

The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Replacing pole

A crew from Indiana Michigan Power replaces a utility pole Thursday morning on the north side of Race Street between Pleasant and Middle streets in Portland.

City faces four claims

Current, former employees have alleged defamation, harassment

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review
During Tuesday's meeting Portland City Council member Dave Golden asked a question regarding the cost of insurance, as it related to the proposed 2026 city budget.
Clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips responded that it is not looking good, in part because of the number of tort claims currently filed against the city.
That number — four.
All of those tort claims name the City of Portland or its police department, with some also naming Mayor Jeff Westlake, Police Chief Dustin Mock, assistant police chief Donnie Miller or investigator Jeff Hopkins. Others named in at least one claim include Jay County Probation Office and probation office employee Ashley Reynolds.
Some of the claims have been amended or have had supplemental and additional allegations added.
Two previous tort claims are no longer active.
None of the claims state an amount of damages being sought, with most indicating that the complainants are continuing to be harmed by the alleged conduct.
Clayton Lengerich of Miller, Burry & Brown of Decatur is representing all of the complainants.
“My position is that all of my clients have complaints,” said Lengerich on Thursday morning. “I think that all of them have verifiable evidence supporting each of their claims.”
Westlake had not responded with a comment on the tort claims as of press time.
A tort claim is a formal court filing that alleges personal injury or property damage and seeks compensation. Under Indiana

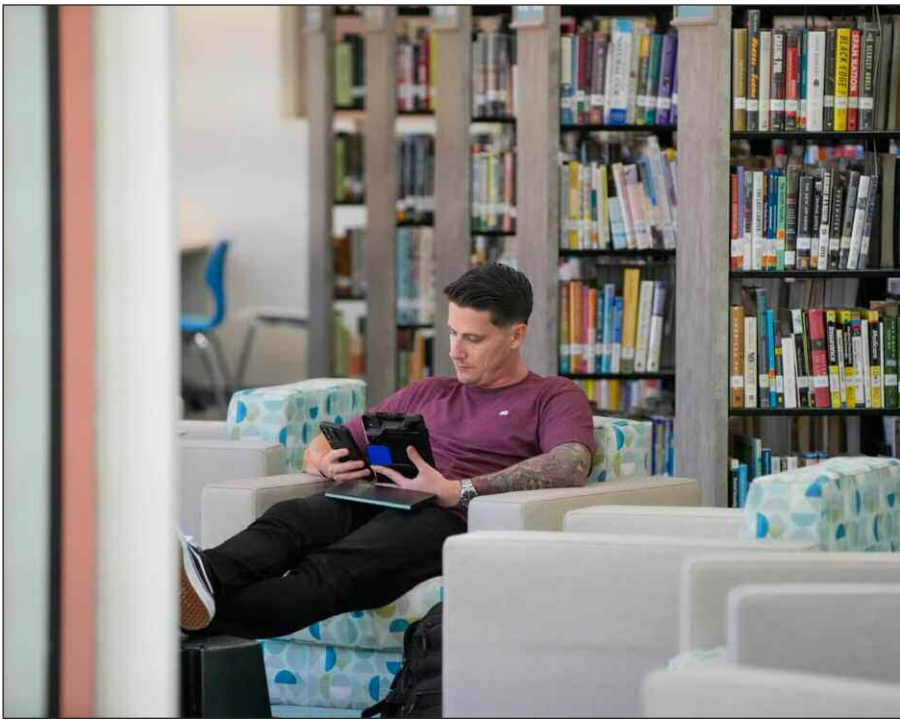
law, a written notice of tort claim must be filed before suing a government entity.
As of Thursday, only a claim filed by Phillips had advanced to the level of a lawsuit. The most recent action in those proceedings came last month when Douglas Mawhorr of Delaware Circuit Court 3 accepted jurisdiction as a special judge for Phillips' case.
In court documents for the Phillips tort claim, Clark Johnson & Knight of Carmel is listed as counsel for Portland Police Department, Mock and Hopkins, and R. Jeffrey Lowe from Kightlinger and Gray of New Albany for the City of Portland.
The following is a breakdown of each claim:
Phillips filed a claim on April 23, alleging that she has been the focus of “torment, harassment and defamation” by the city's police department.
It alleges that:
•Mock ordered that Phillips not be allowed access to the police radio/dispatch area at city hall
•Hopkins and Mock both threatened her on various occasions
•Mock and Hopkins reviewed and distributed video footage of Phillips exercising in the city's exercise room and that those recordings included her private telephone conversations
•The police chief published disparaging and defamatory statements to an individual installing security systems in city facilities
Mock and others filed a complaint of harassment against Phillips in early 2024. Following an investigation by city attorney Wes Schemenaur, the board of works found “no violation of harassment or violations of city codes.” No further details regarding the complaint were provided during the meeting.
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Former Portland police officer Patrick Long alleges a long list of incidents of harassment and other issues in an initial tort claim filed Jan. 8 and supplemental and additional claims filed July 31 and Aug. 7.
His allegations include that:
•He faced attempts of coercion and threats regarding an Indiana State Police investigation of Portland Police Department by Hopkins. The claim alleges that while speaking to Long, Hopkins said “shut up ... or I will [expletive]-ing murder you.”
See Claims page 2

State rates to be cut

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com
Child care providers around Indiana will see reimbursement rate cuts of 10% to 35% as the state's Family and Social Services Administration tries to close a \$225 million funding gap.
The sustainability maneuver could push providers to drop out of a low-income child care program, however.
“We made this decision to protect the children and families that depend on (Child Care Development Fund) vouchers. There is only one pot of money — we could either protect providers or kids, and we chose kids,” said Adam Alson, the director of the Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning.
CCDF is a federal program that provides financial assistance via subsidies or vouchers to low-income families to help them pay for child care so

Child care providers will see reductions of between 10% and 25%

parents can work or attend education and training programs.
Rep. Carey Hamilton, D-Indianapolis, decried the cuts Thursday morning.
“While Gov. (Mike) Braun and the Republican supermajority provide private school vouchers to billionaires, they have now put working Hoosier families in the impossible situation of deciding whether to have a job or stay at home and take care of the kids,” she said.
“I reject the Braun administration's claim that they had to do this. They did not. There was no requirement to blow a \$200 million hole in our biennial budget this year by opening up private school vouchers to the wealthy. This amount would nearly cover the projected deficit of the child care voucher program, but Statehouse Republicans chose to prioritize the wealthy over working-class families.”
The rate cuts weren't an easy decision, Alson said, but the only other way to rein in spending would've been to cut the number of families in the program.
Right now, 55,000 children receive a voucher — above the pre-pandemic average of 35,000 participants.
See Cut page 2



Tribune News Service/The San Diego Union-Tribune/Alejandro Tamayo

Closing locations

Jordan Hante, 30, reads in the Rancho Peñasquitos library on Wednesday in San Diego. City budget cuts are closing many libraries on Monday, and scrambling staffing at others.

Deaths: Nancy Cheeseman, 89, Portland Details on page 2.

Weather: The high temperature reached 81 degrees Wednesday in Jay County. The low was 56. Tonight's low will be in the upper 40s. Skies will be partly cloudy Saturday with a slight chance of showers and a high in the upper 60s. 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 today in the shopping center at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, the parking lot east of Redkey Post Office and the parking lot south of Salamonina Fire Station.

Coming up: Saturday — Coverage of the JCHS football game at Southern Wells. Tuesday — Details from Monday's Jay County Commissioners meeting. Wednesday — Coverage of next week's Dunkirk City Council meeting.

