

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Discussion deemed inappropriate

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Jay County Commissioners' discussion of a proposed contract with Jay County Development Corporation during an administrative meeting violated Indiana's Open Door Law.

Indiana Public Access Counselor Luke Britt in an advisory opinion issued Wednesday afternoon said commissioners' discussion of the contract was inappropriate for such a meeting.

"It is the opinion of this office that discussions or negotiations of unexecuted contracts is not appropriate for an administrative function meeting," said Indi-

### Public access counselor's advisory opinion says commissioners violated Open Door Law

ana Public Access Counselor Luke Britt in his conclusion.

When the newspaper contacted commissioners president Chad Aker for comment Wednesday afternoon, he said he had not yet seen the advisory opinion. The newspaper also left a voicemail message for county attorney Wes

Schemenaur requesting comment. Neither had replied as of press time.

The advisory opinion stemmed from a complaint filed on behalf of The Commercial Review by Ray Cooney, its president, editor and publisher. The newspaper alleged that commissioners

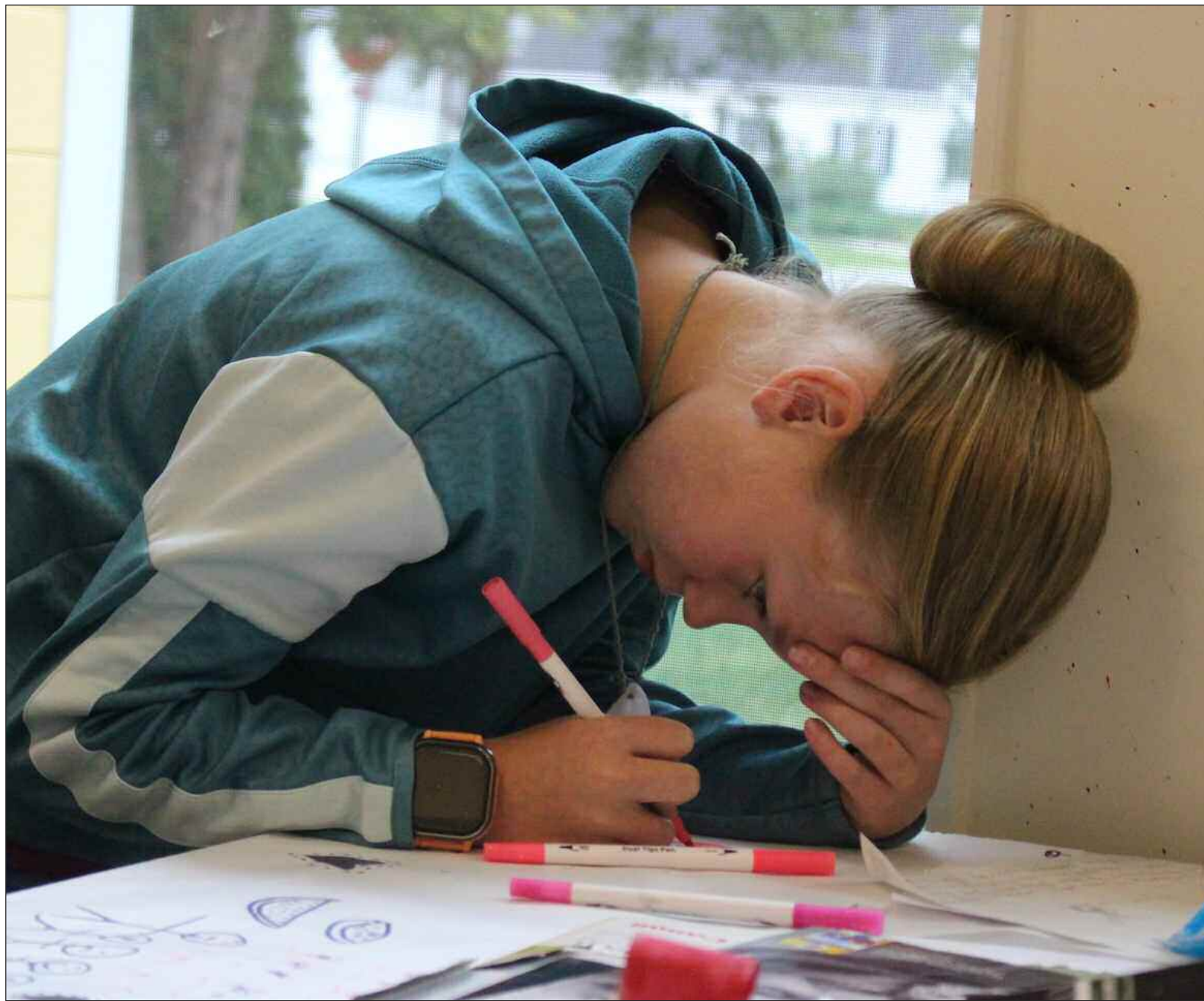
Brian McGalliard, Rex Journay and Aker violated the state's Open Door Law regarding an administrative meeting held on May 2 during which they discussed the proposed contract with Jay County Development Corporation (JCDC).

During the May 2 "administra-

tive meeting," commissioners discussed a contract under negotiation with JCDC. Journay sent an email to JCDC executive director Travis Richards that laid out contract stipulations including that the organization's budget be returned to county control, board membership be reduced from the current 25 to between nine and 11, and Richards' contract not be renewed.

Typically, 48 hours notice to the public and the media is required for meetings, with some exceptions for administrative functions. No notice was provided regarding the May 2 meeting.

See **Inappropriate** page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

### Crafting at camp

Raegan Blalock, 11, colors with a pink marker Wednesday during Jay County Campus of Arts Place's Art Camp put on through the organization's Arts in the Parks program. Campers around noon Wednesday designed collage silhouettes and fortune tellers. The camp continued through today at Hudson Center for the Visual Arts in Portland.

### Police were involved in chase

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Indiana State Police are investigating a multi-vehicle police pursuit through Jay County that led to an officer being injured Tuesday.

Officers began following a driver — their name was not released to The Commercial Review — around county roads 100 East and 100 North about 11:26 a.m. Tuesday. They traveled first northwest then generally southwest through the county before passing through several streets on the northwest side of Dunkirk. Police continued pursuing the driver south on Indiana 167. Around that time, the driver's brakes locked up, according to Jay County Sheriff Ray Newton, and Jay County Sheriff's Office captain Pat Wells crashed into the back of the driver's vehicle.

Wells' airbags deployed in the accident, and he sustained a bruise on his wrist. He was treated at IU Health Jay.

Jay County officers stopped pursuing the driver once they reached Delaware County at the highway's intersection with county road 900 North about 11:56 a.m. Tuesday.

Newton said Indiana State Police is investigating the incident. He also said police are aware of the driver's identity and looking into filing warrants for their arrest.

## County reviews options for ARPA funding

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Indiana counties and municipalities have until the end of the year to allocate their American Rescue Plan Act dollars.

Jay County officials have a few different options they've discussed for the funding.

An Indiana company proposed another offer for Jay County's remaining allocation Wednesday.

Jay County Council and Jay County Commissioners heard a request for a match of roughly \$2.4 million American Rescue Plan Act dollars to go toward Mainstream Fiber Networks installing broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved locations across Jay County.

If pursued, those sites would include addresses on the east and southeastern portion of the county, as well as a few locations north and northwest of Portland.

County officials also dis-

### Mainstream makes request for broadband expansion

cussed how American Rescue Plan Act dollars may be used per legal requirements.

Council and commissioners agreed Feb. 5 to commit \$3.9 million toward a project from Mainstream to install 395 miles of fiberoptic or fixed wireless internet across the county, connecting homes and businesses categorized as unserved or underserved. The overall project, estimated then at \$19.4 million and partially funded by a partnership through Mainstream and Searchlight Capital, hinged on receiving approximately \$9.5 million in grant dollars through Indiana's Next Level Connec-

tions grants or the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment program.

Mainstream was not awarded Next Level Connections funding. (Brightspeed, an internet service provider already established in Jay County, was awarded \$5.6 million to expand its fiber broadband network to an additional 3,300 locations in 10 counties, including Jay.)

