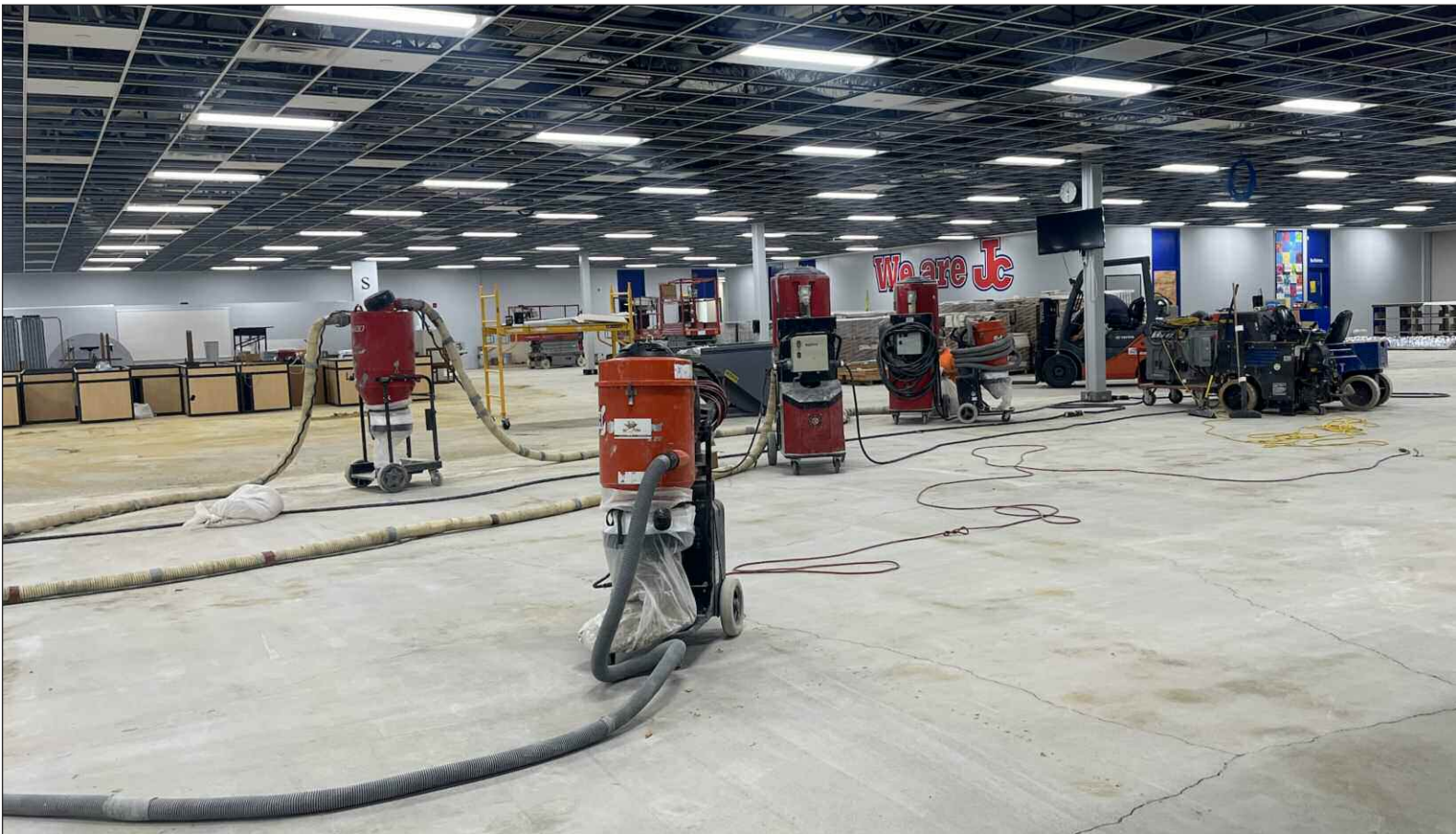


Final stages



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Work continued this month on repairs to the junior high/IMC (library) wing of Jay County Junior-Senior High School from the September 2024 tornado. The \$2.23 million project is expected to be complete in October, with junior high students set to return to their regular classrooms for the first time in more than a year after fall break.

School repairs nearly complete from '24 tornado; students to return to classrooms after fall break

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Monday marked one year since a tornado hit Jay County Junior-Senior High School, ripping open sections of the roof, flinging air-handling units and leaving debris strewn across the property.

Students are about a month away from returning to the classrooms they've been away from since then.

School administrators said the \$2.23 million tornado repair project is about 80% to 90% complete, and the goal is to return junior high students to their classrooms after fall break.

"I think we're ready," said Jay Schools superintendent Jeremy Gulley.

Plans to return
The timeline for the project calls for the school to "retake"

the space on Oct. 14, allowing furniture and equipment to begin being moved back in. Principal Chad Dodd said he's hopeful that might come even earlier. (Staff will begin moving items as soon as they can, he said.)

He added that the goal is to give junior high students a tour of the space on Oct. 17.

"If you think about it, the eighth graders were only here six weeks," he said. "And then they've been out a year. They don't know where their classes are. And then seventh graders don't know this area at all."

Before they head for fall break — Oct 24 to 26 — students will pack up their lockers.

They will also be part of the moving project.

"The kids that are in (mobile units) are going to pick up their desks and they're going to walk them to the classroom," Dodd

added. "Seventh period, 400 kids moving one desk is a heck of a lot more efficient than 20 people moving 400 desks."

While students are enjoying a few days away from the classroom, staff will move lockers, teacher desks and other furniture and equipment. Technology will be assessed. Systems will be tested.

"Kids won't be here, but a lot of us will be," said Dodd.

When students return on Monday, Oct. 27, they will find their lockers in the junior-senior high wing of the building.

The damage
Just before 8 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024, an EF-1 tornado on the Enhanced Fujita Scale, with winds reaching 110 mph, started near the intersection of county road 75 South and Joan Drive. The storm resulted in sig-

nificant damage to the roof over the junior high area and IMC (library) of the junior-senior high.

The tornado reached a maximum width of 75 yards, traveling 2.74 miles on a path through the field and wooded area on the south side of Tyson Road, then along Tyson Road and Water Street in Portland, and angling slightly north to Walnut Street before dissipating about a block east of Meridian Street. (It also destroyed the home of JCHS teacher Kyle Love on the opposite side of Indiana 67 and took out the bulk of the upper level of American Legion Post 211.)

Damage to the high school included sections of the roof being torn off, air-handling units thrown from the top of the building and significant damage from water and HVAC fluids.

See Stages page 2

Dunkirk woman involved in shooting incident

Hartford City man was injured while warrant was being served

HARTFORD CITY — A Dunkirk woman was involved in an incident that resulted in a Hartford City man being shot Thursday.

Amanda Adams, 37, was arrested on five felony drug charges in the incident, during which Glen Wilburn, 42, Hartford City, was shot and injured. He was arrested on eight felony charges.

According to a press release from Indiana State Police, Hartford City police officers were serving a warrant in the south 500 block of Jefferson Street just before 9 p.m. Thursday. Wilburn was shot while police officers were attempting to arrest him and others at the residence.

Wilburn was treated by officers at the scene until emergency medical personnel arrived, the release says. He was then transported to a hospital with what are described as "minor injuries" and later released back into police custody.

No officers were injured in the incident.

Wilburn faces a litany of drug-related charges, including a Level 2 felony for dealing cocaine or narcotic drugs; Level 3 felonies for dealing methamphetamine, possession of cocaine or a narcotic drug and possession of methamphetamine; a Level 4 felony for possession of a firearm by a serious violent felon; a Level 5 felony for obliterating identification marks on a handgun; and Level 6 felonies for maintaining a common nuisance and unlawful possession of a syringe.

He was also preliminarily charged with three misdemeanors related to drug and paraphernalia possession.

No new residents for county facility

Commissioners make move as part of steps toward closure

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

With plans to close by the end of 2026, Jay County Country Living won't be accepting new residents.

Jay County Commissioners decided not to allow new residents during a meeting Monday. They also discussed establishing pay incentives for employees to continue working for the county until the facility closes and heard about a potential

path forward with The Journey Home of Winchester.

Commissioners decided in August on a 2-1 vote to cease the county's operations of the living facility in rural Portland by Dec. 31, 2026. Jay County Council signaled at its meeting earlier this month that it may fund the organization's budget through June 30, with additional appropriations to be made if needed.

Referring to a recent move-in request, commissioner Duane Monroe said Monday that the county needs to stop accepting new residents amid the transition to move others out.

"I feel like we need to say we're not going to continue taking more in," Monroe said.

See Residents page 2



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Team effort

Wyatt Bihn (left), Mario Ardizzone (middle) and Corbin Bishop work to get a fake stretcher over an obstacle during the JROTC Patriot Raider Challenge Competition at Jay County High School on Saturday. As part of the cross country rescue drill, the Patriots had to transport backpacks over a climbing wall, army crawl, maneuver through the high and low obstacles and jump through a tire all while traveling from the east end of the north parking lot to the baseball diamond.

