

The Commercial Review

County facility will be closed

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Jay County Country Living will close by Dec. 31, 2026.

Jay County Commissioners on a 2-1 vote decided to move forward with ceasing the county's operations of the living facility over the next year and a half. Jay County Council also verbally agreed with no formal vote to allocate another year of funding to the facility amid transitional efforts.

Discussion circulated Wednesday around the county's options, which could include finding another entity to run the establishment, locating new homes for

Commissioners vote 2-1 to shut down Jay County Country Living by the end of 2026

current residents or selling or refurbishing the building for another purpose.

For years, county officials have questioned whether to continue funding and operating the residential center. Jay County Country Living Advisory Board recommended in June that the county close the facility.

Adams County Commissioner Stan Stoppenhagen shared his experience with the decision to close county living facility Golden Meadows Home last year.

He pointed to managerial

turnover and money issues, noting the facility went through three directors in a short span of time and had been running a deficit around \$500,000. Commissioners called on Adams Memorial Hospital to conduct health evaluations on the facility's residents.

Ultimately, the hospital determined the county could not provide the medical care that residents needed, Stoppenhagen explained.

"It was an extremely difficult decision, that's for sure, because the residents out there were a family, and a lot of the employees were a family to those residents and to each other," he said.

Adams County Commissioners closed the facility's doors after all residents were relocated.

"That was kind of my stopping point on, 'We're not closing this until every resident has an appropriate place to live,'" he recalled.

See **Closed** page 2

Land purchase?

County council declares interest in Tyson Road property

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

County officials are eyeing another piece of property on the west side of Portland.

Jay County Council approved a resolution Wednesday declaring interest in purchasing and seeking appraisals for about 47 acres of a portion of the property at 1702 W. Tyson Road.

Relatedly, Jay County Commissioners during a joint session with council on Wednesday tabled decision on buying the land, saying they would like to review the appraisals first.

Council and commissioners met in executive session Wednesday prior to council's regular meeting to discuss the potential purchase. Council member Bryan Alexander brought up the subject during the regular meeting, proposing council approve a resolution to move forward with the real estate acquisition.

"This is just starting the process," said Alexander. "Frankly, my thoughts would be, if we pass this and we get feedback from the commissioners or 'no,' we won't pursue it, I mean, there's no reason to pursue it, but if we don't pass this today, we can't take action."

The property — it is located on the north side of Tyson Road between Rose Drive and Brigade Electronics — will be available for public auction Sept. 6. County officials are specifically interested in Tract 3, which according to the auction listing has water and wastewater taps installed.

Council and commissioners indicated the property could be used for housing development.

Per the resolution, Jon Funk and Dave Tarter



The above map shows the property Jay County Council declared interest in purchasing during a meeting Wednesday night. The property on the north side of Tyson Road (bottom) sits between Brigade Electronics (lower left) and Rose Drive (at right). The county is awaiting independent appraisals on the property, which is set for public auction next month.

were appointed to appraise the fair market value of the property within 30 days.

Alexander asked for direction from his fellow council members.

"I think it sounds like an excellent plan," council member Cindy Bracy said, with council president Matt Minnich agreeing.

Council members Faron Parr, Randy May, Michael Brewster, Harold Towell, Minnich, Bracy and Alexander then approved the resolution.

During the joint session Wednesday, commissioners president Chad Aker voiced concern about the property going up for auction sale in less than a month. Alexander said the appraisals should be complete by Monday. Aker also pointed to conducting a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment, with Alexander asking county attorney Wes Schemenaur if an assessment is required.

Schemenaur explained while it's not a legal requirement, if there are issues under the surface and the county purchases the property prior to knowing about them, the county could be liable to cover those issues.

Bracy recalled when the county purchased the 68-acre property on the western edge of Portland along Votaw Street (Indiana 67), saying she didn't believe the county did Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment prior to purchasing the land.

See **Land** page 2

Trump issues warning to Putin

By SAMY ADGHIRNI, ARNE DELFS and ALBERTO NARDELLI
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

U.S. President Donald Trump warned he would impose "very severe consequences" if Russian leader Vladimir Putin didn't agree to a ceasefire agreement later this week, following a call with European leaders ahead of his meeting with the Russian president.

Trump also said he hoped to use the Friday meeting to set up a "quick second meeting" with Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy after allies pressed him to push for such a summit.

"There's a very good chance that we're going to have a second meeting which will be more productive than the first," Trump told reporters Wednesday at the Kennedy Center, adding that he was "setting the table for the second meeting."

The president's remarks signaled both that he was looking to downplay expectations for the delivery of a full peace deal from his Anchorage, Alaska summit with Putin, and responding to concerns from his European partners who urged him to prioritize direct Putin-Zelenskyy talks.

Skeptics of Trump's effort have expressed concern that the U.S. president — who has said an eventual deal would include territorial exchanges — could agree to peace terms proposed by Putin that would disadvantage Ukraine.

Trump assured leaders on the call he wouldn't negotiate territories with Putin and would push the Russian leader to meet with Zelenskyy, according to multiple people briefed on the discussions. He reiterated his public claim that he would know quickly if the Russian president was serious about the negotiations, and said the U.S. would be willing to contribute to support some security guarantees short of full NATO membership for Kyiv.

French President Emmanuel Macron, speaking to reporters Wednesday after the call, said that any decision on possible concessions on territory will need to be made by Ukraine and there were no "serious territorial exchange plans on the table today."

In review

The Glass Days festival is scheduled for Saturday in Dunkirk beginning with a breakfast at the Moose Lodge from 8 to 11 a.m. Glass artisans and food vendors will be on site beginning at 10 a.m., with kids games available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cook and Belle will perform in concert beginning at 5 p.m.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 84 degrees Wednesday. The low was 71.

The forecast calls for a low in the upper 60s tonight. Skies will be sunny Saturday with a high in the upper 80s and heat index values in the mid 90s in the afternoon.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

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

Coming up

Saturday — Photos from the Fort Recovery football scrimmage against Indian Lake.

Tuesday — Photos from Saturday's Glass Days festival in Dunkirk.

Wednesday — Details from next week's Jay School Board meeting.



Closed ...

Continued from page 1

(Commissioners agreed to pay for a water and wastewater analysis — it would determine whether the grounds were feasible for a large-scale project — on the property in November 2022, with officials moving forward on the purchase in February 2023 prior to the analysis' completion.)

Aker advocated for a housing project but recommended commissioners hold off on a vote until after they receive appraisals.

Commissioners agreed to table the matter.

Also during the joint session Wednesday, commissioners and council heard an update on the infrastructure project planned for the county's 68-acre property along Votaw Street (Indiana 67) on the west side of Portland.

Cecil Penland of planning firm Rundell, Ernstberger and

Associates reminded county officials they authorized the company earlier this year to move forward with engineering the first phase of development plans. (That would include installing wastewater and stormwater utilities, a water main and lift station.)

The company aims to have engineering work complete by the beginning of October so that the project can go out to bid.

Penland noted the overall cost for the utility structure has decreased from \$3.9 million to \$3.1 million, an \$800,000 savings.

"That's been a result of the sanitary lift station and savings that we've been able to find there based on the size of the environments and needs," he said.

Aker said that would decrease the county's local match from \$1.4 million to \$600,000. He pointed to a few potential revenue sources,

such as \$2.6 million in the economic development income tax (EDIT) fund, \$1.6 million in Jay County Redevelopment Commission's coffers and about \$1 million in wind farm economic development payments.

Ed Curtin of CWC Latitudes noted a request for proposals was sent out to about 115 entities. A pre-proposal meeting is slated for 1:30 p.m. Aug. 29. The county will have proposals back by Oct. 24. Curtin said they anticipate multiple proposals to be made for the project, noting a few developers who have already voiced their interest.

In other business, during council's regular meeting Wednesday, council approved a resolution declaring intent for the county to approve a balanced budget.

Pointing to concerns with a reduction in Jay County's property tax revenue in 2026 and beyond

per Senate Enrolled Act 1, Alexander proposed passing a formal resolution to keep budgets balanced moving forward.