Projects were split amongst counties, with \$2.168 million divided between expansion in Jay and Wells counties. (Brightspeed will provide a match for each project, committing a \$1.6 million match toward expansion

in Jay and Wells counties.) Expansion in Jay and Wells counties would connect 645 additional "passings," also known as addresses for homes or business, to fiber internet.

Mainstream representatives shared a presentation with county officials Wednesday, displaying a map of Jay County's current landscape for broadband internet. Chief commercial officer Jeffrey Marston pointed to Brightspeed's plans for expansion, which generally extend from rural areas in the northwest portion of the county (surrounding Pennville) in a diagonal direction toward the southern portion of the county. Mainstream Fiber Networks had originally planned to build fiber internet in those areas as well as other sites on the east and southeast portion of Jay County. Marston noted the company's fiber internet locations installed on the west side of the county would have helped subsidize work on the east side of the county.

Between 150 and 200 unserved and underserved addresses are still eligible for funding through Indiana's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, explained Marston. They include addresses on the east and southeastern portion of the county, as well as a few locations north and northwest of Portland.

Mainstream proposed a \$7.8 million, two-year broadband project to county officials Wednesday, asking for approximately \$2.4 million from Jay County. The company would match those funds at \$2.5 million and pursue a \$2.9 million grant through BEAD, which opens applications for its first round of funding Sept. 9 and announces awardees Nov. 1.

The goal would also be to cover addresses not categorized as unserved or underserved per state grant requirements for various reasons but could utilize a fiber internet connection.

See **Options** page 2

#### Weather

The high temperature was 82 degrees Wednesday in Jay County. The low was 70.

Tonight's forecast calls for showers and thunderstorms with a low in the upper 60s. There is a 40% chance of rain Saturday with storms possible and a high in the lower 80s.

The chance of rain and storms continues into Saturday evening with the low expected to be in the mid 60s.

Sunday's forecast calls for sunny skies and a high in the mid 80s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

#### In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday in the shopping center at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, the parking lot east of Redkey Post Office and the parking lot south of Salamon Fire Station.

#### Coming up

**Saturday** — Results from the Marching Patriots at the Indiana State Fair.

**Tuesday** — Coverage of the Jay County cheerleaders at the state fair competition.

**Wednesday** — Coverage of next week's Jay School Board meeting.





# Inappropriate ...

Continued from page 1  
The Commercial Review asserted that discussion of the proposed contract with JCDC is not "routine" and is not "reasonably related to the everyday internal management of the county," as required by Indiana Code for discussion at an unadvertised administrative meeting. In an editorial on May 11, the newspaper asked that commissioners acknowledge the violation and commit to avoiding any future violations.

County attorney Wes Schemenaur during the May 13 commissioners meeting responded to the editorial, saying state code "expressly makes the negotiation of contracts on behalf of the county an executive or adminis-

trative function." He compared county commissioners' roles to those of a mayor, noting they routinely negotiate contracts before bringing them to a vote before the appropriate body. Those preliminary discussions are not always occurring while the public is present.

"The county commissioners are no different just because there are three executives instead of one," he said.

The response was submitted to the newspaper, and published, as a letter to the editor signed by the commissioners.

The Commercial Review subsequently filed its formal complaint with the public access counselor's office on May 14. Commissioners submitted their

response to the complaint on June 12.

Addressing the issue of contract negotiations in his analysis of the newspaper's complaint, Britt writes:

"While it is true negotiation of contracts are matters within the purview of the county executive pursuant to Indiana code section 36-2-3.5-4(a)(9), that does not qualify any action an executive may take as 'administrative.'

"The law does not explicitly cite 'contract negotiations' as off-limits in its non-exhaustive list of prohibited activities. Similarly, it does not cite discussions of litigation strategy, personnel performance and discipline, real estate transactions, etc. That is because other statutes address

those things, contracts included."

He also points out that there is an executive session statute that expressly addresses negotiations.

Britt references that "a 2-1 decision was made," as indicated in the email from Journey to Richards.

"If accepted, it would have bound the County to certain terms and had both operational and fiscal ramifications," he says. "There is nothing routine or administrative about such an action."

Britt notes that the Indiana General Assembly mandated that the state's Access to Public Records Act "be liberally construed" in favor of transparency.

He points out that when lan-


guage regarding administrative function was amended in 2019, one of the informal questions asked was, "would a reasonable member of the public have a legitimate interest in having notice of the discussion?" If that answer is "yes," Britt says, and it does not fall into an executive session or any other non-meeting definition, the meeting should be public.

The public access counselor is appointed by the governor. As part of his job, he "provides advice and assistance concerning Indiana's public access laws." Opinions issued by the public access counselor are advisory in nature. To pursue further action, the issue would need to be taken to the court system.

## CR almanac

Saturday 8/3	Sunday 8/4	Monday 8/5	Tuesday 8/6	Wednesday 8/7
<b>84/64</b>	<b>86/65</b>	<b>84/65</b>	<b>85/65</b>	<b>81/57</b>
Saturday has a 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.	Sunday's forecast shows sunny skies with a high around 86 degrees.	Mostly sunny skies are expected Monday, when the high will be 84.	There's a slight chance of thunderstorms. Otherwise, mostly sunny.	Wednesday's forecast shows a chance of thunderstorms. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.

## At the fair



The Jay County High School Marching Patriots are competing today at the Indiana State Fair. Pictured, the group performs Tuesday during its state fair preview show. For full results from the state fair, see Saturday's edition of The Commercial Review.

The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Lotteries

**Powerball**  
23-34-37-50-58  
Power Ball: 7  
Power Play: 2  
Estimated jackpot: \$171 million

**Mega Millions**  
Estimated jackpot: \$358 million

**Hoosier**  
Wednesday  
Midday  
Daily Three: 9-7-8  
Daily Four: 4-0-2-8  
Quick Draw: 9-12-14-15-23-29-31-35-37-38-44-52-56-59-61-66-67-71-74-75  
Evening  
Daily Three: 6-5-4

Daily Four: 9-7-9  
Quick Draw: 1-15-18-22-23-24-25-27-30-35-42-47-50-51-54-58-63-64-68-77  
Cash 5: 11-13-21-30-45  
Estimated jackpot: \$197,000

**Ohio**  
Wednesday  
Midday  
Pick 3: 5-1-3  
Pick 4: 2-3-6-6  
Pick 5: 5-7-8-6-4  
Evening  
Pick 3: 8-1-6  
Pick 4: 5-3-8-2  
Pick 5: 9-0-8-7-8  
Rolling Cash: 5-11-22-25-34  
Estimated jackpot: \$100,000

# Options ...

Continued from page 1  
"After that Next Level Connections was awarded, there were about 3,700 passings — homes or addresses — that still remained uncovered without fiber. With what we're proposing, this could get us to the next 2,200," said Marston.

According to Jay County Auditor's Office, the county has \$2,366,882.90 left out of its initial \$3.9 million allocation of American Rescue Plan Act dollars. County attorney Wes Schemenaur noted county officials had discussed utilizing other funding streams as well for the project.

Commissioners president Chad Aker pointed out that through BEAD, 75% of project costs are funded by the state with the remaining 25% from the internet service provider, with no required match from the local community.

"But there were organizations or counties that were providing the match just as an incentive," he said.

Commissioner Rex Journey asked Mainstream representatives why its project was not awarded funding from Next Level Connections and, subsequently, why the company believes it will get funding from BEAD.

Shawn Gardner, director of community outreach and government affairs at Mainstream Fiber Networks, said he believed a lot of the funding went to fiber providers plan-

ning to expand their pre-existing connections.

"Early on, in Next Level Connections (round) four project, (state officials indicated) counties who don't get funding in Next Level Connections (round) four will be first of the line in BEAD," Gardner said. "So, we're holding them to their word on that."

County officials also heard from Jay County Emergency Management Agency director Samantha Rhodehamel about efforts to switch local emergency responders to the Integrated Public Safety Commission's 800 megahertz statewide radio system.

