

# New Forge ECI leader named

## Hancock will take role after stint as interim

By **RAY COONEY**  
The Commercial Review

An organization focused on regional economic development and marketing has a new leader: Forge ECI announced Thursday that it has selected Caitlin Hancock as its new president and CEO.

“I’m beyond excited,” said Hancock. “I’ve been with the organization for over a decade now, and just being able to see the growth that’s happened in the region, to be in this position now to lead this organization, I’m very excited for the future.”

Forge ECI, formerly known as the East Central Indiana Regional Partnership, serves Jay, Randolph, Blackford, Delaware, Henry, Wayne, Grant, Fayette and Rush counties.

Hancock served as the interim president and CEO since May following the departure of Trevor Friedeberg, who is now president and CEO of Greater Muskegon Economic Development in Michigan.

She was chosen following a nationwide search.

“Caitlin emerged as the clear choice among more than 20 candidates,” said Garrett Doan, chair of Forge ECI’s board of directors, in a press release. “Her decade of experience within the organization, her proven leadership, and her passion for East Central Indiana distinguished her throughout the process.”

See **Leader** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

### Top three

The Fort Recovery High School marching band earned an Excellent rating on Saturday in the Ohio Music Education Association contest at Versailles and finished in third place overall. Pictured, junior Aubree Heitkamp spins a flag over her head during the FRHS performance. The band’s show is based on the movie “Top Gun.”

# French prime minister resigns

By **WILLIAM HOROBIN**  
Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service

PARIS — Sebastien Lecornu unexpectedly resigned as France’s prime minister on Monday, blaming the intransigence of the groups in the country’s fractured parliament and deepening a national political crisis.

The move sparked a selloff in French assets with stocks tumbling by the most since late August and the yield on the benchmark 10-year note rising nine basis points to 3.6%.

## Lecornu blamed the inflexibility of parliament

While Lecornu was clearly in deep trouble with no majority emerging to back him in parliament, and speculation that he could face a vote of no confidence as soon as this week, his abrupt departure was a surprise.

The resignation came less than 24 hours after President Emmanuel Macron named a new Cabinet stacked with centrist loyalists, ignoring threats from opposition parties not to appoint a continuity government. That plan immediately backfired.

“The conditions were no longer met for me to be able to exercise my functions as prime minister,” Lecornu told reporters in Paris Monday. “I was ready to compromise but each political party wanted the other political party to adopt its entire program.”

Lecornu faced the same intractable problem that sank the premierships of his two forerunners: having to pass a budget that included unpopular spending cuts and tax increases to rein in the largest deficit in the euro area.

# Trump pushing deal

By **ETHAN BRONNER**  
Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service

President Donald Trump is pressing Israel and Hamas to seal a settlement to the two-year conflict that’s devastated Gaza and destabilized the Middle East as the warring sides are set to begin mediated talks on Monday.

The first sign of whether the negotiations, being hosted by Egypt, are serious will be whether Hamas follows through on Trump’s demand to release all the remaining hostages, including those who died, in return for Israel releasing Palestinian prisoners.

U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump’s son-in-law Jared Kushner were traveling to Egypt to take part in the talks, which will be held in Sharm el Sheikh. An Israeli delegation led by Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer is set to take part in the indirect talks, while

## Egypt is hosting peace talks this week

Israel’s Kan News reported Ghazi Hamad, Osama Hamdan and Muhamed Darwish will represent Hamas.

“It’ll last a couple of days,” Trump told reporters on Sunday. “We’ll see how it turns out but I hear it’s going very well.”

Trump, who has laid out a 20-point plan to end the war, has made it clear that he is losing patience with both Hamas and Israel, even as the militant group has yet to accept the full proposal, which would include its ultimate disarmament.

The U.S. president called Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu over the weekend to celebrate Hamas’ apparent willingness to release the hostages, Axios reported Sunday, but the Israeli prime minister complained the offer was meaningless.

Trump, according to the report, snapped at Netanyahu for being “negative,” and added, “This is a win. Take it.”

The Israeli military has assumed a defensive posture in Gaza City, while Hamas said airstrikes and shelling continued in the enclave’s de facto capital, killing dozens of people.

See **Deal** page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Finding pulse

Fifth graders Kayden Blankenship, Gaven Robbins and Jerason Edwards check their pulses Thursday during Jay Emergency Medical Service’s presentation on Jay County Safety Day at Jay County Fairgrounds. Jay Emergency Medical Service gave safety tips and shared take home emergency supplies, including bandages, with students.

