

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

It's a Vision

Coalition announces name for new facility

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

The new recovery home planned for Jay County has a name.

Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition announced the name — The Vision on Votaw — of the prospective sober living facility in Portland on Wednesday. It also awarded \$250 to Shalee Myron of Pennville for submitting the idea.

The name incorporates the location's address at 422 W. Votaw St.

Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition received 245 submissions in May for its Name It to Claim It contest, which asked the community to suggest names for the new recovery home. The Vision on Votaw and four other names were selected as finalists and competed in a voting contest through June and July on social media, drawing more than 300 votes from the community.

Myron said she believed The Vision on Votaw exemplifies a good message.

"I think you can kind of still take what you have in the past but know you want to keep your eyes on the future and what your future's going to look like," said Myron. "So, kind of that 'vision' and what you envision your next step to be."

Other potential names on the list were A New Leaf - Recovery House for Men from Kayla Phillips, Caladrius Cottage from Dean Fisher, The Return Home from Christy Nel and 422 Recovery House from Emily Kring.

IU Health Jay donated the Votaw Street property in May to Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition as the potential site for its new recovery home. Chief operating officer and chief nursing officer Christina Schemenaur voiced her excitement Wednesday for getting involved with the facility's creation.

See Vision page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Headed to Drums

Following band camp this week at Indiana Wesleyan University, the Jay County High School Marching Patriots will compete Saturday night in the Drums at Winchester. Pictured, Jase Walter plays the quads during last weekend's Spirit of Sound contest at Muncie Central. The Drums at Winchester, which will begin at 7 p.m. Saturday, is the final contest before the Indiana State Fair and will feature 23 bands. The Marching Patriots are scheduled to take the field at 9:53 p.m. Show times for other top bands based on results so far this summer include Centerville at 7:09 p.m., Richmond at 8:12 p.m., Anderson at 8:39 p.m. and Kokomo at 9:44 p.m. (Muncie Central, which finished first at both its home contest and the Jay County Lions Band Contest, will not be in competition Saturday.)

INDOT launches camera pilot

By LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will begin piloting camera speed limit enforcement in Hoosier highway construction zones next month, the agency announced Wednesday.

It'll target speeding of 11 miles per hour over the speed limit and greater.

In 2023, Indiana recorded more than

8,000 crashes in work zones — injuring 1,750 people and killing 33. About 270 people have died in work zone crashes over the last decade, per INDOT.

"The goal of the Safe Zones program is to slow drivers down, reduce crashes, and most importantly, save lives," INDOT Commissioner Mike Smith said in a news release.

"Speed continues to be a factor in work zone crashes and changing driver behavior is crucial to making work zones safer

for drivers and road workers," he continued. "For everyone's safety, I urge drivers to wear their seat belts, avoid distractions and follow the posted speed limit."

Lawmakers authorized the five-year pilot during the 2023 session.

The agency will kick its pilot off August 14, in Hancock County's Interstate 70 construction zone, but plans to add other sites to the program "over time," according to the release.

House Enrolled Act 1015 authorizes INDOT to use the camera systems in up to four sites per year.

The law requires the agency to post signs at worksite entrances notifying drivers that an automated speed control system is in use.

The camera system, which must be calibrated annually by an independent laboratory, will use speed timing devices to monitor vehicle speeds.

See Pilot page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Swiftie stations

Addalyn Wentz, 9, shows off the start of her friendship bracelet Tuesday during Jay County Public Library's A Night for the Swifties event. Stations were set up around the library themed after Taylor Swift, including the friendship bracelet station themed after Swift's 10th album, "Midnights."

Biden 'passes torch'

By JOSH WINGROVE

Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden framed his decision to drop out of the 2024 race as a bid to unify the nation under a new generation of leaders, in his first public address since he ended his reelection campaign against Republican Donald Trump.

"I have decided the best way forward is to pass the torch to a new generation. That is the best way to unite our nation," Biden, 81, said Wednesday in an Oval Office address.

Biden acknowledged the difficulty of his decision, saying he revered the office. But ultimately, the president said he believed he needed to unite his party and put aside "personal ambition."

Addressing Americans casting ballots in the fall, Biden said, "the great thing about America is

President frames decision as an effort to unify nation

here, kings and dictators do not rule. The people do. History is in your hands. The power is in your hands."

It was a tacit admission of how a calamitous debate performance had devastated confidence in the president's ability to serve four more years in the job, effectively ending a five-decades-long political career.

"There is a time and a place for long years of experience in public life," Biden said. "There's also a time and a place for new voices, fresh voices, yes — younger voices."

The stunning decision — along with Biden's

endorsement of Vice President Kamala Harris, who is poised to clinch the nomination — capped a frenzied month that saw the race reshaped by the debate, its fallout, the attempted assassination of Trump and brewing doubts among Democrats over whether they needed a new candidate.

Biden insisted he still hoped to accomplish significant goals during his remaining six months in office. Biden said he would call for Supreme Court reform, continue pushing for cancer research funding, and seek to combat climate change and gun violence.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 81 degrees Wednesday. The low was 64.

Tonight's low will be in the upper 50s. Expect sunny skies Saturday with a high in the lower 80s followed by a low in

the mid 60s in the evening. Sunday's high will be in the mid 80s with partly cloudy skies early and rain expected in the afternoon.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

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

Coming up

Saturday — Photos from the Fort Recovery marching band ice cream social.

Tuesday — Results from the Marching Patriots in the Drums at Winchester.

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



Pilot ...

Continued from page 1
When it determines a vehicle is traveling 11 miles per hour or more above the speed limit, it'll take a picture of the rear license plate. Under Indiana law, the pictures can only be used to enforce traffic offenses under the pilot, can't be publicly disclosed and must be destroyed within two years.
"After the data is validated, vio-

lations will be certified and issued to the owner of the vehicle by mail," the news release reads.
INDOT will begin the pilot with a pre-enforcement period. It'll sent out courtesy notices, but won't fine drivers.
Once that ends, a first violation will result in a zero-fine warning. A second violation will lead to a \$75 civil penalty and a third to a \$150 penalty. The money will go

to the state's General Fund. Because they're civil penalties, drivers will see no points added to their driver's licenses.
Drivers can contest the violations by submitting proof that they didn't own the vehicle, weren't driving it, or that it was reported stolen — and was unrecovered — at the time of the alleged speeding. They can also dispute the system's accuracy, or

argue that workers weren't present at the time.
However, the Indiana Safe Zones' answers to frequently asked questions indicate that just because drivers can't see construction workers doesn't mean they're not there. Crews behind barriers are also considered active workers.
INDOT will collect data for the program, but can't use it

for surveillance or other law enforcement programs under state law. Instead, the agency will report its findings in public annual reports.
The agency is responsible for building and maintaining interstate highways, U.S. routes and state roads in Indiana, including overpasses, ramps, signs and traffic signals.

CR almanac				
Saturday 7/27	Sunday 7/28	Monday 7/29	Tuesday 7/30	Wednesday 7/31
84/66	84/68	85/69	86/67	86/67
Another day of sun is expected Saturday. Temperatures could reach as high as 84.	Sunday has a 60% chance of thunderstorms throughout the day. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.	Monday's forecast shows a 60% chance of thunderstorms.	Another potential day of rain. The forecast shows a 50% chance of thunderstorms.	More rain is expected Wednesday, when the high may be in the mid to upper 80s.