Jay County Commissioners approved a \$178,500 contract Monday with Ritter Strategic Services for planning, procurement, engineering, project management and other work related to joining the statewide system.

Rhodehamel explained that the consulting firm's owner, Barry Ritter, is expected to provide a cost for portable radios by mid September and potentially determine the overall cost for infrastructure in October.

Also Wednesday, council and commissioners heard a presentation from Schemenaur on the county's potential usage of American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Schemenaur explained American Rescue Plan Act dollars maybe used

in four main ways per United States Department of Treasury's guidelines: as a revenue replacement for lost revenue from the COVID-19 pandemic, as a response to public health and negative impacts of the pandemic, as premium pay for essential workers or as an investment in water, wastewater and broadband infrastructure.

Funds must be obligated by Dec. 31. Obligations include the county being under contract or an interagency agreement. (The obligation requirement isn't fulfilled if the funds are merely budgeted, appropriated or moved, or if only a resolution is passed.)

Schemenaur noted a few projects on the table for the county, which include developing the county's 68 acres on the west side of Portland — he suggested the county could enter into an interagency agreement with Jay County Redevelopment Corporation, Portland Redevelopment Corporation or the City of Portland for the project — Mainstream's broadband project or investing in emergency responder radios. (Other potential uses, he noted, could be constructing a new Jay County Highway Department building, a new public safety building for Jay Emergency Medical Service, Jay County Health Department and Jay County Coroner's Office, or a new building for Jay County Solid Waste District.)

## Markets

**Cooper Farms Fort Recovery**  
Corn.....3.67  
Sept. corn .....3.70  
Wheat .....4.62

**POET Biorefining Portland**  
Corn.....3.69  
Sept. corn .....3.67  
Oct. corn .....3.69

**The Andersons Richland Township**  
Corn .....3.62  
Sept. corn .....3.62  
Beans .....10.50

Sept. beans .....9.75  
Wheat .....4.82

**ADM Montpelier**  
Corn.....3.54  
Sept. corn .....3.52  
Beans .....10.54  
Sept. beans .....10.19  
Wheat .....4.89

**Heartland St. Anthony**  
Corn.....3.62  
Sept. corn .....3.64  
Beans .....10.19  
Sept. beans .....9.99  
Wheat .....4.62

## Scholarship applications available now

The Portland Foundation announced Thursday that the application for the 2025 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship is available now.

The scholarship provides students with full tuition to any college or university.

To be eligible for the scholarship, a student must be a Jay County resident who is a member of the 2025 graduating class, accepted to a full-time college for fall 2025 and have a minimum 3.5 grade point average on a four-point scale.

Applications are available at portlandfoundation.org. The deadline is 5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 3.

## Today in history

In 1802, the French Senate proclaimed Napoleon Bonaparte "Consul for Life."

In 1830, in the midst of the July Revolution, King Charles X of France abdicated the throne.

In 1870, the world's first underground railway, the Tower Subway, opened. It ran under the Thames River in London.

In 1876, American frontiersman, marksman and gambler Wild Bill Hickok was murdered in Deadwood, South Dakota.

In 1923, Calvin Coolidge became president of the United States

following the death of Warren G. Harding.

In 1924, author James Baldwin was born in New York City. His first novel, which was semi-autobiographical, was "Go Tell It on the Mountain" in 1953.

In 1934, German president Paul von Hindenburg died and Adolf Hitler became chancellor.

In 1939, director and screenwriter Wes Craven was born in Cleveland. He is best known for his horror films, including "A Nightmare on Elm Street" and "Scream."  
— The CR

## Citizen's calendar

**Monday**  
5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland.

5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.  
7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

**Tuesday**  
4 p.m. — Jay County

Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St.

5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.

7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St.

7 p.m. — Salamonia Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center.

### SERVICES

Today  
**Chenoweth**, Max: 7 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Saturday  
**Domingue-Wutz**, Summer: 3 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

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# Dogs don't know about Social Security

By JAMES LILEKS  
Star Tribune  
Tribune News Service

The usual advice for a fun life: Dance like no one's looking, drive like you stole the car and save as if Social Security will not exist.

Well, I've always thought that one way to make people look at your dancing is to dance as if no one is watching. As for "drive it like you stole it," we have enough local evidence about how bad that works out. I prefer to drive it as if I own it, and will need it tomorrow.

Social Security? When I was young I resented it, because I knew my money was not sitting in a lockbox somewhere with a purple ribbon around stacks of cash. I think the day I first read about its inevitable collapse was the day I started paying into it.

Now that I am able to

James Lileks



claim it, I am, of course, a fierce defender of the status quo and will brook no changes. Hands off my lockbox, kids.

The other night I decided to look up what I would get if I hung it up today. Not that I'm intending to do that; I'm not sitting here with gnarled hands from a lifetime of typing, begging for this unbearable burden of being smart-alecky to be taken from me.

I logged in to my account, imagining Porky Pig at the bottom of the page, waving his little cloven-hoofed hand at the monthly pay-

out, saying "Th-th-that's all, folks."

The basic information page was as clear as you might expect. If I don't claim it for another nine months and 14 minutes, the amount increases. I assume they ran the actuarial tables and said "Push it out to nine, and we'll save \$34 billion. And by 'save,' I mean, of course, we won't have to conjure money into existence with a printing press and a vague popular understanding that these pieces of paper and numbers on a screen have an intrinsic value."

The idea that I could get this now appeals to the toddler brain. The wise adult part of your brain counsels otherwise:

All of a sudden you feel like a toddler looking at a cookie. You can have a cookie now, but if you wait, you can have two cookies.

"But the cookie is right there, I want cookie."

"I know, but you'll get more cookie if you wait a year and nine months. If you eat the cookie six months from now, you will get more cookie, but you will also be assessed a penalty of 5/9th of 1% against the additional amount of cookie."

Probably not an argument that works well with toddlers. If it does, get that kid to Harvard, now.

At this point I heard my dog Birch snortle in his sleep, and I thought that deferred gratification would work even less on his canine brain.

The whole idea of Social Security is alien to dogs. "Oh, but they bury bones," you say, "and that indicates they are thinking of some undefined future point at which a stored bone may need to be accessed."

True, but A) there is no penalty for early bone-unearthing, and B) the dog is providing the future asset himself, not having a portion of his daily snacks taken away and buried for him. Anyway, let's log into our account and see what's there.

I could not access my account, because the Social Security webpage was not available overnight. As a matter of policy.

This does not communicate faith in the solid nature of the system. It makes you think a guy takes care to shut off all the lights and power down the computers because the cost of electricity could make the program go bankrupt on Nov. 23, 2031, instead of Nov. 22. Every bit helps!

It's possible they assume that no one who is drawing Social Security is up at this hour. They have gone to bed

an hour before because they have to get up and walk the mall and eat at Denny's. Maybe it's mandatory. Your first check comes with a list of Denny's locations. You've been assigned booth 12, seat 4.

Because you are now an old man, please wear jeans, white puffy tennis shoes, a polo shirt (striped) and a baseball cap with a logo of a military affiliation or a golf ball brand. Please take care when placing your order as this will be your "regular" and will be served at all future visits. Enjoy retirement!

Kidding. That only happens when you start to collect at 70, and that's waaaaay off in the future.

(Man blinks, finds himself at Denny's, staring at two scrambled eggs with bacon, really wishing he'd ordered sausage the first time.)

# Disagreement progresses to estrangement

DEAR ABBY: After several years of worsening arguments, I told my father I was tired of fighting with him, and we needed family counseling. He was deeply, explosively offended and not only refused to talk about counseling, but also ceased all contact with me.

He called my siblings and told them I was disowned and then changed his will. This was surely an overreaction, but it might be generational. When I said we needed to see a therapist, I think he heard me calling him (or us?) mentally ill, which he found unacceptable.

The relationship with my dad is probably not repairable, but he has told all of our extended family that I'm the one who cut off contact with him and that I started it. I guess that's sort of

Dear Abby



true because I said we needed to be in counseling before we visited each other again, but the way he tells the story made me look like a villain, and my aunts and cousins stopped inviting me to family events. No one will pick up the phone or answer emails.

