreement upon request.”

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By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

You are South, neither side vulnerable. The bidding has gone:

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

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

- ♠ AK ♥ KQ853 ♦ 86 ♣ Q962
- ♠ K7 ♥ KQJ985 ♦ 962 ♣ A5
- ♠ J82 ♥ AJ965 ♦ 984 ♣ 72
- ♠ QJ64 ♥ AQ752 ♦ 63 ♣ K8

1. **Three clubs.** Obviously, a game must be reached with this hand, but you are not in position at this point to know what the best game contract is. The jump to three clubs (forcing unless your partnership has agreed otherwise) tells partner you have good support for clubs, the values for an opening bid, and that game is feasible in clubs, hearts, or notrump, depending upon his hand. If partner has three hearts, he must show them next.

2. **Four hearts.** With an opening bid opposite an opening bid, there is surely a game in the combined hands. Lacking support for either of partner's suits, and with your strong heart suit, the most likely game is in hearts. Even if partner has only one small heart, it could well turn out that four hearts is still the best game contract.

3. **Pass.** The chance for game is remote, and the only problem is to find the best partscore contract. While there might be a better spot than one spade, it is hardly worth increasing the level of the bidding in search of it. Partner might take any further bid by you seriously, and there is no reason to run this risk. It should be noted that a change of suit by the opening bidder does not force responder to bid again. That rule applies only when responder names a new suit.

4. **Four spades.** Most partnerships nowadays play that a jump-raise of partner's suit — spades in this case — on the second round shows 11 or 12 points and is invitational, while a raise to four shows 13 or more. This hand is much too good for a mere invitational raise, so you must raise one spade to four. If you were to bid only three spades and partner passed, it is very likely you will have missed a game that is odds-on to make.

Tomorrow: A giveaway plan.
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7-18

CRYPTOQUIP

FGOPQHFIUQ IQTQPNBQ DRND
BFTQL ZQEZUQ DEGL EW
QGQPBV DE LRPQH NGV DVZQ
EW ORQQLQ: BPNDQP-NHQ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PEOPLE SHOULD BE SUPER-CAREFUL ABOUT USING HEAVY CROWBARS IF THEY HAVE NO PRYER KNOWLEDGE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals P

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	38 "Miracle"	2 "It's—"	24 Boston
1 Deli meat	team of 1969	("Meet you then!")	team, for short
4 Some printers	39 Pallid	7 Donnybrook	25 Fib
7 "Ta-da!"	41 Boxing arbiters	3 Olympian queen	26 Roker and Bundy
12 Chemical suffix	45 Pert	47 Not "dis"	28 Sea, to Henri
13 Before	48 Four-sided figure	5 Before-marriage contract	30 Sinusitis doc
14 Sun (Pref.)	52 Chap	6 Factions	31 Branch
15 Tokyo-based carrier	53 Cyber-messages	7 Ergo	32 Billy — Williams
16 Hermit-like	54 Poetic dusk	8 "For — a jolly good ..."	33 Calendar abbr.
18 Packed away	55 Consist of	9 Inventor Whitney	36 Cygnet's parent
19 Poker payments	56 Cupid's team-mate	10 Body of water (Abbr.)	37 Mom's brothers
20 "Cheers" order	57 Blog feed	11 Fair hirer, in ads	40 Boring tool
22 Dos Passos trilogy	58 Scale members	17 Jet type	42 Mystery-writing award
23 Madonna's "La — Bonita"	DOWN	21 Picture puzzle	43 French composer Gabriel
27 Nero's title (Abbr.)	1 Muslim head covering	23 Less friendly	44 Eyelid woes
29 Shrink in fear			45 Pretzel seasoning
31 Photo-shop maker			46 Hanker-ings
34 Puts the kibosh on			48 Fun and games
35 Happens again			49 Punk rock subgenre
37 Colorado native			50 Rotating part
			51 Dead heat

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 7-18

7-18

CRYPTOQUIP

FGOPQHFIUQ IQTQPNBQ DRND
BFTQL ZQEZUQ DEGL EW
QGQPBV DE LRPQH NGV DVZQ
EW ORQQLQ: BPNDQP-NHQ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PEOPLE SHOULD BE SUPER-CAREFUL ABOUT USING HEAVY CROWBARS IF THEY HAVE NO PRYER KNOWLEDGE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals P

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Hines ...