Lotteries	
Powerball 16-42-59-63-68 Power Ball: 13 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$131 million	Daily Four: 6-4-8-1 Quick Draw: 2-5-8-11-14-29-30-33-35-37-42-52-60-64-69-70-74-76-77-78 Cash 5: 16-19-22-31-34 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$306 million	Ohio Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 5-4-6 Pick 4: 8-0-4-8 Pick 5: 6-1-9-7-2 Evening Pick 3: 0-7-6 Pick 4: 6-0-7-2 Pick 5: 4-6-3-1-3 Rolling Cash: 2-17-19-26-27 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
Hoosier Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 1-3-8 Daily Four: 0-4-8-3 Quick Draw: 6-7-10-16-19-20-22-24-31-36-38-41-46-51-52-53-54-63-65-78 Evening Daily Three: 4-4-5	

Markets	
Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....3.99 Sept. corn3.97 Wheat4.64	Aug. beans.....11.40 Wheat 4.89
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....3.97 Aug. corn3.97 Sept. corn3.92	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.88 Aug. corn3.86 Beans11.22 Aug. beans.....11.09 Wheat4.94
The Andersons Richland Township Corn3.92 Aug. corn3.92 Beans11.40	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....3.90 Aug. corn3.90 Beans11.20 Aug. beans.....11.15 Wheat4.64

Today in history	
<p>In 1788, New York ratified the U.S. Constitution. It became the 11th of the original 13 colonies to join the union.</p> <p>In 1847, Joseph Jenkins Roberts declared Liberia an independent republic. It was established by the American Colonization Society in 1821 on land acquired for freed U.S. slaves.</p> <p>In 1939, prime minister John Howard of Australia was born in Sydney, New South Wales. He served as prime minister from 1996 through 2007 after previously holding roles as minister for business and consumer affairs and federal treasurer.</p> <p>In 1945, the Potsdam Declaration, which detailed the terms of surrender for Japan after World War II, was signed by the United States, United Kingdom and China.</p> <p>In 1948, President Harry Truman signed an executive order calling for the end of discrimination and segregation in the U.S. armed forces.</p> <p>In 1964, actress Sandra Bullock was born in</p>	<p>Arlington, Virginia. She won the Academy Award for best actress for "The Blind Side" and also starred in "Speed" and "Miss Congeniality."</p> <p>In 2005, Jay School Board named Mike Crull as the new principal of West Jay Middle School. Cruss had been named Indiana Geography Teacher of the Year in 2002 and was a finalist for Indiana Teacher of the Year in 2003-04.</p> <p>In 2016, Hillary Clinton became the first woman to be lead the presidential ticket for a major U.S. party when she was nominated at the Democratic National Convention.</p> <p>In 2021, Dunkirk City Council approved an application for an Indiana Department of Transportation Community Crossings grant to pave all of Broad, Johnson and 5th streets and parts of Ohio, Shatto and High streets.</p> <p>In 2022, 13-year-old Daryll E. Bledsoe Jr. drowned in a rural Penville pond when he tried to retrieve a lure while fishing.</p> <p>—The CR</p>

Citizen's calendar	
Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, Jay County Courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	Wednesday 6 p.m. — Jay County Council and Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition announced the name of its new sober living facility, The Vision on Votaw, on Wednesday. Pictured, coalition members, representatives from IU Health Jay and naming contest winner Shalee Myron, stand in the backyard of the house at 422 W. Votaw St., Portland.

Vision ...

Continued from page 1
"It's something that is much needed in the community, and as a health care provider of the community, improving the health and wellbeing (here) is very important," she said. "We're just pleased to be able to partner and be participants in this adventure moving forward."
The approximately 3,728-square-foot house is currently undergoing a feasibility study with Bruns Consulting of Fort Recovery to determine whether it will be suitable for the needs of a sober living facility. Plans have been to house between 15 and 17 residents at a time, including a house manager in long-term recovery overseeing the facility. Hopes are to renovate the building by adding on more square footage — the goal is a total of about 5,000 square feet — reconfiguring bedrooms and communal living spaces, updating safety features, improving accessibility and

ensuring compliance with state guidelines, among other changes.
Michael Keller, a member of Jay County Opioid Task Force, donated the prize money for the naming contest and presented it to Myron on Wednesday. He talked about an accident in 2022 in which he became trapped underneath his tractor on his property in rural Portland. He recalled help from local responders and said he wanted to pay forward their rescue efforts.
He also voiced a desire for the community to get invested and be involved in the recovery home development.
"The entire community should participate, step in, help build, help manage and keep things in what they think is control," he said.
Now that the recovery home has a name, Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition will be moving into another community involved project — designing the logo. Throughout the month of August, the organization

will be accepting logo design submissions for The Vision on Votaw.
Images may be submitted online — those interested may check Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition's Facebook page for the link Aug. 1 — or dropped off in-person with contact information attached at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland.
Similar to the previous contest, participants must be residents of Jay, Blackford, Delaware, Adams or Randolph counties and must be older than 18 or have their guardian's permission to enter. Each participant is allowed one submission. Images may not contain drug paraphernalia or inappropriate material and must be original designs. The winning logo will be finalized by a graphic designer.
"Watch our Facebook page for posts. We're continuing to seek out funding, opportunities and grants to make this possible," noted Kimbra Reynolds, director of Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition.

Felony arrests

Domestic battery
A Hartford City man was arrested Wednesday for domestic battery.
James M. Starr, 51, 5772 E. 300 South, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for the alleged crime, as well as a Class A misdemeanor for resisting law enforcement. He was being held in Jay County Jail on a \$4,000 bond.

Methamphetamine
A Richmond woman was arrested Tuesday for possession of methamphetamine.
Dee Ann E. Littleton, 21, 420 S. 11 St., is charged in Jay Circuit Court with a Level 4 felony.
She was being held on a \$25,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Felony courts

Narcotics
Three people were sentenced in Jay courts to serve time for possession of narcotics.
Zachary T. Ingram, 36, was found guilty in Jay Circuit Court of possession of a narcotic drug, a Level 5 felony, and obstruction of justice, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to five years in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for time served. Ingram was assessed a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee and assessed \$189 in court costs. The jury found Ingram not guilty of a Level 6 felony for possession of a controlled substance.
Harley D. Ingram, 21, 4039 South Jackson, Salamonia, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to possession of a narcotic drug, a Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but 30 days suspended and given 12 days credit for time served. Ingram was placed on probation for 335 days, fined \$25, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of her plea agreement, a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana was dismissed.

Stephanie A. McClure, 38, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of a narcotic drug, a Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to six months in Indiana Department of Correction. McClure was assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of her plea agreement, the following charges were dismissed: a Level 6 felony for possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony for unlawful possession of a syringe, a Level 6 felony for maintaining a common nuisance and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.
Marijuana
A Ridgeville man was sentenced to jail for possession of marijuana.
Adam D. Reynolds, 35, 205 East 4th St., pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to the Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 180 days in Jay County Jail and given 130 days credit for time served. Reynolds was fined \$1, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$200 drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of his plea agreement, a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia was dismissed.

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Partner suspects cheating

By JANN BLACKSTONE
Tribune News Service

Q. I think my boyfriend is cheating. We dated for about three months and then he moved in. We've been together for about 6 months now. Here's the problem: A few months ago, he stopped coming home every night. When I ask him where he has been, he says he was drinking with friends and stayed at one of their homes. I think he should call me and I would come get him, but he just ignores the offer.

He won't admit it, but I think he's staying with his ex because they have a child together. I've never met this child. I just know she's 4 years old. I'm afraid to harp on my suspicions because I think he might leave. Is there an ex-etiquette rule to cover this?

A. Yes, for both of you. Good ex-etiquette rule #8, is "Be honest and straightforward." It sounds like both of you are not being honest with one another. More importantly, if you are pulling punches and not telling him your suspicions, you are not being honest with yourself. This may not be the right relationship for YOU.

You didn't tell me how long your boyfriend was sin-

Ex-Etiquette



gle before you started dating, but if it was less than a year, I wouldn't be surprised if there is reconciliation in the air, especially if he has a child.

You and your boyfriend moved pretty fast. There are bound to be surprises when you move in with someone you barely know. That is of great concern and the first red flag.

If he is telling you the truth, however, that's an even bigger red flag. It means he's abusing alcohol if he's getting so drunk on a regular basis that he can't drive home. Along with that, he's not telling you where he is, and he's not letting you pick him up. This behavior is not conducive to building an honest, loving relationship.

Plus, you've been together for six months, live together and you've never met his child. That could be because the parents are being cautious about introducing new people so soon after their breakup. Or, it could be that

they haven't broken up at all. The key here is that you don't know any of these answers and that's the biggest red flag of all.

Here's my take, good etiquette aside. Ask yourself: If you could design the perfect relationship, would you design the one you have now? Probably not, so what would you change? Are any of these changes within your power?

If the answer is no, consider walking away. If the answer is yes, consider if this is really the relationship you want or if you are just afraid he will leave. When you have all the facts, you may realize that is exactly what must be done.

Although no relationship is perfect, I think there's more going on here than "I think my boyfriend is cheating." You don't really know the real motivation for the change in attitude. Find out and make your judgments accordingly. That's good etiquette.

Blackstone is a child custody mediator and the author of "The Bonus Family Handbook: The Definitive Guide to Co-parenting and Creating Stronger Families." She can be reached at bonusfamilies.com or jann@bonusfamilies.com.

Mom uses Facebook to berate her children

DEAR ABBY: My mother is toxic. She had a terrible childhood, and she takes it out on me and my younger siblings. I live far away; they live in the same town as she does. If they don't drop everything for her and do what she wants, she calls them selfish.

