

Leave an impact



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Fort Recovery High School's Owen Knapke gets a hug after Sunday's graduation ceremony at Fort Site Fieldhouse. He was one of 77 FRHS students in the Class of 2024 who were encouraged to chase their own expectations, remember the lessons they have learned thus far and seek to make a positive impact on the world.

Class of '24 encouraged to overcome obstacles, remember lessons and make a positive difference

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review  
Overcome pressure and rise above expectations. Remember lessons learned. Serve others. Those were the messages shared Sunday as Fort Recovery High School celebrated the 77 members of its Class of 2024. Valedictorian Carson Grube addressed expectations, including his own that he would not be on the stage giving a speech at the ceremony. (He said he always felt it would be Trevor Heitkamp, the salutatorian, and Teigen Fortkamp, who as class president delivered the opening prayer.)

He said expectations from parents, teachers and classmates can be stressful but, in his case, they caused him to work harder. Ultimately, though, he said each individual's own expectations rise above all others, and he encouraged his classmates to meet and exceed whatever dreams for which they are striving. "Whether it be in college, the workforce or the military, we are all going to expect great things out of ourselves, our family and our future," he said. "We will fail at times, but we will get through the obstacles that come our way."

Heitkamp followed by describing three lessons he and his classmates have learned over the years: •The value of practice — Via working to learn Pythagorean triples (any three positive integers that satisfy the Pythagorean theorem) with math teacher Janice Osterloh •The importance of teamwork — Through their freshman biology project to dissect a frog, during which "strong-willed" classmates teamed up with the more "feint of heart" to achieve a common goal •The importance of gratitude — By way of appreciation for all of the teachers, administra-

tors, staff, parents, community members and friends who have supported them through the years. He encouraged his classmates to remember those values as they move forward in life. "We all have our own unique paths ahead, but we have a common path behind us," Heitkamp said. "No one knows what the future holds, but what we do know is that the Class of 2024 has a strong foundation rooted in our communal values. ... "These are the lessons our family, teachers and community have taught us. These are the lessons we will carry with us." See Impact page 2

Brenner charged in Long's death

Fentanyl incident occurred in September

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review  
A Dunkirk man has been charged with dealing fentanyl, resulting in a man's death. Cody A. Brenner, 34, 317 E. North St., Dunkirk, was charged in Jay Circuit Court with a Level 1 felony for knowingly or intentionally delivering fentanyl, which resulted in the death of Zachary Long on Sept. 11. Long, 26, Dunkirk, was discovered by a 14-year-old, identified in court documents as M.N. An autopsy was conducted on Long's remains Oct. 26, indicating he died from fentanyl exposure. A toxicology report indicated he had a blood alcohol level of 0.087%, as well as ethanol, fentanyl and norfentanyl in his body. According to court documents, Brenner admitted during an Oct. 24 interview with police that he dealt heroin to M.N. He later told police his supplier was Aaron Baker, who was sentenced to 28 years in Indiana Department of Correction on April 26 after pleading guilty to dealing methamphetamine, a Level 2 felony, and being a habitual offender, the documents say. Brenner allegedly admitted to getting \$60 worth of heroin on Sept. 10 — \$30 worth for himself and another \$30 for M.N. Court documents indicated that Brenner said Oct. 24 he didn't know the heroin he delivered to M.N. would cause an overdose and he told police "kids nowadays take a bunch of stuff together." He said Long had pills and other substances and regularly used opioids. He told police M.N. mentioned Long had taken Klonopin and had been drinking. He said he didn't believe what he gave to M.N. was what caused Long's overdose. See Charged page 2

Raisi killed in crash

By ARSALAN SHAHLA and GOLNAR MOTEVALLI  
Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service  
Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi, widely seen as a candidate to become the country's next supreme leader, was killed in a helicopter crash on Sunday. His death, along with that of Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, was announced by state media early on Monday after rescuers spent hours trying to locate and reach the accident site in a mountainous part of north-western Iran. Raisi was returning from an event on the border with Azerbaijan in a party of three helicopters when his craft went down with nine people on board, all of whom died. There was dense fog in the region, making conditions difficult for rescue teams. Iranian TV showed a crashed helicopter with only its

Helicopter went down Sunday in foggy conditions

tail intact. The other two helicopters landed safely. The 63-year-old president was an ultraconservative cleric seen as being in lockstep with Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who is in his mid-80s and has the ultimate say over Iran's foreign and military strategy. Raisi harbored a deep distrust toward the U.S. and Israel and worked to bolster Iran's ties with China and Russia. In Iran, there is little open debate about who Khamenei's eventual replacement may be. But analysts and academics close to the political establishment had for some time mentioned both Raisi and Khamenei's son Mojtaba as top contenders. The crash comes at a time of turmoil in the Middle East as war rates in Gaza between Israel and Hamas. The conflict has edged Iran, which backs the Islamist militant group, and Israel closer to all-out conflict. It's led to other Tehran-supported groups, including the Houthis in Yemen and Shiite militias in Iraq, to attack ships around the Red Sea and U.S. bases.



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Azin Haghighi

Rescue team members search an area Monday near the crash site of a helicopter carrying Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in Varzaghan, in northwestern Iran. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi was declared dead on May 20 after rescue teams found his crashed helicopter in a fog-shrouded western mountain region, sparking mourning in the Islamic republic.

Deaths

Jackie Frasher, 76, Portland  
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 88 degrees Sunday. The low was 61.  
Tonight's forecast calls for a low of 70 with a slight chance of rain. There is a 50% chance of rain Wednesday with a high in the lower 80s and winds gusting to 30 miles per hour.  
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Indiana Department of Transportation is seeking comments on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program Amendment. A map of planned projects is available at indot.in.gov. The deadline is May 23. Send comments to draftstip@indot.in.gov.

Coming up

Wednesday — Coverage of this week's Jay School Board meeting.  
Thursday — Results from the JCHS girls track team at the sectional meet.  
Friday — Coverage of the Jay County Redevelopment Commission meeting.

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# Obituaries

**Jackie Frasher**  
*July 29, 1947-May 3, 2024*

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of our loving mother and grandmother, Jackie Kay Frasher, on May 3, 2024. Surrounded by family, she left this earth to join Charlie, her husband of 52 years, and their son, Kyle, in heaven.

Born on July 29, 1947, in Winchester, Indiana, Jackie married the love of her life, Charles William Frasher, on Feb. 8, 1969. She worked as a hairdresser in

her younger days and later she worked at Valley Grove Elementary while raising her children. After Tonya and Kyle both graduated from high school, she worked for Meijer for more than 20 years.

Known for her vivacious personality, she made friends wherever she went. A farm girl at heart, she kept an immaculate home and loved to cook, but gardening was her passion.



Family was everything to Jackie. She treasured her children and embraced every moment with them and especially loved being a grandmother to Olivia and Tyler. A person of faith, she taught her children strong values by example.

Jackie is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Tonya and Mitch DeSpain; her two grandchildren, Olivia and Tyler; her brothers, Jim (Judy) Auker and William (CeeCee Crandall) Auker; her brother-in-law, Dave (Anita) Frasher;

her nephews and nieces, Brad (Sam) Frasher, Andrew (April) Frasher, Jeff (Shannon) Auker, Angie (Jeff) Covey, Ryan (Theresa) Gray and Amanda Gray; and 10 great-nieces and great-nephews.

Forever in our hearts, she will be dearly missed.

A visitation will be held on Thursday, May 23, 2024, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Loose Funeral Homes & Crematory, 200 W. 53rd St., Anderson. Visitation will also be held on Friday, May 24, 2024, from 10 to 11 a.m. at Baird-Freeman Funeral

Home, 221 N. Meridian Street, Portland, Indiana, with funeral services at 11 a.m.

Condolences may be shared online at LooseCares.com.

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

CR almanac				
Wednesday 5/22	Thursday 5/23	Friday 5/24	Saturday 5/25	Sunday 5/26
<b>83/58</b> There's a 50% chance of thunderstorms on Wednesday along with wind gusts up to 30 mph.	<b>76/56</b> Thursday has a 20% chance of showers. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high of 76.	<b>78/58</b> Another chance (40%) of rain, when the high should be in the mid to upper 70s.	<b>82/62</b> Saturday has a 50% chance of thunderstorms. The high will be 82.	<b>80/65</b> Mostly sunny on Sunday, when the high will be around 80 degrees.