I have a good job and live on my own, so it's not that I need their support, but I miss them and hate them thinking so poorly of me. Besides going to counseling myself, which I'm doing,

what can I do? — MISSING IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR MISSING: There is little more you can do besides what you have already tried. You might send out one more mass email blast explaining in detail what happened with your father, tell them you love and miss them and that you are sorry that your suggestion that you and Dad have family counseling resulted in your being shunned (which is what is happening). Then get on with your life and gather a "chosen family" of friends who are supportive in good times and bad.

DEAR ABBY: I am a retired nurse on a limited income. Shortly after retiring, I used a

large part of my retirement money to pay off the house, put on a much-needed new roof and purchase a car and various household necessities so I could at least come close to living on my Social Security income.

For the last seven years, my daughter has lived with me along with her children, who have grown in number from one to three in that short time. She's unable to keep a job because she has a variety of mental and medical issues, so I have gladly helped with co-parenting the children.

I pay the bills, run errands and provide the transportation for our household while she does most of the food procurement. Some of the disputes we wind up having are about the food — eating and wasting, etc.

Because I have allowed her to live here and already pay almost all the bills, am I wrong for wanting a say in matters of menu and grocery lists? She gets very possessive about the shopping choices. — FUSSING OVER FOOD IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR FUSSING: You are a loving, caring and generous mother. I assume you are also paying for the food your daughter is buying. If that's the case, then your wishes should prevail when it comes to what's on the menu.

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.

SOFT SHOULDERS — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place at Swiss Village in Berne. For more information, call (260) 589-3173.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on

the first and third Friday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Holds its next meeting at noon Friday, Aug. 2, at Harmony Café in Portland.

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.

ROAD RIDERS FOR JESUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday

of each month in the West Walnut Church of Christ fellowship hall, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland. (Please enter from the door facing the alley on the north side of the building.) For more information, call (260) 726-8463.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

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

Sunday

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

Monday, Aug. 5  
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.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Portland Place, 430 W. Lafayette St. For more information, call (800) 589-1121.

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.

# Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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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# Be honest about issues

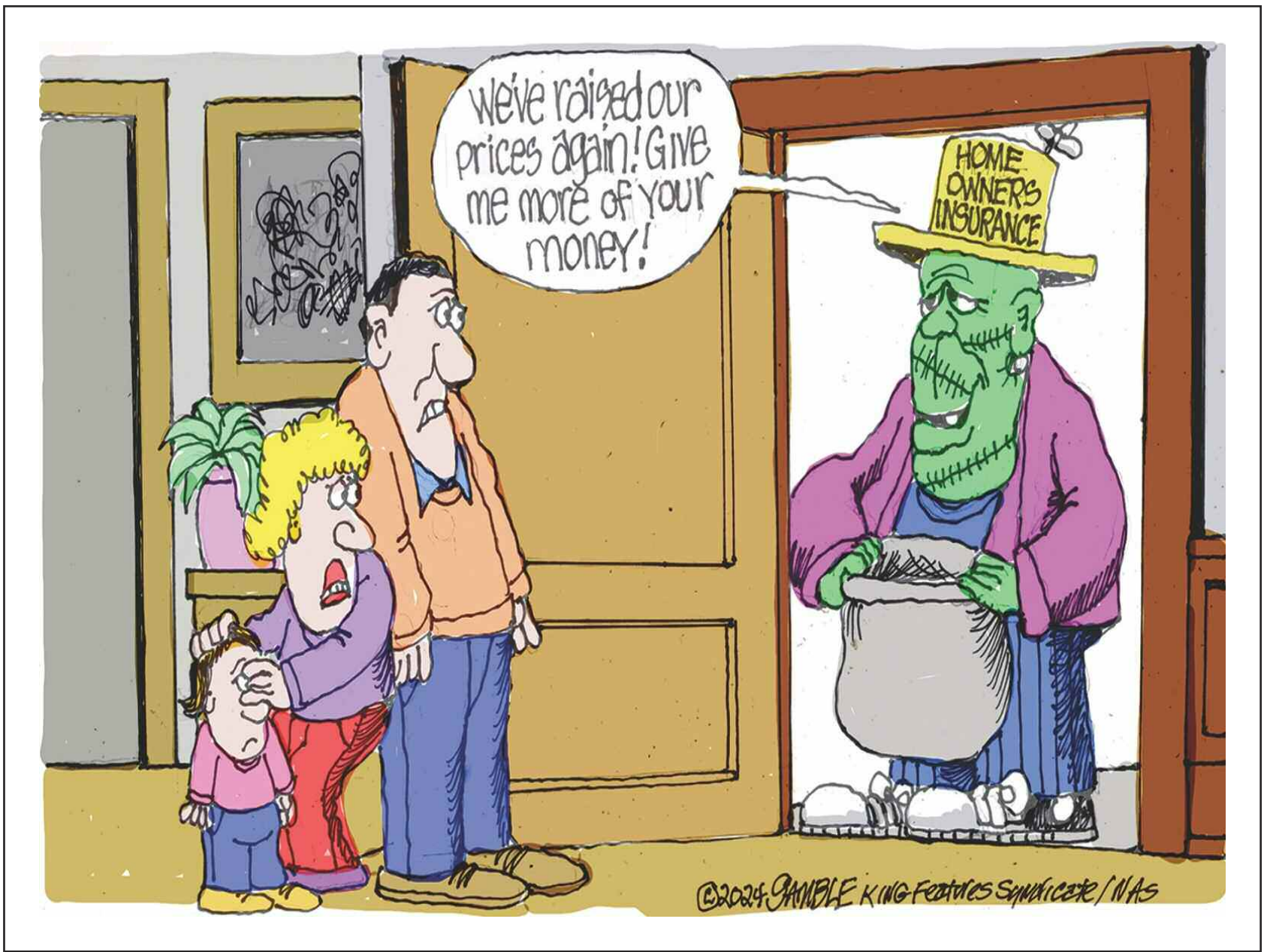
To the editor:  
I had to laugh at the editorial headline "Now can we focus on issues" by the News Tribune.

It talks about being past talking about President Joe Biden's age and senility and the need to focus on the issues between the Democratic candidate and former president Donald Trump.

They then make fools of themselves by launching into the Democrats big lie that Project 2025 is "Trump's dystopian government control plan." It is not his plan or the Republican plan, as he has repeated numerous times.

They should be honest and talk about the Republican platform, but then all their nasty talking points go away.

Stephen Erwin  
Portland



# Presidency has been consequential

By MICHAEL J. HICKS

Normally it is best to assess political careers well after someone leaves office. But these aren't normal times.

President Biden's career has been long and enduring, but not without mistakes. When partisan feelings fade, his presidency will be judged as the highlight of his career. He has been a consequential American president.

Biden has held elected office for all but four of the last 54 years, serving on a city council, as U.S. senator, vice president, and, finally, president. No public servant gets it all right, and Joe Biden is no exception.

His early Senate years marked him as a centrist Democrat. For 16 of his first 20 years in the Senate, the GOP held the White House. So, most of his legislative efforts were to craft a compromise in budget bills, judicial nominees and regulatory expansion.

Two things distinguished Biden's Senate career. The first is that he did the work to understand policy issues and craft legislation that would perform as intended. The second was that, in the process of compromise, he became a strong institutionalist. He focused on making congressional deliberation and oversight a practical part of governing.

The Senate today is filled with people who disdain the hard work of understanding a problem. They are instead fundraising and looking for another job. Biden took the job seriously and worked hard at it.

Easily the strongest critique of Biden as a senator is his poor

Michael J. Hicks



judgements on foreign policy. He voted against authorization for use of force against Saddam Hussein's aggression in 1991 — a war that was backed by the United Nations and fought by a coalition of more than 40 nations. Later that year, he pressed to have the U.S. unilaterally intervene in the Bosnian Civil War, which had no supporting alliance. Two years later, he opposed President Clinton's planned intervention in Haiti to stop its civil war. Then, six years later, Biden supported our invasion of both Afghanistan and Iraq after 9/11.