Because I had to leave town to get my life together, I am accused of "abandoning" her. I am called selfish and also accused of not loving her. A couple of months ago, we all blocked her on social media because she berates us constantly. We told her to get a therapist. Today, my sister sent me screenshots of Mom berating her again on Facebook. In the texts my sister sent, Mom said she got a psychotherapist who says we are all psychotic.

Abby, why wouldn't the therapist see how delusional and toxic my mother is? Why would a therapist feed her delusions? Where do we go from here? Must I block my mom forever and never talk to her again because her therapist won't help her? — INCREDULOUS IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR INCREDULOUS: Your mother may have been less than truthful about seeing a therapist. I doubt she has found a licensed mental health professional who would diagnose you and your siblings as suffering from psychosis without having met you. Perhaps the sister who shared the screenshots can tell you what that mental health professional's name is so you can check their credentials. You left town because you wisely decided to improve your men-

Dear Abby



tal health. If you must block your mother, do not feel guilty for protecting yourself.

DEAR ABBY: I love my doorman. I am married and older than he is. He is married, too. I've known him for years, and I flirt with him all the time. He flirts back and gets really red in the face. One day, he came up to my apartment to help me with something. I purposely had on a see-through slip. I wanted to kiss him. I did catch him staring at me, but he was very polite and didn't try anything. I'm just wondering whether I should try to kiss him next time or try to stay away from him. He really makes me crazy. — BIG CRUSH IN NEW YORK

DEAR CRUSH: You owe your doorman an apology for what you have been doing. If you care at all for this person, do not jeopardize his job by taking this further. If you do, this adventure will not have a happy ending.

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.

Today
PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

Saturday
LOCAL'S MARKET — Will be held from 8 a.m. to noon each Saturday in June through October in the parking lot at Jay Community Center in Portland. For more information, contact Bill Cook.
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

Sunday
A BETTER LIFE — BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Sunday at The

Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday
PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.
PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.
TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

Tuesday
COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.
BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

JAY COUNTY CANCER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in conference room C at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital. Open discussion for cancer patients, survivors, family members or anyone interested in helping with the group. For more information, contact Linda Metzger at (260) 726-1844.
A BETTER LIFE — BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8

p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

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

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

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

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

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

ALANON 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 — BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8

p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St.

Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

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Wednesday, Aug. 21 - CR/NS*

Blackford fall sports

Wednesday, Aug. 21 - NT*

Randolph County football

Thursday, Aug. 22 - N-G*

DEADLINES ARE ONE WEEK PRIOR



*UNIV = appears in all Graphic Printing Newspapers, CR = The Commercial Review, NG = The News-Gazette, NT = The News Times, NS = The News and Sun

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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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Reform is essential for agriculture

By RANDY KRON

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

It's the heat of the summer, which means farmers are constantly monitoring the weather, tending to livestock, and focusing on pest and disease management for their crops. Unfortunately, this summer also finds landowners reeling from property tax statements that hit mailboxes during planting season.

Farmers are experiencing a 27% increase in their farmland taxes this year after a 16% increase in 2023. Some farmers' bills are increasing as much as 60 to 70% due to their local school district's debt obligations. No one should see an increase like that in one year, let alone multiple years in a row.

The Indiana State and Local Tax Review Taskforce met on

Randy Kron



June 18 and heard testimony from Katrina Hall, INFB's resident tax expert and senior director of policy strategy and advocacy, on behalf of agriculture. She shared information about farmland property tax increases and the elements of the farmland formula that impact the base value. She also requested on behalf of our members that any future reform will address stability and predictability, lasting relief, fairness between classes and ability to pay.

State Rep. Jeff Thompson, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, intends to focus this upcoming budget session on reducing the complexity of the property system, addressing some tax base problems — like farmland values — and closely examining how to effectively and fairly control the growth of tax levies. He has predicted that it will take multiple legislative sessions to accomplish the breadth of tax reforms being discussed.

In the meantime, Indiana Farm Bureau formed its own tax task force and is taking a deep dive into what's impacting a farmer's tax burden. Many different elements have been discussed by our internal task force, and we'll continue to work with leadership in the House and Senate, as well as other stakeholders to find solutions.

Right now, we're trying to get to the root of the problem to lower the tax burden on the assessment and levy side. We've had members from all over the state reviewing policy priorities from county Farm Bureaus throughout the summer, and property taxes were among the highest on that list. We will finalize our 2025 policy on taxes and other issues at our annual delegate session in August and look forward to sharing those with legislators to hopefully find some relief.

How can you help? Talk to your state legislators about your personal stories and how your tax bills have increased. They've been having conversations about legislation for the 2025 session throughout the summer, so we encourage you to have those conversations with your elected offi-

cialists now so tax issues can be at the forefront.

We all have a vested interest in easing our tax burden. This is especially true for our farmers and rural communities who are grappling with predictions of lower farm income and struggling commodity markets. Farmers will be lucky to break even this year and won't see profit margins large enough to weather these exorbitant tax bills.

Success in agriculture means greater food security and a stable economy in Indiana, of which the ag industry is a primary driver.

Kron of Evansville has been president of Indiana Farm Bureau since 2016.

Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.

Now can we focus on issues?

The News Tribune
(Tacoma, Washington)

Now that President Joe Biden has dropped out of the race for reelection, can we please start talking about the issues?

The presidential campaign, for the most part, has focused on Biden's age, mental acuity and ability to defeat his opponent, former President Donald Trump, perhaps rightly so, especially after Biden's disastrous performance in the first presidential debate.

But the focus on Biden and his age means that we've lost focus of the issues that are at stake in this election.

We don't know yet who the Democratic nominee will be. Biden already has endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris, but other names are being bandied about.

Whoever it is, though, our main wish is that we get on with talking about the issues and the differences between the candidates.

America tends to focus too much on "electability," personality and horse-race polling when it comes to elections, and the Trump-Biden race has been no exception.

Our one wish is that when the Democratic Party selects its nominee, we can spend the following months leading up to the Nov. 5 election talking about the issues that really matter.

Project 2025, Trump's dystopian government control plan, hasn't received nearly enough scrutiny. Should we fire half the people who work for the federal government and replace them with people who pledge loyalty to the president?

Abortion rights and contraception also deserve rigorous vetting. Should we have a national abortion ban and remove mifepristone from pharmacy shelves?

We need a healthy debate on whether we're going to privatize Social Security, give more tax breaks to the ultra-wealthy and chip away at Medicare and Medicaid.

Will we drill for oil in federally protected lands or will we double down on renewable energy in an effort to fight climate change?

How will the next president propose to ensure that no American goes

Guest Editorial

We need a healthy debate on whether we're going to privatize Social Security, give more tax breaks to the ultra-wealthy and chip away at Medicare and Medicaid.

bankrupt just because they got cancer?

Who will be best to tackle the federal government's unsustainable budget deficit and \$35 trillion national debt?