Adams was arrested on five felonies in the incident. She is preliminarily charged with a Level 3 felony for possession of cocaine or a narcotic drug; a Level 5 felony for possession of methamphetamine; and Level 6 felonies for unlawful possession of a syringe, possession of a controlled substance and maintaining a common nuisance. She also faces misdemeanor charges for possession of marijuana and possession of paraphernalia.

Wilburn's criminal history includes pleading guilty to possession of cocaine in 2018 and dealing methamphetamine in 2016, both in Jay County, and dealing in a narcotic drug in 2018 in Delaware County.

State police will release information to Blackford County Prosecutor's Office for review when their investigation is complete.

Deaths

Mark Hart, 71, rural Portland
Margaret Eicher, 85, Bryant
Clifford Smith, 84, Geneva
Details on page 2.

Weather

The high temperature was 84 degrees Sunday in Jay County. The low was 66.

There is a 50% chance of rain tonight with a low in the lower 60s. Rain is expected Wednesday with cloudy skies and a high in the lower 70s. There is also a 50% chance of rain Thursday. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The Jay Circuit Court jury trial that was scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 25, has been canceled. Those who were called for jury duty do not need to appear.

Coming up

Wednesday — Coverage of Monday's Dunkirk City Council meeting.

Thursday — Results from the JCHS girls soccer game at undefeated Delta.



Residents ...

Continued from page 1

Jay County Country Living director Stacey Johnson said the request was an “emergency situation,” pointing out the resident would have paid rent with cash.

Monroe said it would set a precedent. Jay County Country Living advisory board president and county council member Cindy Bracy added that it would send mixed signals to the current residents. Johnson pointed out the situation was temporary, saying the potential resident was not moving in to stay and had developed disabilities.

“Nobody listened, this is exactly what this home is for,” she said. “For three months, if this person is able to take care of and pay their rent, and other people don’t even pay rent out there, I don’t —

I’m sorry, and I have to do whatever you guys tell me, but that, it just seems anti-community to me ...”

Commissioner president Chad Aker said he could see the value in allowing new residents temporary lodging, as long as they are paying rent themselves and understand they must move out by a certain date.

“Again, we still do have to pay the bills around there, and maybe we should take these on a case-by-case basis,” he said.

Bracy noted Jay County Country Living Advisory Board members unofficially recommended the county not allow new residents.

“We’re talking about people,” said commissioner Doug Horn. “My hope is we can find them a

better place that takes care of their needs better. But if we’ve said we’re closing, which we did, we voted to do it, then I think it’s time to act like that’s what we’re doing.”

Commissioners Horn and Monroe voted not to allow new residents to move in, with Aker dissenting.

Discussing efforts to move current residents to new sites, Johnson pointed out the county won’t leave anyone homeless. Monroe agreed, saying that is why commissioners set a hard closing deadline for the facility. He added that the county should also financially incentivize employees to stay until the facility closes and move quickly on the process.

Monroe proposed the equivalent of three months’ worth of

additional pay for Jay County Country Living employees if the facility closes by the end of this year, two months’ worth of additional pay if the facility closes by June 30 and one month’s worth of additional pay if the facility closes by Dec. 31, 2026.

Currently, the department employs eight part-time and three full-time workers. Discussion ensued regarding whether the financial incentive would be enough to entice employees to stay. Johnson indicated employees may not stay for a small stipend and suggested a larger amount. County attorney Wes Schemenaur pointed out it would also require council’s approval.

No decision was made on the matter Monday, although plans are to look into Monroe’s propos-

al and hash over details in the near future.

Also, Bracy said The Journey Home — an organization aimed at ending veteran homelessness — recently visited Jay County Country Living and expressed interest in the building. If pursued, plans would involve the organization leaving the space it rents from Randolph County in Winchester and moving its operations to the Portland site. Randolph County Commissioners have been pushing the organization to find a new location, saying they feel the current space at Randolph County Center for Family Opportunity is not a good fit.

For more news from the commissioners’ meeting, see Wednesday’s newspaper:

CR almanac

Wednesday 9/24	Thursday 9/25	Friday 9/26	Saturday 9/27	Sunday 9/28
73/61 <small>There's a 70% chance of thunderstorms on Wednesday when the high will be in the 70s.</small>	74/56 <small>Thursday's forecast shows a 50% chance of showers with a low around the mid 50s.</small>	75/54 <small>Mostly cloudy skies on Friday when there's a slight chance of showers.</small>	79/52 <small>Saturday's forecast shows a slight chance of rain as well.</small>	79/51 <small>Mostly sunny, when the high will be in the upper 70s.</small>

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$113 million	24-26-29-35-38-46-48-50-51-58-59-60-63-64-70-71-79 Cash 5: 9-18-19-28-31 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$451 million	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 2-5-7 Pick 4: 1-0-3-0 Pick 5: 8-1-8-6-8 Evening Pick 3: 9-5-4 Pick 4: 8-6-4-4 Pick 5: 9-1-2-8-2 Rolling Cash 5: 17-24-25-26-39 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 6-1-8 Daily Four: 2-5-8-4 Quick Draw: 4-16-21-24-26-29-35-38-46-48-50-51-58-59-60-63-64-70-71-79 Evening Daily Three: 3-4-9 Daily Four: 8-6-9-7 Quick Draw: 4-16-21-	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.11 Oct. corn4.06 Dec. corn4.19	Dec. beans10.11 Wheat4.66
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.14 Oct./Nov. corn4.04 Dec. corn4.24	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.91 Late Sept. corn3.91 Beans.....9.69 Late Sept. beans9.69 Wheat4.61
The Andersons Richland Township Corn3.99 Oct. corn3.96 Beans.....9.66	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.04 Oct. corn3.99 Beans.....9.51 Dec. beans9.76 Wheat4.46

Today in history

In 1806, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark arrived in St. Louis, concluding their exploratory expedition to the Pacific Northwest.

In 1846, astronomer Johann Gottfried Galle first observed the planet Neptune.

In 1863, Mary Church Terrell, who served as the first president of the National Association of Colored Women, was born in Memphis, Tennessee. A teacher who graduated from Oberlin College in Ohio, she worked with the organization to achieve education and social reform and to bring an end to discrimination based on race and gender.

In 1889, Nintendo was founded as a playing card

—The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Today 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, cabin, Morgan Park, 50 Mooney St.	Council public hearing, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
Wednesday 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St. 6 p.m. — Jay County	Thursday 5:15 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.

Obituaries

Mark Hart
Oct. 20, 1953-Sept. 20, 2025

Mark Hart, age 71, a resident of rural Portland, passed away on Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025, at his home following a courageous battle with Parkinson’s disease.

Mark was born Oct. 20, 1953, in Celina, Ohio, the son of the late George and Anne Marie (Quinter) Hart. He graduated from Fort Recovery High School in 1971. Mark worked for New Idea in Coldwater, Cooper Farms in Fort Recovery, Keller Farms and Schwieterman Farms. Mark was also a self-employed farmer, farming and raising turkeys in Madison Township.

He enjoyed helping others by volunteering at the Neurological Center in Burkettsville, Ohio. Mark was a member of Immaculate Conception Church in Portland and Wendelin Sports Club.

Mark married Delores McElroy on Nov. 28, 1974.

Survivors include:

His son — Thomas Hart (wife: Danielle), Salamonia, Indiana

Three grandchildren — Gabrielle Hart (fiancé: Travis Slack), Isaiah Hart (fiancé: Kelsey Simmons) and Jacob Hart (Taryn Vukadinovich).

Three great-grandchildren: Autumn, Dawson and Sutton

His siblings — Dale Hart (wife: Kathy), Celina, Ohio, Paul Hart (wife: Joyce), Coldwater, Ohio, Larry Hart (wife: Missy), Fort Recovery, Ohio, Harold Hart (wife: Beth), Fort Recovery, Ohio, Doris Grieshop (husband: Bill), Yorkshire, Ohio, Marlene Nash (husband: Robert), Ridgeville, Indiana, Eileen Wendel (husband: Dave), Fort



Hart

Recovery, Ohio, and Norma Pottkotter (husband: Pete), Fort Recovery, Ohio

Sisters-in-law — Kathy Hart, Deborah McElroy and Bonnie Baker

Brothers-in-law — Robert McElroy and George McElroy

He was preceded in death by a brother, Carl Hart; brother-in-law Bill McElroy; and sister-in-law Cindy Morris.

Visitation will be held on Thursday from 4 to 8 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. A scripture service will be held at 8 p.m. on Thursday at the funeral home. Visitation will also be held on Friday from 10 to 10:45 a.m. at the funeral home.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Portland. Private burial will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be directed to Stillwater Hospice, Lolek Boxing Class (specializing in neurologic rehab for those with Parkinson’s) or Parkinson’s Foundation.

Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

Margaret Eicher
Jan. 21, 1940-Sept. 19, 2025

Margaret G. (Schwartz) Eicher, 85, of Bryant, Indiana, passed away at her home on Friday, Sept. 19, 2025.

She was born on Jan. 21, 1940, to the late Jacob L. and Margaret (Hilty) Schwartz. She was the wife of the late Paul V. Eicher, who preceded her in death in 2013, and was a faithful member of the Old Order Amish Church.

Survivors include her children, Menno M. (Christina) Eicher of Bryant; Marie M. (Jake Wengerd) Eicher of Pennville, Paul M. (Barbara) Eicher of Portland, Jake M. (Elaine) Eicher of Bryant, Maggie

(Jake Schwartz) of Geneva, Joe (Rachel) Eicher of Bryant, Ida (Daniel Girod) of Bryant, Elizabeth (William Schwartz) of Bryant, Barbara Eicher at home, Benjamin (Mary Schwartz) Eicher of Portland, Ernest (Katie Schwartz) Eicher of Connersville, Lovina (Ben Eicher) of Pekin, Henry (Kathy Schwartz) Eicher of Bryant, Viola (Sam Eicher) of Berne, Susan (Enos Wickey) of Bryant and Christina (Jonathon Wickey) of Bryant. She was blessed with 160 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren. She is also survived by one brother, Peter G. Schwartz of Seymour, Missouri.

Preceding her in death were her husband, Paul V. Eicher; her parents; a daughter, Verena; three brothers; and two sisters.

Viewing will be held from 1 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025, and from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025, at the family residence, 3088 E. 800 North, Bryant, Indiana. The funeral was. Monday also at the residence, with Bishop Samuel J. Schwartz officiating. Burial took place in Bearcreek Cemetery.

Arrangements are being handled by Downing & Glancy Funeral Home in Geneva, Indiana.

Clifford Raymond “Ray” Smith, Geneva, March 23, 1941-Sept. 20, 2025. Services will be at 6 p.m. tonight at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

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.

Stages ...

Continued from page 1

A crew of about 50 from Servpro, a firm specializing in clean-up and restoration work following water and fire damage, descended on the building to handle putting a tarp over the damaged area of the roof, sealing broken doors and windows, drying out and vacuuming liquids, and general cleaning in the week after the storm. Those efforts were just the beginning.

"I see whatever's happening there as significant," said Gulley while surveying the damage a few days after the storm. "And to me, that could mean any of the things we're talking about — flooring, gridwork, sub-deck structure ... roof, HVAC, mechanical, electrical, fire protection, fire detection, fire suppression.

"We just got a project."

Big project

Jay School Board awarded the construction project to repair the junior high wing of the building in March, with Muhlenkamp Building Corporation of Coldwater, Ohio, as the low bidder at \$2.23 million.

"It took longer than we thought, for sure," said Gulley. "It's just, we work at the pace of insurance, and anyone who has filed an insurance claim knows that."

(Even before that contract was awarded, more than \$2.3 million in costs had been incurred for the clean-up, mobile classroom and other items.

Thus far, the bulk of the costs have been covered by insurance.)

The largest part of the project was mechanical — fixes to the HVAC system, replacing plumbing and other systems. A lot of the wiring has been replaced. The entire space will now have LED lighting. Drywall was replaced, where needed, and the entire area will have new carpet. The fire suppression system was also replaced.

The space was still a hive of activity with construction equipment and materials all around during a walk-through on Sept. 12.

"If you look at walls and some flooring done, mechanical stuff, I would say we're about 80% there," said Jay Schools facilities director Gary Cagle. "The next two weeks you're gonna see a big change in things. Because now all your little touch-up work, your finishing touches, that's gonna happen in the next couple weeks."

Though the school corporation was only allowed to replace and repair rather than upgrade, the project still resulted in some improvements for the school. Lighting systems were simplified, old wiring was pulled and existing wiring was labeled and mapped.

"If there's any kind of little blessing in disguise on it, we're more knowledgeable about our area," said Cagle. "The majority of everything, it's been updated, it's located and

it's going to be easier for the mechanics of things to be worked on."

Back to normal

Eighth graders at the junior-senior high haven't been in their normal classrooms for more than a year.

Though the school was only closed for a week following the tornado, junior high students were displaced when they returned. Some were shifted to other underutilized classrooms, some to larger spaces (choir room, rifle range) that were split by dividers and others into open areas like the pool breezeway.

On Dec. 1 — after Thanksgiving break — junior high students shifted to mobile classrooms located on the northeast side of the school adjacent to the main gym. They have been there ever since.

Staff have already been preparing to get students back in their regular classrooms. A Thursday earlier this month was spent going through storage pods and checking every item. Most were kept, but a full dumpster of materials had to be discarded.

Regular meetings are being held in an effort to make sure the logistics of moving students back to their classrooms are well thought out. Details such as making sure signs, flags and other items are available are being considered.

In order, Gulley said priorities are safety, comfort and then any finer

touches that may have been overlooked.

While the mobile classrooms have worked out — teachers have enjoyed having windows and individual temperature controls — Dodd said he's looking forward to having everyone back together under one roof.

"I think they feel a little disconnected," he said. "And so getting them back in here and getting the kids in here, I think just unifies us again, because we feel a little split right now.

"I think they're ready. I think they're ready to be back a part of what's going on."

SERVICES

Tuesday

Smith, Clifford: 6 p.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

Friday

Hart, Mark: 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 506 E. Walnut St., Portland.

Saturday

Lopez, Nancy: 1 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Service listings provided by
PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS
120 N. Meridian St.
Portland, Indiana 47371
(260) 726-9201
progressiveofficeproducts.com

Drug-related death haunts friend

DEAR ABBY: I met “Donny” 18 months ago. For a while, we were both happy. Then suddenly, every Friday, Donny would make some excuse, smoke a cigarette and go to the bar across the street. Afterward, he would show up here drunk, and we would argue. When Donny was sober, he was a great guy, but every weekend he disappeared. Although I tried every day to help him, the drinking evolved into drugs. A few months ago, he came over to visit. He started acting “off” and went into my bathroom. A short time later, I found him kneeling on the floor. It looked like he had taken something. The next morning when I went to wake him up, Donny had died! I called 911 and tried CPR. There was nothing they could do. He had overdosed. I’m now living

Dear Abby



with guilt. If only I had tried to wake him earlier, maybe he could have been saved. I’m taking medication, but I am stuck. I stay home most of the time. I want to move forward but can’t seem to do it. Any advice? — STUCK IN NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEAR STUCK: You have nothing to feel guilty about. Donny didn’t die because of anything you did or didn’t do. His dealer gave him a drug that was more powerful than he could tolerate, and he took it. In fact, if you

hadn’t invited him in, he probably would have died on the street somewhere. Because you cannot move past the guilt you have inflicted upon yourself, and the medication you are taking isn’t doing the job, start talking with a mental health professional who can help you through this. You have my sympathy for the loss of someone you loved.
.....
DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law drives me bonkers. It started when our son (her only grandchild) was born. She is obsessed with him. We live in different states, and during our most recent visit there, she kept pressuring my son to come back on his own for two or three weeks. She constantly voices her opinions loudly in his presence, whether they are

about schools we are considering, extracurricular activities, etc., and she is nasty about things she doesn’t agree with. She also interrupts everyone and has no interest in anything that may be important to others if it doesn’t have an impact on her. An example: I was asked to lead a local nonprofit organization. She promptly sneered about the organization, offering not one word of support. I would be happy to never see her again while still encouraging my son to have a relationship with her. However, HE’S the one who doesn’t want to visit her without me and his dad, so it’s not US saying no. My husband (her only child) tries his best, but she’s his mom and he’s caught in the middle. Have you any idea how to handle this difficult rela-

tionship? — NEEDED IN CONNECTICUT
DEAR NEEDED: No law states that you must send your son to visit your husband’s mother if he doesn’t want to go. Because your husband isn’t strong enough to be the “bad guy,” it will be up to you to tell her that your son (I assume he’s still quite young and can’t speak for himself) will not be visiting unless it is part of a family unit. When she gives you an argument (and she probably will), be polite and stand firm.
.....
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeane Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Sorority news

Eta Chi chapter of Sigma Phi Gamma International Sorority met at Mount Tabor Hall in Dunkirk to celebrate the 77th birthday of the chapter. We opened the party with the candle lighting service of friendship. A blessing was given by Marcia Eglan. We served pizza and salad. Eglan read the charter members

that received the charter for the chapter Sept. 19, 1948. She then asked us questions about the chapter. Connie Retter won the prize for answering the most questions correctly. Kris Cook reminded that Eta Chi will be selling apple dumplings and coffee at the Main Street festival. We will get order forms to sell apple

dumplings at our business meeting Oct. 7 and are to be turned in by Oct. 21. Those attending were Kris Cook, Renee Blumenhorst, Stephanie Faulkner, Julie Adkins, Marlene Clevenger, Julie Terrell, Kathleen Inman, Rose Morgan, Retter, Eglan and Cook.