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# Capsule Reports

**Update proposed**  
In addition to discussion about the 2026 budget, radios and police dispatch consolidation, and proposed housing projects at Tuesday’s meeting, Portland City Council also:

- Heard from Randy Stephen of Ohio Valley Gas regarding proposed changes to the city’s right-of-way ordinance, which requires a permit fee. Council members discussed the possibility of offering the option for a bond to ensure that any damage to streets is properly repaired. City attorney Wes Schemenaur plans to put together updated language reflecting the proposed change.
- Approved closing Main

Street between Meridian and Harrison streets from noon to 9 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27 for the Main Street Fall Festival.

- Heard council member Ron May ask if security cameras have been installed at Jay County Solid Waste Management District recycling trailers, whether a payment plan could be put in place for the city’s sidewalk program and what the status is of extending the multi-use path along Blaine Pike. Cameras have not yet been installed, a payment plan would need to be added to the city ordinance for the sidewalk program and discussions are continuing regarding the Blaine Pike path.
- Discussed the status of

police and code enforcement before approving payment of claims. Council member Ashley Hilfiker questioned the status of an officer who has not passed a portion of the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy on his first two attempts. (The limit is three attempts.)

- Heard Hilfiker note that there continues to be an issue with vehicles being parked on sidewalks. She also asked about lights at the pickleball courts at Milton Miller Park.

**Intersection crash**  
An Ohio man drove into oncoming traffic at the intersection of county road 100 North and Morton Street in Portland

about 12:38 p.m. Wednesday.

Larry E. Cox, 81, Bellefontaine, was driving his 2015 Ford Fusion north on Morton Street. He stopped at the street’s intersection with county road 100 North. Cox told police he looked both ways before entering the intersection. (Traffic on Morton Street yields to traffic on county road 100 North at the intersection.) He didn’t notice the westbound 2012 concrete mixer driven by 62-year-old Donald R. Mullins of Celina, Ohio, and crashed into it. Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.






The concrete mixer is registered to Berne Ready Mix of Berne.

**Garage fire**  
A garage in rural Portland was destroyed in a fire Wednesday.

Portland Fire Department responded at 11:48 a.m. to a call for a garage fire at Eric and Ashley McLaughlin’s property at 2815 W. 600 South. Approximately five firetrucks and 22 firefighters from Portland and Redkey fire departments arrived on scene to fight the flames, getting the fire under control by 12:13 p.m. Fire fighters disconnected the garage from the house to avoid the flames from spreading.

The garage was deemed a total loss, and the house sustained smoke and water damage.

CR almanac

Saturday 9/6	Sunday 9/7	Monday 9/8	Tuesday 9/9	Wednesday 9/10
 <b>70/46</b> <small>Friday's forecast shows partly cloudy skies with wind gusts reaching up to 40 mph.</small>	 <b>69/41</b> <small>Saturday looks to be mostly sunny with 10 to 15 mph winds.</small>	 <b>70/42</b> <small>Mostly sunny on Sunday. The low at night may dip into the low 40s.</small>	 <b>75/48</b> <small>Monday's forecast shows sunny skies with a high around 75 degrees.</small>	 <b>79/54</b> <small>Mostly sunny on Tuesday, when the low may dip to 54 degrees late.</small>

Lotteries

**Powerball**  
3-16-29-61-69  
Power Ball: 22  
Power Play: 2  
Estimated jackpot:  
\$1.7 billion

Daily Four: 5-2-4-3  
Quick Draw: 1-3-4-7-10-27-29-32-34-37-38-40-41-42-54-57-59-68-72-79  
Cash 5: 15-17-25-31-41  
Estimated jackpot:  
\$497,000

**Mega Millions**  
Estimated jackpot:  
\$336 million

**Hoosier**  
Wednesday  
Midday  
Daily Three: 2-3-7  
Daily Four: 3-7-7-6  
Quick Draw: 3-4-9-19-23-25-33-39-40-41-42-43-44-57-61-62-66-70-72-77  
Evening  
Daily Three: 8-1-1

**Ohio**  
Wednesday  
Midday  
Pick 3: 7-3-9  
Pick 4: 7-8-9-2  
Pick 5: 0-3-8-9-1  
Evening  
Pick 3: 0-7-9  
Pick 4: 9-2-9-5  
Pick 5: 7-8-6-2-8  
Rolling Cash: 7-10-21-23-30  
Estimated jackpot:  
\$150,000

Markets

**Cooper Farms  
Fort Recovery**  
Corn.....4.06  
Oct. corn .....4.03  
Dec. corn .....4.18

**POET Biorefining  
Portland**  
Corn.....4.17  
Late Sept. corn .....4.07  
Oct. corn .....4.02

**The Andersons  
Richland Township**  
Corn .....3.98  
Oct. corn .....3.98  
Beans .....10.03

Oct. beans .....9.88  
Wheat ..... 4.72

**ADM  
Montpelier**  
Corn.....3.92  
Sept. corn .....3.87  
Beans.....9.94  
Sept. beans .....9.89  
Wheat .....4.67

**Heartland  
St. Anthony**  
Corn.....4.08  
Sept. corn .....4.03  
Beans.....9.73  
Sept. beans .....9.73  
Wheat .....4.52

Today in history

In 1996, Hurricane Fran came ashore near Cape Fear, North Carolina.

In 2015, Fort Recovery High School’s volleyball team finished runner-up in the St. Marys Invitational at Memorial High School.

In 2017, Portland City Council approved \$77,000 for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study to learn solutions to the city’s chronic flooding problems.

lems. It planned to draw back on its portion if Jay County Commissioners made a financial contribution. (Commissioners committed \$30,000 in economic development income tax funds the next morning toward the study.) Also, at the same meeting, council accepted streets and parks department superintendent Ryan Myers’ resignation.

— The CR

Citizen’s calendar

**Monday**  
9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.  
10:15 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners executive session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.  
3:40 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, district office, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland.  
4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, communi-

ty room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland.  
6 p.m. — Jay County Country Living Advisory Board, living facility, 1194 E. 200 North, Portland.  
7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.

**Tuesday**  
5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.  
6 p.m. — Ridgeville Town Council, fire department, 302 N. Walnut St.

# Obituaries

**Nancy Cheeseman**  
*Feb. 19, 1936-Aug. 21, 2025*  
Nancy Cheeseman, age 89, a resident of Portland, passed away on Thursday, Aug. 21, 2025, at Persimmon Ridge in Portland.

Nancy was born Feb. 19, 1936, in Anderson, Indiana, the daughter of Herbert and Jeanette (Steele) Stout.

She graduated from Anderson High School in 1954 and attended Ball State University.

Nancy worked on the family farm and was a member of Asbury United Methodist Church in Portland. She was involved with many activi-

ties in the church including the Bell Choir and Singing Choir. She was also a member of the Noble Township Busy Bees.

Survivors include:

Her son — Art Cheeseman (wife: Angi), Indianapolis

Two grandchildren — Clint Cheeseman and Joel Cheeseman (wife: Melda)

Six great-grandchildren

Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 8, 2025, at Anderson Memorial Park in Anderson, Indiana.



Arrangements are entrusted to Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

Memorials may be directed to Asbury United Methodist Church.

Condolences may be expressed at [williamsonspencer.com](http://williamsonspencer.com).

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*The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge.*

*They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.*

*There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.*

# Claims ...

Continued from page 1

- Mock asked him to misrepresent facts if he was questioned as part of an investigation regarding a dispute between Portland Police Department and another city office
- The leadership of the police department disregarded department policy on various occasions
- Westlake agreed that the police department was using policies and ordinances to “get him out” of the department and that the approach was not uncommon
- Portland police leadership interfered with the process of Long applying to work for another department

Long took a job with Winchester Police Department in late 2024.