"Jay County Council will use its best efforts to pass a budget that does not exceed projected revenues in order to retain a solid financial base for the operations of Jay County Government," the resolution says.

Council approved the measure, with Parr opposed.






Council members also:

- OK'd auditor Emily Franks to send out a notice to taxing units in Jay County, recommending taxing units adopt budgets, rates and levies that are less than estimated maximum levies.
- Rescheduled their budget review meeting to 5:30 p.m. Sept. 2.
- Made the following additional appropriations: \$45,000 for Leap Managed IT services as it transi-

tions into being the county's information technology provider; \$35,000 for new drones for Jay County Sheriff's Office, with Alexander opposing; \$12,500 for additional work completed by Ritter Strategic Services for the procurement of new radios for Jay County emergency responders; and \$7,000 for a new scanner for Jay County Clerk's Office.

- Had a motion fail for making a \$12,500 additional appropriation to pay Kleinpeter Consulting for additional work in the owner-occupied rehabilitation program. May, Faron and Brewster voted in favor, Bracy, Alexander and Towell opposed and Minnich broke the tie with a dissenting vote.
- Transferred \$2,500 in Jay County Highway Department's budget for part-time wages; and \$2,000 in Jay County Country Living's budget for mowing services.

CR almanac

Saturday 8/16	Sunday 8/17	Monday 8/18	Tuesday 8/19	Wednesday 8/20
 90/71 Saturday looks to be sunny with a high around 90 degrees.	 90/67 Sunday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a chance of rain.	 89/70 Mostly sunny on Monday, when the high will be around 89.	 86/67 Tuesday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a high around 86.	 81/62 Mostly sunny skies are expected Wednesday with a slight chance of rain.

Lotteries

Powerball 15-27-43-45-53 Power Ball: 9 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$482 million	Daily Four: 9-6-8-9 Quick Draw: 10-19-24-28-31-32-33-41-43-46-47-49-54-56-60-69-70-72-75-77 Cash 5: 3-6-19-33-35 Estimated jackpot: \$125,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$166 million	Ohio Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 9-0-8 Pick 4: 3-4-9-9 Pick 5: 2-3-7-1-7 Evening Pick 3: 9-0-2 Pick 4: 2-8-7-8 Pick 5: 5-8-8-6-2 Rolling Cash: 3-8-30-35-38 Estimated jackpot: \$130,000
Hoosier Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 8-0-8 Daily Four: 2-4-0-1 Quick Draw: 5-8-15-16-17-23-25-26-29-32-33-36-37-41-50-51-55-64-69-80 Evening Daily Three: 1-4-2	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....3.96 Sept. corn3.94 Oct. corn3.81	Sept. beans9.89 Wheat 4.79
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.04 Sept. corn4.04 Oct. corn3.84	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.84 Sept. corn3.74 Beans10.04 Sept. beans9.99 Wheat4.78
The Andersons Richland Township Corn3.79 Sept. corn3.79 Beans10.04	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....3.99 Sept. corn3.89 Beans9.95 Sept. beans9.70 Wheat4.48

Today in history

In 1939, the MGM musical “The Wizard of Oz” opened at the Grauman’s Chinese Theater in Hollywood.

In 1945, in a pre-recorded radio address, Japan’s Emperor Hirohito announced that his country had accepted terms of surrender for ending World War II.

In 1995, details of Portland’s Meridian Street beautification and renovation project were finalized. The work was to include new light fixtures, benches, bricks, trees, grates and trash containers.

In 2004, in Athens,

the U.S. men’s basketball team lost 92-73 to Puerto Rico, only the third Olympic defeat ever for the Americans and the first since adding pros.

In 2022, Portland City Council approved a 5% raise for city employees, some of whom angrily walked out of the meeting after the vote. They had been hoping for the addition of longevity pay in addition to the 5% increase. (One employee threw his shirt at council members after a vote for a 5% raise plus longevity pay was rejected 4-3.)

—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. Meridian St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Coun-	cil, village hall, 201 S. Main St. Wednesday 4 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners special session, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.
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Land ...

Continued from page 1

Commissioners president Chad Aker asked what Adams County chose to do with the building and property. Stoppenhagen noted the county sold about 140 acres of the farm ground previously, but the building and about 11 acres of the property are still unoccupied. They're currently exploring their options, he noted.

Council member Bryan Alexander asked what happens to folks in Adams County now who would have previously qualified to live at Golden Meadows.

Muncie Mission CEO and president Frank Baldwin referenced Indianapolis Continuum of Care and Indiana Balance of State Continuum of Care, the latter of which is facilitated by Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority. Baldwin serves as the Region 6 chair on the Indiana Balance of State Continuum of Care and represents Henry, Marion, Delaware, Randolph, Blackford and Jay counties.

"My responsibility is addressing homelessness in these counties," he explained.

Those who are in need of housing should join a coordinated entry list, which is managed at the regional Muncie Hub, he said. Assessments are made from there on the individual's needs and their situation.

There are about 260 individuals on that list in the region currently, Baldwin said. As identified by the state, he later added, there are 41 homeless people in Jay County.

"I can tell you there is not enough housing at all in our region, in a six-county region, to house all of these individuals," he noted.

Delaware County offers a landlord liaison, he continued, to help facilitate housing solutions for individuals in need.

Baldwin noted Delaware County

has addressed the housing shortage by developing a housing consortium. He said Jay County already has the beginnings of a consortium, and he said the next steps could be to develop a strategic plan.

Baldwin toured Jay Country Living recently. He talked about opportunities moving forward, saying he has found two developers interested in looking at the property. He suggested a permanent supportive housing project or income-based housing.

He asked council to consider funding the facility for another year to a year and a half as a plan is developed.

Jay County Country Living director Stacey Johnson pointed to the housing shortage. While she acknowledged she believes the facility should not be operated by the county, she said the community and partners, including Meridian Health Services, want to be involved in the process moving forward.

"The only thing that I'm asking is that we do this thoughtfully," she said.

Council member and advisory board president Cindy Bracy recalled how much has changed since Jay County Country Living Advisory Board took charge in February 2026. Despite various improvements with regulations, fiscal responsibilities and other issues, she said she stood by the board's decision to close the facility.

"It is a beast that is bigger than the county has the capability to manage," she said. "I would have never thought two years ago that would have come out of my mouth."

"The building itself is a beast," added Johnson.

Council member Michael Brewster said Jay County Country Living has lost approximately \$1 million in the last five years. He referenced

concerns about tax cuts as planned with Senate Enrolled Act 1, saying the county needs to do something.

Council member and advisory board member Harold Towell suggested commissioners vote to close the facility. From there, the advisory board can begin working on what comes next.

"All seven of us (board members) will stay on if that's what the commissioners want, and we'll close it as gently and as easily as we can, and as quickly as we can," he said. "Without putting anybody, any of the residents out there under any kind of duress or anything else. It's going to be hard enough."

When the advisory board made its recommendation, Towell noted, the facility had been housing 18 residents. He recalled Johnson saying 10 of those residents needed help the county couldn't provide.

"I think back to parents, siblings, would you want them out there knowing if we could place them somewhere else, they'd be better off?" he asked. "That's what I want. I don't want to see them stay there because we're open and not get all the help they can get."

Council president Matt Minnich said he's on board with funding the facility for as long as it takes to transition. Commissioner Doug Horn asked if the county should set a hard date for closing, with commissioner Duane Monroe saying he feels there has to be a date set. Bracy suggested council approve the budget for one more year, with other council members verbally agreeing. (No formal vote was taken, with the decision to come up in the budgeting process in the coming months.)

Commissioners Monroe and Horn agreed to close the facility by Dec. 31, 2026. Aker voted in opposition to the motion, saying he voted no "to be a rebel."

AUGUST SPECIALS



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Class of '05 to host reunion

It's been 20 years since the Class of 2005 graduated. Jay County High School Class of 2005 will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a reunion at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20, at Portland Elks Lodge, 126 W. High St. Tickets are \$25 per person and include dinner and dessert catered by Mrs. P's Kitchen. There will also be a cash bar available.