Deaths

Laura Sours, 71, Portland  
Barbara Gibson, 70, Horse Cave, Kentucky  
Freida Shetler, 75, rural Monroe  
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high of 84 degrees Sunday. The low was 59.

The forecast calls for a 70% chance of rain tonight with the low dipping into the mid 40s and winds gusting to 20 mph. Skies will be sunny Wednesday with a high in the mid 60s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Public Library will host a Scooby-Doo Bingo Night at 4:30 p.m. Thursday. The event will include games of bingo, Shaggy subs, Scooby snacks and other refreshments. A variety of Scooby-Doo-themed prizes will be available. Register in advance by calling (260) 726-7890 or visiting the library at 315 N. Ship St., Portland.

Coming up

**Wednesday** — Coverage of next week’s Portland City Council meeting.

**Thursday** — Details from the JCHS boys soccer sectional opener versus Oak Hill.

**Friday** — Coverage of Wednesday’s Jay County Council meeting.

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# Obituaries

## Laura Sours

Oct. 2, 1954-Oct. 4, 2025  
Laura Sours, age 71, of Portland passed away on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025, in IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital surrounded by her family.



Sours

She was born in Portland on Oct. 2, 1954, the daughter of Lester Boner and Dortha (Thwaits) Wright. She was married on July 22, 1977, to Robert Sours who survives.

Laura was retired from Crown Pointe in Portland in 2020 after 20 years and had worked for Community Care Center West. She was a member of Praise Chapel Church of God and served on the church board. She attended Madison

School, was a 1973 Portland High School graduate and attended Ball State University. She enjoyed spending time with family and her trips to Fort Myers, Florida.

Surviving are her husband Robert; one daughter, Julie Bruder of Goshen, Indiana; one son, Justin Sours (wife: Lisa) of Troy, Michigan; a granddaughter, Eve Sours; two sisters, Georgeanna Aslinger of Portland and Norma Weaver of Berne; eight nieces and nephews; and six great-nieces and great-nephews.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Lena Boner; and her parents, Lester and Dorothy.

Funeral services will be Thursday, Oct. 9, at 1 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Alan Adair presiding. Burial will follow in the Green Park Cemetery. Visi-

tation will be Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Memorials can be made to the Jay County Cancer Society. Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

## Barbara Gibson

June 14, 1955-Oct. 1, 2025

Barbara Ann Gibson, age 70, of Horse Cave, Kentucky, departed this life on Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025, at The Medical Center at Caverna.



Gibson

The Anderson native was born on June 14, 1955, to the late Jimmie Vance and Betty Wright Straley. She was married to her devoted husband, Bill Gibson, who survives.

Barbara retired after dedicat-

ing many years of service to Red Gold, a well-known tomato processing company in Geneva. Her deep compassion for animals touched many lives, as she not only cared for animals personally but also made generous contributions to local animal shelters.

Barbara was an avid crafter who took special joy in sewing cozy coats that she donated to the dogs at the shelters, where she blended her creativity with her love for animals.

Besides her husband, Bill, she leaves to honor her daughters, Lona Jackson (Clint) and Rhonda Walker (Robert), all of Muncie, and Terry Holows (Steven) of South Carolina; 11 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and siblings Melba Beaver, Ronnie Vance and Alice Imel (Gregory).

She was also preceded in death by her son, Wesley Snyder; along

with several brothers and sisters.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Patton Funeral Home Cave City Chapel.

Condolences can be made at pattonfuneralhome.com.

**Freida M. Shetler**, rural Monroe, the mother of a Geneva resident, Nov. 9, 1949-Oct. 4, 2025. Services will be at 9 a.m. Wednesday at the Emanuel Hilty residence, 998 S. 000 Road, Monroe.

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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.*