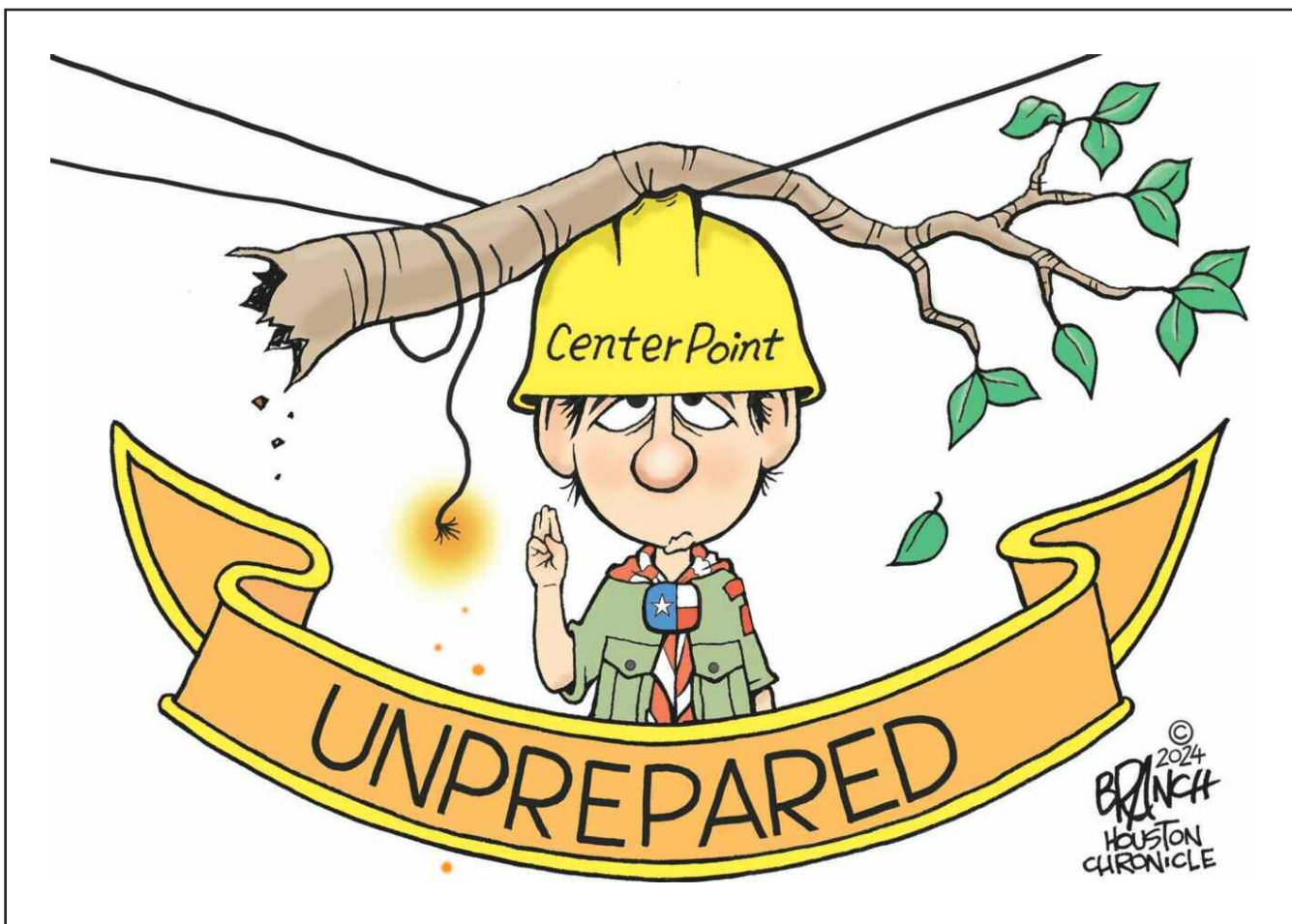
Gun violence — yes, including the assassination attempt on Trump — immigration, especially in light of the ongoing labor shortage in the U.S., and ensuring the right to vote (not some made-up scam about "stolen and rigged" elections) all need immediate attention.

Inflation indeed is a problem, especially hitting hard lower-income Americans whose wages aren't keeping up with the wealth being accumulated by those at the top, who disproportionately benefited from the 2017 GO tax cuts, Trump's signature, and perhaps singular, accomplishment in office.

Not to mention whether the United States is going to allow Russian President Vladimir Putin to invade another country and get away with it. Which candidate will promise to defend NATO allies and which one promises to ignore an ally if they are invaded by Russia?

We have many problems in this country that need to be addressed.

Let's hope whoever is at the top of the Democratic ticket can begin to discuss these issues instead of being the focus of news stories about their age.



Good must outweigh the rest

By ADAM PATRIC MILLER

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

This is the part of summer break when I check my blood pressure at the community center and find out it has dropped enough so the machine no longer recommends that I consult my doctor immediately. I have space and time to reflect. This last school year has provided me with three things to consider: the good, the bad and the ugly.

The good: My students showed up to classes with energy; they worked to achieve, with some joy, what their teacher required of them; and, by year's end, each demonstrated they can read and write better, whether the topic is a boating accident that almost killed a person or a graphic novel about a girl growing up during the time of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

One of my students, a boy with dark curly hair and an offbeat sense of humor, stopped by my office to say, "Hey, Mr. Miller. I just want you to know I'm sorry about what's been happening." That relates to the ugly but is still part of the good — he showed care for his teacher and thought about complicated events for himself.

Also to the good, a student shared his photograph, which was recognized by our state university, and invited me to the opening of his mom's restaurant. Another student in a presentation to our class shared a photo of the allotment deed — yellowed, crinkled, folded and unfolded — of 40 acres to his great-great-grandmother, a member of the Cherokee Tribe, approved by and witnessed by the principal chief of the Cherokee Nation on "this 9th day of Feb, A.D. 1907." He proudly shared his ancestry and presented the tear-drenched consequences of the forced assimilation of Native Americans.

The bad: I work at a school where I

Adam Patric Miller



witnessed and participated in the freedom of speech being quashed by a small group of vocal and powerful parents. I teach Elie Wiesel's "Night," Tim O'Brien's "The Things They Carried" and George Orwell's "1984" and guide students to connect literature to current events.

Last year, it was Russian President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine. This year, Israel and what continues to happen in Gaza. I asked: What qualifies as genocide? I said: Consider your tax dollars and your parents' tax dollars and your teacher's tax dollars that contribute to bombs falling from the sky on women and children and babies in Gaza. Not to think about that, I said, was bad.

I was called to the central office to explain. I was asked not to talk for the rest of the year about women, children and innocent people being killed. I was asked not to say the words: Israel, Palestine, Hamas and Gaza. I was asked to stop wearing a keffiyeh to school because a student reported she felt fear when she saw a teacher wearing a scarf. I complied with the "suggestion" to be silent in order to stay employed.

The ugly: After hearing I wore a keffiyeh, another teacher spread the news to her inner circle, members of her temple and members of the school board, using her connections to clubs, classes, religion and friends. This catalyzed rage from some members of the school community, and key members of administration informed me the office was being inundated daily, that they were

spending all their time and energy dealing with calls and emails demanding I be fired for being antisemitic. I was called into fraught meetings, even after I stopped wearing my keffiyeh.

On separate days, I was accused of wearing a keffiyeh-patterned sweatshirt and then a Palestinian pin; the principal was embarrassed when he was compelled to find me and verify the inaccuracy of these reports. I researched union representation and legal counsel. The principal showed me the photo parents were circulating, a comparison of a keffiyeh to a white hooded robe. I am of Jewish heritage and stated so, but that was ignored. They "interviewed" my students to find corroboration that I made students feel unsafe. That failed. I was reduced to tears as I spoke of my Jewish grandparents.

Beyond the threat to my job, I wrestled with the frustration and disappointment that I wasn't teaching my students by example, not modeling what being a good citizen is, not demonstrating in real life what great authors have written about in history. I was failing to teach my students how to observe, think, connect to global events and challenge the narratives in media and from people around them.

The other teacher inciting the fear, which caused the phone calls and emails, was directed to stop speaking about me and my scarf. Then the school year ended.

But the good must outweigh the bad and the ugly. After summer break, I'll return to teach like so many others with the hope our hearts — no matter the challenges to our compassion and humanity — will hold.

Miller has taught high school for 25 years in three states and currently teaches in St. Louis.

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

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Westgerdes shows top rabbit

Maggie Westgerdes won a pair of top awards July 6 during the Jay County 4-H rabbit show.

Westgerdes topped the contest as her Holland lop won the best-in-show award. It also earned best 4-class.

Nevaeh Brower took the honor for best 6-class and also won for senior and advanced showmanship, advancing to represent the rabbit barn in the small animal supreme showmanship competition. She was also the senior rabbit ambassador.

Other winners for showmanship were Lillian Welling (novice), Ramzey Huffel (junior) and Andrew Suman (intermediate). Other ambassadors were Suman (novice) and Makinsey Murphy (master).

Other awards at the rabbit show were as follows:

Meat rabbits
Meat pen
Grand champion: Nevaeh Brower
Reserve grand champion: Lillian Welling
3. Andrew Suman

Fryer (single)
Grand champion: Nevaeh Brower
Reserve grand champion: Eli Westgerdes
3. Samuel Westgerdes
4. Maggie Westgerdes
5. Lillian Alig

Roaster
Grand champion: Eli Westgerdes
Reserve grand champion: Nevaeh Brower
3. Samuel Westgerdes
4. Andrew Suman
5. Oakley Unverferth
6. Lillian Welling
7. Jaley Knapschafer

Stewer
Grand champion: Nevaeh Brower
Reserve grand champion: Bentley Brunswick
3. Oakley Unverferth
4. Carter Wellman
5. Paisley Brunswick
6. Adam Alig

Best of meat
Grand champion: Nevaeh Brower
Reserve grand champion: Eli Westgerdes

Breeding rabbits
Angora Satin
Senior buck
1. Kaylyn Parker

Senior doe
1. Kaylyn Parker

Junior buck
1. Amara Parker

Junior doe
1. Claire Skirvin

Blue Holicer
Senior buck
1. Samuel Westgerdes

California
Senior buck
1. Lillian Welling



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Maggie Westgerdes had the best in show July 6 during the Jay County 4-H rabbit show.