To reserve a spot, call or text Jenae Horn Blasdel at (260) 251-2439.

Donation event

Pennville Volunteer Fire Department will host its annual ham and beans dinner from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6. The all-you-can-eat dinner, which will be open for free will donations, will feature ham and beans, cornbread, desserts and drinks. All donations will go toward the Hoosier Burn Camp.

Taking Note

According to its website, the organization's programs "help burn survivors from infancy through young adulthood build self-esteem and realize their highest potential as they overcome the pain and trauma associated (with) severe burn injury." The programs come at no cost to campers or their families.

To become a donor or learn more information, visit hoosier-burncamp.org.

Benefit is Saturday

The annual No One Fights Alone benefit kicks off Saturday.

This year's event will benefit the family of Bella Sutton, an 8-year-old girl from Dunkirk who was diagnosed at 1 year old with cardiomyopathy.

After spending just over a year at Riley Hospital for Children, Sutton received a heart transplant in May.

The benefit starts at 6:15 p.m. Saturday at The 615, located at 615 N. Williams St., Portland. Food will be provided, along with live music from John Beatrice Band and a silent auction.

Monetary donations will go toward assisting the Sutton family with ongoing medical expenses, transportation and home repairs needed to provide an immune-free environment for Bella.

Attendees are advised to bring lawn chairs for outdoor seating. Contact (260) 251-1118 or visit the615music.com for more information.

Routine calls annoy mom

DEAR ABBY: I am a 54-year-old mother of two, a wife and a full-time teacher. My days are long, busy and usually uneventful. Every evening, I am expected to call my 84-year-old mother, who lives a few states away. I oblige, of course, listening patiently to all of her stories, ranting and gossip.

If, for any reason, I happen to fall asleep or forget to call, it's as if my face will be plastered on a milk carton. The texts and emails start, as well as calls and texts to my husband and sometimes even my children.

Abby, I have tried explaining that this leaves me annoyed and frustrated, only to be dismissed with, "Well guess what X said today?" Or: "Did I tell you what R said to J?" (Yes, you did, in fact, TWICE already). Should I bite my tongue or insist on a better schedule that will hopefully prove to be mutually beneficial? It's difficult to engage in meaningful conversations when they are forced and mostly one-sided. — BURDENED IN NEW YORK

DEAR BURDENED: It is within your power to curtail the schedule your mother has instituted. However, doing so will require a conversation with her that may



Dear Abby

not be pleasant for either of you. TELL her you will call her once (or twice) a week, because talking daily isn't working for YOU. Tell her that if she wants to gossip, she should do it with her contemporaries rather than demand you listen on a daily basis.

Be prepared for the fact that she isn't going to like it. If she calls your husband or children to complain, ask them to please reiterate to her that you are fine, but you are too busy to talk, and that she should expect your calls at the agreed-upon time.

P.S. If her memory is faulty, she should be evaluated by her doctor.

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

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

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

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will meet at noon Friday, Aug. 15, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

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

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

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for

all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

JAY RETIRED TEACHERS — Will meet at noon Monday, Aug. 18, at Richards Restaurant in Portland. All retired school employees — including those who didn't work in Jay County — are invited to attend. The group allows retired teachers to reconnect with former colleagues, listen to entertainment and hear about what's happening in the state.

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.

THE LIFE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy, as well as help with the needs of the family. The center is located at 1209 S. Shank 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.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SUICIDE GRIEF — Meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. the third Monday of each month. The support group serves to help individuals who have lost a loved one to suicide. To register, contact Stephanie Patterson at (260) 251-3259.

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.

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

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

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For

more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

Wednesday

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

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

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

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

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

Thursday

STITCH AND CHATTER QUILT CLUB — Meets from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center. Show and tell is at 1 p.m. The club is open to all ages and is for anyone who wants to sew. Bring unfinished projects and a sewing machine. For more information, call Nan Weesner (260) 766-9334.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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

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Where should money for relief go?

By MORTON J. MARCUS

Both Indiana and the federal government provide assistance to communities with problems of growth or declines in population.

Here is our recent record of population changes:

Indiana has 566 cities and towns. In the past four years (2020 to 2024), 340 (60%) of them added nearly 118,000 to our population, according to the annual estimates from the Census Bureau. Of the remaining 226 (40%) of our cities and towns, 41 had no change in population and the rest lost 12,900 persons.

Our six largest cities (those over 100,000 residents), with 34% of our population, had 19% of the growth. Only Evansville lost population (fewer than 2,000 per-

Morton J. Marcus



sons). Two Indianapolis suburbs (Carmel and Fishers) joined the 100,000 club.

Our 389 cities and towns with less than 2,500 residents were 69% of all places and just 7% of our population. Just over half of them saw any population growth, and that was less than 1% of the state's total increase.

Where was the more vigorous growth? Over one quarter of the state's population growth

occurred in the 50,000 to 99,999 group of 15 places. Another quarter of that growth was found in the 48 smaller, 10,000 to 24,999 size communities.

Should the state assist communities with large numbers of change (adding or declining in population)? Or those places with the high rates of change?

One might argue that Westfield (another Hamilton County suburb of Indianapolis) adding nearly 16,000 persons, a 34% increase over just four years, should be able to derive revenue from the developers and added residents to meet the costs of added population. Sidewalks, roads, waterlines, sewers, school rooms, library collections, fire and police services, all the infrastructure and services associat-

ed with new or expanding commerce should be considered.

Those are the apparent costs, all seen as the benefits of growth. But what about the congestion, pollution, noise, dislocation and nuisance costs spread across the city and county?

Most local governments want growth, but it may occur outside their jurisdictions. We can call it urban sprawl or just residents seeking the pleasure of longer commutes, more powerful lawn mowers and septic systems. Or we can emphasize the singing birds, the return to nature, the absence of streetlight pollution and the "rural" life style with accessible urban convenience.

Farmers who actually farm, often reject changes in land use. They may have concepts about

the land that are difficult for the urban population to appreciate. Many farm families, however, do ultimately find suitable compensation by selling or renting land for housing, power production or other remunerative purposes.

States and federal agencies split "urban" from "rural" issues. But many of the concerns are the same: housing, jobs, transportation to work, school and shopping, medical services, water and air quality.

A redefinition of this continuum is surely ahead.

The bureaucratic split will likely remain.

Marcus is an economist formerly at the IU Kelley School of Business. Email him at mortonjmarcus@gmail.com.

Putin blocks effort at peace

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

President Donald Trump's deadline of Monday for Russian leader Vladimir Putin to agree to a ceasefire deal between Russia and Ukraine seems ready to come and go with no deal.

We wish the president's desire for peace was fulfilled, for as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says: "the war must end. And it must be done honestly," meaning a complete withdrawal of invading Russian troops.

But this is Putin's war and Putin has not achieved his war aims, namely to conquer Kyiv.

Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff met with Putin at the Kremlin this week and now there are plans that Trump will sit down with Putin and Zelenskyy soon.

We hope that Trump, a salesman for more than half a century, can put on the charisma and win over Vlad, but the ex-KGB lieutenant colonel is probably immune to the Donald's charms.

Having been back in the White House for six months now, Trump must finally be realizing that he can't end this war "in 24 hours," as he boasted when he was out of office.

Putin will respond only to military defeats and economic pressure. The Ukrainians will bloody him on the battlefield and the U.S. and our allies must keep on the sanctions to blunt Putin's power and his vision of an imperial Russia retaking its place in the firmament of global powers.

Putin's withdrawal and ending this war will not be pleasant for him. But his failure to quickly capture Kyiv following the February 2022 invasion set the stage for the grinding conflict that is draining both Russia and Ukraine of blood and treasure.

In an ideal world, Putin's recalcitrance to end his folly will at least finally convince Trump that there is not and was never going to be a quick and easy solution that he could be seen to personally mediate in his apparent quest to get a Nobel peace prize.