Continued from page 8

He woke up in disbelief some mornings, questioning himself, his situation and the NFL career he derailed. He also couldn't ignore the countless social media posts that mocked the accident.

"You can say whatever, but those things hurt," Hines said. "I'm human."

Hines needed to make peace with himself and his situation — and he says he has done so. He knows he made a mistake and he holds himself accountable for it.

He credits his Indianapolis-based therapist, Dr. Tracy Warhop, and his agent, Ed Wasielewski, with helping him weather the storm of external criticism following his release from the Bills.

He credits his mom, Nannette Miller, who has battled muscular dystrophy throughout most of his NFL career, with giving him perspective and being a source of motivation.

Following his knee surgery, he got a heavily detailed tattoo on his left wrist that features references to self-reflective Bible verses and green ribbons — the symbol for muscular dystrophy awareness — to represent his mom, his uncle, A.J. Miller, and his grandmother, Clotiel Miller, who passed away in 2004 from the disease.

"Those have been things that have just motivated me," Hines said. "And even when I have doubts, and even through the first year and a half (after surgery) it didn't look good — I would just look down at my wrist and it gave me a lot of motivation."

Hines was able to land a one-year deal with the Cleveland Browns last year, despite missing the entire 2023 season. But he was placed on the non-football injury (NFI) list — ending his season before it even started — following a preseason in which he never appeared in uniform.

Hines' placement on the NFI list coincided with a decline in his mother's health. She was placed on life support around the start of Cleveland's regular season.

"So, throughout last season, my mom was on a ventilator for three or four weeks, got off of it, went up and down, and finally went home in December," Hines said. "So, even through just all of that, like there were so many things off the field that I dealt with — it's not an excuse — but it's more of the reason of why I've been so hungry, so motivated."

"Even throughout all of this



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Timothy T Ludwig

Nyheim Hines of the Buffalo Bills rushes for a touchdown against the Miami Dolphins during the second quarter at Highmark Stadium on Dec. 17, 2022, in Orchard Park, New York.

time last year, truthfully and honestly speaking, I didn't think my mom would ever see me play again."

With his mom still battling her disease, Hines has continued to work to make sure her son plays again, not only for himself, but for her and their family, too.

"Knowing my mom has fought for this extra time to watch me play this year has been the most humbling and best feeling of why I would do it," Hines said.

The routes to recovery

Hines, who lives in Charlotte, has been diligently working with his longtime trainer, Stafford Gatling of Waxhaw-based Stay Ready Performance, to get back to full strength on the field.

Gatling, a former Ohio University linebacker, has been training Hines since 2021, so he's seen the peaks and valleys of Hines' NFL career.

"I saw the before and the after," Gatling said. "It was hard for me to even adjust to it. Like, 'I'm so used to seeing him to do this or that,' but I can't say that type of stuff, because that type of stuff is going to affect him mentally. So, I built it up. He was torn down, so you've got to build it back up."

During Hines' recovery with the Browns, he found a rehabilitation partner in four-time Pro Bowl running back Nick Chubb,

who was recovering from MCL and ACL injuries. The pair synced their workout routines, and Hines was able to find additional motivation from Chubb's work ethic and determination.

"I would say my biggest inspiration is Nick Chubb," Hines said. "I met him month eight of my surgery (recovery) when I signed in April (2024). We did everything together. And he came off a catastrophic injury before this, so I leaned on him a lot."

On Wednesday, Hines caught a quick pass around some cones and darted off down the field for a second catch on the same rep. Gatling then lofted the ball a bit in front of Hines, who made a finger-tip snag as his momentum carried him out of the field of play.

Hines, fearless even after the knee surgeries, jumped over a small wooden fence onto a small dirt hill to stop his route as he held onto the ball.

Gatling and his two other clients let out an audible cheer for the playmaker.

"He's been working for two years now, building his confidence and letting his body recover at the same time," Gatling said. "So now, with him coming out here with that mindset, believing in himself, and also having that full recovery of his body — it's like him being three years younger. It's just great to see."