Senior doe
1. Lillian Welling

Junior doe
1. Emily manor

Champagne D'Argent
Senior buck
1. Oakley Unverferth

Senior doe
1. Jenna Bricker
2. Oakley Unverferth

Junior buck
1. Oakley Unverferth

Junior doe
1. Oakley Unverferth

Chinchilla
Senior buck
1. Oakley Unverferth
2. Jenna Bricker
3. Oakley Unverferth

Senior doe
1. Oakley Unverferth
2. Oakley Unverferth

Creme D'Argent
Intermediate doe
1. Bentley Brunswick

Dutch
Senior buck
1. Dominic Steveson

Senior doe
1. Jenna Bricker

Dwarf hotot
Senior buck
1. Grace Redmond

Flemish Giant
Senior buck
1. Andrew Suman
2. Jenna Bricker
3. Andrew Suman

Senior doe
1. Andrew Suman
2. Bryce Clevenger
3. Jenna Bricker

Intermediate buck
1. Bryce Clevenger

Junior buck
1. Ruby Redmond
2. Andrew Suman

Junior doe
1. Andrew Suman
2. Andrew Suman

Holland lop
Senior buck
1. Ramzey Huffel
2. Gracie Redmond
3. Maggie Westgerdes

Senior doe
1. Maggie Westgerdes
2. Ramzey Huffel

Junior buck
1. Ramzey Huffel

Jersey Wooly
Senior doe
1. Jenna Bricker

Lionhead
Senior doe
1. Andrew Suman
2. Makinsey Murphy

Senior buck
1. Makinsey Murphy
2. Andrew Suman

Senior
1. Andrew Suman

Lionhead
Black
Senior doe
1. Andrew Suman
2. Makinsey Murphy

REW
Senior buck
1. Makinsey Murphy
2. Andrew Suman

Senior doe
1. Andrew Suman

Tortoise
Senior doe
1. Tony Beiswanger
2. Andrew Suman
3. Andrew Suman
4. Tony Beiswanger

Lop - French
Senior buck
1. Eli Westgerdes

Senior doe
1. Eli Westgerdes
2. Eli Westgerdes

Lop - Mini
Solid
Senior buck
1. Jackie Tipton

Senior doe
1. Payson Rickard

Junior doe
1. Elizabeth Miller

Broken
Senior buck
1. Allison Tipton
2. Alexis Tipton

Senior doe
1. Milee Rickard
2. Emma Malyska

Junior buck
1. Gabi Miller
2. Elizabeth Miller
3. Jaley Knapschafer

Junior doe
1. Gabi Miller
2. Jaley Knapschafer

Mini Rex
Self
Senior buck
1. Andrew Suman
2. Dominic Steveson

Senior doe
1. Andrew Suman

Junior doe
1. Andrew Suman

Shaded
Senior buck
1. Jenna Bricker
2. Dominic Steveson

Senior doe
1. Andrew Suman
2. Isaac Hawbaker
3. Andrew Suman

Tan
Senior buck
1. Andrew Suman

Senior doe
1. Andrew Suman

Brocken
Senior buck
1. Andrew Suman

Senior doe
1. Andrew Suman

Netherland dwarf
Self
Senior buck
1. Ramzey Huffel
2. Maggie Westgerdes
3. Maggie Westgerdes

Agouti
Senior buck
1. Maggie Westgerdes

Tan
Senior buck
1. Maggie Westgerdes
2. Eli Westgerdes
3. Eli Westgerdes
4. Maggie Westgerdes

Senior doe
1. Maggie Westgerdes

AOV
Senior Buck
1. Eli Westgerdes
2. Jenna Bricker
3. Amara Parker
4. Paisley Brunswick

Senior doe
1. Gracie Redmond
2. Jenna Bricker

New Zealand
Black
Senior doe
1. Nicholas Somers

Intermediate doe
1. Nevaeh Brower

Blue
Senior buck
1. Cayden Buckland

Broken
Senior buck
1. Nevaeh Brower

Senior doe
1. Nevaeh Brower
2. Cayden Buckland

Intermediate buck
1. Nevaeh Brower

Intermediate doe
1. Nevaeh Brower

Red
Senior buck
1. Adam Alig

Senior doe
1. Carter Wellman
2. Lillian Alig

White
Senior buck
1. Nevaeh Brower
2. Lillian Welling
3. Danielle Somers

Senior doe
1. Nevaeh Brower
2. Lillian Welling

Intermediate buck
1. Nevaeh Brower

Intermediate doe
1. Nevaeh Brower

Junior buck
1. Nevaeh Brower
2. Lillian Welling

Junior doe
1. Nevaeh Brower
2. Lillian Welling

Polish
Blue
Senior doe
1. Dominic Steveson

Chocolate
Senior buck
1. Bryce Rickard
2. Dominic Steveson

Silver Rex
Broken
Junior doe
1. Tony Beiswanger
2. Tony Beiswanger

Silver Fox
Senior buck
1. Drake Somers

Senior doe
Drake Somers

Silver Marten
Senior buck
1. Cole Clevenger

Senior doe
1. Cole Clevenger
2. Cole Clevenger

Junior buck
1. Cole Clevenger

Junior doe
1. Cole Clevenger

Thrianta
Senior buck
1. Samuel Westgerdes

Senior doe
1. Samuel Westgerdes
2. Samuel Westgerdes

McClure leads dog show

Aubree McClure came home and enjoyed every minute of it.

McClure, who showed at the Randolph County Fair in 2023, returned to the Jay County Fair this year and showed the top dog — Indiana Jones, nicknamed Jonesy — at the 4-H dog show on July 6.

She claimed the top dog honor following last year's winner Katie Haffner, a five-time winner during her 4-H career.

McClure and Jonesy also took the championship for agility in intermediate Class A. She was also the reserve champion senior showman and had the reserve champion for obedience in Class 2B.

Alex Jones showed the reserve champion top dog, with Alexis Tipton winning the senior showmanship title and advancing to compete in the small animal supreme showmanship competition.

Other awards at the dog show were as follows:

Agility
Beginner A
Champion: Savannah Hudson
Reserve champion: Jackie Tipton

Beginner B
Champion: Riley Clifton
Reserve champion: Ivy Alt

Alt
Beginner C
Champion: Alexis Tipton
Reserve champion: Khloe Homan

Intermediate A
Reserve champion: Alexa Jones

Intermediate B
Champion: Allison Tipton

Veteran
Champion: Grant Clifton

Obedience
Class 1A
Champion: Savannah Hudson
Reserve champion: Drew Lingo

Class 1B
Champion: Ivy Alt
Reserve champion: Jackie Tipton

Class 2A
Champion: Kinze Homan
Reserve champion: Khloe Homan

Class 2B
Champion: Alexa Jones

Class 3A
Champion: Lina Lingo

Dog knowledge test
Junior
Champion: Ivy Alt
Reserve champion: Alexa Jones

Intermediate
Champion: Ramzey Huffel
Reserve champion: Alexis Tipton

Senior
Champion: Allison Tipton
Reserve champion: Maisey Keller

Trick
Champion: Riley Clifton

Costume
Champion: Jackie Tipton

Most improved
Champion: Ezra Alt
Reserve champion: Allison Tipton

Showmanship
Junior
Champion: Alexa Jones
Reserve champion: Ivy Alt

Intermediate
Champion: Alexis Tipton
Reserve champion: Alexa Jones

Aubree McClure and Indiana Jones — she calls him Jonesy — won the award for top dog on July 6 during the Jay County 4-H dog show.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

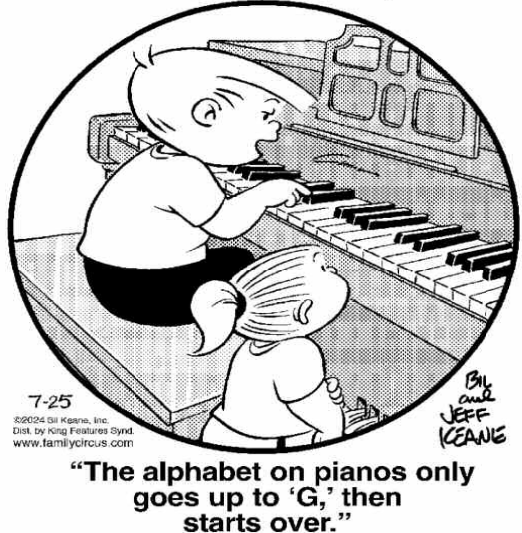
SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

What can defeat me?