We hope that it's become clear to Trump that the only reason any negotiations are even happening as opposed to a Putin puppet already calling the shots in Ukraine is that the Ukrainian forces have continued to receive the support of the international community, including nec-

Guest Editorial

A final deal rests on having each side feel like it can claim some measure of victory ... although there should be some clear nonnegotiables.

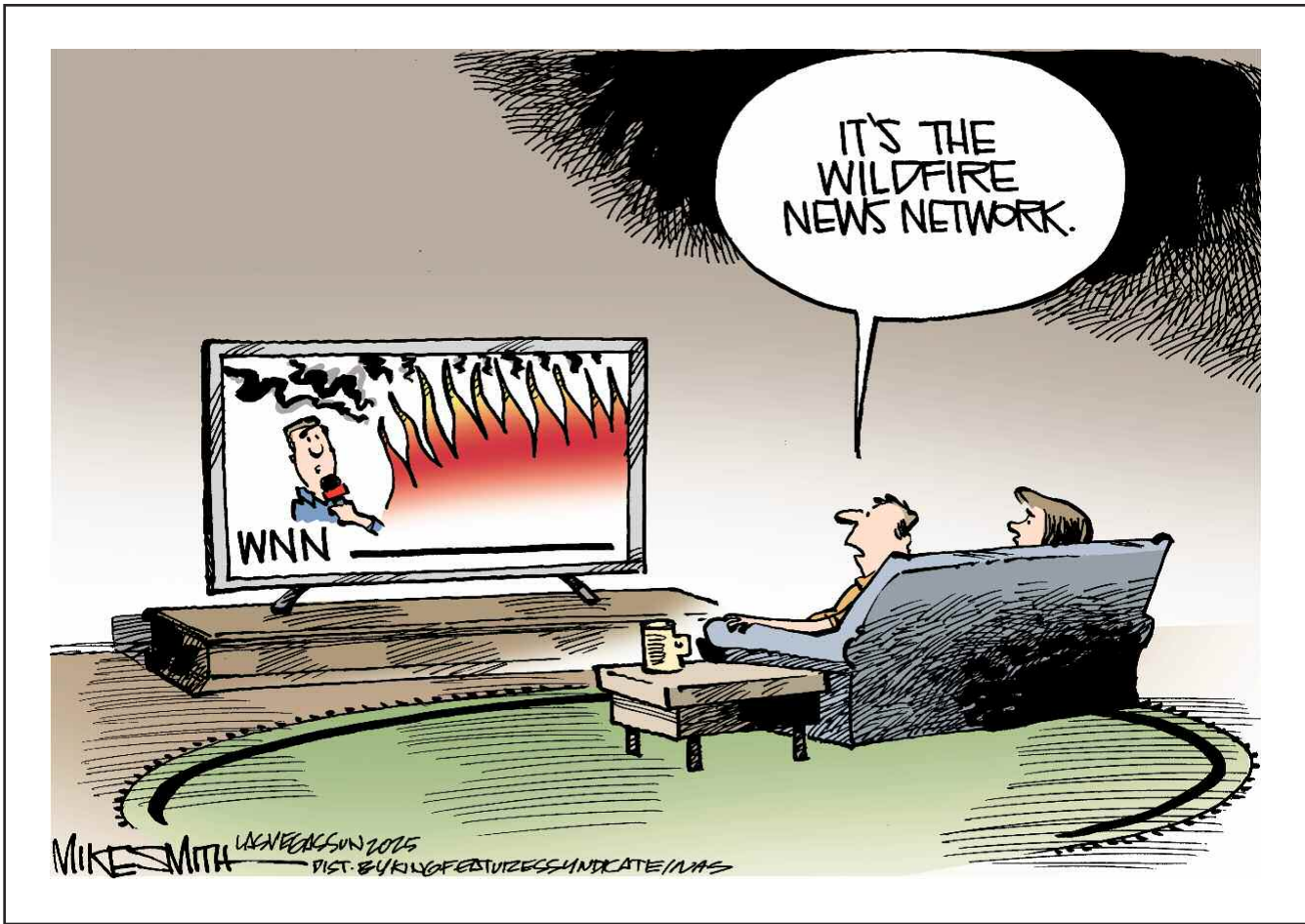
essary arms replenishment and supplies from the United States.

Despite his missteps and confusion, Trump is right about one thing: the only way out of this mess is dialogue until the sides can reach a resolution, which must happen from a position of strength for Ukraine.

A final deal rests on having each side feel like it can claim some measure of victory, which may entail some concessions to Russia, although there should be some clear nonnegotiables. Among those, the most important is the crux of this entire mess in the first place: Ukraine's territorial integrity, which must be preserved at least to the borders that existed as of the time of the invasion. Beyond being moral, this is for practical reasons.

As much as Putin has lost in this campaign — military capability, economic strength and hundreds of thousands of lives — he may well consider it a template worth repeating if he ultimately gets the chunk of territory he so desperately desires.

For the sake of Europe's — and our — continued security, it must be made crystal clear to Putin that his objectives of territorial expansion have failed absolutely. Perhaps this debacle might also temper some of Trump's own stated territorial ambitions; the age of military annexations is over, for good reason.



Warped representation is a problem

By LZ GRANDERSON
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

Believe it or not, Vice President JD Vance has said a number of things over the years that I agree with.

For example, when he suggested "the American people will not tolerate another endless war" with regards to sending aid to Ukraine, I felt seen. When Vance told podcaster Theo Von "we need to release the Epstein list; that is an important thing," I could not have agreed more. The sex trafficker received over \$1.5 billion and 4,000 wire transfers to help pay for his operation. The American people should know who among us gave that monster money.

Recently Vance took to social media to point out that Republicans average 40% of the vote in California but under one redistricting scenario would be represented by only 9% of the state's House seats.

"How can this possibly be allowed?" He pondered.

It's a really good question — especially for Texas.

After Texas gained two spots because of population growth in 2021 — 95% of which is attributable to people of color — Gov. Greg Abbott signed off on a map that actually increased the number of districts in which most voters are white.

In fact, 60% of the new state Senate districts were majority white despite white residents making up less than 40% of the population. Today Republicans are suggesting the new map is their way of making space for Latino voters. The timeline suggests those seats belonged to Latino voters years ago.

Vance is correct to point out there's a dearth of Republican representation in California politics. But while Democrats have controlled the governor's mansion and both state chambers for 11 consecutive years in the Golden State, in Texas the Republicans have held all three for 22 consecutive years — in large part because of

LZ Granderson



the type of gerrymandering Vance denounced. (In California, it's hard to fault partisan redistricting for the current mix of representation ... because the state does not have partisan redistricting. Voters established an independent commission 14 years ago.)

Texas' current map already seems to tilt in Republicans' favor. Last year, the Democratic presidential candidate, Kamala Harris, won more than 40% of the vote in the Lone Star State, and yet today Republicans hold nearly 70% of the state's House seats. And Abbott and his MAGA cohorts in office want even more.

In one sense it is a full circle moment for Vance to complain about gerrymandering considering it was a former vice president — Elbridge Gerry — who started it. One of the nation's founding fathers, Gerry was governor of Massachusetts when he approved a Senate seat map that the Boston Gazette lampooned as being shaped like a salamander. That's because it was drawn in an odd way to rig the system so that it bent toward Republicans. What Vance is complaining about was started by his party and has been the country's reality since 1812.

That's not to suggest Democrats are not also guilty.

Between 2010 and 2020, Illinois lost roughly 18,000 people. That reduction cost the state a House seat and required a new congressional map. For more than a decade, Republican Adam Kinzinger represented the 16th district — a swath of land that included moderate Republicans and conservative Democrats. However, after the new map was drawn by Democrats,

the 16th district was erased and Kinzinger was without a district.

That is the same Kinzinger who proved to be a crucial member of the Jan. 6 committee because the war vet put his country over party. So, while Illinois Democrats were busy grabbing more power with the new map in 2021, they unknowingly forced out a moderate Republican who would prove to be one of the few conservatives in Congress to stand up for democracy. He proved not only to be an ally of democracy-oriented Democrats, but to be one of the speakers at the 2024 Democratic National Convention, a move that he and they hoped would bring out more moderates to vote against Donald Trump.