Community Calendar

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

Today
JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 8 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Richard’s Restaurant.
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.
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.
EUCHRE CLUB — Will meet at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at Chalet Village Health and Rehabilitation in the North Lounge.
COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.
PORTLAND EAGLES — Will meet at 6 p.m., on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Eagles’ lodge, 320

N. Meridian St., Portland.
AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.
A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA’S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.
Thursday
LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES — Free and confidential consultations with a lawyer are available from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics including divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant-landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating should sign up in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.
CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday 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.
SMART RECOVERY — A group for those struggling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feelings and behavior, and living a balanced life meets at 11 a.m. each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.
DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 5:30 p.m. at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Centre, 200 N. Park St., 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.
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.
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.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday’s Solution

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

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

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Saturday, Sept. 27 & Sunday, Sept. 28

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily

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FOOD

SATURDAY

Kettle-cooked Ham & Beans

SUNDAY

Kettle-cooked Chili

BOTH DAYS

Foot-long Hot Dogs, Ice Cream, Pie, Caramel Corn, & more!

All former and current Jay County students and teachers invited.

Elvis Tribute

Sept. 27 Noon



Todd Berry

ICE must leave US citizens alone

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

Here is something all Americans can agree on, whatever their feelings on immigration enforcement: United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement should not be harassing, let alone detaining, citizens of the United States.

Nor should that agency be harassing, let alone detaining, green card holders, officially known as lawful permanent residents (LPRs).

Yet that is what happened early Tuesday in Elgin, the Tribune reported.

Joe Botello, 37, a U.S. citizen, told this newspaper he was “jolted awake” and then handcuffed, questioned and placed in a Customs and Border Protection vehicle before dawn on Tuesday. Just to make it crystal clear,

Guest Editorial

Botello was born here, this paper and other outlets reported.

Worse, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, or her surrogate, then shared a video of the Elgin operation on social media, presumably part of the ICE deterrence campaign to persuade immigrants in the U.S. without legal permission to self-deport. The video showed four men — one of whom appeared to be Botello — being handcuffed and led away from a residence in that far northwest suburb.

Botello was released shortly thereafter. Nonetheless, Noem should have been more careful as to what was filmed and shared. She owes Botello an apology — you know, American to American — at the very least.

We have no truck with the argument that some U.S. citizens inevitably will be collateral damage in such operations. That’s unacceptable. And it is clear from reporting across the country that the Elgin incident hardly was the first of its kind.

Before ICE engages in any kind of aggressive action, such as what took place Tuesday in Elgin, it has to be sure that its targets are within its lawful jurisdiction, which means the enforcement of the immigration and customs laws duly passed by Congress. If the agency is in doubt of someone’s

status, it should not knock down that door or pull their hands behind their back, but move on until it is sure. There’s no excuse for getting this wrong, especially given all of the data at ICE’s disposal. In this case, the error was compounded by the posting of a shaming video ... of a U.S. citizen.

We’re not challenging this administration’s legal right to enforce the nation’s immigration laws, even at a level of enforcement going beyond the removal of law breakers whom most Americans want to see deported.

We’re talking about simple competence. As would be expected from any government agency.

With its masks (bad idea), aggressive clothing (bad idea),

military-style vehicles (bad idea) and commando tactics (bad idea), ICE has intentionally cultivated a climate of widespread fear in American cities. Such has not been a feature of immigration enforcement under previous administrations, even though Republicans and Democrats alike have done the job of enforcing the nation’s immigration laws. (The Obama administration, for example, was quite aggressive about deporting those in the country illegally, but did its job without making a performative show of it.) Anyone can see it does not have to be this way, but doing it this way is what this president has decided.

Given that set of choices, then, ICE simply has to know who it is targeting beyond any shadow of a doubt.

Fall in love with Indiana in autumn

By NIKI KELLY

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

From covered bridges and college football to apple-picking and leaf-peeping, Indiana is a fantastic place to enjoy the best season: fall.

A few times a year, I like to focus on the array of communities, attractions and events the state has to offer. And I have some great ones for you today.

The first is Huber’s Orchard and Winery in southern Indiana. I visited for the first time recently and was so impressed with the number of great things to do there. You can pick apples, berries and pumpkins with your kids; grab a tasty slice of pizza; enjoy a scoop of ice cream; or take a tour of the winery and distillery — while getting some free samples.

The farm market has fresh produce and sometimes there is live music on the patio. And there’s a park for kids to run around and play.

Next up, a football game. Obviously, the University of Notre Dame gets a lot of attention, and its campus and facility is full of tradition. Indiana University is also on a roll, so Bloomington would be a good stop. But honestly, any college football game around the state on a perfect fall day is worth your time. And the Indianapolis Colts stadium is also a great stop — though don’t count on the roof being open even on the nicest days.

Brown County State Park is a treasure. Nicknamed the “Little Smokies” because of the area’s resemblance to the Great Smoky Mountains, Brown County encompasses nearly 16,000 acres of rugged hills, ridges, and fog-shrouded ravines, according to the Department of Natural Resources. This is the best place to enjoy fall foliage. Axios Indianapolis reported that leaves in central and southern Indiana will achieve peak fall color between Oct. 21 and Oct. 28. And while you are in Brown County, be sure to do some early Christmas shopping in Nashville — my favorite browsing and buying spot in the state.

My husband introduced me to the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival 20 years ago and I have been going ever since. It

Niki Kelly



I’ll also be buying mums and enjoying time with family around the fire pit.

runs Oct. 10 to 19 this year. Everyone knows about the crafts, art, antiques and flea markets in Bridgeton, Rockville and Mansfield. And I enjoy those along with yummy food. But I encourage everyone to explore the festival’s namesakes by picking a bridge route and driving it. The Blue Route is my favorite.

The weekend before that, Oct. 3 to 5, is another tradition — the Newport Antique Auto Hill Climb. If you like antique cars, it’s the place to be. More than 100,000 people come to see hundreds of automobiles, trucks and motorcycles from the steam, brass, vintage, antique, and classic car eras make timed runs. They go from a standing start up a steep hill to a finish line 1,800 feet away. You don’t want to miss the Sunday finale of the modified division, where I will be rooting on my husband.

No fall calendar would be complete without picking a pumpkin. Every corner of the state has great options for this. Visit Indiana has a fall bucket list with a number of great pumpkin patches no matter where you live.

These are just a few of the ways to celebrate fall this year. I’ll also be buying mums and enjoying time with family around the fire pit. See you there!

.....

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

Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, non-profit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.



Don’t retreat from humanities

By MICHAEL J. SOSULSKI
Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

In his seminal 1950 essay “The Idea of a College,” Robert Maynard Hutchins, then president of the University of Chicago, made the case for the humanizing influence of a liberal arts education in the face of midcentury nuclear terror. “Now at last we shall have to think,” he wrote. “Now we must apply ourselves to the task of creating a community in this country and then throughout the world. The education that will help us toward these ends is liberal education, the education of free men.”

By liberal education, Hutchins was not talking about politics, but rather an education rooted in a broad range of subjects, from the sciences to the arts and humanities, with the latter playing an indispensable role. That is why the University of Chicago’s recent decision to pause graduate admissions in nearly every humanities program for 2026-27 is deeply disappointing. Speaking not only from my perspective as a committed lifelong educator — but also as a University of Chicago alumnus whose life and career have been shaped by the university’s storied tradition of humanistic inquiry — I believe this is not the time to retreat from the humanities. The digital and technological urgency of our own era demands the exact opposite.

As classics professor Eric Adler explained in his recent analysis in The Chronicle of Higher Education, “They’re Killing the Humanities on Purpose,” humanities disciplines are not being targeted at places such as the University of Chicago because they are so prohibitively expensive. In fact, they are among the least costly for a university to support. Nor are they being targeted because humanities graduates lack preparation for life after college. On the contrary, decades of research from the American Association of Colleges and Uni-

Michael J. Sosulski



versities show that liberal arts graduates, humanities majors among them, excel in exactly the skills employers most value: excellent communication, ethical reasoning, the ability to work well in teams and across difference, critical problem-solving and much more. Adler suggests that the long-standing bias toward scientific fields makes little sense if one is truly seeking to economize. Rather than pausing humanities admissions, universities would be better off deciding which expensive science, technology, engineering and mathematics field to de-emphasize as that is where the real cost centers lie.