These positions are dizzying in their contradictions. It is for good reason that Robert Gates observed that Biden "has been wrong on nearly every major foreign policy and national security issue over the past four decades."

Biden's public service was marred by two tragedies. First, in the days after being elected to the Senate, his wife and infant daughter were killed in an automobile accident. His sons, Beau and Hunter, were severely injured. Decades later, as vice president, Beau, a veteran of the Iraq war and attorney general of Delaware, died of brain cancer.

That tragedy convinced Biden to skip his third run for the presi-

dency. His first attempt, in 1988, was derailed because one of his speeches appeared to copy those of Neil Kinnock, a British political leader. Those accusations seem quaint by today's standards and lays bare the deep unburdening of concern for personal character that marks much of America's troubled electorate.

It is difficult to judge Biden's time as vice president, other than noting his skills as a long-serving senator likely helped President Obama's legislative victory on the Affordable Care Act. It is Biden's presidency that has set his place in American history.

Biden took the oath of office amid the worst global pandemic in a century, with 6.4 percent unemployment rate and a global recession. Two weeks earlier, his predecessor helped orchestrate a clumsy insurrection that was the first challenge to a peaceful transfer of power in almost 250 years of American democracy.

Only Abraham Lincoln, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry Truman ascended to office under such daunting conditions.

Almost immediately, Biden began work on legislation. His administration passed a second COVID relief bill. It was much smaller than the CARES Act passed during the Trump administration and, together, these bills pushed us out of the downturn much faster than any other developed nation. These bills also accelerated inflation, which began in earnest late in 2022, driving misperceptions of the overall performance of the economy. Legislatively, the rest of the

Biden administration has been the most successful term of the 21st century. On domestic policy, the George W. Bush administration was heavily hindered by foreign affairs. In eight years, Bush managed a tax cut, an education bill and a transportation bill. Both the Obama and Trump presidencies were largely confined to one piece of legislation each; tax cuts for Trump, and health care for Obama.

In contrast, Biden passed a large infrastructure bill and the CHIPS Act, which is probably the only legislation that has onshored any U.S. industry in history. Biden also came very close to a sweeping immigration bill, but, like Bush before him, was derailed by Republicans who preferred to campaign on failed policies rather than vote for a remedy.

Keeping his promise to end the war in Afghanistan, Biden ordered a poorly planned and executed withdrawal from a two-decade long war. That he implemented the Trump administration's exit plan is no excuse. This was a mistake, though likely not of long-term consequence.

In contrast, Biden orchestrated the most important American foreign policy success since the collapse of the Soviet Union and maybe the second-most important since World War II. The invasion of Ukraine marked a critical turning point in his foreign policy success.

Rallying NATO, Biden rushed funds and materials to Ukraine to oppose a massive Russian invasion. Fighting outnumbered and outgunned, Ukraine's armed

forces repelled the invasion, recapturing most of the lost territory within a few months. Today, Ukraine has defeated Russian offensive capacity and fought to a stalemate.

Biden's efforts brought two formerly neutral nations — Sweden and Finland — into NATO. This was a spectacular foreign policy success, strengthening an alliance that has gone to war only once — in defense of the U.S. after 9/11. The president's visit to Israel in the early days after the terrorist attack of Oct. 7 will also be remembered as a key, perhaps the key, message of support to our beleaguered ally.

Biden's decision not to seek the nomination for a second term will be a footnote to his presidency. He will be better remembered for having overseen the strongest economic recovery from the COVID pandemic in the developed world, while passing important domestic policy bills. Most importantly, he will be credited for strengthening American national security against a well-organized, pro-Russian faction in Congress.

Unlike his predecessor, Biden rose to the challenge of his office, giving the American people a consequential presidency in challenging times.

Hicks is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and the George and Frances Ball distinguished professor of economics in the Miller College of Business at Ball State University. Email him at mhicks@bsu.edu.

# Protests should steer clear of private residences

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The right to assemble and protest is entrenched in American history, guaranteed in our Constitution. Every grade schooler learns early in history lessons about the Boston Tea Party, when American colonists protested the British crown and threw cargos of tea into the Boston Harbor.

Protesting over public policy at city hall, county administration buildings

## Guest Editorial

and state and federal offices is a noble tradition. But in a recent troubling turn, protesters have taken to showing up at the private homes of public figures.

They shouldn't. Don't get us wrong.

Public officials are fair game for criticism and protests. They ran for elected office or sought their high-profile jobs. Criticism is part of the game.

But their families didn't run for office. Neither did their neighbors. Crowds showing up outside their houses, where their infants are sleeping or their school-age children are doing homework, is intimidation. Even bullying. Frightening children and neigh-

bors is not a legitimate strategy for coercing a public official to do your will.

We've seen this across the political spectrum. It happened to Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh. It happened to Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine's former health chief Amy Acton. It happened to Frank Jackson. Most recently, it happened to Cuyahoga County Executive Chris Ronayne.

And it is simply wrong.

Our homes are our havens. The right to feel safe in them is one of our most basic guarantees as Americans. Every one of us.

This is not about passing laws to stop protests at homes. That gets into First Amendment issues with which we should not meddle. Rather, it's about basic human decency.

It's about how we define ourselves as a civilized society.

So, please, if you want to protest, have at it. We

fully support you. But please listen to your better angels when you pick your locations. You're protesting what these leaders do as part of their jobs, so protest where they do conduct their business. Line up outside the Statehouse, or city halls. Go to where they are off speeches.

And then go home, where you feel safe, and leave them to go to their homes, where they and their families have a right to feel safe, too.

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# Insurance policies limit adaptation

By MIRANDA JEYARETNAM

Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service

In Kansas, where a prolonged drought has killed crops and eroded the soil, Gail Fuller's farm is like an oasis. Sheep, cows and chickens graze freely on crops and vegetation in a paradisiacal mess.

But if Fuller's farm were to be hit by a tornado or flood, or be seriously impacted by the drought, he would be alone in footing the bill. That's because his farming practices aren't protected by federal crop insurance, a nearly century-old safety net that hasn't adapted to the climate change era.

Fuller is one of a growing number of farmers who are uninsured or under-insured because the industry doesn't support switching from traditional to regenerative farming, an approach that has the potential to sequester enough carbon to halve agricultural emissions by 2030. That shift is becoming more urgent both to slow climate change and insulate farmers from its impacts, yet the insurance industry continues to stand in the way.

In the U.S., agriculture accounts for about 11% of all greenhouse gas emissions. A large portion of that is tied to tilling soil, which releases carbon dioxide, and applying excessive fertilizer, which emits nitrous oxide. The latter is a greenhouse gas that's more than 270 times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub>. Regenerative farming reduces those emissions by soaking up carbon dioxide through photosynthesis, storing carbon in the soil and capturing nitrogen that would otherwise run off into nearby streams.

Extreme weather also is becoming more frequent, threatening crop yields and supply chains. Twenty-four states, including



Tribune News Service/The Dallas Morning News/Shafkat Anowar

Reeves Family Farm owner Aaron Reeves points out toward his nursery beds containing okra and squash plants during a tour on June 9, 2023, at his farm in Princeton, Texas. Reeves Family Farm is one of the farms in Collin County following regenerative agriculture farming to help combat climate change.

Kansas, are experiencing severe to exceptional droughts, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. That poses a problem, as does heavy rain that can waterlog crops and is falling with increasing intensity. Almost 20% of the \$140 billion in crop insurance payouts from 1991 to 2017 were due to rising temperatures, according to researchers at Stanford University.

Despite these risks — and the benefit regenerative agriculture can play in addressing climate change — stronger incentives have locked in the status quo, according to Anne Schechinger, Midwest director at the nonprofit Environmental Working Group (EWG).

Crop insurance policies mainly cover conventional commodity crops such as corn, soybeans, cotton and wheat. Farmers growing

them typically enroll in multi-peril insurance, which insures individual crops against poor harvests caused by disease, flooding, droughts and other extreme weather.