## CR almanac

Wednesday 10/8	Thursday 10/9	Friday 10/10	Saturday 10/11	Sunday 10/12
<b>67/37</b> Sunny skies are in the forecast for Wednesday along with 10 to 15 mph winds.	<b>65/34</b> Another day of sun on Thursday, with winds again around 10 to 15 mph.	<b>70/43</b> Friday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a slight wind. The high may reach a temperature 70.	<b>74/44</b> Mostly sunny skies again on Saturday, with humidity levels around 50 %.	<b>77/44</b> Sunday's weather appears to be mostly sunny with a high around 77 degrees.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$160 million	19-21-29-42-46-49-51-52-58-60-65-72-74-78-80 Cash 5: 7-9-17-27-34 Estimated jackpot: \$443,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$497 million	<b>Ohio</b> Sunday Midday Pick 3: 8-7-7 Pick 4: 0-4-8-7 Pick 5: 1-4-1-0-7 Evening Pick 3: 0-6-4 Pick 4: 2-6-7-7 Pick 5: 8-9-3-1-0 Rolling Cash 5: 18-20-21-22-26 Estimated jackpot: \$305,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Sunday Midday Daily Three: 8-0-8 Daily Four: 0-9-6-9 Quick Draw: 4-7-14-15-16-19-23-28-30-35-39-58-59-62-63-64-66-67-71-73 Evening Daily Three: 5-2-4 Daily Four: 6-6-8-6 Quick Draw: 1-4-5-6-12-	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.09 Nov. corn .....4.04 Dec. corn .....4.19	Dec. beans .....9.82 Wheat .....4.70
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.23 By Oct. 10 corn .....4.18 Oct./Nov. corn .....4.03	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....3.93 Nov. corn .....3.97 Beans.....9.73 Late Oct. beans.....9.82 Wheat .....5.05
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....3.96 Dec. corn .....4.09 Beans .....9.62	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.19 Oct. corn .....4.04 Beans.....9.57 Dec. beans .....9.81 Wheat .....4.50

## Today in history

In 1765, the Stamp Act Congress convened in New York City. Its purpose was to form resolutions of “rights and grievances” of the American Colonies.

In 2008, the Jay County High School girls cross country team won its sixth consecutive Olympic Athletic Conference championship, taking seven of the top 12 places in the meet in Anderson. Sophomore Aly Miller defended her

OAC individual title with a win in 20 minutes, 51 seconds, with sisters Kylie and Leah Wellman fourth and fifth, respectively.

In 2021, Portland Plan Commission recommended approval of a rezoning request to allow for the construction of a new Clear Choice Chiropractic Office on a portion of the former First Baptist Church property on Charles Street.

—The CR

## Citizen’s calendar

<b>Tuesday</b> 4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners executive session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall,	105 N. Washington St. 7 p.m. — Salamonina Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center. <b>Wednesday</b> 8 a.m. — Upper Wabash River Basin Commission, Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St., Bluffton. 6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
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## Leader ...

Continued from page 1  
“The Board is confident she will guide Forge ECI and our region to even greater success.”

In her new role, Hancock said she is looking forward to continuing existing initiatives, including leading regional strategy for the state’s Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI). She also noted work toward developing a regional arts and culture strategy, which is expected to be completed in the next month.

She noted work on population decline and said she believes the region is getting to the point of stabilization and will soon be able to look toward driving growth.

“So there’s a lot of exciting things happening in our communities, from new housing opportunities to child care to quality-of-life projects,” Hancock said. “And I think it’s really about leveraging all of those things together ... intentionally to really drive progress in the region.”

She also pointed out that the Forge ECI’s strategic plan expires at the end

of the year. She’ll be looking toward developing a new plan to help guide the organization’s work moving forward.

A Van Wert, Ohio, native whose parents are both from Adams County, Hancock has been with Forge ECI since 2015. She discovered the economic development world while interning at Grant County Economic Growth Council during her senior year at Indiana Wesleyan University. As she was nearing completion of her degree in public relations, a mentor there suggested she apply for the director of administration and marketing role at what was then East Central Indiana Regional Partnership.

“Ten years later, here I am,” she said.



Hancock

She later became the organization’s vice president of strategy and operations.

Hancock, who earned her economic development certificate from the University of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute last year, said she found her months in the interim role rewarding because it allowed her to have a more forward-facing role with the communities Forge ECI serves.

With the announcement of her hiring as the president and CEO, she will get to continue in that leadership capacity.

“I am honored to lead Forge ECI at such an important moment for our region,” Hancock said. “Together with our partners, we are forging the future of East Central Indiana and growing our population by attracting new residents and supporting those who choose to build their businesses and lives here. This work is about creating opportunities that will strengthen our communities today and ensure a vibrant, thriving region for generations to come.”

## Felony arrests

### Methamphetamine

A Portland man was arrested Sunday for possession of methamphetamine.

Francisco A. Sanchez,

22, 728 W. Arch St., was preliminarily charged with a Class A misdemeanor for the Level 6 felony, as well as a Class A misdemeanor for forgery

and a Class A misdemeanor for driving without a license.

He was being held on a \$4,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

## Capsule Reports

### Struck rock

Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000 after a Hartford City man crashed into a sign and rock after driving through the intersection of Indiana 26 and Indiana 1 about 10:36 p.m. Sept. 22.