Given the historical moment in which we find ourselves — when artificial intelligence is reshaping every facet of our lives — abandoning investment in the humanities seems like a grave mistake. While artificial intelligence dramatically amplifies our access to information and our ability to process it rapidly, it cannot replicate the wisdom, creativity and ethical reasoning nurtured by humanistic study. The capacity to analyze historical context, grapple with complex meanings and interrogate the very society these technologies are meant to serve has never been more vital. In a technological landscape racing ahead, institutions should be championing, not trimming, the rigorous education that enables thoughtful stewardship of these changes.

In today’s political terrain, we simply cannot afford to abandon humanities education. Individuals trained in the humanities know how to appreci-

ate nuance and contradiction, discern factual arguments from fiction, prize empathy and trace the roots of contemporary challenges to historical debates and dilemmas. The humanities foster not just academic achievement, but also the critical civic virtues that encourage productive dialogue, understanding and principled disagreement. America cannot afford to lose these skills at a moment when its democracy needs them most.

While some research universities may be retreating from the humanities, liberal arts colleges across the country are moving in the opposite direction. At Lake Forest College, where I serve as president, we have a newly established Krebs Center for the Humanities. This Italianate home is where the exploration of the past meets the horizons of the future through innovative programming, interdisciplinary dialogue and a space for students to pursue humanistic inquiry. The Krebs Center not only anchors traditional scholarship but also tackles critical questions head-on about the future of humanity in the age of automation and AI.

As major research universities narrow their vision, the nation’s liberal arts colleges may well become the last true bastions of humanistic learning. Institutions such as Lake Forest College will lead the way — deepening support, fostering creativity and preparing a new generation to absorb complexity and challenge easy answers to life’s big questions, well beyond campus walls.

Humanities indeed matter, and they will continue to matter as long as humans struggle to be truly free. As some institutions sadly pause, let us prove — boldly and unapologetically — that the study of what it means to be human is indispensable.

.....

Sosulski is the president of Lake Forest College.

The Commercial Review



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—Thomas Jefferson

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Ball State launches new toolkit

Ball State University launched its new Talent Pipeline Toolkit in an effort to help communities and businesses have better access to university resources for workforce development and economic growth.

Developed by the university's Office of Governmental Relations and Industry Engagement, the toolkit is a hub for information about its programs. They include the County Ambassador Program, Indiana Connection Lounge, Immersive Learning projects, mentoring, skills infusion programs and other offerings.

"Our goal with this toolkit is to demonstrate how attainable and valuable these partnerships can be," said Becca Rice, vice president for governmental relations and industry engagement, in a press release. "By putting these opportunities in one place, we hope to break down barriers, encourage collaboration, and strengthen local talent pipelines to allow communities to take action."

The toolkit is available at bsu.edu/industry/engage.

Selling division

Sonoco Products company announced recently that it has reached an agreement to sell its Ther-

Business roundup

moSafe business unit to Arsenal capital partners.

The private equity firm will buy the business for \$725 million. ThermoSafe is based in Illinois and also includes the business' manufacturing facility in Portland.

"With the planned sale of ThermoSafe, we are completing the next step in Sonoco's portfolio transformation, which has resulted in significantly streamlining our operations from a large portfolio of diversified businesses into two core global business segments," said Sonoco president and CEO Howard Coker in a press release. "This simplified structure features incredibly robust businesses with industry leadership and sustainable futures serving large global customers. ... We know their knowledge, experience and leadership will be greatly valued by their new owner and wish the entire team continued success in the future."

Expanding business

Mustard Seed of Jay

County has expanded its offerings.

The business that has operated as Mustard Seed Remodeling has branched out with the addition of Mustard Seed Property Maintenance. The business will offer roll-off dumpster rentals and lawn care/mowing services.

Staying open

Dairy Dream of Albany recently announced plans to stay open year round.

The ice cream shop and eatery, which has typically closed through the late fall and winter, announced on its Facebook page that it will stay open. Hours may be adjusted.

Forum scheduled

The Region 8 Education Service Center will hold its Employer Work-Based Learning Forum from 8 a.m. to noon Monday, Nov. 10, at Parkview's Mirro Center in Fort Wayne.

The event, held in partnership with the Don Wood Foundation, will explore work-based learning and its role in the future of Indiana's workforce. Topics discussed will include aligning work-based learning with the state's high school graduation pathways, opportunities for employer involvement and the

return on investment for businesses.

Registration for the free event is open at forms.gle/GxguJUR5NiSJZjJFA.

The Mirro Center is located at 10622 Parkview Plaza Drive.

Job fairs set

The United States Postal Service will host another round of job fairs on Friday, Sept. 26.

Sessions are scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the following locations:

- Muncie — 501 W. Memorial Drive
- Decatur — 213 Court St.
- Richmond — 400 North A St.

The fair in Muncie will also be used to hire for locations in Winchester, Lynn, Montpelier, Middletown and Yorktown.

The Decatur fair will also be used to hire for the Berne location.

Airport honored

Indianapolis International Airport ranked No. 1 amongst mid-sized airports for the fourth year in a row in the J.D. Power 2025 North America Airport Satisfaction Study.

The Indianapolis airport ranked second overall, trailing only John Wayne Airport of Orange County, California. It ranked No. 1 overall for food, beverage

and retail as well as terminal facilities.

"This award serves as a shining reflection of the exceptional staff at the airport," said Mario Rodriguez, Indianapolis Airport Authority executive director, in a press release. "It stands as a testament to their unwavering dedication to not only our community but also to every traveler who passes through. Their commitment to excellence ensures that the experience of arriving in our community is nothing short of extraordinary, making it a warm and welcoming grand entrance for all."

J.D. Power ranks the airports based on customer ratings for ease of travel through airport; level of trust with airport; terminal facilities; airport staff; departure/to airport experience; food, beverage and retail; and arrival/from airport experience.

Association honors

Indiana Bankers Association recently announced its winners of Leaders in Banking Excellence awards.

Earning Awards were Thomas W. Dinwiddie, Dinsmore & Shohl LLP, Indianapolis; Donald E. Goetz, DeMotte State Bank; Karen I. Miller, The Farmers Bank, Frankfort;

Christopher J. Murphy III, 1st Source Bank, South Bend. Awards were presented at a ceremony Sept. 8 at the organization's annual convention.

Holding drive

Menards stores are serving as drop sites for local humane organizations.

Stores will accept donations from now through the end of September. Items needed include pet food, treats, feeders, collars, beds, storage containers and other items. Collection boxes will be near the doors of participating locations.

Taking part in the drive are Menards stores in Muncie and Richmond in Indiana and Celina in Ohio.

Awards set

Indiana Chamber of Commerce will host its annual awards dinner at 5 p.m. Nov. 5 at the JW Marriott Indianapolis.

Daymond John, founder of FUBU and a longtime star of "Shark Tank," will be the featured speaker.

Individual tickets are \$195. For more information, visit indianachamber.com.

Does your business have news to share? Email us at news@theocr.com to be included in our weekly business roundup.

Trump says he has a deal to save TikTok

By WENDY LEE
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

President Trump said Friday that he has reached a deal with China to keep the popular social video app TikTok running in the U.S.

Trump said on his social media platform Truth Social that he had a "very productive call" Friday morning with China's President Xi Jinping. TikTok is owned by Chinese tech company ByteDance, a fact that prompted national security concerns over data protection from U.S. politicians.

He suggested that Xi had approved the planned takeover of TikTok in the U.S., but did not provide details on what the leader's sign-off entailed.

"We made progress on many very important issues including Trade, Fentanyl, the need to bring the War between Russia and Ukraine to an end, and the approval of the TikTok Deal," Trump wrote on Friday.

He added: "The call was a very good one, we will be speaking again by phone, appreciate the TikTok approval, and both look forward to meeting at APEC!"

Trump had signaled earlier



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Adam Gray

A person holds a TikTok sign as they are interviewed on camera in Washington Square Park on Jan. 14, 2025, in New York City. TikTok is owned by Chinese tech company ByteDance, a fact that prompted national security concerns over data protection from U.S. politicians.

this week that an agreement was coming. For months, TikTok's future had been uncertain in the U.S., due to national security worries about the app's ties to China. Trump in his social media post did not reveal much detail about the deal, but said earlier this

week that TikTok's operations would be owned by American investors.

"TikTok has tremendous value," Trump said at a news conference on Thursday, adding the U.S. will be getting a "fee-plus" for making the deal. "I'd rather reap

the benefits. The kind of money we are talking about is very substantial. It will be owned by all American investors."

The Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday that under terms of the deal, TikTok's U.S. users would migrate to a new version of the app with technology licensed from ByteDance. U.S. user data would be managed in Texas by cloud computing company Oracle, the Journal reported, adding that details of the deal could change as it was still being discussed.

About 80% of a new company running TikTok's U.S. operations would be owned by American investors, with the remaining amount owned by Chinese shareholders, according to the Journal.