Like health, car or property insurance, appraisals for losses or damages rely on standards — known as Good Farming Practices — that ensure low yields aren't caused by mismanagement. But these rules cannot include a practice that may lower a crop's yield and therefore tend to follow established industrial, monoculture practices: A farmer caught growing different crops between rows or terminating their cover crops too late, for example, is at risk of having their insurance claims denied.

Regenerative agriculture often involves interspersing different crops in

the same field and growing lower-yielding perennial plants that can create issues for insurers. But crop insurance payouts largely don't depend on whether a farmer's practices increase or mitigate climate risks, according to University of Iowa professor Silvia Secchi.

Fuller, a third-generation farmer, started experimenting with regenerative farming practices in the mid-1990s, believing he'd see better yields and more resilient crops in the long term. He had grown cover crops in the off-season, one of the more commonly employed regenerative farming practices that involves planting non-market crops that improve soil health. At the time, Fuller was still covered by crop insurance and, per insurance rules, killed his cover crops with herbicide

before growing his market crop.

But when his insurance company appraised the land in August 2012, during a severe drought, it determined that the remnant cover crops were weeds. The company denied all of Fuller's claims — which led to his lending institution dropping his operating line of credit.

Fuller sued his insurance company and won. Two years later, however, when he needed them to cover losses for two fields of soybeans, they denied his claims again.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has introduced reforms and alternatives to the crop insurance program to accommodate climate risks over the past decade, including adding coverage for new crops and a \$5-per-acre incentive to plant cover crops during the off-season.

The Risk Management Agency, which controls federal crop insurance, also has expanded its coverage of certain climate-smart practices, like lowering water use, cover cropping and injecting nitrogen into the soil, rather than layering it on the soil's surface. Farmers must still follow specific rules, such as terminating their cover crops early enough, which some scientists think limits how much these practices can reduce emissions.

The crop insurance system is already under stress from climate change. The program has to evolve to incentivize practices appropriate to different regions and cover a variety of risks, a USDA spokesperson said, all while being actuarially sound — meaning the program must charge high enough premiums to cover expected losses.

The USDA also initiated the Whole-Farm Revenue Protection Program in 2014, which insures a

farm's entire revenue rather than individual crops, providing a safety net for farmers who plant companion crops or raise animals in their fields. But the number of farmers participating in the Whole-Farm Revenue Protection Program is small, according to EWG's Schechinger. About 1,800 policies were sold in 2023, according to the USDA, which accounts for less than 1% of crop insurance. The program involves significantly more paperwork and an insured revenue cap that doesn't always cover the entire farm's revenue, which can be prohibitive to insurance agents in selling and farmers in buying the policy, Layher said.

According to Layher, the Farm Bureau supports improvements to the Whole-Farm Revenue Protection Program that would make it more accessible to farmers and easier for insurance agents to sell — both reforms are proposed in the Farm Bill that is stalled in the House until at least September.

The regenerative farming movement is relatively small, but it's gained steam in recent years thanks to federal support and agribusinesses eager to align their supply chains and sustainability goals. But for now, the push for changing insurance rules still relies largely on farmers like Fuller and Rick Clark, a third-generation farmer from west central Indiana who has been uninsured for six years because he practices regenerative farming.

When he's not working his farm — which utilizes cover crops across all 7,000 acres — Clark teaches other farmers how to eliminate chemical fertilizers and use cover crops on their farms.

"We have to make sure the path towards change is an easy path," Clark said.

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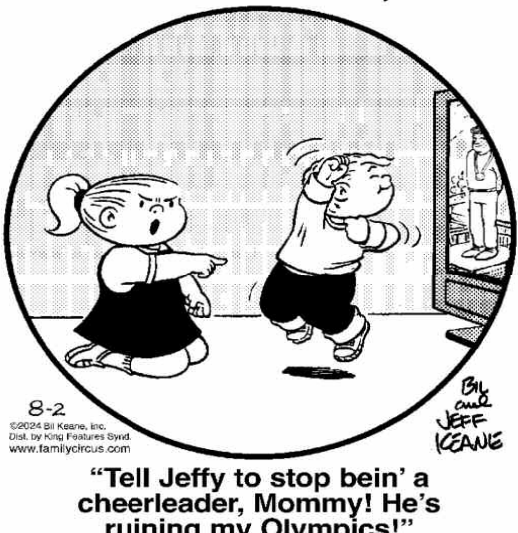
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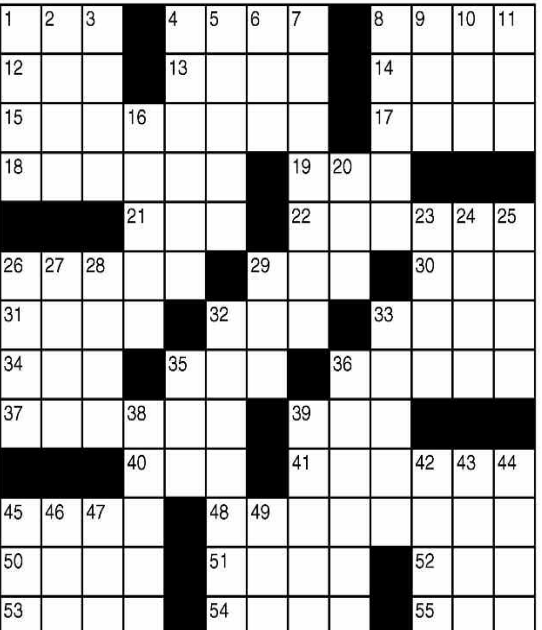
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# Olympic ...

Continued from page 8  
While Bowen mentioned that a few Olympians that are currently competing have come through the training center since she started, she thinks it will be a little bit more surreal to watch the Paralympics this year (Aug. 28-Sept. 8)

due to there being an in-residence paralympic swim team at the training facility.  
“The Paralympics, I think is what will hit with me more, because we talk to those athletes every single day,” Bowen said. “We learn about them as peo-

ple and they learn about us and our lifeguards.  
“It’s a different kind of bond than anything that I’ve experienced. The Paralympic trials, for instance, I was watching on Peacock and it was just so cool to sit there and be like ‘I know Elizabeth Marks. I talk to

her regularly. I know Jessica Long and talk to her sometimes and see her every single day.’  
“It is a very odd feeling and I’m very much looking forward to seeing those Paralympic athletes reaching their dreams and hopefully getting gold.”

# US men's basketball takes down South Sudan

By C.J. HOLMES  
New York Daily News  
Tribune News Service

South Sudan, and its rigorous journey to Olympic competition, has been one of the biggest feel-good storylines to follow throughout the 2024 Paris Games. A true underdog tale of resilience in every sense, worthy of global praise.

Despite having little international experience, South Sudan, led by coach Royal Ivey, nearly defeated Team USA in exhibition play and earned its first-ever Olympic win on Sunday against Puerto Rico.

Entering Wednesday's rematch against the Americans inside Paris' Pierre Mauroy Stadium, Ivey and the South Sudanese were more confident than ever in their chances to take down the world's best.

Unfortunately for South Sudan, Team USA had no interest in a letdown performance after dominating Serbia 110-84 on Sunday.

What South Sudan had accomplished so far in these Olympics had been remarkable, but the Americans' depth and offensive firepower was just too much to overcome on Wednesday. And while they did show signs of life early and late in regulation, Team USA rolled, 103-86, in a game where they shot 53% from the field, 43% from 3-point range and had six players finish in double figures.

Team USA moved to 2-0 in group play with the win, qualified for the tournament quarterfinals and will face Puerto Rico in its third game on Saturday. South Sudan, 1-1, will continue its Olympic run against Serbia on the same day.

And just like that, the Americans are one step closer to gold.

Team USA head coach Steve Kerr has used these

early Olympic games for experimentation, as he typically does throughout the opening weeks of the NBA season with the Golden State Warriors. Against South Sudan, the four-time champion went with a starting lineup of Stephen Curry, Devin Booker, LeBron James, Anthony Davis and Jayson Tatum.