Lotteries	
<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$88 million	49-53-59-68-69-75-78 Cash 5: 6-7-8-19-42 Estimated jackpot: \$506,500
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$421 million	<b>Ohio</b> Sunday Midday Pick 3: 5-3-9 Pick 4: 4-0-6-3 Pick 5: 0-9-7-9-9 Evening Pick 3: 6-0-1 Pick 4: 2-5-4-5 Pick 5: 6-5-2-5-2 Rolling Cash 5: 8-13-19-25-33 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Sunday Midday Daily Three: 1-5-2 Daily Four: 2-1-0-4 Evening Daily Three: 0-9-4 Daily Four: 7-0-2-7 Quick Draw: 1-3-5-10-13-17-22-23-29-30-36-38-47-	

Markets	
<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.49 June corn.....4.49 Wheat .....5.73	June beans .....12.33 Wheat ..... 6.43
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.56 June corn .....4.61 July corn .....4.51	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.41 June corn .....4.43 Beans.....12.31 June beans .....12.34 Wheat .....6.33
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....4.51 June corn .....4.46 Beans .....12.33	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.44 June corn .....4.47 Beans.....12.05 June beans .....12.15 Wheat .....6.18

**Today in history**

In 1792, Japan's Mount Unzen on the Shimabara Peninsula erupted, causing a tsunami that killed about 15,000 in the country's deadliest volcanic eruption.

In 1881, Clara Barton founded the American Association of the Red Cross.

In 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt vetoed a bill that would have appropriated nearly \$110 million for rivers and harbors, asserting that the country should be focusing on national defense.

In 1970, the U.S. National Guard was mobilized to combat disturbances at Ohio State University.

In 1972, Michelangelo's Pietà, his sculpture of the Virgin Mary supporting the dead body of Jesus, was attacked and damaged in St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City.

In 2007, the Jay County High School softball team knocked off Tipton 2-1 in the opening round of the sectional tournament. Shae Keller went the distance pitching for the win and Trisha Champ finished 2-for-3 with both Patriot RBIs.

In 2012, Ben Dues was tabbed as the new principal for Bloomfield Elementary School replacing the retiring Dan Hoffman and Erica Tomano was named principal of Judge Haynes Elementary School to replace Trent Paxson, who was moving to a new role as teacher evaluation coordinator.

In 2021, the Jay County High School baseball team defeated New Haven 7-2. Josh Dowlen led the Patriots with a double, two singles and an RBI.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar	
<b>Wednesday</b> 5 p.m. — Jay County Redevelopment Commission, auditorium, Jay County Courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St., Dunkirk.	<b>Monday</b> 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.

# Impact ...

Continued from page 1

Principal Ryan Steinbrunner, who is finishing his first year at the high school after previously serving as middle school principal, built off of Heitkamp's comments as he discussed not only those who have had an impact on students' lives thus far but also those who will continue to shape them in the years to come.

"Surround yourself with people who uplift you, who challenge you to be better, who inspire you to reach your full potential," he said.

Steinbrunner talked about the importance of kindness, respect and empathy in interactions with others. He also touched on the importance of community service, saying it teaches humility, fosters gratitude and broadens perspective.

"As you venture into the world beyond school, I encourage you to carry the spirit of service with you," he said. "Look for opportunities to contribute to your communities, wherever you may find yourselves. Understand that every act of kindness, no matter how small, has the power to create a ripple effect, touching lives in ways you may never realize."

He encouraged them to embrace challenges with confidence and said



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Liberty Pohlman receives her diploma from school board member Greg LeFevre during Sunday's Fort Recovery High School graduation ceremony at Fort Site Fieldhouse.

the support of Fort Recovery will always be behind them.

"Remember your journey is not just about personal achievement, it's about the impact you leave on the hearts and minds of those you encounter," Steinbrunner said. "In this life, success is not measured by the accolades you receive or the material possessions you acquire. It is measured by the positive difference you make in the lives of others."

# Charged ...

Continued from page 1

However, during an interview Oct. 26, Brenner allegedly admitted M.N. purchased a bag of heroin and fentanyl from him near Broad Street in Dunkirk. He admitted to knowing what he gave

M.N. was a mixture of heroin and fentanyl and said "anymore it's all mixed together," court documents say. He told police Oct. 26 he did not know M.N. planned to share the drugs with Long.

M.N. told police Oct. 25

he purchased fentanyl from Brenner on Sept. 10. He said he let Long "snort a line," and after the heroin Long crushed and snorted a Xanax. After that, M.N. said he left Long's house. He told police he tried to reach Long later — M.N. also overdosed that night but emergency personnel revived him — and discovered he had died Sept. 11.

In Indiana, a Level 1 felony has a sentence range between 20 to 40 years, with an advisory sentence of 30 years

# Capsule Reports

**Pole hit**  
A Portland man lost control of his vehicle and hit a pole along county road 700 East about 10:15 a.m. Sunday.

Hunter L. Lairson, 22, was driving his 2020 Honda Civic south on the road near its intersection with Indiana 67. He told police he was driving too fast, causing him to lose control and drive off the west side of the road.

The pole is owned by American Electric Power. Lairson's vehicle was towed, with damage estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

**Avoiding ducks**  
A Portland man struck a pole after he swerved off county road 500 North to avoid hitting a flock of ducks about 8:23 a.m. Friday.

Bryan E. Cline, 62, was driving a

1989 Ford F-600 west on the road when the ducks ran into his path. Cline told police he swerved to avoid hitting the birds, causing him to drive off the north side of the road and into a utility pole owned by Jay County REMC.

Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000. The vehicle he was driving is registered to Industrial Commercial Service of Portland.

# Felony arrests

**Unlawful possession**  
A Bryant woman was arrested Friday for unlawful possession of a syringe.

Morgan J. Smitley, 30, 407 E. Main St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for the alleged crime. She was being held on a \$3,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

SERVICES

Today

Collins, Joan: 10:30 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpburg Road, Fort Recovery.

Howell, Walter: 1 p.m., Meeker Avenue Church of Christ, 3109 S. Meeker Ave., Muncie.

Wallace, Don: 6 p.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W.Windsor St., Montpelier.

Friday

Frasher, Jackie: 11 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

June 15

Weaver, Larry: 10:30 a.m., Akron Community Center, 815 Rural St., Akron, Indiana.

Service listings provided by

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GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS



# Baby’s growth leaves parents behind

**By CHRIS SCHANZ**  
The Commercial Review

It’s getting difficult to keep up. And she’s not even mobile yet.

Baby Schanz is about two months old now, and she’s changing daily.



### Parental Ponderings

She recently started tracking movements with her eyes, which are still a blue/brown combo and sparking a heated debate between her parents as to whose eyes she’ll have. (I have vibrant blue eyes, Chrissy’s are brown. We both want her to have our respective eyes.)

She’s started to mimic sounds — the long-O sound is her favorite — and her “coos” are becoming more prominent. Even while sleeping.

The day she was born she was lifting her head,

and since then her neck has only gotten stronger. Although she’s yet not able to fully keep her head upright and control those muscles, we don’t have to support her head as much when we hold her anymore.

Perhaps the most noticeable change, though, is the rate in which she’s going through clothes.

We don’t expect her to be tall. After all, I’m 5-foot-8, and Chrissy is 4-foot-11.5. However, our daughter is growing like a weed.

When we brought her home from the hospital, we didn’t have any clothes that fit her. We didn’t expect her, at exactly one week “premature,” to be in premie clothes. We certainly didn’t have diapers small enough to fit her either. Therefore, we had to scramble to find time to buy the proper size of both.

Her time in the premie clothes was short-lived.

So, too, it seems, was her time in newborn attire. Granted, newborn-sized clothes aren’t standard from one brand to the next. For example, Old Navy’s newborn clothes are smaller than Carter’s. We’re learning Carter’s tends to run a little on the larger side, and the sizing

of Honest Baby Clothing is anything but honest — we have a premie outfit which is still way too big.

Items sized 0-3 seem to be a bit of a crapshoot. One day they’re too big. The next they fit perfectly and then in the blink of an eye they’re too small. The 3-month items are starting to fit her, but again it’s a crapshoot depending on the brand.

When it comes to diapers, she’s between sizes. The newborns are too small, yet Size 1 are just a wee too big at this point.

It’s a race against time. We’ve bought cute clothes we want her to wear, but there seems to be no telling as to when she’ll grow out of them. The most problematic issue,

we’re finding, is the clothes become too small in length before they’re too small in girth.

Maybe she’ll be tall after all? We obviously don’t know yet. The only explanation is that she’d get it from my late father, who was above 6 feet tall. (I have an older brother who’s a family anomaly; he’s 6-foot-6). Chrissy’s parents are both my height, so if Baby Schanz grows taller than her parents, it sure won’t come from her mom’s side of the family.