Oracle's Chairman and Chief Technology Officer Larry Ellison is a Trump ally and the world's second richest person with an estimated net worth of more than \$360 billion, according to Forbes. Ellison is also preparing a bid for Warner Bros. Discovery, the media company that owns HBO, TNT and CNN, after already completing a takeover of Paramount, one of Hollywood's original studios.

The White House did not

immediately return a request for comment on the terms of the agreement.

Reports cited a Chinese news agency, which quoted Xi as saying the Chinese government "respects the wishes of companies and welcomes them to conduct commercial negotiations based on market rules and reach solutions that comply with Chinese laws and regulations and balance interests."

The deal paves a path for TikTok to continue operating in the U.S. after President Joe Biden signed a law that would require ByteDance to divest ownership in the U.S. operations of the app or have TikTok banned in the nation due to security concerns. TikTok denies sharing user data with the Chinese government and says it has not been asked by Beijing to provide such sensitive information.

ByteDance on Friday thanked Xi and Trump "for their efforts to preserve TikTok in the United States."

"ByteDance will work in accordance with applicable laws to ensure TikTok remains available to American users through TikTok U.S.," the company said.

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

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By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A Q
♥ K Q J
♦ 3
♣ J 9 7 6 4 3 2

EAST
♠ J 10 9 8 4 3 2
♥ 9 6 5 4 3
♦ 10
♣ 8 5

SOUTH
♠ K
♥ A
♦ A K Q 10 9 8 6 4
♣ A K Q

The bidding:
2 ♠ Pass North 3 ♣ Pass
4 NT Pass East 5 ♣ Pass
7 NT

Opening lead — seven of spades.

This hand was devised many years ago for the then annual Intercollegiate Par Bridge Championship. Par for North-South was to bid and make seven notrump. South should surely undertake the grand slam after learning that North has the only missing ace. Thirteen tricks in notrump seem virtually certain.

But if South becomes careless during the play, he fails in his mission, and that's what happened to many of the declarers who got to seven notrump.

The first test comes at trick one when declarer must win the spade lead with dummy's ace. He then cashes the queen of spades, discarding the ace of hearts! This is followed by the K-Q-J of hearts, discarding the A-K-Q of clubs!

When declarer next cashes the jack of clubs and East's ten appears, dummy's clubs all become tricks, and South easily makes the grand slam.

Observe that if declarer plays the hand in less spectacular fashion by winning the spade lead with the king and trying to run his diamonds, he goes down one.

South's first five plays are certainly unusual, but they illustrate an important principle of card play. When dummy appears, South sees that the contract is certain unless the diamonds are divided 4-0.

To guard against this, he plays his cards in the manner described. If the diamonds are divided 2-2 or 3-1, no harm can come from discarding the ace of hearts and A-K-Q of clubs at the start of play.

But if, as in the actual case, it turns out that the diamonds are divided 4-0, South gives himself an extra chance by putting himself in position to utilize dummy's clubs. The fact that East's ten of clubs falls on dummy's jack is merely poetic justice.

Tomorrow: A long-term view.
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Peanuts

Rose is Rose

Agnes

Hi and Lois

Between Friends

Blondie

Snuffy Smith

Beetle Bailey

CRYPTOQUIP

TZTVTJY XJUDMZ F TVFB WCQ
BMVJVVFXYAYMZK YCZK RCCBFZ
CQ RMQF AJQQMFQV: J BF-WFZUF

CRYPTOQUIP

XFUDJZMVX.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF A FREE DIVER GOES DOWN LOWER THAN ANYONE EVER HAS PREVIOUSLY, THAT'S A DEPTH-DEFYING FEAT.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals U

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "You've got mail" co.
4 Luau dish
7 Follow
11 Ship's jail
13 Paul Newman film
14 "If all — fails ..."
15 Bruins' sch.
16 "Spring ahead" hrs.
17 Play-Station alternative
18 Aromatic herb
20 "Toodle-oo!"
22 Seasonal helper
24 Composer Mahler
28 Ate between meals
32 Illegal payment
33 Georgia or Cal
34 Indian lentil stew
36 Landed
37 Diva's solos

DOWN

1 Border on
2 The L.A. Philharmonic, e.g.
3 Easter bloom
4 Prof's degree
5 Evict
6 Luggage attachment
7 Baseball team based in the Dallas-Fort Worth area
8 Cleric's tunic
9 Equi-
10 Super-man foe
12 Causes of serious paradigm shifts
19 Caribou's kin
21 Vat
23 Nourished
25 Scramble piece
26 Slightly
27 Nov. honorees
28 Luminary
29 Roman emperor
30 Battery fluid
31 Weir
35 Murphy's —
38 "Didn't I tell you?"
40 Part of LGBTQ
42 Tales
45 Sci-fi prefix
47 "Peter Pan" pooch
48 Streetcar
49 Toy block name
50 "That's all — wrote"
51 Grazing tract
52 Rowing need
54 Sandy shade

Solution time: 21 mins.

Saturday's answer 9-22

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PLEASE NOTE: Be sure to check your ad the first day it appears. We cannot be responsible for more than one day incorrect copy. We try hard not to make mistakes, but they do happen, and we may not know unless you call to tell us. Call before 12:00 pm for corrections. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland, Indiana 260-726-8141.

60 SERVICES

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90 SALE CALENDAR

LAND AUCTION
MONDAY OCTOBER 13TH, 2025
TIME 5:00 P.M.
LOCATED: 1 Mile North of New Mt Pleasant on Como Rd, Portland, IN
REAL ESTATE
95.67 Acres In Section 16, Jefferson Twp, Jay County Indiana. Practically all tillable with Frontage on Como Rd. Property does have a Windmill, Lease and Payment will stay with the Farm. Wooded area not Included. Taxes to be prorated day of Closing. Possession upon Harvest of 2025 Crops. Drive bys are Welcome or Phone Auctioneers for More Information. Auction Held On-Site.
OWNERS: Denney Family Properties, LLC
Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE
AC31800004
AUCTIONEERS
Zane Shawver
Lic. #AU10500168
260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver
Lic. #AU19700040
260-726-5587

LAND AUCTION
MONDAY OCTOBER 20TH, 2025
TIME 5:00 P.M.
LOCATED: CR 200 S AND CR 300 E. PORTLAND, IN
REAL ESTATE
74 +/- Acres in Section 35, Wayne Twp, Jay County Indiana with 67 Acres Tillable, balance being Wooded and

BOOLMAN'S

Auto Sales & Service, Inc.

Highway 67 W,
Portland, Indiana

260-251-9735

Wendel's

Carpets & Upholstery Cleaning

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Dave Wendel
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Open 9:30-5:00 Monday - Friday
9:30-3:00 Saturday

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Tribe girls finished third in the MAC

CELINA, Ohio — While the Tribe was only two strokes out of second place, they couldn't climb high enough to share the Midwest Athletic Conference title.

The Fort Recovery High School girls golf team finished fourth at the MAC Tournament at Mercer County Elks with a 395 on Saturday to finish third in the standings.

St. Henry won the tournament and the conference with a score of 372.

Olivia Knapke shot the best round of the day for the Tribe by carding a season-low 91. She finished as the MAC runner-up to Coldwater's Alyssa Froning.

Joining Knapke on the first team was Mallory Evers with a 95. Also shooting career-best scores were Georgia Wenning (100) and Cora Pearson (109). Evvie Briner carded a 110 and Emily Boeckman had 113 strokes that didn't affect the final. Both Briner and Wenning were All-MAC honorable mentions.

Three score

WOODBURN — Three

Local Roundup

different Patriots scored for the Jay County girls soccer team in its 3-1 win over Woodlan on Saturday.

Aixa Lopez broke the ice by dribbling past defenders and sending the ball to the top left corner for the score.

Woodlan (6-5, 3-2 Allen County Athletic Conference) responded with its own goal to enter the intermission, but Avery Snow put the Patriots (7-3, 6-0 ACAC) ahead with a goal from 18-yards away.

Charlee Peters iced the game away with a final score on an assist from Elly Byrum.

Parsons made four saves for the Patriots.

LeFevre leads

BRADFORD, Ohio — For the final time this season, Reece LeFevre led the Fort Recovery boys golf team as it finished eighth at the MAC Tournament on Sat-

urday at Stillwater Valley Golf Club.

The Tribe shot a 357 to beat New Bremen (368) and New Knoxville (411), while Minster's 320 claimed the title. FRHS finished seventh in the standings.

LeFevre's round of 79 strokes put him sixth in the tournament and third in the MAC individual standings. Minster's Bryce Prenger shot a 75 to claim the tournament title and to earn MAC Player of the Year.

Andrew Rehmert produced the second best Tribe score with an 88, while All-MAC honorable mention Caleb Smith followed with an 89. Carson Fullenkamp's 101 rounded out the team score.

Rounds of 104 and 105 from Luke Fortkamp and Garrett Diller did not factor into the final.

Jay falls

WOODBURN — The Jay County boys soccer team dropped its second ACAC match of the year to the Woodlan Warriors 4-2 on Saturday.