In January, Portland Board of Works voted unanimously to file suit against Long seeking reimbursement of \$14,977 for training at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy.

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Brad Clayton, former superintendent of the city’s wastewater

treatment department, filed a tort claim on April 23. It alleges that wastewater department superintendent Brad Dues berated him during a dispute about whether he had been smoking in a non-smoking area. It says that the situation escalated and Dues “physically ‘belly bumped’” Clayton.

The claim says city representatives, including the mayor, spread misinformation about Clayton and his job performance.

It also says allegations made during the Dec. 17, 2024, board of works meeting regarding his work, attitude and missed time were untrue and unsubstantiated.

At that meeting, Phillips reported that Clayton had been working for another department while taking time off from Portland. Dues also provided a letter to the board of works regarding the situation. Phillips also noted communication issues between Clayton and Dues, and Westlake said he had consulted with city attorney Wes Schemenaur

and he agreed there were grounds for termination based on city ordinance and policies. The board of works voted unanimously to terminate Clayton’s employment.

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In February, Portland police officer Kyle Denney filed a claim alleging that Westlake published statements that included allegations of misconduct against him. The claim says the statements came after a situation in which Westlake visited the scene of a police response in early 2024. An amendment to his claim says Westlake reiterated his statements early this year.

It also alleges that Reynolds made defamatory statements to Denney’s superiors at the police department, including that he would sleep in his car while on duty.

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Tort claims filed by former Portland police officer Chris Jack and Angel Cox, who was a Jay County Sheriff’s Office employee, in June 2024 are no longer active.

# Cut ...

Continued from page 1

Alson said former Gov. Eric Holcomb’s administration used federal COVID-19 dollars to raise rates and expand eligibility. The program peaked at 68,000 children, costing almost \$900 million in state and federal funding.

When the pandemic assistance waned, the state tapped surplus money from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program in fiscal year 2025 to cover the loss. But those funds are no longer available for CCDF, which means the state would have to pull from its General Fund to make up the difference.

The legislature set aside \$147 million in additional dollars for the ongoing fiscal year — which started July 1 — to preserve income eligibility criteria for families already on the program. Lawmakers tightened the requirements for new enrollees.

The program is expected to cost about \$400 million in fiscal year 2027.

To establish “equitable” reimbursement rates, the state received surveys from 25% of licensed child care providers and analyzed their cost data,

arriving at reimbursement levels that “reflect current operating realities,” a news release said.

Rates for infant and toddler care, for instance, will drop by 10%. Rates for preschoolers between the ages of 3-5 will be cut 15%. And rates for school-age children will be cut by 35%.

The new rates go into effect Oct. 5, with the first pay date being Nov. 6.

Alson acknowledged some providers might drop out of the program.

“There’s definitely a possibility of that occurring. That’s part of the regrettable part of this decision, right? That it does affect business models of child care businesses throughout the state of Indiana. There’s no getting around that,” he said.

The change aligns reimbursements with federal regulations that require the rates to be sustainable, according to the news release. The federal government hasn’t notified the state of any compliance violations.

The cuts are the latest challenge for the program, which added a waiting list for applicants seeking services last December.

SERVICES

Saturday

**Fenstermaker, Larry:** 3 p.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

Monday

**Cheeseman, Nancy:** 2 p.m., Anderson Memorial Park, Anderson.

Service listings provided by

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Open Mic & Karaoke at Arts Place

sponsored by: Ken (Kd) Bantz Music,  
[www.kenbantz.com](http://www.kenbantz.com)

**Thursday, September 11, 2025**  
**Sign up: 6:30 pm**  
**Performance: 7:00 pm**

\*September 11<sup>th</sup> kickoff will be at the Hudson Center for Visual Arts at 136 E Walnut St!

**\*BIZY DIPS Food truck will be here!!**

- Time slots are in 10-minute increments
- You're welcome to bring your lawn chairs!
- If choosing Karaoke, please come with a song choice!

Upcoming dates:  
Thursday, October 9, 2025 | 6:30 pm  
Thursday, November 13, 2025 | 6:30 pm

In case of inclement weather, enter through the Arts Place door on Main Street

Arts Place Jay County Campus,  
131 East Walnut St., Portland, IN 47371  
260-726-4809 | [jcc@myartsplace.org](mailto:jcc@myartsplace.org) | [www.myartsplace.org](http://www.myartsplace.org)

**EAA Chapter 2**



**Young Eagles Rally**

Located at -  
Portland Municipal Airport  
661 W. 100 N. Portland, IN

**September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M**  
*\*weather permitted*



- Free airplane rides for kids ages 8-17
- Parent/legal guardian approval and signature required
- \*Preregistration for flights is required.

Go to [eaachapters.org](http://eaachapters.org).

**Contact**  
**260-402-3478**  
[youngeagles@EAA2.org](mailto:youngeagles@EAA2.org)  
[www.eea2.org](http://www.eea2.org)







# Economy grows; details are grim

By MORTON J. MARCUS

Chicago was and continues to be the third-largest of 384 metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) in the nation.

Yet with 14 counties over three states, our Midwestern capital has less than 4% of the nation's Real Gross Domestic Product, the value of goods and services produced in those metro areas (adjusted for inflation to 2017 dollars).

This is not something new. Chicago's MSA entered this century with 4.4% of the nation's Real GDP and has declined every year since then to 3.6%.

Chicago's metro was 13th in growth of Real GDP, but its growth rate of 15.2%, placed 228th nationally, between Buffa-

Morton J. Marcus



lo (New York) and Hartford (Connecticut). Between 2013 and 2023, all U.S. metro areas grew by 28.5%, the rate attained by Ann Arbor (Michigan) in 108th place.

Why? That's a book. But we can identify the sectors which performed most poorly and most well.

Remember, we are discussing the metropolitan area, not just

the Loop downtown or Cook County (Chicago's home).

Where has Chicago been lagging, or to put it otherwise, where has the nation been outpacing Chicago? In 2013, Chicago had 5% of the nation's Real GDP originating in the management of companies and enterprises; that fell to 3.2% by 2023.

Manufacturing remains one of the Chicago metro's leading sectors, but there has been a pronounced change. We think of durable goods' value (steel, autos) being greater than that of non-durables (food and chemicals). The reality is non-durables out-produced their more durable cousins by 37% in value in 2023.

Thinking of Chicago as a major center of commerce

means thinking of finance and insurance, the plasma of business. Here again, the Chicago metro area declined, a fall of \$7.9 billion over the decade. Those declines, however, were realized only in the nine Illinois counties of the metro area.

These changes and missed opportunities hit hard at the construction industry, a facilitator and residual claimant of growth. Metro Chicago saw construction work decline (in 2017 dollars) by 4.3% — \$957 million.

While noting reductions in the real value of output, it is important to recognize that, nonetheless, 12 of the 14 counties did see overall growth. Cook County led the metro area with an advance of \$53 billion or 56% of the total

\$96 billion growth. But Cook's growth rate (14.3%) was only in the middle of the pack. Will County (Illinois) led all 14 counties at 33.4%, followed by Porter (Indiana) and Kenosha (Wisconsin) both with 21% increases.

The only counties with real declines in GDP over the decade were Newton and Jasper in Indiana. Both of them had an 8.6% decline in their combined Real GDP. Their inclusion in the Chicago metro area hinges on commuting patterns alone, which is a weak thread in this case.