The clothes she has, and will, grow out of won’t go to waste. We started keeping the items we like the best in hopes of repurposing them — into a blanket, other clothes, whatever —

rather than just donate them. While Baby Schanz will only be able to remember them through photos and videos, they hold sentimental value to us so we want to hang on to them.

It’s hard to believe my daughter is 2 months old already. It seems like yesterday we brought her home.

Until the day she stops growing, we’ll constantly be chasing the right-sized clothes.

I just hope we can keep up.

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*Schanz is a former CR Sports Editor embarking on a new journey as a father. You can reach him at christopher.schanz@gmail.com.*

# Husband likes to get high but lies about it

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for 10 years, together for 12. We have no children together, but I have four from a previous marriage. Two are grown and have moved out; two are still home and in high school.

When we got together, my husband stepped right up and became a wonderful stepdad. He has always been a provider, a listener, an advice giver, friend, etc. He is the epitome of a great dad and husband. My family loves him, and I love him with my whole heart.

There is just one small problem that has recurred throughout our marriage. Abby, he told me several years ago that he had stopped smoking marijuana, yet many times over the years I have caught him sneaking around to do it. If I ask him about it, he lies to my face and insists that no, he

### Dear Abby



doesn’t. I don’t ask unless I have seen it or have found some somewhere.

We live in a state where recreational use is legal, so it’s not the smoking that really bothers me — it’s the lying. I don’t partake, so I guess I don’t understand, but how can I get him to see that I need him to be honest with me? I can’t accept being lied to, especially over something so stupid.

— MIFFED IN MICHIGAN

**DEAR MIFFED: Your husband may lie because he knows how you feel about his**

**smoking, and he wants to avoid conflict. Since you have caught him in the act, his unwillingness to fess up shows a lack of character and, I’m sorry to say, a tendency to gaslight you, and I don’t blame you for being upset.**

**There are few ways more effective in eroding trust than to do what you say he has been doing. That is why it is important the two of you have an HONEST discussion about his pot smoking — either at home or in the office of a licensed family therapist.**

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DEAR ABBY: My husband and I recently moved to a new city. I have made friends here, and we have great neighbors. I have become close with several of the women, but my husband has not

made any buddies. When I try to create opportunities for him to get closer to the guys, he reacts by saying, “How dare you!” or “What makes you think I need help?”

When I want some girl time with my friends, he gets mad and accuses me of not wanting him around and excluding him from my life. I can’t seem to make him understand that women need girl time for our own mental health, and it is not about him. Help, please! — SAD AND TRAPPED

**DEAR SAD: Most women need women friends, so please don’t isolate yourself in an attempt to placate your husband. If he thinks that by hanging around with you and your women friends he is filling what’s missing in his social life, he needs a wake-up call. Whether you want him**

**around during those visits or not, the feelings of the other women should be considered.**

**Did your husband have male friends in your former town? I suspect not, which may be why he continues to be so dependent on you now. Unless he is willing to make the effort, you can’t fix his social problems. Encouraging him to develop hobbies and interests of his own may help, and volunteering in your new community might introduce him to other men he can bond with. Please suggest it.**

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*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.*

# Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email [news@thecr.com](mailto:news@thecr.com).

**Today**

**COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP** — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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

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

come.

**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.

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

**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.

**JAY COUNTY REPUBLICANS** — Will meet at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 22, at John Jay Center for Learning. Precinct committeemen and vice committeemen, candidates, elected officials and supporters are encouraged to attend.

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

**EUCHRE CLUB** — Will meet at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at Chalet Village Health and Rehabilitation in the North Lounge.

**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.

**PORTLAND EAGLES** — Will meet at 6 p.m., on the

second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Eagles’ lodge, 320 N. Meridian 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.

**Thursday**

**SMART RECOVERY** — A group for those struggling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feelings and behavior; and living a balanced life meets at 11 a.m. each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

**LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES** — Free and confidential consultations with a lawyer are available from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay

County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics including divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant-landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating

should sign up in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

**DEMANTIA SUPPORT GROUP** — Meets at 5:30 p.m. at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Centre, 200 N. Park St., Portland.

# Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

### Saturday’s Solution

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

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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# Congress gives up on immigration

New York Daily News  
Tribune News Service

Early this month, the White House unveiled new rules to more quickly reach asylum denials for people considered national security and public safety threats, something of a prelude for more expansive expected restrictions.

Ultimately, this policy will have limited impact, and it's sure not to satisfy anyone, neither the hawks calling on President Joe Biden to more fully adopt his predecessor's extreme stance, nor the advocates who have been disappointed by the president's refusal to fully step back from the Trump-era dynamics. Whatever the outcome, it should not be a system run through the whims of the current executive. Congress, having tried and failed to pass a

## Guest Editorial

limited border bill earlier this year, seems content to abdicate this responsibility, only to be pulled out as an electoral cudgel, never to be fixed.

Meanwhile we're squandering time and talent, as businesses clamor for labor and innovation and migrants find their way to costly city shelters as opposed to being integrated into the economy and reversing population declines in towns and cities across the country. The can gets kicked down further, and everyone loses.

The most damaging thing is the persistent myth that this has to be all or nothing. Either we have some sort of immoral and illegal absolute border closure, abandoning our principles and obligations to the people so aptly described by the Statue of Liberty, or we have no process, no restrictions, no standards. This belief is both wrong and incredibly persistent, poisoning the dialogue and standing in the way of meaningful reform, which all parties claim to want.

We do not have to remake the wheel. The bipartisan border deal that collapsed in Congress in February had had a lot not to like, including the reinstatement of a version of the always misguided Title 42 restriction. However, there were worthwhile elements that should be

resuscitated, notably an effort to take many new asylum claims out of the slow and confrontational setting of the immigration courts and place them in an internal agency process, where trained government personnel would evaluate the applications like they already do for countless other immigration matters.

Applicants would either quickly get approvals or quickly get denials, which could then be appealed to another panel of experts. Faster resolutions help everyone: those who qualify for protections can receive them expeditiously, giving them runway to begin their new lives in the United States without the unstable limbo of drawn-out removal proceedings. Those who do not aren't left to start building lives here only to, in a

year or two, have the rug pulled out from under them.

There are real questions to be hammered out around how to speed things up without infringing on due process, and there are structural obstacles like a widespread shortage of attorneys who can take on these often complicated cases. These considerations must be taken into account in order for us to avoid the worst-case scenario of sending people back to danger.

But these are not insurmountable obstacles, certainly not for a nation with the resources, breadth and ingenuity of the United States — the very qualities that many immigrants are both seeking and have contributed to. In all but giving up, Congress shows they have less grit than the immigrants they're failing.

## Don't let Congress widen digital divide

By CLAUDE CUMMINGS JR.  
OtherWords

Nearly a third of Americans who don't have broadband say the reason is because it costs too much — and unfortunately, Congress is prepared to let that figure rise dramatically.

Lawmakers have yet to renew funding for the federal government's Affordable Connectivity Program, or ACP, which is being rolled back as of today and will fully come to an end in coming weeks unless Congress takes action. Through the ACP, more than 23 million households have received either reduced bills or effectively free internet service.

The shutdown of the ACP will hurt communities of color the most, with over 30 percent of Black families lacking home internet, and rural communities as well.

Affordable internet access isn't just about surfing the web or scrolling social media. High-speed broadband is a gateway to education, job opportunities, health care, and so much more. By taking this important program away from low-income families, Congress is not only driving up costs for an already vulnerable population, but potentially taking away their educational, employment, and economic opportunities as well.

If Congress is serious about both closing the digital divide and achieving racial equity, it will have to act now to keep the ACP up and running.

Launched in 2021 as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the ACP has been a resounding success, not only for helping families across the country afford reliable connectivity, but in incentivizing internet service providers to build it.

Too often, low-income and rural communities are overlooked by providers when they determine where to upgrade and expand high-speed service because they are viewed as a customer base who cannot afford it. Thanks to the ACP, these communities have become empowered customers — and internet service providers are now building strong, long-lasting connections to previously unserved and underserved areas.

My union, the Communications Workers of America, represents tens of thousands of broadband work-

Claude Cummings Jr.



ers who are building and maintaining this nationwide network. They're speaking with families and community members every day, hearing stories about unaffordable internet services and bad connectivity. And they've seen the direct benefits of the ACP in our cities, suburbs, and rural areas.