Jacoby Penrod put the

Patriots (5-6-1, 1-2 ACAC) on the board first after scoring from a pass by Raif Beiswanger. Woodlan (10-2, 2-1 ACAC) responded with a goal of its own before the teams traded penalty kicks – Penrod scored for JCHS – to enter halftime 2-2.

Jay County couldn't hold the Warriors down in the final 40 minutes, giving up two more scores for the loss. Peyton Yowell made four saves on the day.

Streak snapped

PENDLETON — The Pendleton Heights Arabians snapped a five-match winning streak for the Jay County boys tennis team in a 4-1 defeat on Saturday.

Paul Dirksen picked up the lone victory for Jay County (11-5), beating Jegan Soultz 4-6, 6-4, 7-5 in a No. 1 singles match that lasted over two hours.

The other singles players fell as Henry Dirksen lost the No. 2 match 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 to Josiah Davis and Clark Wellman dropped the No. 3 position 6-4, 6-3 to Rafael Salas.

Both doubles teams fell in straight sets as well.

Elizabeth Brunswick, a sophomore in her first year as a golfer, finished with a 105 that included a par on the 395-yard, par-4 12th hole. Reny Lingo posted the final score toward the Patriots' team total with a 118.

Taven Bentley was just one stroke behind Lingo.

"We had a lot of gains today," said Allred, who will not lose anyone to graduation. "And I truly expect that the way the girls were smiling when they saw these scores that they're gonna start in June with those same scores and just continue to grow."

"I look forward to next year."

MAC ...

Continued from page 8
St. John's made it to the red zone only one time following Gaerke's touchdown. However, that's when Fittro threw one of his two interceptions and Brody Barga took the ball all the way from the Indians' five-yard line to the Bluejays' 19.

Fort Recovery immediately scored as it feigned a wildcat set, instead having Breaker Jutte find Post for a screen pass on the left side for an easy score.

The first quarter, along with the third and fourth, went perfectly for the Tribe offense as it scored on every drive. The second period ended as the only blip for FRHS as it was forced to punt twice.

"I think we stopped passing the ball as much and spreading them out a bit more," Gaerke said. "But also, their d-line was big. Our guys were not sticking to their technique, which they did the first quarter and after halftime."

The Indians scored three times in the third quarter including a six-yard rush from Wendel, a 42-yard reception for Post and an 11-yard pass to Jutte. Brody Hart scored the sole fourth-quarter touchdown on a carry from the one-yard line.

With the first MAC victory under the Tribe's belt, it will look to improve its resume when a 4-1 (2-1 MAC) New Bremen comes to town for Homecoming.

"It's going to be a big week," Wenning said. "It's any given Friday out here in these MAC football games, so I'm very excited to start prepping New Bremen."

Box score

Fort Recovery Indians (3-2, 1-2 MAC)
at St. John's Bluejays (0-5, 0-3 MAC)

Ft. Rec. 14 0 20 7 —41
St. John's 0 0 0 0 —0

First Quarter

FR — Alex Gaerke 48 run
(Gaerke kick), 7:13.
FR — Colson Post 19 pass from
Breaker Jutte (Gaerke kick),
2:46.

Second Quarter

No scoring

Third Quarter

FR — Reece Wendel 6 run
(Gaerke kick), 9:46.
FR — Post 42 pass from
Gaerke (Gaerke kick), 8:13.
FR — Jutte 11 pass from
Gaerke (kick fail), 0:39.

Fourth Quarter

FR — Brody Hart 1 run (Gaerke
kick), 3:25.

Team Statistics

	FR	St.J
Rushes - yds	22-195	31-82
Comp-Att-Int	11-12-0	9-15-2
Passing yds	143	86
Total Plays	34	46
Total Offense	338	168
Punt ret - yds	0-0	0-0
Kickoff ret - yds	0-0	6-110
Sacks - yds lost	3-21	0-0
Ints - yds	2-99	0-0
Fumbles - lost	1-0	2-0
Penalties - yds	5-40	2-10

Individual Statistics

Rushing — Fort Recovery — Alex
Gaerke 7-110, Brodie Hart 4-27,
Reece Wendel 7-25, Braylon Dil-
worth 1-21, Breaker Jutte 1-7,
Isaac Roessner 2-5, St. John's
— Riley Mueller 6-41, Drake Fit-
tro 15-28, Dylan Kantner 2-7,
Carson Stemen 3-7, Nick Gaynier
4-3, Trent Bonifas 1-(-4).

Passing — Fort Recovery —
Gaerke 10-11-0 124, Jutte 1-1-0
19, St. John's — Fittro 8-12-2
78, Drew Martz 1-3-0 8.

Receiving — Fort Recovery —
Colson Post 5-95, Jutte 3-25,
Luke Lochtefeld 1-12, Troy Post
1-10, Roessner 1-1, St. John's
— Braden Lindeman 2-46,
Austin Shafer 4-20, Mueller 1-
10, Chase Metzger 1-8, Bonifas
1-2.

90 SALE CALENDAR

Road Frontage. Farm has Frontage on CRIs 200 S and 300 E. Typogrophy: Level. Possession: Upon Closing or Harvest of 2025 Crops. Taxes: To be Prorated the Day of Closing. Very Desirable Farm in a Great Location. Drive byis are Welcome or Phone Auctioneers for More Information. Auction Held On-Site. OWNER:Gary D and Kimbra L Weesner Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos. SHAWVER AUCTION-EERING AND REAL ESTATE AC31800004 AUCTIONEERS Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229 Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587

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. For more information or a private showing contact Loy Real Estate, Kim Loy Broker 260-726-2700 or Gary Loy Auctioneer 260-726-5160
HOUSEHOLD GOODS OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS - GUNS
3 pc. Queen size bedroom suit with Sleep Number mattress; Whirlpool refrigerator; Smith Bros. 3 cushion sofa; (2) leather recliners; Longaberger baskets; McCoy owl cookie jar; Diamond Arms 12ga single shot; Stevens 22 lever action single shot octagon barrel; baseball gloves; canning jars; Coke bottles; and many other items not listed.
TRAILER - TOOLS
2 wheel 51 x 61 trailer; Troy Bilt 241 snowblower; Viper Earthquake roto tiller; Craftsman router; McCulloch Power Mac 320 chain saw; ; buzz saw blade; 2 man saw; levels; oil cans; pry bars; pliers; screwdrivers; and other items not listed.

90 SALE CALENDAR

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

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Under cover in the Industrial Building at the Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 E Votaw St., Portland, IN
Wednesday Afternoon SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 5:00 P.M.
HOUSEHOLD GOODS OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS
Oak table with 2 extra boards and 6 chairs, VERY NICE; Oak flat-door cupboard, VERY NICE; gun cabinet; vanity with bench; wood rocker; Oak coffee table; jewelry; jewelry boxes; hunting knives; pocket knives; swords; spurs; pickle jar; parlor lamp; belt buckles; large set of Gone With The Wind plates; over 5 large totes of Hot Wheels, accordion;Sears 8 track AM/FM vehicle player; FM radio converter; Cobra CB; and other items not listed.
SUV BOAT & TRAILER TOOLS
2020 Chevrolet Equinox with 67,000 miles, VIN # 3GNAXEJEV1LS630513 ; 141 Starcraft boat with 19hp Evinrude motor, cover, fish finder and includes a 141 Texas Royal trailer; Brute 7000 watt generator; Snapper riding lawn mower with 281 cut; Century battery charger; Craftsman sockets; Black & Decker circular saw; air impact; air ratchet; tarps; and other items not listed.
ELDON L. COST ESTATE
By Elaine Paxson and Beverly Paxson
Shelby County Probate Court
Case # 2025 EST 151
Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112 Kaden Khayyata AU12400069

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 224 W 500 N Bryant, IN
Saturday Morning OCTOBER 11, 2025 10:00 A.M.
REAL ESTATE

90 SALE CALENDAR

PARCEL #1: This parcel consists of a 2 story home, barn, pond, and approximately 6 acres. The 2 story home has 3 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms and 1932 square feet of living area. Home has gas forced air with central air and an attached 3 car garage. The barn is 281 x 406with a loft.
PARCEL #2: 20 Acres of tillable land that is in the set aside program. It is in this program until September 2032. The owner receives \$4,603.00 per year. If this parcel sells separately from parcel #1 there will be a deeded 601 easement given on the east side of parcel #1.
PARCEL #3
Combination of Parcel #1 and #2. House, barn, pond, and 26 acres.
For more information or private showing contact Loy Real Estate 260-726-2700 or Gary Loy Auctioneer 260-726-5160.
RITA LEGGETT, DECEASED
Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112 Kaden Khayyata AU12400069

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Jay County Fairgrounds Womenis Building Monday evening OCTOBER 6, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.
REAL ESTATE
Parcel is located on 50 E just south of 200 S. Property consists of 8.48 acres of woods and has a driveway that runs from 50E back to the woods. This would be a good recreational site. 20% nonrefundable deposit day of sale with balance due at closing. Owner will provide Owners Title Insurance and General Warranty Deed. Buyer will assume taxes due and payable in May 2026 and thereafter. Any statements made day of sale take precedence over previously written or oral matter. Owner confirmation day of sale.
For more information contact Loy Real Estate 260-726-2700 or Gary Loy Auctioneer 260-726-5160.