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable. NORTH: ♠ J, ♥ A K Q 2, ♦ A 6 5 3, ♣ A K 7 4. WEST: ♠ 5 2, ♥ 3, ♦ J 7 4, ♣ Q 10 9 8 6 5 3. EAST: ♠ A 3, ♥ J 9 8 6 4, ♦ Q 10 9 8, ♣ J 2. SOUTH: ♠ K Q 10 9 8 7 6 4, ♥ 10 7 5, ♦ K 2, ♣ —.

The bidding: North 1♥, East Pass, South 1♠, West Pass. North 3♣, East Pass, South 3♣, West Pass. North 3NT, East Pass, South 6♣. Opening lead — three of hearts. This deal occurred in a national pair championship. As usual, with several hundred pairs playing the same hand, there were more different results.

The most popular contract by far was six spades. However, some pairs climbed all the way to seven spades — a tad ambitious lacking the ace of trump — while still others got no higher than four spades. The hand is somewhat difficult to bid, especially from South's viewpoint. Thus, if South uses Black-

wood, he learns that his partner has three aces. This alone should persuade him to stop in six spades, but it might leave him with a gnawing doubt about whether North could have the right three aces, in which case there might be a grand slam.

Surely the most disappointed players were those who got to six spades and went down one. This occurred at more than a few tables where declarer played the hand too quickly and lost the slam as a result.

At all of these tables, West's opening lead was a heart. South won in dummy and led the jack of trump. East went up with the ace and returned a heart, and that was the end of that. Down one.

The declarers who went down in the slam were certainly unlucky to run into a heart ruff, but, even so, they had only themselves to blame. The possibility of a heart ruff should have been apparent to these declarers, and they could have taken a simple step to prevent it.

All they had to do was to cash dummy's A-K of clubs and discard two hearts before leading a trump. Clearly, those declarers who went down in six spades had neglected to ask themselves "What can defeat me?" Had they done that, the answer would not have been long in forthcoming.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz. ©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

7-25

CRYPTOQUIP

PX FDPID EMZQ CA QDH FHLL JDCTGV ACGLJ QBEPIMGG B AHHG KCZH KHGMXIDCGB QDMX TJTMG? JMVVHZ-VMB.

Yesterday's Cryptiquip: WHEN ACTRESS BARRYMORE IS REMARKABLY THOROUGH ABOUT SOME TASK, SHE DOES HER DREW DILIGENCE.

Today's Cryptiquip Clue: T equals U

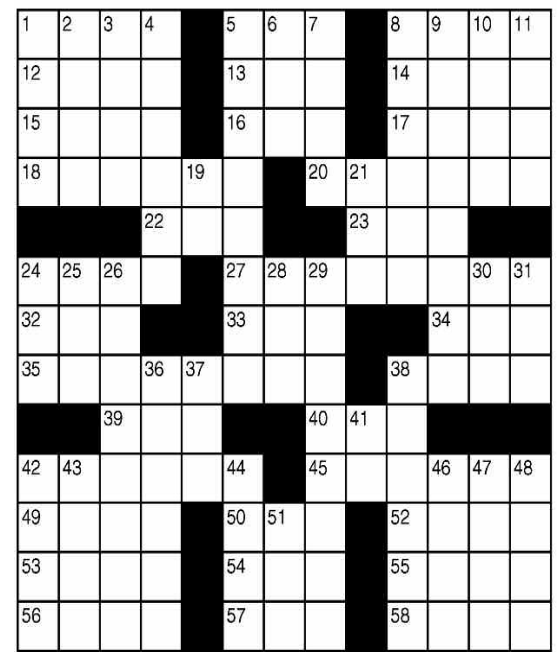
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Expansive, 5 Taxi, 8 Play parts, 12 Regretably, 13 "Yoo- —!", 14 The Mets' old home, 15 Zilch, 16 "Evil Woman" gp., 17 Steerer's place, 18 Do a slow burn, 20 Gourmet mushrooms, 22 Navy address, 23 Waincoat wood, 24 "Of — and Men", 27 Arriving, 32 "Kinda" suffix, 33 Reaction to an air show, 34 Sass, 35 Deep fissure, 38 Mimicking bird. 39 Aachen article, 40 Id counterpart, 42 Square one, 45 Sky-rocketed, 49 "Phooey!", 50 U.K. old home, 52 "Un-unh", 53 Fed. workplace monitor, 54 Sturgeon product, 55 Idyllic place, 56 Church service, 57 Ruin the veneer. 58 Ruby and Sandra, 21 Odometer start, 24 Karaoke prop, for short, 25 Leb. neighbor, 26 Fast felines, 28 Refusals, 29 More rinky-dink, 30 Diarist Anais, 31 Dean's list stat, 36 Panoramas, 37 Chemical suffix, 38 Complained, 41 "Leave now!", 42 Actor Leslie — Jr., 43 Celestial bear, 44 School session, 46 Took the bus, 47 Slender weapon, 48 Cozy rooms, 51 Extinct bird.

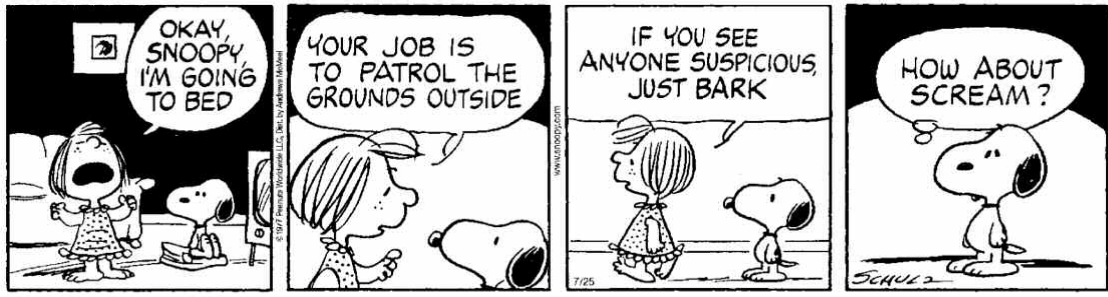
Solution time: 24 mins.



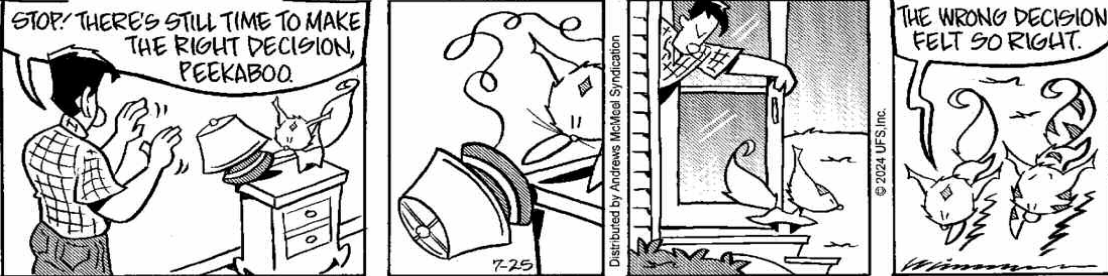
Yesterday's answer 7-25



Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



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NBA completes media rights deal with Amazon

By **STEPHEN BATTAGLIO**
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

LOS ANGELES — The NBA completed an 11-year, \$76 billion media rights pact that will change the lineup of partners after next season, ending its decades-long relationship with cable network TNT and entering a new partnership with Amazon. The league issued a statement Wednesday saying TNT parent Warner Bros. Discovery did not match the terms offered by Amazon, which will reportedly pay \$1.8 billion annually for the rights to stream NBA games on Prime Video, NBCUniversal and the Walt Disney Co.'s ESPN and the television outlets for the NBA. The statement noted that the league sought a streaming partner to "maximize the reach and accessibility of our games for fans." Streaming has become the

platform of choice for young viewers who are abandoning or bypassing traditional pay TV services. "Our new arrangement with Amazon supports this goal by complementing broadcast, cable and streaming packages that are already part of our new Disney and NBCUniversal arrangements," the league said. "All three partners have also committed to substantial services to promote the league and enhance the fan experience." The deal makes Amazon's Prime Video a bigger powerhouse in the TV sports business thanks to its deep pockets. Amazon is already a player in the live sports streaming arena because of its Thursday Night Football package with the NFL. The NBA more than doubled the rights fees of its current package, in another example of how

live sports leagues have seen their value escalate in the media landscape disrupted by streaming video. Live sports are must-have properties for traditional TV networks, which are no longer the first stop for scripted dramas and comedies. But tech companies getting into the video business also want sports to create greater scale for their streaming businesses. Leagues realize that streamers are the go-to resource for younger fans. Prime Video is expected to carry weekly regular-season games and the NBA Cup, a mid-season tournament launched last year. The streaming service will also get the NBA's play-in tournament, in which the teams ranked between seventh and 10th over the regular season face off for the final two playoff seeds in their conferences.