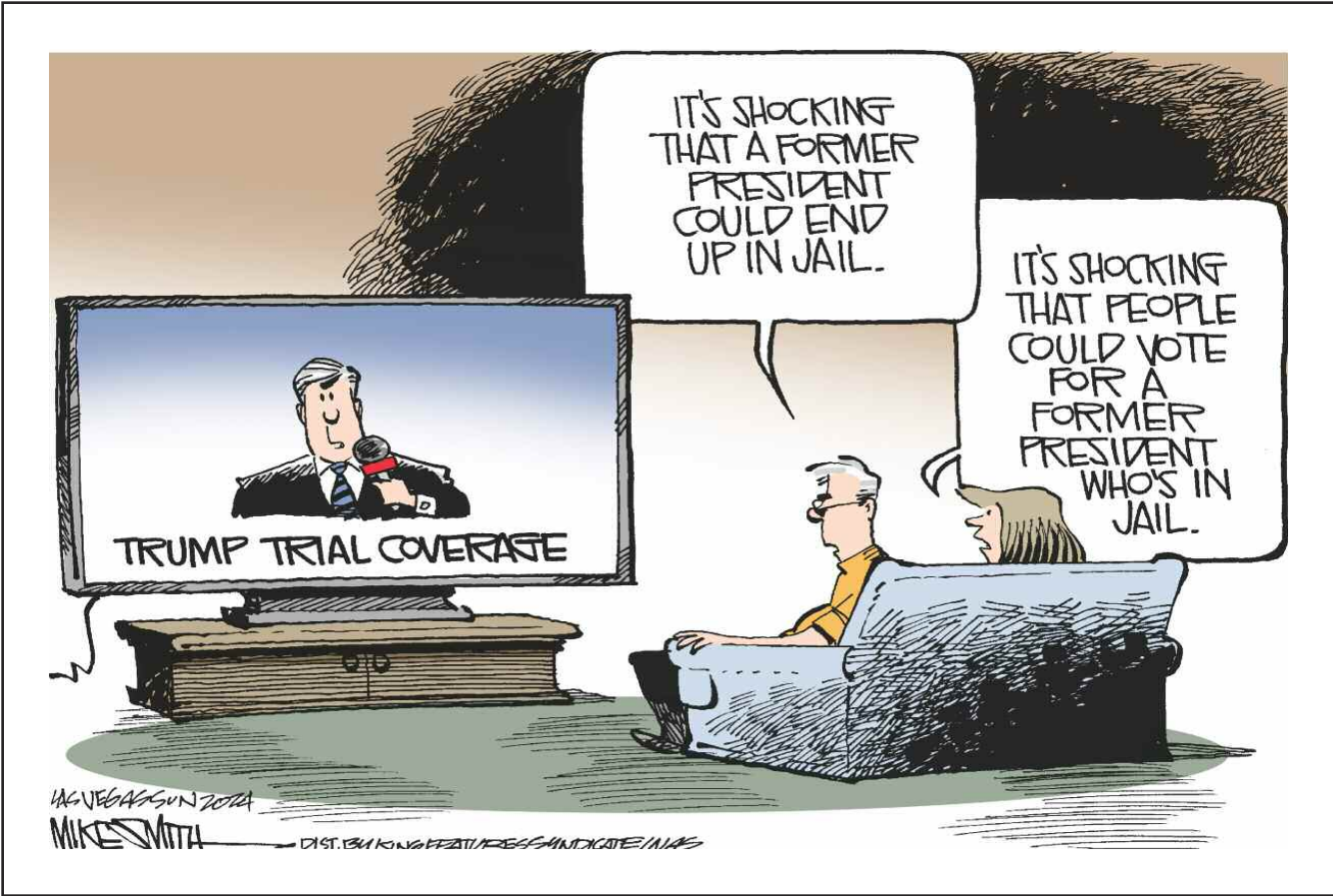
Like when the federal government built electricity to everyone, ACP is an investment in critical services and jobs that's brought millions of Americans who were previously being left behind into the 21st Century. It's a critical part of supporting Black, brown, and rural families and addressing economic inequality.

Losing the ACP wouldn't only cut off these families — it would undercut the financial viability of networks being planned under the Infrastructure Act's broadband deployment funding, causing providers to build less and leave more people behind. Affordable connectivity is truly one of the most important and most overlooked racial and economic justice issues of our time.

Discontinuing the ACP is an attack on the ability of communities of color and rural communities to access health care, online education, and better job opportunities, and would be a huge step backwards for our country. Hundreds of thousands of Americans could lose access to the life-saving services they need, from telehealth to remote work and online education.

Despite the success of the ACP, its bipartisan appeal, and the widespread need for affordable connectivity, Congress has not been able to move forward on funding for the program. We need our lawmakers to treat the internet as the essential resource that it is, and use our public dollars to help bridge the racial and economic gaps that may keep people offline.

Cummings is president of the Communications Workers of America union. OtherWords is a free editorial service published by the Institute for Policy Studies.



## Put women in the rooms

By BROOKE D. ANDERSON  
The Fulcrum  
Tribune News Service

Before I became the president of Pivotal Ventures, I spent most of my career in national security. In my roles at the United Nations, the White House and the State Department, I had the chance to work on big, audacious challenges with teams I deeply respected and admired. But as much as I valued my colleagues, I was also conscious of who was missing from the rooms where decisions were made. It was not unusual over my long career to find myself the only woman in the room — or one of only a few.

Unfortunately, women's underrepresentation in those rooms probably made us less effective. Research makes clear that peace agreements are longer-lasting and more durable when women help make them.

We are missing opportunities across many other aspects of American life, too. Women hold less than one-third of the jobs in the technical workforce, about one-third of elected offices, and approximately one-sixth of check-writing positions in venture capital — and in every case, women of color are even more underrepresented than white women.

In other words, the power centers that will do the most to determine the future are mired in the past. If women were proportionately represented in these areas, our technology would be more innovative, our politics would engage a whole new range of issues, and our companies would serve the needs of many more customers.

That's why, at Pivotal, we see expanding women's power and influence not as a single issue but rather as a prerequisite to progress on more or less every issue. We believe dismantling barriers to equality for women of all backgrounds will spark widespread social progress. And if equal representation benefits everyone, then it means that there are a lot

Brooke D. Anderson



of potential allies for our work, including people who don't currently think of themselves as advocates for women.

Last summer, at the Summit on Resilient and Enduring Democracy, our team joined other donors who care deeply about protecting our political system in these polarizing times. Ultimately, we can't have a thriving, healthy, active democracy if we don't have equal representation. And, if we don't have a democracy that is fair, transparent, and welcoming, it's going to be harder and harder for women to participate fully. Women need the democracy movement, and the democracy movement needs women. We're now convening regularly with the Democracy Funders Network to support a broad-based movement built on shared priorities such as combating dis- and misinformation and protecting the safety of candidates, election workers and officeholders.

Similarly, partners in our caregiving portfolio are helping to roll out the historic provision in the 2023 federal CHIPS and Science Act that requires employers who receive funding under the act to provide child care to their workers. Plenty of people who don't think of themselves as champions for women's rights endorse child care for other reasons — for instance, because they want to promote economic growth. Indeed, equality and economic growth go hand in hand, and when advocates for both priorities work together to implement an important policy, that's success.

Finally, we recently celebrated the

fifth anniversary of Reboot Representation, a coalition of tech companies created in 2018 to double the number of Black, Latina, and Native American women receiving computing degrees by 2025. These companies are in the business of developing and selling technologies, not promoting social justice, but they know that more-diverse engineering talent is better for their long-term prospects. Reboot includes Google and Microsoft, Dell and HP — a lot of companies that compete against each other — so our value-add, besides modest operational funding, was to provide a neutral venue to help them come together. Now they're sharing data, discovering best practices, and investing millions of dollars in programming. Reboot's goal is on track, and the tech industry is a few steps closer to reflecting the people who use its products and services.

I'm not exactly breaking new ground by calling for holistic thinking and creative collaborations, but as social-change grant makers and nonprofits, we're working against perverse incentives, resource scarcity, zero-sum thinking, and other traps that make it hard to build partnerships. These examples help me imagine what's possible if more of us resolved to share ideas, forge stronger links, and merge agendas.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was onto something when she said, "Women belong in all the places where decisions are being made." They belong there, and we need them there. Whether it's national security, technology, politics, finance ... you name it, decisions made in rooms that matter are smarter and better when women help make them.

Anderson is president of Pivotal Ventures, an investment and incubation company founded by Melinda French Gates to advance social progress. She has served as a U.S. ambassador at the United Nations.