Had the Democrats kept his district intact, perhaps they would have had an ally in the House fighting President Trump's overreach. Remember in May when Trump's "Big Beautiful Bill" passed the House by a single vote?

Therein lies the true danger of gerrymandering.

It's not about what is snuffed out today but what is prevented from happening in an unforeseen future. Kinzinger voted with Trump 90% of the time, including against the first impeachment. Looking at that, I don't blame Democrats for seeing him as a political foe back when they eliminated his district. However, when it mattered most, he was a democracy ally. Yet by then, he was seen as a doomed political figure because of gerrymandering. Sophocles himself couldn't have written a more tragic tale of self-defeating hubris.

So yes, JD Vance has said a number of things over the years that I agree with: no endless wars, release the Epstein files, stop the gerrymandering. I agreed with Vance who was interested in fighting for democracy. But to appease his boss, he's retreated from principled stances. How the world has changed, and he with it.

Granderson is an op-ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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Prices may climb even higher

Beef supply expected to drop by 2.5%

By GERSON FREITAS JR.
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

American beef lovers may face even leaner plates and higher prices next year as U.S. production shrinks to a decade low and tariffs limit imports, according to a U.S. government projection.

Total beef supply in the U.S. is expected to drop 2.5% in 2026 to 31.1 billion pounds — the lowest since 2019 — the U.S. Department of Agriculture said in a monthly report. The decline threatens to push record beef prices even higher, with tariffs limiting importers' ability to soften the blow.

U.S. beef supplies have been constrained by a shrinking herd. For years, ranchers have been culling cows due to a combination of persistent drought and high costs, reducing the domestic inventory to its lowest level in several decades.

Record prices for slaughter-weight animals have fueled expectations that ranchers will begin rebuilding the herd in 2026 — but that would tighten supplies even further in the short term, as ranchers would need to retain more females for breeding rather than sending them to processors.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration has slapped hefty tariffs on shipments from Brazil, making supplies from the world's largest beef exporter more costly.

U.S. beef production is expected to fall 1.8% to 25.5 billion pounds next year, the lowest since 2016, while imports are projected to decline 6.1% to 4.95 billion pounds, according to the USDA. Both forecasts were revised lower from last month.



Tribune News Service

Carrie Thompson works in a front yard that has been converted into a garden in Minneapolis. In 2019, after growing to three yards, the couple started working on the Black Radish full-time. “It is definitely not your normal 9 to 5, which is something that is also very important to us,” Townsend said.

Yard to garden Lawns were converted to grow produce

By LINCOLN ROCH
Star Tribune
Tribune News Service

A staple of the American dream — the perfectly cut, Kentucky bluegrass front lawn — is missing from 15 south Minneapolis yards. In its place: big, rectangular boxes of dirt.

One of them is made from an old bed frame. Others were built with 2x4's. They hold an array of vegetables, leafy greens and herbs. Two artists built and manage them. And when the crops are ready, they're shared with those who support the operation; the rest is then donated to feed many more.

Every Wednesday from June through early October, in a shed behind the home of Carrie Thompson and her husband, Jade Townsend, dozens of members of the Black Radish pick up their produce for the week. Some lend their yards, while others pay yearly for the goods. Odds are, whatever they walk away with was pulled out of the ground or picked off a plant hours — or even minutes — earlier.

Melissa Onyango-Robshaw's home is one of the original three yards. When she stops by, she takes only what she thinks she'll use till next week, which all members are asked to do.

“Sometimes it's just a little bit because I'll still have some lettuce

left over from last week and I need to finish it. But other times, I'm like, 'I'm planning this dish that uses chard, and I need this much of it,'" she said. “It's like having the farmers market, but like, four houses down.”

Thompson and Townsend started the Black Radish, an urban market garden and community-supported agriculture group, in 2018 in their front yard.

“We had decided to convert our front lawn to garden beds and then, as a joke almost, we were like ‘What if we did like, a little mini CSA?’ and then we did one,” said Townsend.

It's not mini anymore. In 2019, after growing to three yards, the couple started working on the Black Radish full-time. They frequently get requests to join the CSA, but they're at capacity, with a consistent waitlist.

To meet demand, they want to increase their footprint. But they also have to turn away people volunteering to give up their grass. They don't have the time to build and maintain more yards spread out across the neighborhood.

Instead, they have their eyes set on a quarter-acre of land two blocks from their house in the Standish neighborhood. Their vision is to turn it into a central hub for the Black Radish, and a place that empowers those around it.

The issue: Land in south Minneapolis is expensive, and urban gardening, especially, when you give the extra crops to a nonprofit, is not very lucrative.

Townsend and Thompson started the Black Radish, knowing they would be scraping by even if it was a success. For Townsend, every day consists of long hours of manual labor. All year long he makes his rounds to every yard and, depending on the season, waters, plants, harvests, re-soils or winterizes.

“It is definitely not your normal 9 to 5, which is something that is also very important to us,” Townsend said.

The job allows him to work with his wife, and be around their child, who was born in 2020, one year into the Black Radish. It has also connected the couple with the community.

All the yards, and most of the CSA members, are in their neighborhood. Dozens of conversations pop up on the sidewalk outside their house on Wednesdays, with passersby and members coming and going.

Local restaurants like the North Star Deli and the Standish Cafe source ingredients when there are enough supplies to go around. And a grant from the Sanneh Foundation lets them provide food to distribute, with a chef who makes culturally rele-

vant meals for those using the program, who are largely Hispanic.

The plot of land they want is off 39th Street and Standish Avenue. It's a vacant lot next to an apartment complex. If they get the land, the converted yards would stay, and the Black Radish' footprint would double. By farming the land instead of using raised boxes spread out across blocks, their output would triple.

They want the land to anchor the community. The vision also includes partnering with Sanneh on another front, bringing in a job training program to work with Townsend in the garden.

While the CSA works to raise the money, Thompson and Townsend note that the expansion wouldn't be making dividends. They didn't get into urban gardening to turn a profit. The driving factor for this latest endeavor: If they can grow in acreage, they can reduce their waitlist, and help more people get access to fresh, locally grown vegetables.

“What do you really want to be doing with this short amount of time that you have on this Earth?” Townsend asked. “It's important that you're not stuck doing something miserable, and we would rather try to make a difference in the world and be happy than make a killing.”

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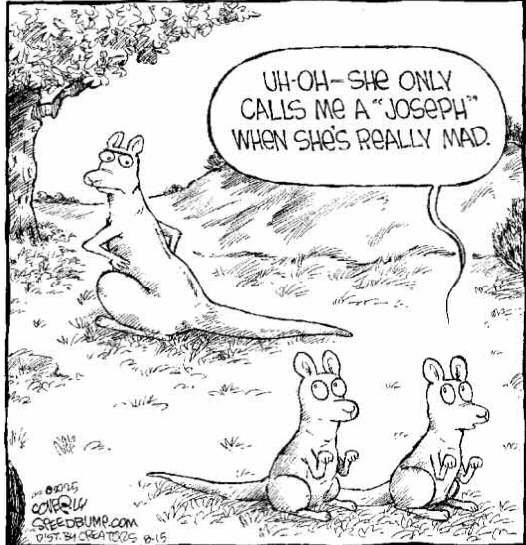
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Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Test your play

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Diamonds. North leads the ace and another spade. How would you play the hand?

West: ♠Q, ♥8 2, ♦A K J 10 5, ♣A K Q 6 4

East: ♠K 5 4, ♥A Q J 6, ♦Q 9 2, ♣8 5 3

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump. North leads the jack of hearts. How would you play the hand?

West: ♠A K 7, ♥A K, ♦A J 9 5 3, ♣K 7 2

East: ♠J, ♥Q 5, ♦10 7 6 4 2, ♣Q 8 6 4 3

1. The danger is that the opposing clubs might be divided 4-1, in which case if you were to discard a heart on your king of spades at trick two, you would very likely finish down one.