Comcast will pay \$2.5 billion for its package, which includes an exclusive weekly prime-time game and a piece of the conference finals. In addition, Comcast gets some games for its streaming platform Peacock, a boost for the service with 30 million subscribers, which is lagging behind such competitors as Netflix, Max and Paramount+. The Walt Disney Co.'s ESPN remains the home of the NBA Finals, which will continue to air on broadcast network ABC. ESPN will also still carry regular season and playoff games. Disney will pay \$2.8 billion per year, up from \$1.4 billion in the current deal. The NBA's departure from TNT will be the most significant loss of a TV sports property since CBS was outbid by Fox for the NFL's National Football Conference package in 1993.

The new NBA deal spells the end of "Inside the NBA," TNT's highly regarded studio show with Charles Barkley, Shaquille O'Neal, Kenny Smith and Ernie Johnson. Turner still has the NHL, Major League Baseball, the NCAA men's basketball tournament and other events. But the NBA was a significant piece of its offering to pay TV customers. Losing the NBA could have long-term ramifications for Warner Bros. Discovery's carriage arrangements with cable and satellite operators, who pay fees to carry its channels. The company would have to negotiate its next round of deals without offering the NBA at a time when such talks are increasingly contentious. Pay TV operators are battling to keep costs down as their customer base continues to shrink every year.

Baseball ...

Continued from page 8
"I've got friends for life through baseball and softball and I wanted to make sure that was ready for the next generation. That was my real driving factor to show my daughter that if you make a friend on that ball diamond, more than likely 20 years from now, you'll be sitting in the bleachers with your friend watching your kids." After seeing the state of the fields and the absence of a league the past years, Jeffers took to his friend group on Facebook to see if there would be interest to restart the league. He described the feedback and support that he received as "overwhelming," ensuring that revival was an achievable goal. While interest in having a league existed, it wasn't possible to play on the fields in that state. The support of the community tackled that problem head on. Jeffers found a group of people willing to help work on the field, and with efforts made on June 7 and June 9, turned the diamonds from grass fields

with home plates to diamonds that could be played on. That wasn't all that needed to be done. Thanks to fundraising efforts of Jeffers and Dru Hall and donations - monetary and labor - from local businesses, the group was able to replace fencing that was struggling to stand up, renovate the concessions area and scoring towers, replace sections of bleachers and build a new scoring tower. "For me it's overwhelming and not overwhelming in a bad way," Jeffers said. "(The support) is a lot bigger than I ever expected." That support has culminated in the renewed league that is set to open up at 6 p.m. Monday. Going forward, the board plans to continue holding the league in the late summer and the fall to avoid conflicting with other leagues. "We picked the fall so that it wasn't competing with the other leagues," said vice president Cory Ward. "This is a community process. We have our

kids who play in Redkey as well, so we didn't want to fight for the kids." "It's more opportunities year round, not just all at the same time," treasurer Mikaela Robbins added. Between the community interest within Dunkirk and holding the league at a different time, the league has amassed 313 kids to register to play. "It's all centered around the kids," Ward said. "I don't even have kids," said grounds crew manager Spencer Pittman. "We just want them to be able to have everything we had when we were younger and to know that no matter what's going on in the world, baseball is going to be there for them." "One of the most important things is how the community has jumped in and the support that's behind it," Jeffers added. "I'd just want to thank the community for the support, the donors and all those that have given their time and the eight board members who have gone down this rabbit hole with me and made it all possible."



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Pictured above is the sign that sits next to Haskel Road outside of Dunkirk Junior League. Over the last two months, the fields have been worked on to get rid of the weeds and grass, fencing was replaced and the score towers, dugouts and concessions were renovated in preparation for the restart of the league.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Portland Rockets vs. Jasper Reds in NABF Regionals at Carrington - 12 p.m.
Portland Rockets vs. Fort Wayne Jackers in NABF Regionals at Carrington - 5 p.m.
Saturday
Portland Rockets in NABF Regionals at Carrington - TBD
TV sports
Today
7:30 a.m. — Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix (ESPN2)
6:50 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Tampa Bay Rays (Bally Indiana)
9 p.m. — Leagues Cup soccer: Austin at Pumas UNAM (FS1)

Saturday
2:30 a.m. — Olympic Badminton: Group play (USA)
3 a.m. — Olympic Rowing (USA)
3:30 a.m. — Olympic Equestrian: eventing (USA)
5 a.m. — Olympic Swimming (USA)
5:30 a.m. — AFL Rugby: Greater Western Sydney Giants at Melbourne Demons (FS1)
6:30 a.m. — Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix (ESPN2)
7:15 a.m. — Olympic Rowing (USA)
8 a.m. — Olympic Badminton: Group play (USA)
8:30 a.m. — Olympic Cycling (NBC)
9:30 a.m. — Women's Olympic Water Polo: USA vs. Greece (USA)
10 a.m. — Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix (ESPN2)
10:25 a.m. — Olympic Cycling (NBC)
11 a.m. — Olympic Skateboarding (NBC)
12 p.m. — Olympic Table Tennis (USA)

12:45 a.m. — Women's Olympic Water Polo: Greece vs. USA (USA)
1 p.m. — Olympic Soccer: United States U23 vs. New Zealand U23 (USA)
2:30 p.m. — Olympic Swimming (NBC)
3 p.m. — Olympic Volleyball: Argentina vs. USA (USA)
4:05 p.m. — MLB: San Diego Padres at Baltimore Orioles (FS1)
4:10 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Tampa Bay Rays (Bally Indiana)
6 p.m. — Club Friendlies soccer: AC Milan vs. Manchester City (ESPN)
7 p.m. — USL Championship soccer: Oakland Roots at Miami FC (FOX)
7:15 p.m. — MLB: New York Yankees at Boston Red Sox (FOX)
8 p.m. — Club Friendlies soccer: Manchester United vs. Arsenal (ESPN)
10 p.m. — Leagues Cup soccer: San Jose Earthquakes at Guadalajara (FS1)

Local notes

Season tickets for sale
Jay County High School began selling season tickets Monday, July 22. Tickets can be purchased during office hours from 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. The Patriot Pass and Senior Patriot Pass (for those 65-and-older) cover all high school and junior high events. The former costs \$105 while the latter is \$60. For just high school events, High School Adult Super Tickets (\$80) and Senior Super Tickets for those 65-and-older (\$45) are available. Junior High Super Tickets are available for \$60. Also available are a Pre-Paid Sports Pass, good for 12 games at \$50, boys basketball season passes for \$50 and football season passes for \$25.
Swiss Days Race next
The next race scheduled for the Adams County Challenge Series will be the Swiss Days Race.

The race that takes place in Berne is being held at 8:15 a.m. Saturday, July 27. The race is a 5K, or kids can participate in a one-mile course. To sign up, visit adamscounty5kchallenge.com.
Classic set
The 11th Annual Adams Health Foundation Golf Classic is set to be held on Sept. 13 at Wabash Valley Golf Club. Teams of four can participate for \$400, with tee times at either 7:30 a.m. or 1 p.m. Included are an 18-hole round of golf, a best, non-alcoholic beverages, a cooler bag and lunch. All proceeds go to school healthcare scholarships and community health. For more information, contact Kim Trombley by emailing kim.trombley@adamshelthnetwork.org or by calling (260) 724-2145 ext. 13062.
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To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@theocr.com.