# The Commercial Review



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—Thomas Jefferson

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Photo provided

FCC  
awarded

FCC (Indiana) was the winner of the United Way of Jay County's Lee G. Hall Beneficence Award. The industry held an employee campaign that helped United Way of Jay County surpass its annual campaign goal for 2023-24. Pictured, from left, are Stacie Paxson and Hiroyuki Saruta of FCC, Jane Ann Runyon of United Way of Jay County, and Jeff Bailey and Brad Stultz of FCC.

Hosbach nominated for state honor

A local doctor has been nominated for a state award.

Dr. Edward Hosbach II of Mercer Health Medical Group in Fort Recovery and St. Henry is a nominee for the Ohio Hospital Association's Albert E. Dyckes Health Care Worker of the Year Award.

"Dr. Hosbach is recognized by peers for his commitment to the profession, by his community for his dedicated service and by his patients as a genuine, compassionate caregiver," reads his nomination letter. "In addition to his practices in Ft. Recovery and St. Henry, Dr. Hosbach has served as Chief Medical Officer for EverHeart Hospice for the past 33 years, team doctor for Fort Recovery and St. Henry high schools and a board member for the Mercer County Health District. He is an active member and past president of the Ohio ACOFP (American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians). In 2022, Dr. Hosbach was awarded the Ohio ACOFP Distinguished Service Award ... A patient of Dr. Hosbach summarizes by saying, 'He has a big, joyful heart.'"

Hosbach was inducted into the Fort Recovery Hall of Fame last year. His volunteer work includes time with the Fort Recovery Local Schools athletics department, Fort Recovery Chamber of Commerce, Fort Recovery Friends of the Arts and Fort Recovery Historical Society.

Cutting the ribbons

Jay County Chamber of Commerce will host ribbon-cutting ceremonies at 6:30 p.m. tonight at Jay County Historical Museum and noon Thursday at CrossRoads Financial Federal Credit Union.

In addition to the ribbon-cutting for upgrades at the museum, there will be a short presentation about changes that have been made at the facility. The museum

Business  
roundup

is located at 903 E. Main St., Portland.

The ceremony at CrossRoads will be to celebrate the installation of its new ATM. The credit union is located at 1102 W. Votaw St., Portland.

Firm donates

Cargill recently donated \$30,000 to the Grand Event Center project at Mercer County Fairgrounds.

The funding will go toward developing the new venue to serve for events and gatherings. For details, visit MCGrandEventCenter.com.

"We are thrilled to receive this generous donation from Cargill, which will play a vital role in advancing the Grand Event Center project," said Mercer County Fair manager Cara Muhlenkamp in a press release. "With Phase 1 completed, this contribution propels us towards Phase 2, as we continue to raise sponsorship dollars to realize our vision for this community space."

LIFT to meet

The Next LIFT Jay event is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, May 28, in the John Jay Cafe, 101 S. Meridian St. Portland.

Licensed mental health counselor Brooke Aker will be the guest speaker.

Registration is \$18 for chamber members and \$23 for non-members and includes a meal. To register, go to jaycountychamber.com or visit the chamber's Facebook page.

IYI hosting

Indiana Youth Institute will

host a Coffee and Connections event in Portland in June.

Outreach manager Dawn Huff of Indiana Youth Institute will be available from 10 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, June 11, in room 203 at John Jay Center for Learning. She will have information about resources Indiana Youth Institute has available for those who work with youth.

Attendees will also be provided free coffee from Bizzy Dips.

To register, visit bit.ly/FuelJay. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Programs ranked

The Broadcast Education Association recently ranked Ball State University among its top 10 for creative achievement in its rankings for excellence in media.

BSU's College of Communication, Information and Media placed seventh out of more than 90 institutions in the Broadcast Education Association 2024 Top Winning Overall Programs. It was second for Top Winning Sports Programs and eighth for Top Winning Documentary Programs.

"Our students continually impress me," said Suzy Smith, department chair and associate professor of the department of media. "The faculty of the Department of Media are very proud of the work our students do, and this recognition from the Broadcast Education Association shows that our students are among the best of the best."

Grants announced

Dollar General Literacy Foundation recently announced more than \$10.6 million in grants to support adult, family and summer literacy programs.

Each year, the foundation awards grants to schools, public libraries and nonprofit organizations within a 15-mile radius of a Dollar General store or distribution center to help implement or

expand existing literacy programs. Among the programs receiving grants in Indiana were Boys & Girls Clubs of Wayne County Indiana; Amigos, The Richmond Latino Center; White-water Adult Education of Connersville; and Marion community Schools.

"We believe individuals of all ages deserve access to a quality education, and the Dollar General Literacy Foundation is thrilled to support thousands of learners across the country as they enrich their lives with literacy and education," said Denine Torr, executive director of the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, in a press release. "We hope these funds provide resources needed to positively change students' lives ..."

Named director

The board of directors for Visit Muncie has selected LaShanta Vaughn as the organization's new executive director.

Vaughn joins Visit Muncie, formerly known as Muncie Visitors Bureau, after serving as director of sales at Horizon Convention Center in Muncie. She was previously Horizon's sales manager.

Brand launched

CVS last week announced the launch of its new Well Market brand.

The new brand features snacks, beverages and groceries, beginning with 40 items. The existing Gold Emblem and Big Chill product lines will also become part of the Well Market brand.

"Our goal at CVS Health is to be the most consumer-centric health care solutions company," said CVS chief merchandising officer Musab Balbale in a press release. Through this repositioning and expansion of our food and beverage portfolio, we are doing more by providing new nutritious options our customers

crave. From the easy-to-stand packaging to the delicious snacks themselves, our customers can feel great about consuming Well Market products as part of their individual wellness goals."

Drive ends Friday

A bank with local branches will hold a drive in an effort to help improve financial literacy.

First Financial Bank's book drive is scheduled through May 24 at various area locations.

The bank will accept donations of books at its locations at:

- 112 N. Meridian St., Portland
- 211 W. Pearl St., Union City
- 101 W. Washington St., Hartford City

Following the drive, books will be delivered to area schools, libraries and non-profit organizations in the community.

"This will be a fun drive for everyone involved, and we're looking forward to filling every one of these book bins," said First Financial chief corporate responsibility officer Roddell McCullough in a press release. "Reading and financial literacy often go hand in hand, so this is an opportunity to team up with the community to help our neighbors improve their financial well-being."

A list of recommended books on finance will be available in each financial center. First Financial also offers tools and resources at bankatfirst.com.

Adding item

McDonald's has added the Grandma McFlurry to its menu.

The new item features vanilla ice cream with a blend of syrup and crunchy candy pieces. It will be available for a limited time.

.....  
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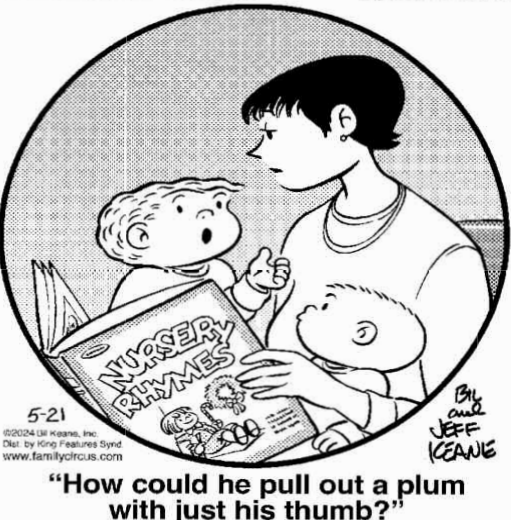
SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Peanuts



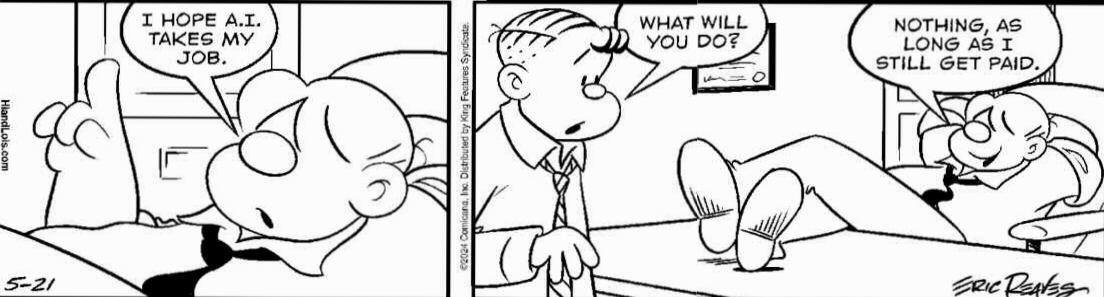
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