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Marcus is an economist formerly at the IU Kelley School of Business. Contact him via email at [mortonjmarcus@gmail.com](mailto:mortonjmarcus@gmail.com).

## We must strive to rebuild middle class

The Columbian  
(Vancouver, Washington)  
Tribune News Service

After Americans celebrated Labor Day this weekend, it is time to assess the condition of the American worker.

Some 130 years ago, improving that condition was the impetus behind what is now a national holiday on the first Monday of each September. As History.com writes: "In the late 1800s, at the height of the Industrial Revolution in the United States, the average American worked 12-hour days and seven-day weeks in order to eke out a basic living. Despite restrictions in some states, children as young as 5 or 6 toiled in mills, factories and mines across the country."

That led to the growth of organized labor during the 1880s, and unions gradually gained power and influence while advocating for legislation that improved working conditions. The United States — along with other developed nations — now has requirements governing overtime pay, limits on work hours and child-labor laws.

Such laws have improved the lives of American workers and played a significant role in creating the middle class that formed the economic, social and cultural backbone of the United States during the mid-20th century.

But decades of misguided policies and technological changes have undermined that middle class, and Americans should take a moment this Labor Day to ponder the future of the nation's workers. As Forbes.com surmised earlier this year: "The American workforce is at a pivotal juncture." Advancements in artificial intelligence are expected to disrupt countless professions, while industries relying on human interaction — such as nursing and teaching — are expected to see a surge in demand.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act passed by Congress and signed by President Donald Trump includes provisions that will be helpful to workers. It expands the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, the first permanent augmentation since 2001; triples the maximum credit to employers who help locate or provide child care for employees, also the first expansion since 2001; and increases the pre-tax contributions parents can make toward

## Guest Editorial

... decades of misguided policies and technological changes have undermined that middle class ...

child care expenses under Dependent Care Assistance Plans, the first update since 1986. It also reduces taxes for most Americans.

But at the same time, the legislation slashes funding for Medicaid. It also cuts \$100 million from the Women, Infants and Children program and other safety-net provisions that in many cases allow parents to remain in the workforce.

The fact that such programs are needed by many working families reveals much about the state of American laborers. According to the Economic Policy Institute, a non-partisan think tank, CEO pay increased 1,085 percent from 1978 to 2023, while the average worker's earnings rose 24 percent.

The "free market," as interpreted by decades of political leadership, has not been kind to U.S. workers. Instead, it has moved the nation closer to another Gilded Age, which Trump absurdly views as a period of American greatness.

Extreme economic polarization is not a sign of strength and does not bode well for the future of a nation. Instead of focusing on tax cuts for the wealthy, policymakers should emphasize increasing the minimum wage, making it easier to save for retirement, constructing more housing, training displaced workers, and supporting other steps that will help rebuild America's middle class.

Those are the actions that will demonstrate the United States genuinely cares about laborers. And they should provide some fodder for thought following Labor Day weekend.



## Check out redistricting history

By NIKI KELLY

Indiana Capital Chronicle  
[indianacapitalchronicle.com](http://indianacapitalchronicle.com)

I'm on my third decade covering the Indiana General Assembly, so I've seen a lot. But a mid-cycle redistricting will be a new one.

I say "will" because it seems like an inevitability at this point. So, I researched the history of apportionment and redistricting in Indiana.

What I found is that the partisan fights about gerrymandering are as old as Indiana.

The 1825-26 apportionment "embroiled lawmakers in a bitter struggle even though members had not yet divided into political parties," according to the Centennial History of the General Assembly, 1816 to 1978.

In 1832, residents of Cass County complained because they were placed in the sixth congressional district, composed of Marion and surrounding counties in the central part of the state, even though Cass was separated from the rest of the district by the Miami Reservation. This made Cass the only county that did not enjoy contiguity with its district.

A Whig newspaper warned early in 1845 that if the opposition won a majority, the state would be "gerrymandered in all unseemly shapes, without, the least regard to equality."

In 1879, one representative suggested dividing the state into equally populated districts without regard to politics. His motion was tabled.

We should all be glad we don't live in the early days of statehood, when the population was growing rapidly and new counties were created regularly. Double districts and floter districts were downright crazy.

The cycle of counting people and drawing boundaries was originally every five years. The Constitution of 1851 changed redistricting and apportionment to every sixth year.

### Bolting

Bolting — or leaving the state to break quorum — was a regular feature.

In 1861, Republicans introduced a congressional districting bill and Democrats walked out.

"The bolters typified the cavalier attitude of both parties," the centennial history book said.

Niki Kelly



"I saw them pretty nearly all in a batch, and the answer was 'tell them to go to hell,'" said the Republican doorkeeper who tracked down the absentees. The bill was dropped.

In 1871, Democrats tried to redistrict early, and 34 Republicans resigned to prevent a quorum.

"The most spectacular party bolt" occurred in 1925. Republicans had huge majorities in both chambers, so Senate Democrats took a bus to Ohio.

For the next two days, U.S. 40 between Indianapolis and Dayton was jammed with process servers and Republican politicians trying to coax, cajole, or coerce the fugitives back to their seats in the Indiana Senate," the history book shows.

Eventually, the Ku Klux Klan's Grand Dragon, D.C. Stephenson, went to Ohio to break the deadlock.

Sometimes the redistricting happened after new counts. At other times, the General Assembly skipped it for years, especially if the party in control liked the districts as they were.

Maps were found unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court multiple times.

Modern times have been more a little more orderly — but not always neutral. Lawmakers have only redistricted after the decennial census, though Republicans did briefly try a mid-decade maneuver in 1995 before abandoning it.

"The most successful exercise so far in all-out partisanship occurred in Indiana," The New York Times wrote in 1981.

"Republicans used their majorities in both State Houses, the governorship and the computers of Market Opinion Research, a Detroit company that works for Republican districting efforts, to take maximum advantage of the shrinkage of the Indiana delegation to 10 members from 11," the paper continued. "As a result, a dele-

gation that now has six Democrats and five Republicans could easily become one with seven Republicans and three Democrats."

Even when Democrats controlled the Indiana House in 1991 and 2001, Republicans controlled the Senate, so the affair had to be bipartisan. The GOP has had complete control of apportionment and redistricting after the last two census counts in 2011 and 2021.

### Nothing is forever

Remember — though the current use of algorithms and computer programs is much harder to overcome — that ultimately, voters still decide.

"The history of state apportionment and congressional redistricting shows clearly that partisanship was the foremost consideration at each session where such laws passed. Gerrymandering by the majority always governed the drawing of district boundaries in the congressional elections between 1890 and 1930 illustrate both the efficacy and danger of the device for party advantage," the history book said.

In 1892, Democrats elected 12 of 13 congressmen with only 41.1% of the vote due to the Democratic districting act of 1891. But under the same bill in 1894 Republicans elected 11 congressmen.

Under the Republican act of 1901, however, Democrats elected 11 and 12 congressmen respectively in 1908 and 1910. Democrats remained almost totally dominant in 1912 and 1914 under the redistricting act of 1911 but in 1916 Republicans began 14 years of dominance under the same bill.

"So, while both parties succeeded in making districts safe for themselves temporarily, in the long run popular sentiment prevailed, proving that in Indiana, there was no such thing as a gerrymander in perpetuity."

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Kelly, editor-in-chief of Indiana Capital Chronicle, has covered the Indiana Statehouse since 1999.

Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is [indianacapitalchronicle.com](http://indianacapitalchronicle.com).

# The Commercial Review



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

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# Farmers pulling back on spending

By **MICHAEL HIRTZER**  
Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service

Sunny skies and mild temperatures this week greeted the biggest U.S. farm show of the year. The contrast couldn't be greater with the sentiment among attendees as low crop prices and trade tariffs squeeze the agricultural sector.