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LOCATED: 3430 W ST RD. 67 PORTLAND, IN APPLIANCE-MODERN FURNITURE-GARAGE ITEMS Amana side by side refrigerator, Frigidaire kitchen stove, GE Washer and gas Dryer, small kitchen appliances, 4pc, 3pc, 2pc, full sized bedroom suites complete, 3 cushion sofa with recliners - leather and suede. Patio sets, Pet cage, (2) Salt Dog pickup truck salt spreaders, MB Power broom with Kohler 8.5 engine, Toro CCR 2450 Snowblower (2) patio heaters, grill and other liked items. OWNER: IU HEALTH JAY NOTE: Check Auction-soft and AuctionZip for more photos. SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE AC31800004 AUCTIONEERS Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229 Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587 www.auctionzip.com READ THE CR THEN RECYCLE	100 JOBS WANTED AMISH CREW LOOKING FOR any work. No job is too big or small. 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CR 7-26-2024 HSPAXLP The Commercial Review Newspaper Delivery Comments or Problems? Call our Circulation Hotline 260-251-9588 After 5:00 p.m. Leave Message Please. Carrier Delivery Deadlines Tuesday - Friday: 6:00 p.m. Saturday Morning: 8:00 a.m. The Commercial Review 309 West Main St., Portland. Front Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Circulation Department Hours: 10:00 am - 4:30 p.m.	250 PUBLIC NOTICE Public Notice JAY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE Date & Time of Sale: 8-29-24 at 10:00 A.M. Sale Location: 224 W. Water Street, Portland, IN 47371 Judgment to be Satisfied: \$69,610.11 as of May 2, 2024 Cause No.: 38CO1-2310-MF-000023 Plaintiff: The Farmers and Merchants State Bank Defendant: M. & J. Homestead, LLC By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Jay County, Indiana, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, at the date, time, and location listed above, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Jay County, Indiana as follows: Legal Description: THE EAST HALF OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 24 NORTH, RANGE 15 EAST, IN JAY COUNTY, INDIANA, CONTAINING 80 ACRES, MORE OR LESS. EXCEPTING THEREFROM: COMMENCING AT A POINT 448.82 FEET SOUTH OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 24 NORTH, RANGE 15 EAST, JAY COUNTY, INDIANA; THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 467.94 FEET; THENCE DEFLECTING RIGHT 90 DEGREES 00 MINUTES A DISTANCE OF 20.00 FEET; THENCE DEFLECTING RIGHT 54 DEGREES 31 MINUTES A DISTANCE OF 256.67 FEET; THENCE DEFLECTING LEFT 28 DEGREES 36 MINUTES A DISTANCE OF 437.01 FEET; THENCE DEFLECTING RIGHT 82 DEGREES 57 MINUTES A DISTANCE OF 264.73 FEET; THENCE EAST 662.28 FEET TO THE POINT OF COMMENCEMENT CONTAINING 5.00 ACRES, CONTAINING AFTER SAID EXCEPTION 75 ACRES, MORE OR LESS. Commonly Known as: 850 E. Bryant, IN 47326 Parcel No.: 38-04-09-100-004-001-032 Subject to all liens, encumbrances and easements of record not otherwise extinguished in the proceedings known as cause #38CO1-2310-MF-00023 in the Circuit Court of the County of Jay, Indiana. Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws. This Notice shall also represent service of Notice of Sale of the above-described real estate upon the owners, pursuant to requirements of IC 32-29-7-3. Larry R. Newton, Jr., Sheriff Plaintiff's Attorney Matthew L. Kelsey, Atty. #29313-49 DEFUR VORAN LLP 1315 Broad Street New Castle, IN 47362 (T) 765-216-0181 The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the commonly known address published herein. It is the buyer's responsibility to research the legal description and associated legal filings. CR 7-26, 8-29-2024 HSPAXLP
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Bringing baseball back

Dunkirk Junior League baseball will return for the first time since 2018

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — Deon Jeffers just got off of his third-shift factory job.

On his drive home, he passed the fields he used to grow up playing at and decided to give them a visit.

Walking through the overgrown and vandalized park was a disappointing reminder to Jeffers of the state of his hometown league, but it also sparked an idea.

Two months and a healthy amount of work later, baseball is coming back to Dunkirk.

After a five-year absence, Dunkirk Junior League baseball will come back after Jeffers got the inspiration to revive the league.

The league last played in 2018, and failed to get enough kids to sign up in 2019 according to a post on the Dunkirk Junior League Facebook page on March 21, 2019. Since then, baseball has been absent from Dunkirk.

“It almost made me cry to see something that I cared about so much in my childhood in that state,” said Jeffers, the new president of the league. “My daughter ... was the reason I wanted to get this going. That way she could play on the same diamonds I grew up on.”



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Dunkirk Junior League's president Deon Jeffers uses a torch to remove weeds and overgrown grass at the bottom of the right foul line fence on Wednesday afternoon. Jeffers, other board members and members of the community have come together the past two months to revive the baseball league for the first time in five years, with the first game on Monday.

See **Baseball** page 7

Riley insists USC will remain a powerhouse in the Big Ten

By **RYAN KARTJE**
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

Lincoln Riley strode confidently into the cavernous confines of a new, unfamiliar stadium, one of the new coaches on the block in the Big Ten, surrounded on all sides by the novel and the unfamiliar. Everywhere inside Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis were reminders of how much his circumstances had changed since last season. New coaches, new players, new logos, new everything.

It wasn't just the new conference and all its new trappings, though. The landscape of college athletics has been upended since USC beat Louisville in the Holiday Bowl in December.

Within the Trojans' own building, so much had turned over, too. A new quarterback, a new defensive coordinator, a new defensive scheme and a new, stiffer schedule to handle, all with revenue sharing also on the horizon.

But amid all the new and unfamiliar at Big Ten

media days, the message from Riley, at the start of his third season at USC, was, by now, a well-worn one. In fact, he offered an almost identical sentiment at this time last year, at Pac-12 media day ... before USC finished a frustrating 9-5.

In discussing the state of his program Wednesday at Big Ten media days, Riley declared that USC had made “progress in every way you can possibly measure” since he took over, but was still well in the midst of a “rebuild” nearly three years in, one he suggested was far more substantial than those his Big Ten counterparts took on.

In the same breath, Riley was also defiant that USC enters its new conference this year already among its upper tier, with its sights set on stacking national titles. How long he can successfully straddle both of those notions as USC's coach remains to be seen.

“We are at the top of the Big Ten,” Riley said. “We're at the top of any confer-

ence. I don't ever look at ourselves as below anybody. And never will. Listen, two years ago, look where Ohio State and Oregon were. Look what they took over. Look what we took over. It takes time. I'm not a magician. I can't wave a magic wand and everything be perfect right away. But find one area where we haven't made progress. It's coming. Nothing is going to stop it.”

Will that confidence be enough to quell concerns, fair or not, coming into Year 3? It's unclear. Already, talking heads across the sport have taken to lobbing narrative grenades toward Riley and the Trojans over the past month, with ESPN's Paul Finebaum most recently declaring his tenure at USC to be “a disaster.”

Those potshots elicited a heavy eye roll from Riley's new quarterback, Miller Moss.

“We're not going to pay any mind to people who have no idea what's going

on within our program and our building,” Moss said.

And indeed, no matter the blathering on ESPN, no one within USC is under the impression Riley enters USC's first year in the Big Ten in danger or under pressure from within. But this season looms as the most critical yet for Riley, not only to make a first impression in a new conference, but also to reignite belief he's the same coach USC backed up the Brinks truck to hire back in 2021.

Patience, in that regard, is beginning to wear thin around USC, as whispers of discontent among fans and donors — with NIL, with recruiting, with on-field results — grew louder and louder through the offseason. Recruiting missteps in the summer, which saw two five-star prospects de-commit, did nothing to help the perception USC is still lagging on that front.

Riley was well aware of that perception Wednesday.

In defending its progress, he went so far as to declare

House of Victory, USC's donor-led collective, as “the most improved collective in the country.”

“From where [NIL at USC] was to where it is now is incredible,” Riley said. “It's just what lens do you look at it from. Is it at the top of the top? No, but we're not far off.”

Where things stand on the field is just as uncertain, especially as the competition ratchets up in a new conference. Through 27 games, Riley is 19-8, the same win-loss total as his predecessor, Clay Helton, whose tenure ended in complete collapse. But at this point in his tenure, Helton had far more tangible momentum.

Riley has more question marks than anything.

The schedule — with first-month road matchups against LSU and Michigan — is a murderer's row compared with its recent slates under Riley. Caleb Williams is off to the NFL, while Moss is still mostly untested at quarterback, aside

from his six-touchdown explosion in the Holiday Bowl. And the defense, led by new coordinator D'Anton Lynn, is still a complete unknown, even if Riley noted the front seven was “quite a bit bigger, quite a bit stronger” than past years.

Only time will tell how that progress plays out in a brand-new conference, against new teams with new styles and new coaches. But Riley made clear Wednesday that he has every intention of sticking around for the foreseeable future to see it through.

“I was very much a believer and even more so now that the firepower in this program has not gone anywhere,” Riley said. “It's a process to get [back] there. Has my patience been tested by it? Hell yeah. No doubt. Like, every day. But my resolve hasn't been tested, my commitment to being here hasn't been tested. I know this is the right place. I know what this is going to be.”



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