Kenneth E. Uhrick, 61, was driving a 2000 Plymouth Neon east on Indiana 26

near its intersection with Indiana 1. He told police he couldn’t see the stop sign in front of him because of fog obscuring his vision. He proceeded into the intersection and across Indiana 1, driving into the Hickory Grove Church’s parking lot. His car hit a wooden sign and rock, according to a Jay County Sheriff’s Office accident.

## Deal ...

Continued from page 1  
Over the weekend, Netanyahu said Israel’s military will redeploy within the territory. He also left open the option of disarming Hamas by force.

A swap of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners would happen immediately upon securing an agreement, while Hamas’ disarmament would come in a second stage, Netanyahu said.

“We are the closest we have been in a very long time,” Secretary of

State Marco Rubio said on “Fox News Sunday.”

But he added the hostage release and prisoner exchange was just the first — and perhaps easiest — step. Rebuilding Gaza and determining who will govern the region will be harder, he said.

“That’s the part that I think is going to be a little tougher to work through, but that’s what’s going to provide permanency to the end of the conflict. So we’re focused on those two phases,” Rubio said.

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**Mondays, October 27<sup>th</sup> through December 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

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# Publishers Clearing House news hits hard

By JAMES FULKS

The Commercial Review

A recent news story revealed that Publishers Clearing House has been purchased by another buyer through a sale in bankruptcy court.

Today, we are somewhat jaded by seemingly routine Mega Millions, Powerball and state lottery jackpots that get way into the millions and even over a billion dollars occasionally.

However, for those of us of a “certain age” we still

Fulksy  
Mayhem



distinctly recall when a knock at the door from the Publishers Clearing House Prize Patrol was one of the only promises of a life changing infusion of cash.

Founded in 1953, Publishers Clearing House began by selling unsold magazines from publishers looking to liquidate excess print publications.

By 1967, Publishers Clearing House began the ubiquitous direct mail campaign that I am sure virtually everyone remembers.

You could buy magazine subscriptions and a myriad of other products from those direct mail campaigns.

You also could enter Pub-

lishers Clearing House Sweepstakes with or without a purchase.

From the 1970s to the early 2000s, Publishers Clearing House literally became part of the culture, mentioned in comedy skits on “Saturday Night Live” and sitcoms such as “Cheers” and “Seinfeld.”

The promise of a “knock at the door” with a Prize Patrol presenting a balloon bouquet and an oversized check became part of our lives.

Most payouts were annuities, meaning a “\$5,000 a week for life” prize was actually paid with an annuity check, supposedly “guaranteed for life.”

The harsh reality is, with this recent bankruptcy filing and court ordered sale, the purchasing company has clearly stated that anyone owed a prize dated prior to July 15, 2025, will no longer be paid.

With liabilities of between \$50 million and \$100 million and assets of

only \$1 million to \$10 million, there’s just no money there to pay out the past winners, and the new purchaser is not liable for past commitments.

I suppose if you were still waiting on that knock on the door, from the Prize Patrol and a balloon bouquet with a huge check, good luck with that. If they do, don’t count on that big oversized check not “bouncing” if you let it slip from your grasp.

# Wedding invite comes with unexpected condition

DEAR ABBY: I have a special-needs son and cannot travel with him alone. I have also been in a committed relationship for two years. When my aunt’s youngest daughter got married last year, I clearly stated that I would not be able to attend because of these limitations. Now her son is getting married. The family sent out an electronic invitation and asked for a plus-one. Since my son will be with my parents during the wedding, I filled it out with my name and my partner’s name.

I was recently told that the plus-one was meant only for my son and that I’m not allowed to bring my partner, despite the fact that he’ll be helping to support me during the trip. I find this incredibly disrespectful. Not only are my boundaries being ignored, but so are my son’s needs.

I’m considering not attending. Would it be wrong to decline the invitation on those grounds? I’d like to tell them exactly why I

Dear  
Abby



won’t be in attendance. I’ve had enough of being told to accommodate others at the expense of my own family’s well-being. — HURT IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR HURT: By now your aunt and her family should be well aware that your son is severely disabled. Do your aunt’s soon-to-be in-laws know? Are your parents expected to shoulder all responsibility for his care when that wedding takes place? Does your family know that your boyfriend helps you take care of your son? If the answer to those questions is yes, then what you received was less a wedding invitation than it was a bid for a gift.

Send them your regrets, but do it politely.

.....

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I married three years ago. We both had lost our spouses to cancer. He had a house and I had a house, so, since mine was paid for, I talked him into moving into mine and renting his so his renters could pay his mortgage. (That way, he could save more for retirement.)