The market for American crops is getting "pretty nasty," said Scott Metzger, who drove more than 300 miles to attend. That helped to keep the mood subdued at the Farm Progress Show this week in Illinois.

Metzger grows soybeans, corn and wheat in central Ohio, and he said farmers are dealing with too much chaos to think about spending this year on big-ticket items like the gleaming tractors and combines on display. It's the latest sign of trouble for the U.S. farm economy.

America's farmers are expecting bumper crops this fall, but they've got little idea of where all the supplies will go. China, historically the biggest buyer of U.S. soybeans, hasn't inked a deal for a single cargo from this year's harvest, which starts next month. Blowback from President Donald Trump's trade war has served to further chill the administration's already icy relationship with the Asian country.

Tariff tensions are making the North American farm market the most uncertain in the world even as conditions in Europe and Asia start to improve, according to Gerit Marx, chief executive officer of CNH Industrial NV, which unveiled some its latest machinery at the



Tribune News Service/Dreamstime/Robert Phillip

A combine harvester collects soybeans. With high corn and soybean yields expected this year, U.S. farmers will face a mountain of supplies just as trade tensions with China dim prospects for American exports.

show. There are so many unknowns in the U.S. agricultural economy, several companies that had a significant presence at the annual gathering in 2024 ended up skipping altogether this year — that included seed maker Corteva Inc. and the world's top fertilizer producer Nutrien Ltd.

"Farming in the U.S. will change," Marx said in an interview, noting that growers are trying to figure out how to adapt to shifting conditions.

"The fields will all be green. The question is: What grows? And for what purpose? And at what price?," he said. "It takes time for those chess pieces to move around the board, and we're kind of in that period today."

America's farmers are growing increasingly worried as harvest approaches. The U.S. Department of

Agriculture is forecasting a record corn crop for the season starting in September. While the soy harvest is expected to be smaller than last year after farmers planted less, yields are on track to hit a new high. That means farmers will face a mountain of supplies just as trade tensions with China dim prospects for American exports. Crop prices have been depressed as a result. Tariffs are also raising costs for key farm inputs like fertilizer, adding to the financial strain.

The American Soybean Association has warned that growers are near a "trade and financial precipice" and cannot survive a prolonged trade war with China. The National Corn Growers Association is sounding the alarm over an economic crisis in rural America. Credit conditions for farmers "deteri-

orated steadily" in the second quarter, according to a Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City report. Bankruptcies are also on the rise.

Companies including CNH, Deere & Co. and AGCO Corp. showed off their new machines this week at the Illinois farm show. The equipment featured the latest technology — farmers can now do things like connect tractors to the Internet to help them plant and harvest more accurately while they stay comfortable in air-conditioned cabins. The problem is, few farmers there were looking to buy.

Metzger of Ohio is a sixth-generation farmer who manages more than 3,000 acres with family members. He's installing some drainage tile in his fields, but not planning for upgrades to his equipment fleet. "We're running stuff

a little bit longer than what we used to," he said.

"Things are tight," said Metzger, who serves as vice president of the American Soybean Association. "Commodity prices aren't the highest. Input prices, though, are just astronomical."

Machinery makers are contending with levies on steel and aluminum, raising U.S. manufacturing costs while demand stays tepid. Deere is laying off dozens of workers at facilities in Iowa and Illinois. The company is also planning to invest almost \$20 billion in U.S. manufacturing over the next decade.

Marx of CNH said things could start to rebound from here as farmers adjust to the shifts for trade, turning this year into a "trough" for the farm-machinery sector, he said.

Matt Jungmann, senior director of events at Farm

Progress, said that while purchases of new machinery look light, some growers are making smaller investments. They're looking at getting new parts or fresh tires, he said.

"The farmers know these cycles," Jungmann said. "There's still stuff that has to be done."

The Trump administration did give farmers a boost with increased biofuel blending guidelines for use of fuels made from soy and corn. Crop insurance protection increased with "transformative changes" under Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

Even then, the concerns over trade with China loom large.

"We have a lot of crops this year," said Eric Hansotia, CEO of AGCO. "So we need a deal with China. If and when we can get that, that would be a big unlock for the market."

## Ag barometer shows weakened sentiment

By **STEVE KOPPEL**  
Purdue Ag News

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Farmer sentiment dipped for the third straight month in August, with the Purdue University-CME Group Ag Economy Barometer Index falling 10 points to 125. Producers expressed markedly less optimism about the future, as reflected in the Index of Future Expectations, which fell 16 points to 123. This marks the lowest reading for the future index since last September. Producers' perspective on current conditions changed little this month, as the

Current Conditions Index rose 2 points from July to 129. Sentiment differed widely among producers according to whether their operations focused mainly on crops or livestock. Crop producers responded with much less optimism than their livestock counterparts, reflecting the profitability disparity between the two enterprises.

Beef cattle operations in particular are experiencing record profitability as the smallest cattle inventory since 1951 has pushed cattle prices to record levels. This stands in sharp contrast to

returns for crop production, which have weakened in 2025. The August barometer survey took place from Aug. 11-15, 2025.

Farmers again reported weak financial expectations for their farms in the coming year. As in July, the Farm Financial Performance Index remained below 100. The reading of 91 barely changed from July's index value. Crop prices that stand below the cost of production for many farms help explain why more farmers expect weaker incomes for the coming year. The U.S. Department of Agriculture

released its August Crop Production and World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates reports during the week the August survey was conducted. The USDA forecasted a 2025-26 season average corn price of \$3.90 per bushel and a soybean price of \$10.10 per bushel. Both estimates fall well below estimated breakeven levels for U.S. farmers. Despite the weak income outlook, the Farm Capital Investment Index improved 8 points from July to 61. Livestock producers had a notably more optimistic outlook in August than crop pro-

ducers, which helped push the index higher.

The Short-Term Farmland Value Expectations Index reading of 112 dropped 3 points from July, continuing a three-month trend. Even so, the index remains above 100. This indicates that more farmers still expect rising values in the coming year than those who consider declining values as more likely. This perspective is similarly held by three-fourths of crop producers, who said in the August survey that they expect farmland cash rental rates in 2026 to remain unchanged from 2025.

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SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Test your defensive play

You are East, defending against One Notrump, played by South. The bidding has been:

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Now, taking the bidding one step further, let's examine South's one notrump rebid, which denied four spades as well as four-card heart support. Since South can't have four cards in either major, his distribution must be exactly 3-3-2-5.

The quality of declarer's suits is also subject to partial analysis. He is unlikely to have three hearts to the king because he might have raised his partner to two hearts with K-x-x and a doubleton diamond. South is therefore likely to have a hand similar to one of these two:

***	♦ A K 7	♥ A 10 2
♦ Q 9 5	♥ 6 5 4	♦ 6 5 4
♥ A 1 2	♠ A 10	♠ A 10
♦ Q 9 6 3	♠ Q J 10 9 2	♠ A J 9 5 2
♥ 7 5 4		
♠ K 6		

Let's first try to work out South's distribution. To begin with, you consider the suit your partner led. Since there is no reason to think West chose an irregular lead, you assume the deuce was his fourth-best diamond. This means that South started with precisely two diamonds.

Next, let's turn to the suit declarer bid — clubs. He can't very well have

six of them, since he would almost surely have rebid his clubs rather than bid one notrump. It is therefore reasonable to assume that South started with four or five clubs in addition to his two diamonds.