90 SALE CALENDAR

RON & DELAYNE MYERS Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131

PUBLIC AUCTION
SATURDAY SEPT. 27TH, 2025
TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 1499 N 100 W. PORTLAND, IN
RTV TRACTOR MOWERS MOTOR HOME GOLF CART.
Kubota BX2680 4WD Tractor w/ LA 344 Loader 29.3 Hours. Ferris 611 27HP Zero Turn Commercial Mower w/ Suspension 2020 Hours. 2004 Condor Motor Home w/ 2 Slide Outs, Built-in Generator, Sleeps 4, 20,875 Miles. 2022 EZ-GO Gas Lifted Golf Cart w/ Rear Seat, Street Legal. Paddle Boat. Flat Bottom Boat Trailer. GUN CROSSBOW Savage 30.6 Model 110E Bolt Action. H&R Model 923 22 Cal 9 Shot Revolver. North Midlen Co. Black Powder Pistol. Ten Point XR-40 Cross-bow w/ Scope and Crank. Gun Sight Stand. Small Combination and Gun Safe.

ANTIQUES HOUSEHOLD MISC
Authentic Signed Paintings Including West Point Painting. 6 pc Cherry California King Size Bedroom Suite Including Blanket Chest. 5 pc California King Walnut Bedroom Suite. Leather Power Love Seat and Chair. GE Washer and Dryer. Gaming Table. Golf Clubs. Pop-up Canopy. Cornhole Game. (8) 8i Poly Folding Tables. (34) Padded Folding Chairs.

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

Notice of Nondiscriminatory Policy As To Students The Zion Early Learning Center admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to the students of the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, and other school administered programs. CR 9-23-2025 HSPAXLP

90 SALE CALENDAR

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Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
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260 PUBLIC AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION

Located at 224 W 500 N. Bryant, Indiana on Saturday morning

OCTOBER 11, 2025

10:00 A.M.

REAL ESTATE

PARCEL #1:

This parcel consists of a 2story home, barn, pond, and approximately 6 acres. The 2story home has 3 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms and 1932 square feet of living area. Home has gas forced air with central air and an attached 3 car garage. The barn is 28’ x 40’ with a loft. There is a generator that will be sold separately.

PARCEL #2

20 Acres of tillable land that is in the set aside program. It is in this program until September 2032. The owner receives \$4,603.00 per year. If this parcel sells separately from parcel #1 there will be a deeded 60’ easement given on the east side of parcel #1.

PARCEL #3

Combination of Parcel #1 and #2. House, barn, pond, and 26 acres. 10% nonrefundable deposit day of sale with balance due at closing. Owner will provide Owners Title Insurance and General Warranty Deed. Buyer will assume taxes due and payable in May 2026 and thereafter. 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 private showing contact Loy Real Estate 260-726-2700 or Gary Loy Auctioneer 260-726-5160.

RITA LEGGETT, DECEASED

LOY AUCTION AC#31600027 AUCTIONEERS

Gary Loy AU 01031608 Aaron Loy AU11200112
Travis Theurer AU 11200131 Kaden Khayyata AU12400069

CR 9-11.23-2025

Wenning in the MAC

Tribe coach picks up first conference win over St. John's

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

DELPHOS, Ohio — There have been a plethora of yellow flags thrown on the Indians in the 2025 season.

During the week of practice, the Tribe dedicated a large portion of practice to staying disciplined and watching the ball to not pick up unnecessary penalties and give away free yards.

Despite Drake Fittro trying to draw the Indians offsid

es on every play outside of one drive, the line didn't bite and the defensive pressure it provided played a key role in shutting the Bluejays out.

The Fort Recovery High School football team's defense locked down the St. John's Bluejays on Saturday to pick up the third victory of the season and the first in the Midwest Athletic Conference with a 41-0 margin.

"We knew it was going to be a weird game battling some adversities, coming out here on a Saturday at 1:30 it was going to be hot in the middle of the day on a turf field," said first-year FRHS coach Wes Wenning. "A lot of strange things to battle throughout the week and we stayed on that daily. ...

"(Getting that first MAC win) is very important. We needed this momentum, especially against a well-coached team. I feel like their record and some of those scores don't accurately indicate how well coached this football team is and how good of athletes they have. For us to bend, not break and for us to just finish the game from start to finish was huge riding into a homecoming week against New Bremen."

While the Tribe (3-2, 1-2



Fort Recovery High School's Isaac Roessner hauls in an interception during the Tribe's 41-0 win over St. John's on Saturday. The Indians picked off the Bluejays twice for 99 yards as the defense locked the game down.

MAC) has had some clean games, its week 2 win over Allen East was particularly bad with 80 yards of penalties on 11 flags. The FRHS defensive line knew that it needed to be disciplined to beat St. John's (0-5, 0-3 MAC) as Fittro, the quarterback, would try to get the Tribe offsid

es on every play before turning to the sideline to get the real play.

"St. John's was circled in our book as a team that's potentially going to be a lot of penalties

if we're not disciplined," said linebacker Luke Lochtefeld. "In practice this week we had different disciplines and ways to not make that happen anymore and keep repping and repping and this is the result. We got fewer penalties and that's to come the rest of the year."

The defensive line held strong, only jumping offsid

es once in the fourth quarter. As a result, the line and linebackers sacked Fittro three times for a loss of 21 yards, had 10 tackles for a loss and put constant defensive pressure leading to a pair of interceptions. In total, St. John's had 168 yards of offense on 46 plays.

"It was huge and it always deflates the offense and gives room for us to run different sets on our defense to put more pressure on the quarterback," Lochtefeld said. "Which ends up causing more of those interceptions."

While the defense locked the Bluejays down the Tribe offense got to work early.

The first two plays for Fort Recovery went to Reece Wendel, who secured a first down before Alex Gaerke slung a 21-yard pass to Colson Post down the left sideline. Gaerke then ran the ball himself and found gaps on the left side of the field to go the full 48 yards for an early touchdown.

"It was really just the plays before that, setting that up" Gaerke said. "When that came around, that hole wasn't the biggest hole I've ever seen, but it was a pretty big hole. Then being able to beat that defender to the outside and get that stiff arm really pushed me."

See MAC page 7

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Jay County High School junior Erin Aker chips onto the eighth green Saturday during the girls golf sectional tournament at Crestview Golf Club in Muncie. She shot a career-best 94, coming up just three strokes short of a regional berth.

A few strokes short

Aker shoots career-best 94, misses regional berth by three

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

MUNCIE — Erin Aker opened her season with a 119.

Her best 18-hole round heading into the sectional was a 106.

In the past few weeks, though, something has clicked. That led to the best round of her career.

Aker, a Jay County High School junior, played a steady round Saturday at Crestview Golf Club, recording seven pars en route to a career-best score of 94 in the sectional tournament that left her just three strokes shy of a regional berth.

"I've really just been practicing and concentrating," said Aker. "And just relaxing when I go up to hit. It's been going pretty good."

Her round paced the Patriots, who finished seventh out of nine scoring teams with 471. They were four strokes behind sixth-place Daleville.

Yorktown, coached by Jay County graduate Nathan McClung, took the team title with a 325. Monroe Central (338), led by

individual champion Lucy Huston (76), and Delta (363) earned the other two team berths to the regional.

Kingsley Southard (87) of Burris, Hayden Browning (90) of Wes-Del and Audrey Capes (91) of Daleville earned the individual regional berths. (The top three teams and top three individuals not on advancing teams move on to the next round.)

"I'm really pleased with how the girls shot today," said JCHS coach Carissa Allred. "We've had a few major improvements and some career accomplishments."

"Erin shot under 50 for both nine holes, making it under 100 ... which is a huge accomplishment."

"And then (Alexa Ride-nour), who only had one year under her belt in junior high golf, she broke even with 100. And she shot

her career low of 46 (for nine holes)."

After a slow start — the Patriots began their day on the back nine — that saw her at 6-over-par through the first three holes, Aker got her day on track with a par on the 300-yard, par-4 13th hole. It was the first of three pars in the final six holes that got her to the turn with a 47.

The junior added pars on the second and third holes and needed another one on No. 9 to match the score she posted on the front. Her first shot landed on the front-left portion of the green, leaving her a lengthy uphill putt for a potential birdie. She rolled her try to within 2 feet and then finished off the par for her 94.

"I hit all my drives pretty straight," said Aker. "My irons were pretty good."

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