The best method of play is to ruff the second spade lead, draw trump and then play the A-K of clubs. If both opponents follow suit, you have the rest of the tricks, but if either opponent shows out on the second club, you still have two heart finesses to fall back on to save the day. Thus you make the slam on the suggested line of play if North

holds something like ♠A 10 9 8 ♥K 10 9 7 ♦7 6 4 3 ♣9, but you would almost surely go down if you made the mistake of prematurely discarding a heart on the king of spades at trick two.

2. After winning the heart, you must resist the temptation to immediately develop the diamond suit. Four diamond tricks and four tricks in the majors would not be enough, and when you attempted to score the ninth trick by leading a club, the enemy would grab the ace and cash at least three hearts to put you out of business.

Instead of pursuing such a hopeless course, you should win the heart and lead a low club at trick two. This play offers a legitimate chance for the contract. If North has two or three clubs including the ace, he must play low; otherwise, you'll be able to score two spades, two hearts, a diamond and four clubs for nine tricks.

If you are able to "steal" a club trick, you can then attack diamonds, intending to finesse if South follows low. Unless North turns up with all three missing diamonds, you make the contract.

Of course, if South has the club ace, you will fail in your mission, but in that case, the contract could not be made.

Tomorrow: Sheer artistry.
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8-15

CRYPTOQUIP

AKHNOGK EB NZK YAKNPYKETX

HKAOEV NZPN MPX IWEMW

BEA ONX AKPGGQ BETG EVEA:

NQAPWWEXPTATX AKKIX.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WOULD YOU ASSUME THAT COWS, SHEEP AND PIGS GET THEIR PRESCRIPTIONS FILLED AT THE PHARMACY?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals O

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Big-screen buys

4 Past flat floaters

12 Perfume label word

13 Soak (up)

14 Maestro Seiji —

15 Spinning abbr.

16 Tucked-in blouse part

18 Religious sch.

19 Bar mixer

20 Dutch export

22 Convened

23 Ache

27 Before

29 Marsh birds

31 Energizer mascot

34 Major artery

35 Obliterates

37 Sit-up targets

38 Writer

39 Luau dish

41 Squeezes (out)

45 More mature

47 Low digit

48 Grimm story

52 Nabokov novel

53 Big foil maker

54 Business letters

55 Allow

56 Synthetic fabric

57 Lawn material

58 Billboards

5 "You Can't — Again"

6 Express a view

7 Campus mil.

8 HIV-treating drug

9 JFK regulator

10 Prefix with night

11 Erie Canal mule

17 Ceremony

21 High-IQ group

23 Plain writing

24 —

Lingus

25 Hair Addams cousin

26 Intelligence org.

28 Bagel variety

30 Prattle

31 Actress Arthur

32 Coffee vessel

33 A Bobbsey twin

36 Skewer

37 Danny of "Moonstruck"

40 October birthstones

42 Eucalyptus eater

43 Finished

44 Plane assignments

45 Pitcher Nolan

46 Shipping dept.

48 Distant

49 Carte lead-in

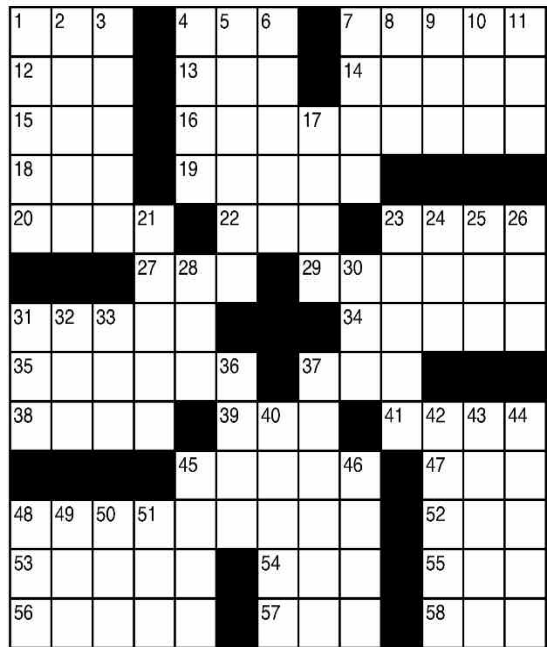
50 Glacial

51 Kanga's kid

Solution time: 25 mins.

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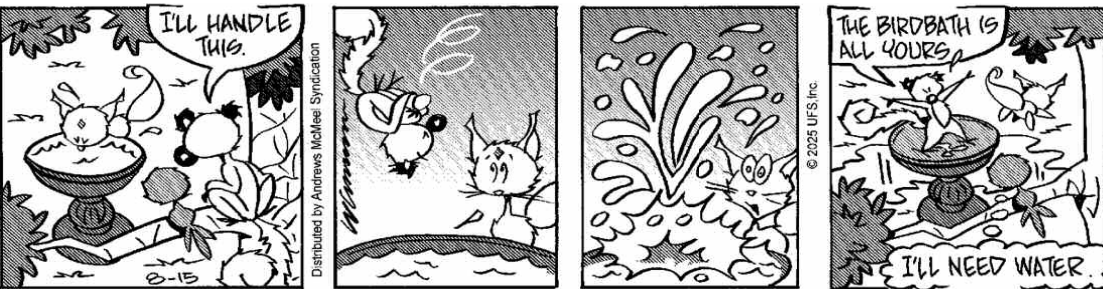
Yesterday's answer 8-15



Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



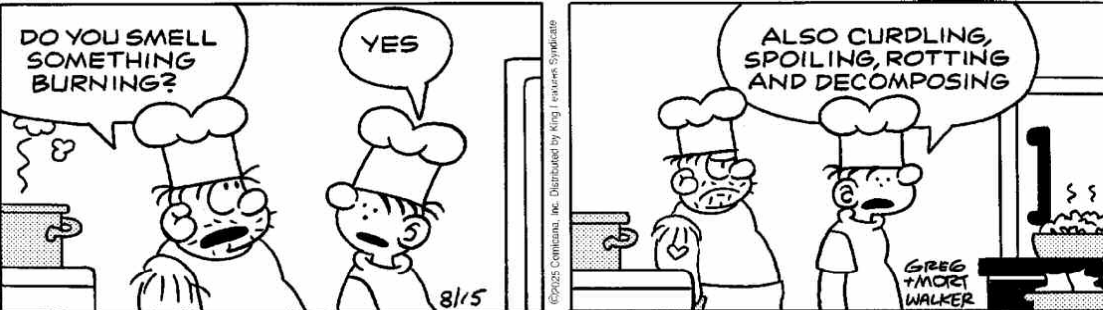
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Crawford ...

Continued from page 8

So what would a World Series in Seattle mean to the city? In Crawford’s eyes, it would be tough to match.

“Well, think about that ’95 run and we didn’t, you know, win a World Series, but just the run was electric. It was magic, and we still talk about it 30 years later,” he said. “So a World Series here, it would, it would be everything. It would be literally everything. Think about it: We

have the Storm world champions, WNBA champions. We’ve had the Sonics (as) NBA champions, Seahawks. If we can pull this off with baseball, that would just be incredible.”

Just don’t ask him to choose which would be better between the Sonics returning or a World Series.

“Let’s just have both. Two parties. Let’s do that.”

But if the Sonics return, Crawford will be at Climate

Pledge Arena on opening night — hopefully, he says, broadcasting the game.

“They don’t have to pay me for that one. I’m flying up here and calling that one myself.”

Beyond pro sports, Crawford is committed to his alma mater and helping provide opportunities for kids in Seattle. And he’s been recognized for his efforts, including fundraising and financing renovations at Rainier Beach.

“With the Rainier Beach part, I’ve always been present. Even when I was gone, I would come back and play with the guys all summer,” Crawford said. “Coach could always text me to talk to a guy if they were struggling or even if they’re doing something well, we need to, you know, come down a little bit and stay humble, but whatever it was. It’s like I never left, you know.”