Hines feels rejuvenated. He's

also not afraid to flaunt his restored confidence, either.

"My confidence is 'I'm back,' " Hines said. "I feel like I've had a great resume — I want to be humble when I say that — and I've built a great resume and had great film. And each team I've played for, the Colts — not the Browns, unfortunately — the Bills, N.C. State, I feel like I went out there each year and put it on the line for all the fans."

"Each team I've played for, I feel like I left fans with a special memory to see how hard I go out here and grind."

Right time for a revival

Before Hines suffered his off-the-field nightmare that summer of 2023, he was considered to be among the most dynamic returners in football.

He returned two kickoffs for touchdowns in his first two seasons at N.C. State and then returned a punt for a score during his junior campaign. He had the two punt return touchdowns against the Panthers in his second NFL season and the two kickoff return scores in 2023 for the Bills as well.

He also produced 1,202 rushing yards, 1,778 receiving yards and 18 total offensive touchdowns in his first five NFL seasons with Buffalo and Indianapolis.

The 5-foot-8, 198-pound running back has the resume of a shifty weapon on both offense

and special teams. And if he's kept his game-changing speed — which he claims he has — he offers a dynamic skill set for a team looking to stretch the value of a depth player on a "prove it" deal.

"I think I can go out there today and help a team win," Hines said. "It doesn't take much of a playbook to catch a punt or catch a kickoff, and trust your blocks, and have great vision to do what you have to do. But like I've always said, I've always been an elite returner, but I feel like I'm an offensive player with elite return abilities."

"When I've had opportunities (on offense), I've had great success. ... Obviously, I want to go on Day 1 and be a return guy — if it's kick or punt return. If you ask me to be a gunner or ask me to be a personal protector on special teams, then I'm going to do whatever I've got to do. And then, hopefully, I learn the playbook and help a team out there (on offense), because I know I'm still a mismatch out there. I'm still fast, I'm still quick, and I'm ready to go."

Hines has also taken note of the some of other comeback stories in the NFL this summer.

Veteran wideout Hunter Renfrow signed a one-year deal with the Panthers in April after missing the 2024 season due to a bout with ulcerative colitis. Renfrow's story is proof that some teams are still willing to invest in talent, even if the player has been off the field for a notable stretch.

"It's given me all the optimism in the world," Hines said, referring to Renfrow's comeback.

Hines feels great mentally and physically, and the obstacles thrown in his way over the past two years have only made him hungrier to return to the field, for his family, for his mom and for himself.

While he knows that the internet has mocked him for his very public pitfall moment, he also has seen the love and support from fans in Garner and Raleigh. He knows what he's accomplished in the NFL, and he believes he's capable of creating more big moments as a returner, receiver and running back.

Hines just needs a team to take a chance on him. And that's probably not too much to ask for, considering Hines has proven that he can score from pretty much anywhere on the field when healthy.

"I'm a special player," Hines said, "and I'm getting back to the athletic form that once made me a top player in this league."

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today

Fort Recovery — Football 7-on-7 scrimmage at Fort Loramie — 6 p.m.

Saturday

Portland Rockets doubleheader vs. South Bend Royals — 1 p.m.

TV schedule

Today

10 a.m. — NFL: Flag football Championships (ESPN)

1 p.m. — NFL: Flag football Championships (ESPN2)

2 p.m. — The Open golf: The Open Championship (USA)

3 p.m. — UEFA Women's Euro soccer: Spain vs. Switzerland (FOX)

5 p.m. — NFL: Flag football Championships (ESPN)

5 p.m. — ARCA Menards Series: General Tire 150 (FS1)

7 p.m. — USL Championship soccer:

Detroit City vs. Pittsburgh Riverhounds (ESPN2)

7 p.m. — The Basketball Tournament: War Ready vs. X-Rayted (FS1)

7:10 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at New York Mets (FDSN Indiana)

8 p.m. — WNBA 2025 3-Point and Skills Challenge (ESPN)

8:05 p.m. — MLB: Detroit Tigers at Texas Rangers (FOX)