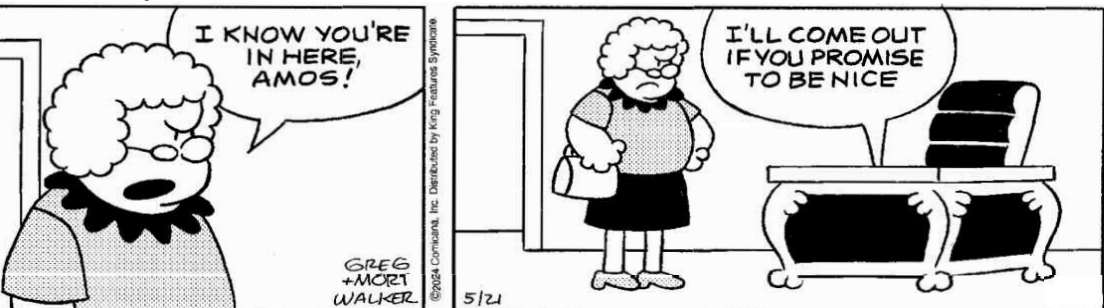
Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Two overtricks are better than one

West dealer.  
Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ Q 9 3  
♥ J 5  
♦ K 9 6  
♣ A K 8 5 4

**WEST**  
♠ 10 8 7 5  
♥ Q 2  
♦ 7 5 4  
♣ Q J 10 6

**EAST**  
♠ K 6 2  
♥ 8 6  
♦ A Q J 10 3 2  
♣ 9 7

**SOUTH**  
♠ A J 4  
♥ A K 10 9 7 4 3  
♦ 8  
♣ 3 2

The bidding:  
West North East South  
Pass 1♣ 1♦ 1♥  
Pass 1NT Pass 4♥

Opening lead — four of diamonds.  
In duplicate bridge, making the maximum number of tricks can be as important as making the contract itself, sometimes even more so. Standard procedure is that a player should never relax after he has assured the contract unless he thinks no one else will bid the game or slam his side has reached.

Take this case from a pairs tournament where North-South reached four hearts as shown. East won the opening diamond lead with the ten and correctly concluded that, given the bidding, declarer was much more likely to hold a singleton dia-

mond than West was.

East therefore shifted to a trump, and South made the normal play of taking the ace and cashing the king, catching West's queen. This might have satisfied many declarers, who would sooner or later have crossed to dummy, led a spade to the jack and wound up making five, losing a spade to East's king at the end.

But at one table, South was unwilling to settle for 11 tricks, which were a certainty even if the spade finesse lost. He saw a way to try for a second overtrick, and he went for it.

Given East's overall, South felt that East was more likely to hold the king of spades than West. So at trick four, he crossed to the king of clubs and led the queen of spades. East had to cover, and South took the king with the ace. He then ran the rest of his hearts.

When the last heart was cashed, West, who was down to the Q-J of clubs and 10-8 of spades, could not find an effective discard in front of dummy's 9-3 of spades and A-8 of clubs. He tried discarding a spade in the forlorn hope that his partner had the jack, but it did him no good. South discarded the club eight from dummy, cashed the jack of spades, felling West's ten, and scored the last two tricks with the nine of spades and ace of clubs to earn a top score.

Tomorrow: Pinpoint bidding.  
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5-21

CRYPTOQUIP

T U K P Y J N B J U K B S I K Y S  
Q R Y S S , U T F S , I S F S L K L G  
S M S F S L A S K Y I J M G , T P N S I I

Q R S A K Y S B Y T C S - C K Q S I .  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: APT DESIGNATION FOR PEOPLE WHO PERFORM NUMBERS ABOUT SHAWLS, STOLE AND SARONGS: WRAP SINGERS.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals V

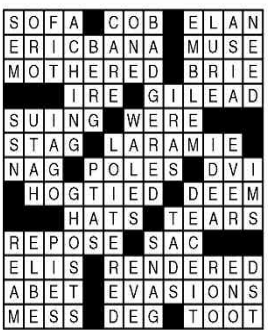
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Gym pads  
5 Balkan native  
9 "Evita" narrator  
12 Bloke  
13 California city  
14 Possessed  
15 Shirt tag with washing instructions  
17 Chang's brother  
18 Robbers' foes  
19 Feudal superior  
21 Supports  
24 Lip  
25 Hosp. areas  
26 Sleeveless vests  
30 Diner order  
31 "Let's Dance" singer  
32 Author Tolstoy  
33 Greyhound's home?

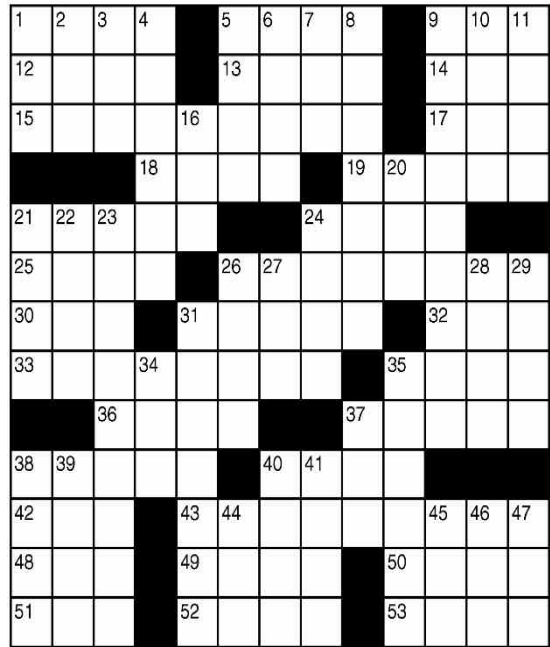
**DOWN**  
35 Frog's relative  
36 Cask sediment  
37 Molten rock  
38 One a-courting  
40 Unctuous  
42 I love (Lat.)  
43 Snake-like group  
48 Scale members  
49 Not pizzicato  
50 Valhalla VIP  
51 Away from SSW  
52 — do- well  
53 Byway

**20 Archipelago unit (Abbr.)**  
**21 Lettuce variety**  
**22 Rights org.**  
**23 Paints the town red**  
**24 Peevish fit**  
**26 Soaks (ups)**  
**27 — Jima**  
**28 Squad**  
**29 Pop**  
**31 Frat party castoff**  
**34 Ruby or Sandra "Karma" Swift**  
**37 Org. with a style manual**  
**38 Tip off**  
**39 Portent**  
**40 Formerly "Firebird"**  
**41 com-poser Stravinsky**  
**44 Mine yield**  
**45 Altar promise**  
**46 Actress Long**  
**47 Finale**

Solution time: 22 mins.



Yesterday's answer 5-21



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3 insertions.....96¢/word  
6 insertions.... \$1.14/word  
12 insertions. \$1.52/word  
26 insertions. \$1.77/word  
Includes  
Online.....FREE  
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# Bronny ...

Continued from page 8

Both also were regarded as point guards, and most people in Chicago don't see Bronny as that kind of offensive player.

Athletically, Bronny helped himself early in the combine, his 40.5-inch vertical tied for sixth best. And Monday, with scouts getting a look at him on the court, some for the first time, he burned the nets to give him some buzz going into Tuesday.

But in his first scrimmage, he fell flat. Bronny faded into the game, flashing some fire only when he allowed offensive rebounds or turned the ball over. Most disappointingly to some scouts, he didn't look as if he played with a lot of effort.

"He's too timid," one scout familiar with Bronny for years said before the combine.

After Tuesday, that scout looked to be a prophet.

Still, the expectation in Chicago was that Bronny would eventually declare for the draft and forgo his remaining college eligibility.

Playing in one final team setting Wednesday, he showed why. Bronny attacked closeouts, he played decisively and competed on the defensive end.

It was best-case scenario for teams looking to see what he could do in more of a pro setting.

But it didn't answer the biggest questions.

Those are too difficult to understand.

"That time." "This issue." "Everything you went through." "A thing that happened."

No one — reporters or Bronny — could bring themselves to say "cardiac arrest" either.

While the focus during Bronny's first media session in nearly a year centered on his basketball future with his father, an undercurrent of gratitude, perspective and fright flowed from one answer to another.

"I still think about everything that could happen," Bronny said.

And that has to be terrifying.