In May, his alma mater rec-

ognized Crawford’s efforts by naming its new basketball court “The Jamal Crawford Court,” which is part of the school’s renovated athletic complex named after coach Mike Bethea, whom Crawford calls “The GOAT” and the best coach he ever had. Crawford will coach his son alongside his former coach this season as his schedule allows.

“It’s just like a full-circle moment,” he said.

Dodge ...

Continued from page 8

“How it’s going to be determined obviously is the question. What parts of the money itself does Title IX govern?”

That’s a question athletic directors must consider in planning, N.C. State’s Boo Corrigan said.

“It’s always there. It’s always in the front of your mind as far as what you’re going to do,” the Wolfpack AD said. “We’ve spent a lot of time since we’ve been here in leveling off all of our budgets.

“The tricky part is that right now universities are changing. There’s more and more women going to college than there are men. It’s making sure you’re keeping up with that in participation numbers and where are you. What we really look at is what are the experiences they’re having and are we on-point with what they’re doing.”

Title IX, a federal law since 1972, provides that “no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected

to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

That covers a lot of bases and “denied the benefits” could be the part of Title IX that launches more legal action over revenue-sharing and money paid by third-party NIL collectives.

California judge Claudia Wilken, who ruled on the House settlement, did not address Title IX ramifications in revenue sharing with athletes, saying the lawsuit was an antitrust case. She did rule the back damage payments were not subject to Title IX requirements — a decision that then was appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

“She made it clear right from the beginning she wasn’t factoring in Title IX in her deliberations, (ruling) that’s a decision y’all (NCAA schools) have to deal with,” Finch said.

Presidential politics

In the final days of the Biden Administration, the Department of Education provided some guidance,

saying paying athletes would fall under “athletic financial assistance” and would need to be split proportionately at schools.

In February 2025, the Office of Civil Rights issued a statement concerning Title IX implications for college revenue sharing. It said, in part: “Title IX says nothing about how revenue-generating athletics programs should allocate compensation among student athletes. The claim that Title IX forces schools and colleges to distribute student-athlete revenues proportionately based on gender equity considerations is sweeping and would require clear legal authority to support it. That does not exist.”

President Trump has since signed a “Save College Sports” executive order that prohibits pay-for-play payments from third parties to athletes. The executive order also calls for the “preservation and, where possible, expansion of opportunities for scholarships and collegiate athletic competition in

women’s and non-revenue sports.”

Trump signed another executive order July 31 that expanded his council on sports that will be chaired by golfer Bryson DeChambeau. Trump said he wanted to clean up the “mess” in college football but also said he was concerned about women’s sports being “totally decimated” with much of the new revenue going to football programs.

“Very bad for women, very bad what’s happening,” Trump said. “Because now there are no women able to get the money they’re talking about. It seems to be going mostly to football, some basketball.”

Immediate implications

At Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas, six women’s athletes filed a class action lawsuit based on Title IX discrimination, seeking to keep the school from eliminating women’s bowling, beach volleyball and golf. The school, in announcing the cutbacks

in May, had cited the “anticipated impact” of revenue sharing in Division I.

A U.S. District Judge ruled in favor of the athletes, ordering the school to reinstate the women’s sports teams.

ACC commissioner Jim Phillips said at the league’s football kickoff event in Charlotte that Title IX concerns — and potential lawsuits — are an issue that won’t be overlooked.

“You have to be paying attention to that,” Phillips said. “We talk about it often with our athletic directors and senior women’s administrators and university officials. At the end of the day these end up being local decisions, meaning they’re campus-driven, and ultimately it’s what the campus wants to do.

“But we’re trying to educate our constituents, trying to make sure that they have the information necessary to make good decisions and judgment about what they’re going to do. And I’ve been pleased with what I’ve heard,” he said. “Now, I don’t know what everybody’s doing, because

it’s happening so fast, but this league has been so committed for 73 years to broad-based programming like no other, with 15 women’s sports and 13 male sports, that I’m sure people are looking to the ACC to see how we’re handling it. I’ve talked to the other commissioners about it. So there’s been lots of conversation, but you just don’t know until you get into it.”

It’s not that women playing college sports have been denied NIL-related benefits. ESPN reported Texas Tech softball pitcher NiJaree Canady was given a \$1 million contract by the school’s collective, The Matador Club, last year after she transferred from Stanford.

Several female athletes are combining strong athletic performance and strong social-media brands to earn big bucks.

Livvy Dunne, a gymnast at LSU, had an NIL valuation of more than \$4 million last year driven by her social-media presence and influence, according to On3 rankings.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today

Jay County — Football scrimmage at Richmond – 7 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Boys golf at Russia – 10 a.m.; Football scrimmage vs. Indian Lake – 7 p.m.

Saturday

Jay County — Cross Country at Warsaw Tiger Invite – 9 a.m.; Boys tennis at Trojan Kickoff Duals at New Castle – 9 a.m.

TV schedule

Today

12 p.m. — LIV Golf Indianapolis (FS1)

1 p.m. — Little League World Series (ESPN)

2 p.m. — LIV Golf Indianapolis (FOX)

3 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Liverpool FC at AFC Bournemouth (USA)

7:30 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: eero 250 (FS1)

8 p.m. — Banana Ball World Tour (ESPN2)

8:15 p.m. — MLB: New York Yankees at St. Louis Cardinals (FDSN Indiana)

9 p.m. — MMA: Professional Fighters League

(ESPN)

Saturday

5:35 a.m. — AFL: Collingwood Magpies at Adelaide Crows (FS1)

7:30 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Aston Villa at Newcastle United (USA)

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

10 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Brighton & Hove Albion at Fulham (USA)

11 a.m. — LIV Golf Indianapolis (FS1)

12 p.m. — LIV Golf Indianapolis (FOX)

12:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Wolverhampton Wanderers at Manchester City (NBC)

1 p.m. — PGA Tour: BMW Championship (NBC)

1 p.m. — Little League World Series (ESPN)

1:30 p.m. — La Liga soccer: Mallorca at FC Barcelona (USA)

2 p.m. — WNBA: New York Liberty at Minnesota Lynx (CBS)

2:20 p.m. — MLB: Pittsburgh Pirates at Chicago Cubs (FS1)

4 p.m. — NWSL soccer: Kansas City Current at Orlando Pride (CBS)

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

6:30 p.m. — MLB: Milwaukee Brewers at Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana)

7 p.m. — NFL preseason: Baltimore Ravens at Dallas Cowboys (FOX); Los Angeles Chargers at Los Angeles Rams (CBS); New York Jets at New York Giants (ABC)

7:15 p.m. — MLB: Detroit Tigers at Minnesota Twins (FOX)

7:30 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Cook Out 400 (USA)

8:30 p.m. — MLS: Minnesota United at Seattle Sounders (FS1)

9 p.m. — USL Championship cup: Tampa Bay Rowdies at Phoenix Rising (ESPN2)

11 p.m. — USL Championship cup: Sacramento Republic at Oakland Roots (FOX)

Local notes

Outing announced

The Adams Health Network Foundation will host the 12th Annual Golf Classic on Sept. 12 at Wabash Valley Golf Club.

There will be two shotgun starts at 7:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Breakfast, snacks and beverages will be provided, as well as a lunch in between flights. The event raises funds for healthcare scholar-

ships and local health initiatives in Adams County.

The deadline to register is August 22. To register visit adamshospital.org/foundation. For more information, email kim.tormbley@adamshealthnetwork.org.

Chamber to host

Jay County Chamber of Commerce will host its golf outing on Sept. 19 at 9 a.m.

Participation costs \$250 per team with lunch included. A \$20 team mulligan golf ball can be purchased as well.

Sponsorships can be purchased as well. A lunch sponsorship will cost \$500, while a gold sponsorship will go for \$450. Hole sponsorships cost \$100 for members and \$150 for non-members.

The deadline to register is Sept. 12. For more info, call (260) 726-4481 or email amanda@jay-countychamber.com.