9 p.m. — PLL lacrosse: Utah Archers at Carolina Chaos (ESPN2)

9 p.m. — The Basketball Tournament: La Familia at Stroah's Squad (FS1)

Saturday

5 a.m. — The Open golf: The Open Championship (USA)

5:35 a.m. — AFL: Melbourne Demons at Carlton Blues (FS1)

7 a.m. — The Open golf: The Open Championship (NBC)

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

10 a.m. — NFL: Flag football Cham-

pionships (ESPN)

10:30 a.m. — IndyCar: Ontario Honda Dealers Indy Toronto (FS1)

12:30 p.m. — Horse racing: Saratoga Live (FS1)

12:30 p.m. — The Basketball Tournament: The Ville at Boston vs. Cancer (FOX)

3 p.m. — Pro Motocross Championship: Washougal (NBC)

3 p.m. — UEFA Women's Euro soccer: France at Germany (FOX)

4 p.m. — The Basketball Tournament: Assembly Ball at Fail Harder (FS1)

4:10 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at New York Mets (FDSN Indiana)

5 p.m. — Horse racing: Saratoga Live (FOX)

6 p.m. — The Basketball Tournament: Boenheim's Army at Herkimer Originals (FS1)

6:15 p.m. — UFC fighting (ESPN2)

7:15 p.m. — MLB: Boston Red Sox at Chicago Cubs (FOX)

8 p.m. — Athletes Unlimited Softball:

Volts at Bandits (FDSN Indiana)

8 p.m. — UFC fighting (ESPN)

8 p.m. — Copa America Femenina soccer: Colombia at Paraguay (FS1)

8:30 p.m. — WNBA: All-Star Game (ESPN)

10 p.m. — USL Championship soccer: Orange County SC at Las Vegas Lights (FOX)

Local notes

Partnership announced

Ball State University will be partnering with Indy Eleven to provide free training for youth coaches in Indiana on August 2.

The in-person training session will be at Michael A. Carroll Stadium in Indianapolis. It will be a one-hour workshop focused on building positive, youth development-focused coaching practices.

Those who attend will receive a ticket to the Indy Eleven soccer match and Professional Growth Points for those going for a teaching license.

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 unitedwayjaycounty.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.

Next race set

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 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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COUNTY OF JAY COUNTY
IN THE JAY
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CASE NO. 38001-2504-MI-9
IN RE THE NAME CHANGE
OF MINOR:
Everleigh Nipp
Name of Minor
Bailey Miller
Petitioner
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR
CHANGE OF NAME
Notice is hereby given that
Petitioner, Bailey Miller , as a
self-represented litigant, filed a
Verified Petition for Change
of Name on 4-29-25 to change
the name of Everleigh Nipp to
Everleigh Miller.
The Petition is scheduled for
hearing in the Jay County Cir-
cuit Court on 9-8-25 @ 8:30am,
which is more than thirty (30)
days after the third notice of
publication. Any person has
the right to appear at the
hearing and to file written ob-
jections on or before the hear-
ing date.
April 29, 2025
Melissa Elliot, Clerk
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2025 boys track

All-GPC team

Graphic Printing Company Track Athlete of the Year Carter Campbell Winchester Community High School junior

Carter Campbell was selected as the inaugural Graphic Printing Company Athlete of the Year for boys track.

“It was a really good season overall,” said Campbell. “I had great meets at the Knights Invite, conference, county and a good meet at the sectional too with us placing fourth with all the big schools. It was a really good year as a team and individually.”

Campbell led the Golden Falcons to the first Tri-Eastern Conference title since the 1990s and a fourth-place finish at the sectional meet hosted by Muncie Central.

He set school records in the 110-meter hurdles (15.24 seconds), 300 hurdles (38.27 seconds), combined with Ian Hardwick, Hunter Patterson and Javier Robles to break the 4x400 relay record (3 minutes, 26.03 seconds) and hit a new career best in the 200 dash. Campbell placed high enough to advance to the regional in all four events. From there, he made state in the 300 hurdles and missed the 110 hurdles by 0.14 seconds. His season ended with a fifth-place finish at state with a time of 38.27.