So, though we are still only at trick one, it seems probable that West will shortly win a club trick and play three rounds of diamonds, leaving you on lead with the nine. At that point, you plan to lead a low heart to partner's king and win the next two hearts with the A-J to put the contract down one.

Peanuts

Rose is Rose

Agnes

Hi and Lois

Between Friends

Blondie

Snuffy Smith

Beetle Bailey

9-5

CRYPTOQUIP

LASBRO RK ZSYMCQX JYFL CQ Y

JYN YZ MRE QRSCJA MREG

KYGA JFCLNCQX ATAG BCXBAG:

LCQO RTAG LASAG.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD ONE CALL A PERIOD OF TIME WHEN SOMEONE ENDURES A LOT OF STRESS? A TENSION SPAN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals G

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	34 Museo display (up)	DOWN	1 U.K. military fliers
1 Speed	35 Calc. or trig	2 Brit. record label	19 Marisa's "Only Love" role
4 Innocent one	36 "As You Like It" setting	3 George Washington's birthplace	20 Gator's kin
8 Clump of grass	37 Seer's deck	4 "Matlock" star Kathy	21 Actor Julia
12 Parisian pal	40 Serb or Croat	5 Regretably	22 Tennis contest
13 Reunion attendee	41 Black-and-white cookie	6 Tampa Bay NFLer	23 Pride parade initials
14 End in — (require extra innings)	42 Last play part	7 911 responder	25 Potatoes partner
15 Play opener	46 Out in — field	8 Ploy	26 Anteatr
17 Irene of "Fame"	47 Eve's man	9 Six-sided state	27 Refer to
18 Pop music's Bee —	48 Pi	10 Blaze	28 Fed.
19 Bygone anesthetic	49 Sprint	11 Eye drop	30 Aspiring atty's exam
20 Weeps	50 Seized vehicle	16 Start a garden	33 Bump-free
22 Roman 1056	51 Lock opener		34 Asia's — Sea
24 McNally partner			36 Texas landmark
25 "Tricky" performance			37 Snitched
29 French assent			38 Length times width
30 Leave alone			39 Umps
31 Goal			40 Ginger cookie
32 Paragon of elegance			42 Distant
			43 Chemical suffix
			44 "Evita" role
			45 Stocking stuffer

Yesterdays answer 9-5

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# Clippers ...

Continued from page 8

The NBA said in a statement to The Los Angeles Times that “we are aware of this morning’s media report regarding the LA Clippers and are commencing an investigation.” However, the Clippers told The Times in a statement that they could prove that Torre’s allegations are false.

“Neither Mr. Ballmer nor the

Clippers circumvented the salary cap or engaged in any misconduct related to Aspiration,” the statement said. “Any contrary assertion is provably false: The team ended its relationship with Aspiration years ago, during the 2022-23 season, when Aspiration defaulted on its obligations.

“Neither the Clippers nor Mr.

Ballmer was aware of any improper activity by Aspiration or its co-founder until after the government instituted its investigation. The team and Mr. Ballmer stand ready to assist law enforcement in any way they can.”

A former Aspiration finance department employee whose voice was modulated on Torre’s

podcast said that when they noticed the shockingly large fee paid to Leonard, they were told that “If I had any questions about it, essentially don’t because it was to circumvent the salary cap, LOL. There was lots of LOL when things were shared.”

Other celebrities paid to endorse Aspiration and its tree-

planting operation included Robert Downey Jr., Leonardo DiCaprio and Drake. The finance department employee said none of them received anything close to the payment given to Leonard.

“Every other celebrity endorsement combined would not have met even a quarter of Kawhi Leonard’s endorsement,” the employee said.

# Sports on tap

## Local schedule

**Today**

Jay County — Footbal at Southern Wells – 7 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Football at Coldwater – 5 p.m.

**Saturday**

Jay County — Volleyball in Shondell Invite at Muncie Burris – 10 a.m.; Girls golf at ACAC meet at Cross Creek – 12 p.m.; Boys soccer at Anderson – 5 p.m.; Junior high soccer vs. Yorktown – 10 a.m.

Fort Recovery — Cross country at Brookville – 9 a.m.; JV football vs. Coldwater – 10 a.m.; Middle school cross country at Brookville meet – 8:30 a.m.; Middle school volleyball at Botkins – 10 a.m.

## TV schedule

**Today**

11 a.m. — Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix (ESPN2)

12 p.m. — U.S. Open tennis: Women’s Doubles Final (ESPN2)

3 p.m. — U.S. Open tennis (ESPN)

6 p.m. — USL Championship soccer: Lexington at North Carolina FC (FOX)

6:40 p.m. — MLB: New York Mets at Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana)

7 p.m. — College football: James Madison at Louisville (ESPN)

7 p.m. — U.S. Open tennis (ESPN)

7:30 p.m. — College football: Western Illinois at Northwestern (BTN)

9 p.m. — College football: Eastern Washington at Boise State (FS1)

## Saturday

1:15 a.m. — AFL: Hawthorn Hawks at Greater Western Sydney Giants (FS1)

6:30 a.m. — Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix (ESPN2)

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

12 p.m. — College football: San Jose State at Texas (ABC); Florida International at Penn State (BTN); Kenesaw State at Indiana (FS1); Iowa at Iowa State (FOX); Illinois at Duke (ESPN); Virginia at N.C. State (ESPN2); Kent State at Texas Tech (TNT)

3:30 p.m. — College football: Ole Miss at Kentucky (ABC); Kansas at Missouri (ESPN2); Grambling State at Ohio State (BTN); Oklahoma State at Oregon (CBS); Delaware at Colorado (FOX)

4 p.m. — U.S. Open tennis (ESPN)

4 p.m. — College football: Middle Tennessee at Wisconsin (FS1)

6:40 p.m. — MLB: New York Mets at Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana)

7 p.m. — College football: Army at Kansas State (ESPN)

7 p.m. — USL Championship soccer: Detroit City at Orange County SC (CBS)

7:15 p.m. — MLB: San Francisco Giants at St. Louis Cardinals (FOX)

7:30 p.m. — College football: Arizona State at Mississippi State (ESPN2); Michigan at Oklahoma (ABC); Southern Illinois at Purdue (BTN); Georgia Southern at USC (FS1); Boston College at Michigan State (NBC)

8 p.m. — College football: Central Washington at Montana (CBS)

10:15 p.m. — College football:

**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 multi-gan 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@jaycountychamber.com.

.....

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

## 90 SALE CALENDAR

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
Located: 103 S Washington Street, Montpelier IN

**Saturday Morning**  
**SEPTEMBER 27, 2025**  
10:00 A.M.

**REAL ESTATE**  
1 story home built in 1950 with 3 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms and 1478 square feet of living area. Home has a gas forced air furnace, central air, gas fireplace, gas water heater, and a detached 1 car garage. Home sits on a nice sized corner lot.

For more information or a private showing contact Loy Real Estate, Kim Loy Broker 260-726-2700 or Gary Loy Auctioneer 260-726-5160

**JEAN LANDIS**  
Loy Auction  
AC#31600027 Auctioneers

Gary Loy AU01031608  
Travis Theurer AU11200131  
Aaron Loy AU11200112  
Kaden Khayyata AU12400069

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
Located: 1702 W Tyson Road, Portland IN

**SATURDAY MORNING,**  
**SEPTEMBER 6, 2025**  
9:30 A.M.

**REAL ESTATE**  
Tract 1 - 2 story home with approximately 2,048 square feet of living space situated on approximately 1.75 acres. Property also

## 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

## Public Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO APPROVE THE TOWNSHIP’S CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of Bearcreek Township, Jay County, Indiana that the Board of the Bearcreek Township Trustee will meet on Monday September 15, 2025 in the office at the Bryant Area Community Center at 7:00pm to consider the adoption of the Township’s Capital Improvement Plan. Taxpayers appearing at the meeting shall have the right to comment. The Capital Improvement Plan as adopted will be referred to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF).