Tatum famously did not play in the Americans' Olympic opener against Serbia, much to the dismay of Boston Celtics fans everywhere. Kerr later explained that decision was 100% his call and went with a lineup that made the most sense for that specific game.

However, Kerr did assure reporters that Tatum would still make his mark in these Olympics, and against South Sudan, he got his first chance to do so. The newly-crowned NBA champion was not at his best offensively in just over 17 minutes of action, finishing with four points, five rebounds and a pair of assists.

Kevin Durant picked up right where he left off against Serbia, albeit with less efficiency, finishing with 14 points in his second game removed from a calf injury that forced him to miss the entirety of exhibition play. And James added 12 points on 5-of-9 shooting after enjoying a 3-of-3 start from the field.

Nuni Omot scored a game-high 24 points for South Sudan. Team USA attempted 20 free throws to South Sudan's 12 and scored 25 points in transition.

However, the true hero for the Americans on Wednesday was Bam Adebayo of the Miami Heat, who scored a team-high 18 points on 8-of-10 shooting off the bench with seven rebounds and two blocks.



Photo provided

# Putting down roots

The Jay County High School boys and girls soccer teams wrapped up the first youth soccer camp since Rodney Reynolds and Kendra Muhlenkamp took over the boys and girls, respectively.

# Shatters ...

Continued from page 8  
For Ledecky, whose medal collection also includes 26 from the world championships — 21 of them gold — and a Presidential Medal of Freedom, the road to Paris and her fourth Olympics has been an exhausting one. She swam her first race at 6 and at the peak of her training for Paris, she was swimming more than 35 miles a week, turning endless repetitions in the University of Florida pool where she trains with the men's team.

On Wednesday, she said those training partners helped her through the most difficult parts of her race.

“Three years ago in Tokyo, I was repeating my grandmother’s name in my head a lot. Today, I kind of set-

led on like the boys’ names at Florida,” she said. “I was just kind of repeating their names in my head, just thinking of all the practices that we’ve done, and all the confidence that I get from training, from being next to them and racing them.”

As for the history she can make in Paris by winning another medal, Ledecky, who trails only Michael Phelps for most Olympic swimming medals all time, said she’s not really keeping count.

“I try not to think about history very much,” she said. “I know those names, those people that I’m up with. They’re swimmers that I looked up to when I first started swimming, so it’s an honor just to be named among them. And I’m grateful for them inspiring me and so

many U.S. swimmers over the years.”

In the final race of the night, China’s Pan Zhanle shaved four-tenths of a second off his world record in the 100-meter freestyle, winning in 46.80.

Torri Huske was the only American besides Ledecky to reach the podium Wednesday, claiming her third medal of the Games by finishing second in the women’s 100-meter freestyle in 52.29, 0.13 seconds back of Sweden’s Sarah Sjöstroem. Hong Kong’s Siobhan Bernadette Haughey was third, winning her second bronze medal of these Games.

Huske also won the 100-meter butterfly and swam a leg on the 4x100-meter relay team, which earned a silver.

# Sports on tap

## Local schedule

**Today**  
Fort Recovery — Girls golf at Tri-Village – 9 a.m.  
**Tuesday**  
Jay County — Girls golf at Belmont – 8 a.m.  
Fort Recovery — Boys golf at Mercer County Meet – 8 a.m.; Girls golf at Union City Classic – 12:30 p.m.

## TV sports

**Today**  
2:30 a.m. — Olympic badminton (USA)  
3 a.m. — Olympic beach volleyball (USA)  
4:35 a.m. — Olympic basketball 3x3: Netherlands 3x3 vs Poland 3x3 (USA)  
5 a.m. — Olympic swimming (USA)  
7 a.m. — Olympic women’s basketball 3x3: France vs. USA (USA)  
7:30 a.m. — Olympic basketball: Greece vs. Australia (USA)  
9 a.m. — Olympic beach volleyball: Spain vs. USA (NBC)  
9 a.m. — Olympic badminton (USA)

9:15 a.m. — Olympics archery (USA)  
12 p.m. — Olympic women’s basketball 3x3: Canada 3x3 vs. USA 3x3 (NBC)  
12:30 p.m. — Olympic women’s water polo: France vs. USA (USA)  
1:10 p.m. — Olympics track and field (NBC)  
2:20 p.m. — MLB: St. Louis Cardinals at Chicago Cubs (Bally Indiana)  
3 p.m. — Olympic volleyball: USA vs. Japan (USA)  
4 p.m. — Olympic beach volleyball: USA vs. Germany (NBC)  
7 p.m. — Banana Ball World Tour baseball (ESPN)  
7:10 p.m. — MLB: San Francisco Giants at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)  
9 p.m. — The Basketball Tournament semifinal (FS1)  
9 p.m. — Professional Fighters League (ESPN)

**Saturday**  
3 a.m. — Olympic beach volleyball (USA)  
3:30 a.m. — Olympic rowing (USA)  
5 a.m. — Olympic swimming (USA)  
5 a.m. — Mixed Olympic coverage (NBC)  
5:30 a.m. — AFL: Sydney Swans at Port Adelaide Power (FS1)

7:15 a.m. — Olympic women’s field hockey: South Africa vs. USA (USA)  
7:30 a.m. — Olympic table tennis (USA)  
9:30 a.m. — Olympic canoe slalom (USA)  
10:20 a.m. — Olympic gymnastics (NBC)  
10:30 a.m. — Olympic water polo: USA vs. Montenegro (USA)  
12 p.m. — Horse racing: Saratoga Live (FS1)  
12 p.m. — UFC fighting (ESPN2)  
1 p.m. — Olympic track and field (NBC)  
2:20 p.m. — MLB: St. Louis Cardinals at Chicago Cubs (Bally Indiana)  
3 p.m. — Horse racing: Saratoga Saturday (FOX)  
3 p.m. — UFC fighting (ESPN)  
5 p.m. — Athletes Unlimited softball: purple vs. Orange (ESPN2)  
5:30 p.m. — Club friendlies soccer: Chelsea vs. Manchester City (ESPN)  
7 p.m. — Banana Ball World Tour baseball (ESPN2)  
7:15 p.m. — MLB: San Francisco Giants at Cincinnati Reds (FOX)  
7:30 p.m. — Club friendlies soccer: Liverpool vs. Manchester United (ESPN)  
9 p.m. — ARCA Menards Series: Elko (FS1)

10 p.m. — USL Championship: Pittsburgh Riverhounds at Sacramento Republic (ESPN2)

## Local notes

**Last chance for harness racing**  
The last chance to get points for the Finals at the State Fair in harness racing will come on Saturday at the Jay County Fairgrounds in.  
There will be 22 races of two-and-three-year-old trotters and pacers sponsored by Jayland Trotting Association. The first race is set to begin at 11 a.m.  
Local trainers and owners that are involved include Kevin High, Wade Lewellen, Faron Parr and Greg Runyon.  
There is \$83,600 available in purse money and there will be door prizes after each race.  
Following Saturday’s event, there will be more races at the fairgrounds on Thursday before the Indiana State Fair on Aug. 14.

**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.

**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@adamshealthnetwork.org or by calling (260) 724-2145 ext. 13062.

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

## 90 SALE CALENDAR

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
Located: Woman's Building Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 E. Votaw St. Portland, IN Friday Afternoon August 2nd, 2024 5:00 P. M.  
**HOUSEHOLD GOODS - OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS - MOWER-TOOLS.**  
Oak flat door cupboard; buffet; oak wall telephone; Duncan Phyfe style drop leaf table; cedar chest; 8 gallon crock; Miller Dairy milk can; cast iron skillets including Wagner; carpet beater; nail keg; Toro time cutter Z5000 zero turn mower; Pride mobility cart; metal shelving units; Invacare Pronto electric scooter (nice); Golden Buzz Around HD electric scooter (nice); Roku TV 32", new in the box; Craftsman sockets, wrenches, electric buffer, and other items not listed.  
NOTES: This is only a partial listing of the items to be sold as many items have been stored in boxes and have yet to be sorted.  
HOPE FAMILY Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU101031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112

## 90 SALE CALENDAR

**REAL ESTATE AUCTION**  
Saturday, SEPTEMBER 14, 2024 9:00AM  
Location 891 W 650 N, Bryant, IN 47326  
Real Estate:  
\*3 +/- acres \*2305 sq. ft. building  
\*1125 sq. ft. basement \*24'x48' pavilion. Personal property to follow; \*Cub Cadet mower\*snow blower\*picnic table.  
Community Christian Ministries, Owners Sale conducted by Green Auction – 260-589-8474.  
See SoldonGreen.com for details and flyers.  
Rob Green AU19500011 Bill Liechty AU01048441

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**AMISH CREW LOOKING FOR** any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489.