“I got PRs in all my events,” Campbell said. “My goal was to come to state again and place.”

“I think the thing that makes him so special is that he’s a team player and he brings the people around him to a higher level,” said WCHS coach Annie Sonfronko. “We were a pretty below average track team his freshman year and just adding him blossomed the team. ... He’s a leader because he does everything right. He eats right, he sleeps right, he’s a 4.0 and does it almost all the time.”

- Honorable mention**
- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Adam Alig, Sr., Jay County | Isaac Roessner, So., Ft. Rec. |
| Noah Allen, Jr., Randolph So. | Noah Parrott, Jr., Delta |
| Ian Hardwick, Jr., Winchester | Hunter Patterson Sr., Win. |
| Ethan Hunt, Jr., Monroe Cen. | Kade Utsler, So., Delta |



- All-Graphic Printing Company first team**
- Sprinter - Grey Backus - Delta junior - 10.99 in 100-meter dash, 22.41 in 200 dash
- Mid distance - Preston McCorkhill - Wapahani junior - 49.66 in 400-meter dash
- Distance - Caleb Aber - Wapahani senior - 1:55.20 in 800-meter run
- Distance - Mason Tomboni - Wapahani junior - 9:36.61 in 3,200-meter run, 4:23.71 in 1,600 run
- Hurdles - Carter Campbell - Winchester junior - 38.27 in 300-meter hurdles, 15.24 in 110 hurdles
- Hurdles - Marcus Bright - Delta senior - 14.52 in 110-meter hurdles, 42.33 in 300 hurdles
- Jumps - Easton Foster - Monroe Central senior - 6 feet, 8 inches in high jump
- Throws - Jeremiah Ullom - Monroe Central junior - 49 feet, 4.5 inches in shot put



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Inside Nyheim Hines’ mission to get back to NFL

By MIKE KAYE
The Charlotte Observer
Tribune News Service

WEDDINGTON, N.C. — Nyheim Hines hasn’t touched NFL turf in more than 900 days.

But on a hot and humid Wednesday in Weddington, the former Indianapolis Colts and Buffalo Bills running back, who starred at Garner Magnet High and N.C. State, is grinding to get back into the league he believes he still belongs in.

He’s two years removed from the jet ski accident that derailed his promising position with the Bills in 2023. He’s also recovered from the ACL and LCL surgeries he was forced to undergo as the result of the incident, which admittedly took a bit longer than he expected.

And as he bobs and weaves through cones at Weddington Optimist Park in the Charlotte suburbs, Hines, 28, finally feels like the guy who returned two punts for touchdowns in a game against the Carolina Panthers in 2019.

“I’m far from done, and the story is in my hand,” Hines told The Charlotte Observer. “I put myself in this position, but as athletes, we’re in an unfortunate situation in a job ... that we can’t control everything, but the pen is always in our hand, based on our performance. So, I’m looking forward to the opportunity to grab that pen and write whatever story I want.”

The former All-ACC track star has always had elite speed (he ran a 4.38-second 40-yard dash at the NFL scouting combine in 2018). And he says he never lost his speed in his recovery from the knee surgery. But, according to Hines, his road to recovery was more about rediscovering the twitchy cutting ability that

Former Colts running back tore his ACL in a jet ski accident in July 2023

became his trademark in the NFL. He also needed to recover mentally from a very public lapse in judgment that he has taken accountability for on multiple occasions.

Hines’ last NFL regular-season appearance saw him return two kickoffs for touchdowns for the Bills against the New England Patriots. He’d play in two playoff games for Buffalo in January 2023 and that’s the last the NFL has really seen of him.

The jet ski accident, which took place a few weeks before Bills training camp in the summer 2023, is something he’s been working to overcome ever since. But after healing both his mind and his body over the past two years, he’s grateful for the opportunity to potentially recapture the magic that he made during the first five years of his NFL career.

“I could have died,” Hines said. “So many things could have been worse. So, I’m thankful that I’m here to tell this story and be an example of what you don’t need to do.”

A reason to return

As he worked his way back from a career-threatening knee injury, Hines couldn’t help but dwell in the negative.

See Hines page 7