Last July, Bronny fell to the court inside USC's

Galen Center and no one could be sure he'd ever get up.

He'd lost consciousness. His heart stopped. Trainers used a defibrillator to electrify his heart back into movement.

He bounced back faster than anyone could've thought. Teammates remembered him sitting up and joking 15 minutes after he collapsed lifelessly to the court.

By the time he arrived at the hospital, Bronny was "neurologically intact and stable," according to his cardiologist.

He would later undergo surgery to correct a congenital heart defect.

At the start of the combine, NBA doctors cleared him to compete. But Bronny still hasn't gotten clear from the fear.

"It's still lingering," he said.

How that incident, this issue, that thing that happened, affected what happened last season at USC and affects what happens next can't be ignored.

What happened that day in July, you don't shake it.

It changes you. And in Bronny James' case, it made him appreciative.

"It's just, it's just a great thing to happen to me in terms of just being grateful for everything and stuff like that," he said.

"... I put in the work and stuff like that to get back. So I feel like I've earned the opportunity."

The way this will all go at the NBA draft and how it should go are probably two different things.

Bronny's arrival in the NBA was to be the final chapter in LeBron's career. He said that in 2018, and two years later, called the idea of teaming up with his son "a dream."

Yet as that dream increasingly began to look like a reality, there was a shift. Privately, people around James began to walk back those desires, trying to unbundle his future from his son's. Publicly, he did the same.

And this week in Chicago, Bronny clearly articulated that his goal was to make the NBA — not to make the NBA as his father's teammate.

But is anyone hearing them?

Contending teams have discussed drafting Bronny as early as the 20s despite not having cap space to make LeBron a max offer. Maybe, the thinking is, James would actually consider signing for the midlevel exception if they drafted his son.

"Honestly, I feel like this is a serious business. And I don't feel like there would be a thought of, 'I'm just drafting this kid just because I'm gonna get his dad,'" Bronny said. "Like, I don't think a GM would really allow that."

Maybe not, but it's being discussed.

The prevailing wisdom around the NBA is that LeBron will eventually decide to remain with the Lakers in free agency this summer regardless of who drafts Bronny.

The Lakers, who have the No. 55 overall pick in the draft, conducted a prospect interview with Bronny and are seen by league sources as Bronny's floor.

If teams decide to draft

Bronny solely on his skills and projections, they'll undoubtedly be accused of trying to lure LeBron ahead of his 22nd season.

It's a guarantee — one of the only ones to be found in the pre-draft process.

In his first audition for life as a professional basketball player, Bronny said he wanted to be siloed from the success of his father. He wanted his future to be about his game and not his name.

But like the children of the ultra-successful and ultra-famous know, that's never really part of the deal.

Maybe Bronny will get his chance to show that he can help a NBA team win, that he can be the kind of defensive role player who can shoot that teams crave.

Or maybe he'll be a pawn in a scheme — a calculated risk in a poorly regarded draft.

It'll be a hard road, and he has gotten up from tougher.

But Bronny James said he's ready.

And for now, all anyone can do is listen to him.

# Roundup ...

Continued from page 8

Cade Meade got the Rockets on the board with a bases-loaded walk in the first inning of the win. Joel Kennedy later blasted a solo home run to reach the final score.

**Tournament win**

FORT WAYNE — Katie Rowles, a sophomore at Jay County, won the under-16 USA Wrestling Central Regional Championship on

Saturday at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum.

Katie took down Ann Porter of California, the tenth-ranked 94-pound wrestler in the nation according to themat.com, in the championship match.

This tournament is a precursor to the USA Wrestling National Championships held in Fargo, North Dakota in July. Taking the top spot will help Rowles with seeding in for the ultimate tournament in two months.

# Sports on tap

## Local schedule

**Today**

Jay County — Boys golf tri-meet – 4:30 p.m.; Girls tennis regional at Noblesville – 5:30 p.m.; Girls track regional at Pike – 6 p.m.; Softball sectional opener at Delta – 7 p.m.

**Wednesday**

Fort Recovery — Track regional meet

at Troy – 7:30 p.m.; Baseball district opener vs. Parkway at Coldwater – 7:30 p.m.

## TV sports

**Today**

6:40 p.m. — MLB: San Diego Padres at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)

7:40 p.m. — MLB: Atlanta Braves at

Chicago Cubs (TBS)

8 p.m. — NBA playoffs: Indiana Pacers at Boston Celtics (ESPN)

**Wednesday**

1:15 p.m. — MLB: Baltimore Orioles at St. Louis Cardinals (Bally Indiana)

6:40 p.m. — MLB: San Diego Padres at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)

8 p.m. — NHL playoffs: Florida Pan-

thers at New York Rangers (ESPN)

8:30 p.m. — NBA playoffs: Dallas Mavericks at Minnesota Timberwolves (TNT)

## Local notes

**Outing scheduled**

The annual City of Portland Mayor's Golf Outing has been scheduled for Fri-

day, June 14, at Portland Golf Club.

Registration for the event will be held from 11 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. on the day of the outing. A meal will also be provided for the four-person teams at this time. Registration is limited to the first 20 teams and must be completed by June 10 and submitted to 321 N. Meridian St., emailing mayorsoffice@thecityofportland.net or

calling (260) 726-9395.

Golfing will begin with a shotgun start at noon. Those interested can also sponsor the event. It cost \$150 to sponsor a hole, \$200 to sponsor a team and a meal or \$300 for to sponsor a team, a meal and hole sponsorship.

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

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## 90 SALE CALENDAR

mower; Case 210 mower; Jacobsen mower; Wheelhorse mower; Craftsman 30" riding lawn mower; other lawn mower frames & parts; several small gas engines; Rock Island engine; (2) McCormick Deering 1 1/2 hp engines; Fairbanks Morse 3 hp engine; McCormick Deering 3 hp engine; Wisconsin engines; Craftsman grinders; Toro snow thrower; Craftsman Table saw; Black & Decker electric mower; Craftsman table saw; roto tiller; hammer mill; Craftsman scroll saw; galvanized bucket; hand tools; curio cabinet; Nascar memorabilia; early 1900's Jay County plat book; Carnival Glass; cookware; yard decorations; Griswold tea kettle; and many other items not listed.

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**DESCRIPTION OF WORK:** Work for which proposals are to be received is for aircraft apron expansion at the Portland Municipal Airport including excavation, stone base, concrete pavement, pavement markings, grading, seeding, and necessary incidentals to complete the work as detailed on the Contract Drawings and specified in the Contract Documents titled Terminal Apron Expansion. The contractor shall provide all labor, equipment, and material necessary to complete the work. All work is located at the Portland Municipal Airport.

**BID DOCUMENTS:** Copies of the Specifications and Contract Documents may be obtained at the office of Butler, Fairman, and Seufert, Inc., 8450 Westfield Blvd., Suite 300, Indianapolis, IN 46240, call 317-713-4615 or email LHalloran@BFSEngr.com. Copies of the documents are available for examining at the airport, BXIndiana Construction League, 1028 Shelby Street, Indianapolis, Indiana; and the on-line planrooms of Dodge Data and Analytics, ISQFT/ConstructConnect™, BidTool and at the office of Butler, Fairman, and Seufert, Inc., 8450 Westfield Blvd., Suite 300, Indianapolis, IN 46240.

Copies of the bid documents will be made available through one of the following methods:

- as digital files made available to the planholder for download at no cost
- as hard copies picked up at the office of the Engineer upon remittance of \$125

This remittance is not refundable. Payment shall be by money order or check and shall be made payable to Butler, Fairman, and Seufert, Inc. Bidders are required to be a plan holder of record having obtained the contract documents through the office of the Engineer. Bids not meeting this requirement will be deemed non-responsive.

Bids shall be properly executed and addressed to the address shown above where bids are to be received together with the documents required by the bid forms, specifications, and related legal documents contained in the Contract Documents.

No Bidder may withdraw his proposal within a period of one hundred and twenty (120) days following the date set for the receiving of bids. The Owner reserves the right to retain any and all bids for a period of not more than one hundred and twenty (120) days and said bid shall remain in full force and effect during said time. The Owner further reserves the right to waive informalities and to award the Contract to any Bidder all to the advantage of the Owner or to reject all bids.

**BID SECURITY:** A bid bond with good and sufficient surety issued by a company licensed to do business in the State of Indiana or a certified check on a solvent bank equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid insuring that if the bid is accepted, a contract will be entered into and the performance of its proposal secured.

**BONDS:** A Performance Bond and Payment Bond each in the amount of 100 percent of the Contract price will be required.

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2. The Bidder must supply all the information required by the bid or proposal form.