Crystal Laux  
Bearcreek Township Trustee  
CR 9-5-2025-HSPAXLP

## 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

## Public Notice

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Notice is hereby given that the Jay County Commissioners (“Commissioners”) will accept sealed proposals at the office of the Jay County Auditor, located at 120 N. Court Street, Portland, Indiana, up to the hour of 4:00 p.m. (local time) on September 19, 2025. Notice is further given that a public meeting of the Commissioners will be held on September 22, 2025, at (9:00 a.m.) (local time), at the Jay County Courthouse, located at 120 N. Court Street, Portland, Indiana, at which time and place the Commission shall open and consider each proposal pursuant to Indiana Code 36-7-14-22, for the purchase of certain real property located at 67 Highway, Portland, IN (commonly known as the 68 Acre Project), being made available for development purposes in the City of Portland Economic Development Area, said property including 68 acres, more or less.

The Offering Sheet, containing a detailed description of and the minimum offering price for the property described above and terms upon which the sale shall be awarded, as well as certain limitations on the use to be made of the property described above, is available for review at the office of the Commission, located at Jay County Auditor, located at 120 N. Court Street, Portland, Indiana.

Each proposal shall be executed in the manner provided for in the Offering Sheet and must be submitted in an envelope marked “Proposal for 68 Acre Project.” Pursuant to Indiana Code 36-7-14-22, any proposal submitted by a trust (as defined in Indiana Code 30-4-1-1(a)) must identify each (i) beneficiary of the trust and (ii) settlor empowered to revoke or modify the trust.

The Commissioners reserves the right to reject all proposals, or, in its sole discretion, to continue discussions with one or more persons or entities that have submitted a proposal or any other interested parties.

Dated this 22 day of August, 2025.  
JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
CR 8-29,9-5-2025-HSPAXLP

## 90 SALE CALENDAR

Gary Loy AU01031608  
Travis Theurer AU11200131  
Aaron Loy AU11200112  
Kaden Khayyata AU12400069

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
**SATURDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 20th,**  
**2025**  
**TIME 9:00 A.M.**  
**LOCATED: 2641 E**  
**1100 S. Montpelier IN.**

**TRACTORS - CRAWLER**  
1968 JD 4020 D. w/ Quad-shift, Front weights, 4900 hours. 1967 JD 2510 w/ Front weights, 6800 hours. Case 1030 Tractor w/ 3600 hours. New Holland GT-122A Lawn Tractor w/ deck and blade.Wheelhorse 14HP Garden Tractor. JD 450-B Crawler Loader. TRUCKS-MOTORCYCLES-FARM EQUIPMENT

. 1968 Chevy C50 Single Axel Dump Truck. 2000 Chevy S10 ZR2 4x4 93,000 Miles. 1985 Chevy C30 Utility Truck w/ Boom Lift and Snow Plow. 2021 Harley Davidson 1200 Model 48 w/ 2300 Miles. 2009 Kawasaki KLX 250 S Dirt Bike w/ 708 Miles. JD 55-A 3 Bottom Plow. Oliver 565 4 Bottom Plow. JD 7” Cycle Bar Mower. JD 4 Row Cultivator. New Idea 2 Row wide Picker. . JD 24T Square Baler. Kelly 18i Backhoe Bucket. 30 Ton Hyd Press. Lincoln 225 Welder. . Merry Mac Shredder Chipper. Rabbit Cages.

**TOYS-ANTIQUES**  
JD, Oliver, Massey Ferguson, AC, Massey Harris Toy Tractors. . (2) 110 lb Anvils w/ Stands. Corn Sheller. Misc Slate. (4) Steel Wheels. Radio Flyer Wagon.

**OWNER: James M Robbins.**  
Note: Check Auctionsoft

## 260 PUBLIC AUCTION

## PUBLIC AUCTION

Located at 103 S Washington Street, Montpelier Indiana on Saturday Morning

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2025**  
10:00 A.M.

**REAL ESTATE**  
1 story home built in 1950 with 3 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms and 1478 square feet of living area. Home has a gas forced air furnace, central air, gas fireplace, gas water heater, and a detached 1 car garage. Home sits on a nice sized corner lot.

10% nonrefundable deposit day of sale with balance due at closing. Buyer will assume taxes due and payable in May 2026 and thereafter.

Seller will provide a General Warranty Deed and Owners Title Insurance. Any inspections are at potential buyer’s expense and must be done prior to sale day. Any statements made day of sale take precedence over previously written or oral matter.

Owner confirmation day of sale.

For more information or a private showing contact Loy Real Estate, Kim Loy Broker 260-726-2700 or Gary Loy Auctioneer 260-726-5160..

**JEAN LANDIS**  
LOY AUCTION AC31600027 AUCTIONEERS  
Gary Loy AU 01031608  
Travis Theurer AU11200131  
Aaron Loy AU11200112  
Kaden Khayyata AU12400069  
CR 9-5,11-2025

## 90 SALE CALENDAR

AC31800004  
AUCTIONEERS  
Zane Shawver  
Lic. #AU10500168  
260-729-2229  
Pete D. Shawver  
Lic. #AU19700040  
260-726-5587

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
Located: Under cover in the Industrial Building at the Jay County Fairgrounds, Portland IN

**Wednesday Afternoon**  
**SEPTEMBER 10, 2025**  
5:00 P.M.

**HOUSEHOLD GOODS- OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS-TOOLS**  
Duncan Phyfe table with 6 chairs; Duncan Phyfe buffet; cedar chest; chrome table and chairs; (2) heavy metal outdoor chairs; HOT WHEELS REDLINES: To include Pit Crew, Peeping Bomb, Classic Cord, Ice T, Grasshopper, The Demon, Custom Camaro, and Short Order to name a few;GI Joe Search For The Stolen Idol; Match Box cars; Little Golden books; Ball jars; vintage games; copper bottom cookware; Willow Trees; Jim Shore figurines;Bubble glassware; Pink and Green depression glass; hens on nests; Italy planter and ash tray; Sterling Silver ring; jewelry; watches; Erector set; Hot Wheels case; Schwin bicycle; and other items not listed.

**MILLER ESTATE**  
**LOY AUCTION**  
AC#31600027  
AUCTIONEERS  
GARY LOY

**OWNER: Kenneth Dirksen Estate.**  
Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.

**SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE**

## 260 PUBLIC AUCTION

Located under cover in the Industrial Building at the Jay County Fairgrounds, Portland Indiana on Wednesday Afternoon