Tickets available

Jay County Junior-Senior High School is selling super and season tickets.

To purchase tickets, visit the high school’s

office hours which are between 7:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

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

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

Other deals are as follows:

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

Next race set

The next race in the Adams County Challenge series is the Adams Memorial/Kekionga Greenway Gallup at 4:30 p.m. Aug. 23.

The race begins at the Riverside Center in Decatur. Registration forms can be found at adamscounty5kchallenge.com.

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

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Saturday Morning AUGUST 16, 2025 9:30 A.M.

ANTIQUES - OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS Railroad crossing Cross-buck signs with post,

90 SALE CALENDAR

lights and bell. Coca Cola Bat Wing store cooler; 1929 Easy Copper wash machine (electric with natural gas hook up); soap box derby car; 3 wheel bicycle with box on back (used in Richmond IN factory); Star Wars Millennium Falcon Spaceship; metal bolt bin; CAST IRON: 30 gallon pot with handle and stand, ; SIGNS: Heinekin Beer, Pepsi, Coca Cola, Stroh's, Seagrams, Sinclair, Harley Davidson, Corvette, and Budweiser Select to name a few; CROCKS & STONEWARE: Boy Scout items; ball cards; Match Box cars and case; Radio Flyer tricycle; CONCRETE: donkeys, frogs on bench, kissing dutchman, and Doberman to name a few; and many other items not listed.

TOOLS - MISCELLANEOUS 80 lbs psi air compressor (originally from phone company); Makita Driver drill; Makita charger; B & D jig saw; Power Pro 300 amp auto jumper; 1946 Ford flat head engine parts; fish cleaning table; wood burning stoves; 2 wheel cart; fishing poles; lawn chairs; and many other items not listed.

TERRY RITTENHOUSE Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112 Kaden Khayyata AU12400069

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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Early morning tee

Mallory Evers tees off on the ninth hole at Portland Golf Club during Thursday morning’s 191-257 victory over the Parkway Panthers. Evers posted a 48 to score for the Tribe. For the full story, pick up Saturday’s edition of The Commercial Review. For photos from the event, visit thecr.com.

New college sports model can’t dodge Title IX

By CHIP ALEXANDER
The News & Observer (Raleigh)
Tribune News Service

RALEIGH, N.C. — With all the talk about revenue-sharing in college sports, front-loaded NIL packages, multi-million-dollar quarterbacks and looming Congressional involvement, all but overlooked has been the elephant in the room: Title IX. The long-awaited House vs. NCAA settlement was to bring some parameters and guardrails to what often has been chaotic since 2021. A part of the settlement was that \$2.8 billion be paid by the NCAA over the next 10 years to former athletes denied the chance to benefit financially from their name, image and likeness while playing in college.

But the \$2.8 billion in back pay has been paused. The reason: Eight female athletes, including six from the College of Charleston, appealed that part of the settlement approved in a California court, saying it violates Title IX. That could just be the start, said Nora Lynn Finch, a former women’s coach and long-time athletic administrator at N.C. State and then the ACC.

“There is going to be a bombardment of Title IX complaints,” Finch said in an interview. “They’ll be coming from the athletes, they’ll be coming from coaches. And never rule out the women’s sports foundations. “From the time the House settlement was proposed and supported by the NCAA membership, right away women were saying, ‘You cannot get past Title IX.’ The House settlement puts us on a collision course.

“There’s no left or right turn now. It’s head-on.”

‘Interesting to watch’

Finch has a lengthy background in women’s sports and the fight for equity. She was an assistant women’s basketball coach under the late Kay Yow at N.C. State, then was NCSU’s chief women’s sports administrator as associate athletic director.

At the ACC, Finch served as senior associate commissioner/women’s basketball.

She also chaired the NCAA Division I women’s basketball committee for eight years and negotiated the first national women’s basketball TV contract with CBS.

The appeal by the eight athletes was based on the claim that NCAA female athletes who played from 2016 to 2021 and are eligible for back damages would not be paid the same as football and men’s basketball players.

One of their attorneys said former female athletes should receive \$1.1 billion of the back pay to prevent “irreparable harm” to women’s sports.

“This is a football and basketball damages settlement with no real benefit to female athletes,” attorney Ashlyn Hare said in a statement to the Associated Press. “Congress has expressly rejected efforts to exempt revenue-sharing sports from football and basketball from Title IX’s anti-discrimination mandate.”

A court decision on the athletes’ appeal could take months. It did not delay NCAA schools from cranking up revenue-sharing to their athletes — most of it to football and men’s basketball players — on July 1 as schools worked under the \$20.5 million “salary cap” approved for this academic year.

Several schools are devoting about 75% or more of the revenue share from their athletic department funds to their football programs. Men’s basketball receives about 15%, women’s basketball 5% and all other sports 5%.

Can that kind of revenue breakdown pass muster without Title IX challenges?

“It’s going to be interesting to watch,” Finch said. “There’s going to be some heated discussions on the women’s side on this. I do believe Title IX is going to withstand this test, and it will be a test. I think it will stand. Boy, would that be some kind of mutiny if Title IX itself were to be diluted.

See **Dodge** page 7

Jamal Crawford will host MLB Network show, plans for The Crawsover to return

By SEAN QUINTON
The Seattle Times
Tribune News Service

SEATTLE — When most people retire, they take some time to relax. Not Jamal Crawford.

Seattle’s basketball wizard, known for his prolific scoring and signature ankle-breaking crossovers over his 20-year NBA career, is juggling a lot these days. But he wouldn’t have it any other way.

Crawford balances broadcasting duties while putting his heart into his city, its sports teams and Rainier Beach High School, where he rose to stardom by winning a state title in 1998.

Crawford is back at Rainier Beach as an assistant boys basketball coach, helping the Vikings win their 10th state title in 2025. He is set to help coach this season as his son JJ Crawford joins the team.

Oh yeah, and after a two-year hiatus, Crawford is even bringing his popular pro-am basketball league back next summer.

“The Crawsover will be back,” Crawford said. “Next year I have it planned out, because I know I’ll be coaching, but still there’ll be a better plan going forward for sure.”

Crawford said NBA stars such as Stephen Curry and Zion Williamson

have expressed interest in playing in the event.

“It shows that, you know, the pro-am and Seattle basketball is not only on the map, but, you know, the best in the world are checking in for it,” he said.

Crawford can be seen and heard most everywhere in NBA circles on podcasts and TV these days. After two breakout NBA seasons on TNT as an in-studio analyst and calling playoff games this spring, Crawford is set to become a lead game analyst for NBC this fall as the network returns to hosting NBA games.

“It wasn’t in the cards where I had this illustrious plan (with broadcasting). But the fact that it’s happened this way, I feel like it’s my duty now because I love the game so much and I want to bring the fans closer to the game and, you know, entertain but hopefully they learn a little something while I’m talking.”

Crawford will try to do the same with a sport he used to play, just admittedly not quite as well. He’ll co-host MLB Network’s “MLB Tonight” for a special show called the “Crawsover Edition” from T-Mobile Park. Crawford, who said he played short stop and pitcher for the

Merchants in Seattle, will be joined by former MLB All-Star Dexter Fowler and several guests, including Basketball Hall of Famer Charles Barkley, former MLB star Gary Sheffield and comedian Druski.

You’d be hard-pressed to find someone who hypes up Seattle and its sports teams more than Crawford. And with the way he’s feeling about the Mariners, Crawford might just take up the whole 2 1/2-hour program, which began Tuesday, to gush about the team he rooted for growing up.

Crawford, who wore his hat backward as a kid idolizing Ken Griffey Jr., was locked in over the weekend when the M’s swept the Rays to improve their season-best winning streak to seven games and move within a game of the AL West lead. And he was impressed by Ichiro’s message to the team to embrace the pressure and seize the moment.

“He’s such an iconic legend, I mean, he has absolutely left his mark not only on the city, but the game,” Crawford said of Ichiro, whose comments came Saturday during his jersey retirement ceremony. “So when somebody like that speaks, we all listen.”

See **Crawford** page 7

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