## 110 HELP WANTED

**HELP WANTED:** Experienced Oil Field Pumper: Jay Co., IN / Portland Area. Call: Howard @ 248-623-6091 or Office: 248-343-4898

## 130 MISC. FOR SALE

**PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE** Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information.

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## 200 FOR RENT

**LEASE SPACE** available, Coldwater, OH. Manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, distribution, offices, inside and outdoor storage. Easy access to major highways and railroad access with loading docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, www.sycamoreospace.com

## 230 AUTOS, TRUCKS

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## 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

## Public Notice

The following will be sold for charges:  
2381 E 200 N PORTLAND On 08/20/2024 @ 10:00 AM  
2004 HONDA  
2HGES26754H521847 \$1,780.00  
1999 FORD  
1FTYR14V4XTA89522 \$1,680.00  
CR 8-2-2024 - HSPAXLP

## 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

## Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY, SS: IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT 2024 TERM No. 38C01-2407-EU-000020  
In the Matter of the Unsupervised Administration of the Estate of:  
Marcia Highley, Deceased  
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION  
Notice is hereby given that Candy Thees and William W. Hinkle were, on July 26th, 2024, appointed Personal Representatives of the estate of Marcia Highley deceased, who died on May 20, 2024.  
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.  
Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 28th day of July, 2024.  
HINKLE, RACSTER & SCHEMENAUR Attorney Jon Eads Clerk of the Jay Circuit Court, for Jay County, Indiana CR 8-2-9-2024-HSPAXLP

## 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.: 38C01-2310-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 #38C01-2310-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, 8-2-9-2024 HSPAXLP

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# Olympic responsibilities

*Jay County native is working her dream job for USOPC*

By **ANDREW BALKO**  
The Commercial Review

Very early in her life, Laura Bowen hated the water.

It wasn't until she gave the Jay County Summer Swim team a try one year that she realized it wasn't all that bad.

From there her passion for the water and the sport of swimming blossomed.

Now she's filling a role at an Olympic level.

After falling in love with swimming, the Jay County native secured a job in December of 2021 with the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) as the Coordinator of Aquatic Operations at Colorado Springs Olympic & Paralympic Training Center.

"It is truly a dream job," Bowen said. "I've always wanted to work for the Olympics in some capacity and with it being in aquatics is just that much more awesome. ... I love the water. I love being in it. I love being around it. I legit couldn't have asked for a better, better job, better life."

Bowen first fell in love with swimming back in elementary school. Between swimming for Bev Arnold on the summer and winter swim teams and for Matt Slavik as part of the Jay County High School team, she learned to love swimming as a sport.

"Just being in the water, there is something so freeing about it," Bowen said. "You're kind of in your own world. Yes, it's a team sport, but it's also individual at the same time. You're rac-

ing against yourself in addition to other people. I think my coaches had a lot to do with it because they pushed me to be better as a person and as a swimmer, and it showed me the good that can come out of sport."

After graduating from JCHS in 2012, Bowen attended Ball State University to major in aquatics. She earned her undergraduate degree in 2016 and stayed at BSU for two more years to earn a Masters degree in Sport and Fitness Administration/Management.

After the COVID-19 pandemic, she started to look for opportunities outside of eastern Indiana and came across the job listing at the training center. When growing up, Bowen regularly watched the Olympics as it was the highest level of professional swimming, so the position immediately caught her attention. Bowen figured she should at least apply and she secured the position and started working in late 2021.

On a day-to-day basis, Bowen checks in with the rest of the aquatics staff and the half a dozen lifeguards to make sure operations are running smoothly. She also will do pool checks for the various recovery and practice pools that includes a 50-meter indoor pool, an outdoor pool, hot and cold plunges and more various types of recovery pools.

Along with those tasks, she will often check in with coaches and athletes that are around to



Photo provided

Laura Bowen, a Jay County native, stands next to sign Olympic and Paralympic logos at the Aquatics Center of the Colorado Springs Olympic & Paralympic Training Center. Bowen has been working as the Coordinator of Aquatic Operations at the training center since Dec. 2021 and described it as her "dream job."

solve any potential problems that could arise and other duties as assigned.

With the 2024 Paris Olympics beginning on July 26 (and will run through Aug. 11), this is the first time the Olympics are being held since Bowen began working for the USOPC.

"Watching the games at any point is exciting, but working for the committee, I feel there is a different level of excitement," Bowen said. "I might not be their coach or work in the recovery center, but I still see them ... and what they go through on a regular basis. It is another ele-

ment of seeing them on the TV and achieving their dreams and what they've towards for years.

"Just knowing that you had the even the smallest little help in that - like you were there to make sure the facility was operational - it's just so cool."

See **Olympic** page 7

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## Katie Ledecky shatters Olympic record

By **KEVIN BAXTER**  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

NANTERRE, France — The 1,500-meter freestyle is the most grueling event in swimming, 30 muscle-burning, lung-busting laps of a 50-meter pool that tests an athlete's physical stamina and mental toughness.

And no one has ever done it better than Katie Ledecky, who Wednesday cemented her legacy as the greatest women's distance swimmer of all time with another dominant victory at the Paris Olympics.

Ledecky led from the start, winning by more than 10 seconds in 15 minutes, 30.02 seconds, shattering her Olympic record and collecting her first gold medal at these Games. It was her eighth gold medal and 12th Olympic medal overall, matching Jenny Thomp-

son for the most ever by a female swimmer.

Yet Ledecky, 27, who won her first Olympic title as an unheralded 15-year-old in London, said the task doesn't get any easier with age and experience.

"The first one was totally unexpected by the outside world. I had no expectations to do that," she said. "Coming into tonight, I expected it of myself. A lot of other people expected it of me and that doesn't make it easy."

"It's not easy to always follow through and get the job done. There are moments of doubt. There's moments of hard days in training where you doubt yourself and you just have to push through and trust in your training, trust that everything will come together in the end."

She has a chance to become the most decorated female swimmer in

Olympic history Thursday if she competes in the 4x200-meter freestyle relay. She'll also swim Saturday in the 800-meter freestyle, where she also holds the world and Olympic records.

While Ledecky was establishing herself as one of the best swimmers in history, Leon Marchand of France was proving to be the best swimmer in Paris, pulling off a difficult double by winning the 200-meter butterfly and 200-meter breaststroke about two hours apart, giving him three gold medals at these Olympics. As a country, only Australia, with four, has won more.

Marchand, who was born in France, swam at Arizona State and trains in Austin, Texas, won the 400-meter individual medley Sunday and has a chance at a fourth gold medal Friday in the 200-meter individual medley.

Ledecky, who has never lost a world championship or Olympic final at 800 or 1,500 meters, also gave a command performance Wednesday, racing out to a body-length lead at 400 meters and adding to that advantage with each stroke. With 250 meters to go, she was a full lap ahead of Germany's Leonie Maertens, one of the eight best 1,500-meter swimmers in the world, and she finished nearly 20 meters ahead of silver medalist Anastasiya Kirpichnikova of France.

It was as if the rest of the field was competing in a different race. And they were: Ledecky's time was the eighth-fastest in history; no swimmer other than Ledecky has a time that ranks in the top 20.

"I just wanted to swim a time that I could be really happy with," she said. "And that was one."

See **Shatters** page 7

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