**SEPTEMBER 10, 2025**  
5:00 P.M.

**HOUSEHOLD GOODS – OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS- TOOLS**  
Duncan Phyfe table with 6 chairs; Duncan Phyfe buffet; Two Oak twin beds; Oak dresser; Oak chest; 3 pc. full size bedroom suit; cedar chest; full size bed; dresser; chest; desk; chrome table and chairs; recliners; wicker trunk; full size bed; card table & chairs; small primitive cupboard; dresser; lamps; 2 pc. kitchen cabinet; flat door cupboard; (2) heavy metal outdoor chairs; step stool; TCL flatscreen TV; gossip bench; parlor lamp; occasional chair; Santa figurines; vintage Christmas decorations; wood blocks; Christmas decorations; HOT WHEELS REDLINES: To include Pit Crew, Peeping Bomb, Classic Cord, Ice T, Grasshopper, The Demon, Custom Camaro, The Hood, The Heavyweights, Side Kick, Custom Fleetside, Whip Creamer, Classic 57 T Bird, Hot Heap, Bug Eye, Paddy Wagon, Rocket Bye Baby, Ford J Car, Turbo Fire, Custom Corvette, Mustang Boss Hoss, Jack Rabbit, Power Pads, Cockney Cab, Crew Car, and Short Order to name a few; Mattel Man In Space Space Crawler; Mattel Man In Space Firebolt Space Cannon Set; Marx Johnny Apollo Astronaut; GI Joe Search For The Stolen Idol; Hot Wheels Road Trial Set; Mattel Sizzle Fast Track Calf. 500 Layout; Hot Wheels Super Charger Race set; vintage Life magazines; Match Box cars; Little Golden books; Mattel Strange Change The Lost World Play Set; Lincoln Logs; Tonka truck and trailer; vintage Hot Wheels race track sets; fold; children’s books; canner; bedding; Playskol wood set; blue glassware; Corning; Ball jars; cookie cutters; puzzles; vintage games; copper bottom cookware; Strawberry set of dishes; collector plates; globe; Bachman Mini Planes; Dirt Devil sweeper George Foreman grill; toaster; blender; microwave; tea sets; ceramic hen on next; Willow Trees; Jim Shore figurines; Bubble glassware; Pink and Green depression glass; hens on nests; Italy planter and ash tray; baking dishes; fur coats; linens; Silver tray, teapot, creamer and sugar; Stoneware set of dishes; mirror; pocket watches; Sterling Silver ring; jewelry; watches; Erector set; Hot Wheels case; Schwin bicycle; croquet set; push mower; ladder; hand saws; indexes; pipe wrenches; pliers; screwdrivers; and other items not listed.

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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Lingo on the links

Reny Lingo of the Jay County High School girls golf team hits an approach shot during Tuesday's match against Fort Recovery and Winchester. The Patriots picked up their second win of the season as they shot a 220 and Winchester had a 232. FRHS won the meet with a 185.

Clippers deny firm paid Leonard

**By STEVE HENSON**  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service  
LOS ANGELES — The Clippers forcefully denied allegations detailed in a podcast published on Wednesday that a discredited global tree-planting company paid Kawhi Leonard \$28 million to pad the star forward's contract and skirt the NBA salary cap. Investigative journalist Pablo Torre of the Athletic said during "Pablo Finds Out" that he reviewed numerous documents and conducted interviews with former employees of Aspiration Partners, the sustainabil-

ity services firm that recently declared bankruptcy. Co-founder Joseph Sanberg agreed to plead guilty Aug. 21 to a scheme to defraud investors and lenders of more than \$248 million. During Aspiration's bankruptcy proceedings, documents emerged citing KL2 Aspire as a creditor owed \$7 million. KL2 is a limited liability company that names Leonard — whose jersey number is 2 — as its manager. Aspiration was partially funded by a \$50 million investment from Clippers owner Steve Ballmer. It is not known whether Ballmer was aware of or played a role in facilitating the employment agreement between Aspiration and Leonard. Torre revealed during the podcast that he did not find evidence of any marketing or endorsement work done by Leonard for Aspiration. The only connection he found between the player and the company came in a 2023 tweet by the Clippers that read, "Happy Birthday, Kawhi! For every comment/retweet, @Aspiration will plant one tree for Kawhi's birthday!"

See Clippers page 7

Streameast has been shut down

**By CERYL DAVIES**  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service  
LOS ANGELES — The world's largest sports pirating site, Streameast, is no more. The illegal streaming giant was terminated in Egypt after a sting operation, according to the Alliance for Creativity and Entertainment, one of the country's largest antipiracy coalitions. Egyptian law enforcement and ACE shut down the service Aug. 24 following a yearlong investigation. Streameast had 80 associated domains and amassed more than 1.6 billion visits during the past year. It offered access to sports' biggest events, including Europe's football championships, the NFL, NBA, MLB, pay-per-view boxing and F1 races. It garnered an average of 136 million monthly visitors, primarily based in the U.S., Canada, the U.K., the Philippines and Germany. "With this landmark action, we have put more points on the board for sports leagues, entertainment companies, and fans worldwide — and our global alliance will stay on the field as long as it takes to identify and target the biggest piracy rings across the globe," said Charles Rivkin, chairman of ACE and head of the Motion Picture Association, in a press release. Two men were arrested about 20 miles outside of Cairo under suspicion of copyright infringement. Authorities confiscated devices, including laptops and smartphones thought to be operating the site, cash and several credit cards. Investigators also identified a shell company possibly used to launder the advertising revenue, which totaled to around \$6.2 million, and an investment of \$200,000 in cryptocurrency. Several properties in Egypt were also allegedly purchased with these funds. In addition to working with local Egyptian authorities, ACE's investigation was aided by Europol, the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Centre, according to the Athletic's reporting. All sites previously associated with Streameast will be redirected to ACE's "watch legally" page, which provides links to authorized streaming video providers. This announcement comes a day before the NFL's regular season kicks off.

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Review preview  
Saturday - 1 p.m.



Jay County Patriots



Portland, 1-1  
**Coach:** Eddie Fields, first year (fifth overall)  
**Conference:** Allen County  
**Last week at New Castle:** The Patriots struggled to move the ball against the Trojans as they fell 35-0. Jay County only managed 115 yards on 54 plays while the Trojans gained 270 yards on 28 plays. The Patriots gave up two touchdowns in the first and second quarter, while giving up a final one in the third.  
**Season leaders:** Passing — Nick Laux — 14-of-23 for 246 yards and three touchdowns. Rushing — Leighton Brown — 26 carries for 167 yards and two touchdowns. Receiving — Brady Jetmore — eight catches for 181 yards and two touchdowns.

at

Southern Wells Raiders



Poneto, 0-2  
**Coach:** Blake Blaker, second year  
**Conference:** Allen County  
**Last week vs. Blackhawk Christian:** The Raiders lost their week No. 2 game to the Braves 15-12 after giving up a fourth-quarter touchdown. Blackhawk Christian scored the opening touchdown, while Southern Wells scored twice in the second quarter.  
**Season leaders:** Passing — Trey Slusher — 6-of-20 for 91 yards and three touchdowns. Rushing — Trey Slusher — 33 carries for 169 yards. Receiving — Levi Blake — four catches for 80 yards and one touchdown. Defense — Alden Dollar — 11 tackles and one sack.

**Last season:** The Patriots ran out for a 47-0 victory against Southern Wells with a mixed attack in the air and on the ground. Sean Bailey completed 9 of his 12 throwing attempts for 175 yards and three touchdowns. Four different Patriots carried the ball a total of 24 times for 164 yards and three more touchdowns. A.J. Myers and Leighton Brown had the three touchdowns on the ground. JCHS only gave up 55 yards of offense, 48 through the air and seven on the ground.  
**Game notes:** This is just the 12th meeting between Jay County and Southern Wells. Jay County has an 8-3 edge in the series ... The Patriots have built a four-game winning streak against the Raiders with the last loss coming in 2019. The other two losses came in 2015 and 2003 ... Southern Wells has scored 20 points through the first two games without getting shut out. This is the first time the Raiders have scored in both week No. 1 and 2 since 2022 ... Jay County has a 54.33 Sagarin rating, which is 199th overall and 40th in Class 3A. Southern Wells' 35.67 rating is 304th overall and 56th in Class 1A ... John Harrell projects the Patriots to win 35-3.