**INDIANA REQUIREMENTS:** Each bid shall be accompanied by bidder's financial statement, a statement of experience, a proposed plan or plans for performing the public work, and the equipment that bidder has available for the performance of the public work. Such statements shall be submitted on forms prescribed by the State Board of Accounts, including Bid Forms 96, together with the required non-collusion affidavit.

Wage rates on the project shall not be less than the prescribed scale of wages as determined in accordance with the most recent Wage Rate Decision of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor; all acts amendatory thereof and supplemental thereto.

A pre-bid conference will be held in the terminal at the Portland Municipal Airport on June 10, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and to waive any formalities in the bidding procedure.

PORTLAND BOARD OF AVIATION COMMISSIONERS, PORTLAND, IN  
CR 5-21,29-2024-HSPAXLP

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# Haliburton taunts Knicks fans after game 7

By PETER SBLENDORIO  
New York Daily News  
Tribune News Service

Moments after the Knicks’ season-ending Game 7 loss to the Pacers, Reggie Miller’s presence loomed once again. Pacers star Tyrese Haliburton had just scored a team-high 26 points in Indiana’s 130-109 victory at Madison Square Garden when he arrived at his postgame press conference in a Miller-

themed hooded sweat-shirt. The hoodie featured a photo of Miller taunting Knicks superfan Spike Lee with his infamous “choke” gesture during Game 5 of the 1994 Eastern Conference Finals. “We text every day,” Haliburton said of Miller. “He’s been a good mentor for me. I’m just wearing the hoodie. I like to be comfy on the plane.” Miller’s Pacers faced

the Knicks in six playoff series between 1993 and 2000, with the two teams winning three apiece. The sharp-shooting, trash-talking Miller averaged 23.1 points per game over his 35 postseason meetings with the Knicks. “I got this hoodie like two days ago,” Haliburton said. “Appreciate whoever gave it to me.” Haliburton, who also showed up at the Indi-

anapolis airport before Game 5 in a Miller shirt, averaged 21.3 points and 7.0 assists per game during the second-round playoff series against the Knicks. He scored 14 of his 26 points Sunday in the first quarter, during which he made four of his five 3-point attempts. “Today, he knew that we needed some special shotmaking,” Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said

of Haliburton. “There were shades of Reggie Miller, running around in that first quarter.” Miller was back at The Garden earlier this month to call Game 2 of the series for TNT. “People are like, ‘Aren’t you worried about going back to New York City and calling a game?’ No,” Miller said that night during a pregame hit for the network. “I’ve owned this city. I’ve owned this

building, so why would I be worried?” On his way to the broadcast table, Miller sat courtside with Lee and signed multiple items, including a framed copy of the June 3, 1994, edition of the Daily News featuring the headline, “Thanks A Lot, Spike.” “Me and Reggie squashed that stuff 20 years ago,” Lee told the Daily News that night, “so we’re friends.”

# JCHS golf finishes third at ACAC meet

CELINA, Ohio — The Patriots haven’t seen most of the other Allen County Athletic Conference teams this season due to cancellations. In the conference tournament, only the Adams County schools did better.

The Jay County High School boys golf team finished with a score of 365 for third place at the ACAC Tournament on Saturday, held at Celina Lynx Golf Club. Adams Central just beat out South Adams for the top spot by two strokes. The Jets finished with a 355, while the Starfires scored 357. The Patriots beat Woodlan for third by just one stroke.

Over the course of 18 holes, Caleb DeRome shot an 81 to tie Heritage’s Jake Dalman, for the top score of the day.

Gage Sims secured the only other score under 90, with 89 strokes.

Cody DeHoff and Isaac Homan rounded out the team score with a 97 and 98, respectively.

Liam Garringer’s 100 strokes did not affect the team score.

## Local roundup

### Rockets open

The Portland Rockets finished 1-2 over opening weekend against the South Bend Royals.

The Rockets dropped the season opener on Saturday and the first game of Sunday’s double-header 5-4. They finally broke through in the second game on Sunday with a 2-0 victory.

The opener went into extra innings, and the Royals took a 5-3 lead in the top of the 11th. The runs scored on a single and a fielder’s choice against Sam Dunlavy. The Rockets got one back on a sacrifice fly, but couldn’t tie the game up.

A three-run fourth inning decided the first game on Sunday. Garrison Brege gave up five singles to allow the runs to score.

See Roundup page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Portland Rockets’ second baseman Cameron Pratt charges a ground ball in the season opener on Saturday. The Rockets finished 1-2 over the weekend against the South Bend Royals.

# Bronny James wants to pave his own path

By DAN WOIKE  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

The wall of cameras and reporters focused on Bronny James against the blue back drop, the diamond stud in his right ear reflecting the lights as he answered different versions of the same question at the NBA scouting combine.

“To be honest,” he said with a soft smile, “It’s a lot.”

No one flat-out asked — it would’ve been too rude, too direct — “Bronny, aren’t you just here because of your dad?”

It’s the question that has followed him wherever he has gone.

Did he really deserve those minutes at Sierra Canyon? Was he really a five-star recruit? Did he earn that spot on the McDonald’s All-American team?

Why in the hell is he entering the NBA draft after averaging 4.8 points as a freshman at USC?

And earlier this week at the NBA combine, every time a question encroached on that topic, James answered confidently.

LeBron James and LeBron James Jr. share a name. They don’t necessarily share a basketball future.

“My dream has always just been to put my name out, make a name for myself, and of course, you know, get to the NBA,” Bronny said. “... I never thought about just playing with my dad, but of course he’s, he’s brought it up a couple times.

“But yeah, I don’t think about it.”

At the combine, he might be the only one.

In Chicago, Bronny James made it clear he wanted to be judged on his own, independent of

any other factor. He wanted to be his own man.

“You know, everything that follows my dad, people just try to link me with that, and the greatness that he’s achieved,” Bronny answered. “Like I haven’t done anything yet.”

Yet according to NBA executives and scouts from around the league, that’s impossible.

Despite Bronny’s statements, despite word from LeBron James’ agent Rich Paul and even James himself, the father and son remain inevitably linked, Bronny’s draft stock and LeBron James’ free agency tied as tightly as ever.

Forget second-round evaluations, multiple NBA executives told The Times their teams have discussed drafting Bronny James in the first round in an effort to lure his father to their team in free agency.

“If you’re a contender and you’re not having those conversations, it’s irresponsible,” said one executive, who like other NBA personnel spoke on condition of anonymity because teams don’t share their draft strategy.

It doesn’t matter if anyone believes a plan like that will work. It shows what he’s facing.

Bronny James can want to make his own name; the NBA letting him is a completely different thing.

Off the court, he’s unavoidable. On the court, he blends with the background.

“What’s going on with Bronny,” the general managers, scouts and personnel types want to know.

Bronny entered the NBA draft combine last week somehow both wildly famous while still being a basketball mystery. He left it as a more serious draft prospect, but that’s

mostly relative.

The scouting of him began well before his season at USC, his play at events such as the Nike Hoop Summit leaving him as one of the most desired prospects in the 2023 recruiting class.

Before this week, teams had James ranked in the late second round if he was draftable at all.

“He’s not ready,” one evaluator told The Times.

There were still believers.

His proponents in the NBA scouting community would point to a variety of factors to explain the gap in his production at USC with his potential future as a pro in the NBA.

Those scouts like Bronny’s defensive willingness, his toughness on that side of the ball. They point to his athleticism and physicality as the tools that can make a difference in point-of-attack defense.

While he didn’t make spot-up shots at USC, the sense was that he’d shoot the ball fine with time because of his work ethic and mechanics.

The first alarm at the combine went off when Bronny measured at just 6 feet 1 ½ inches in socks — “they don’t play in socks,” scouts like to say.

“If he was 6 foot 5, we’d be talking about him in the first round,” one NBA executive told The Times.

But he’s not, those inches making the road to success even harder to navigate. It’s not an impossibility — players such as Philadelphia’s Tyrese Maxey and New York’s Jalen Brunson measured similarly during their pre-draft processes. However both players were far more productive in college, helping mitigate some of those size concerns.

See Bronny page 7

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**Hot Dogs**

**\$3.69/lb**

**\*while supplies last, no rain checks, sale prices reflected at the register**

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*Freezer bundles are also available. They offer the perfect mix of our most popular cuts of meat in quantities small enough to not crowd your freezer or cramp your budget.*

*Save time and energy with call ahead ordering and have your order ready to go when you arrive.*

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