My dilemma is, it seems like I pay for everything. He gives me \$400 a month for his half of the utilities, phone and groceries. But with things so expensive, I end up paying the difference, and it’s draining my savings and checking account. I love him and he adores me, but this is starting to wear on me.

I can talk to him about anything, but money seems to be a sore spot with him, and I wouldn’t want to ruin everything else that is great. How can I approach this with him, without it affecting our relationship? I’ve hinted

to him how expensive things are, but he hasn’t taken the hints. — GOING BROKE IN INDIANA

DEAR GOING BROKE: Stop “hinting” and speak up! Tell your husband that because of inflation and the price of everything going up, your savings and checking accounts are being drained. Then tell him the two of you need to start discussing a more realistic budget. If he loves you, he will see the wisdom. However, if money is more important to him than your welfare, it is better to find out now.

.....

DEAR ABBY: Recently, I had a major surgery and a cancer scare. I don’t have cancer, but since then I can’t stop thinking about death — not just my own, but also the fear that my husband, dogs and cats will die. When that happens, I will be all alone. I am also struggling with my belief in God.

I have never ever been this unhappy. I cry every day. My body

hurts, and I’m frightened all the time. I’m 57 and I know the end of my life is near. I don’t know how you can help me, but I’m a mess. I don’t want to die, and if I lose my family I will never recover. Please help me. How do people live and not worry about death? — SCARED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR SCARED: I think anyone who has faced their own mortality as you have can appreciate what a precious gift life is. None of us has a contract with God, which is why it is so important to value every good day we are given.

If you haven’t discussed your emotional state with your doctors, you MUST! And when you do, ask for referrals to a licensed mental health professional who can help you rid yourself of these destructive thoughts. You deserve to live a happy, normal life in the time you have on Earth, whether it is short or long. To achieve that, you need to regain your balance.

# Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email [news@thecr.com](mailto:news@thecr.com).

## Today

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.

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.

JAY COUNTY CIVIC THEATRE — Holds its regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the boardroom at Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland.

## Thursday

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.

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.

JAY COUNTY TRAILS CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center.

## Friday

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

## 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.

JAY COUNTY DRUG PREVENTION COALITION — Will meet at noon the second Monday of each month at Jay County Campus of Arts Place, 131 E Walnut St, Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

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# Sudoku


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

Level: Beginner

### Saturday's Solution


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

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.



## 24th Annual Jay County Tox Away Day

Sponsored by the  
Jay County Solid Waste Management District




### WHERE

Saturday, October 11, 2025  
8:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m.  
Jay County High School Parking Lot --West of Softball Fields


### From the garage:

- Oil Based Paints
- Stains & Varnishes
- Paint Strippers/Thinners
- Adhesives
- Waste/unknowns (bring info of past use)
- Fuels/Gasoline/Kerosene\*
- Automotive Liquids
- Oils & Oil Filters
- Car Wax/Polishes
- Solvents
- Other Toxic Solids
- Aerosols
- Car/Other Batteries
- Asbestos
- Tires (See prices below)\*\*




### From the house:

- Computers & All Accessories
- Fluorescent Tubes, Batteries
- PCB Ballasts
- Acids & Bases
- Microwaves
- TVs: \$20.00 PER TELEVISION
- \*CFL Bulbs- should be wrapped in paper and put in a sealed plastic bag




### From the yard:

- Pesticides/Herbicides\*
- Fertilizers
- Propane Tanks
- Pool Chemicals




### Appliances:

- Refrigerators/Freezers
- Air Conditioners
- Dehumidifiers
- Stoves
- Washer/Dryers
- Water Heaters
- Dishwashers



We will be accepting old medicines and sharps. Please bring old medicine in the ORIGINAL CONTAINER with medicine name still legible if possible. Place sharps in a sturdy container with a secure lid



Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition & Jay County Sheriff Dept. will be collecting all medicine

Tox Away Day is for Jay County residents only! If you plan to bring a large volume of items, please contact the district office by September 30th so arrangements can be made.



# Journalism is vital to democracy

**Metro**  
Many adults can likely recall mornings during their childhood when newspapers were tossed into the driveways of many homes throughout their neighborhoods. Some adults might even have delivered papers from their bicycles each morning. The benefits of reading a daily newspaper are no less substantial today. In fact, the American Journalism Project reports that the loss of local news is adversely affecting democracy by contributing to polarization, a decline in voting participation and less government accountability. Readers concerned by such a report can take note of the following reasons why it's so vital to support local journalism.

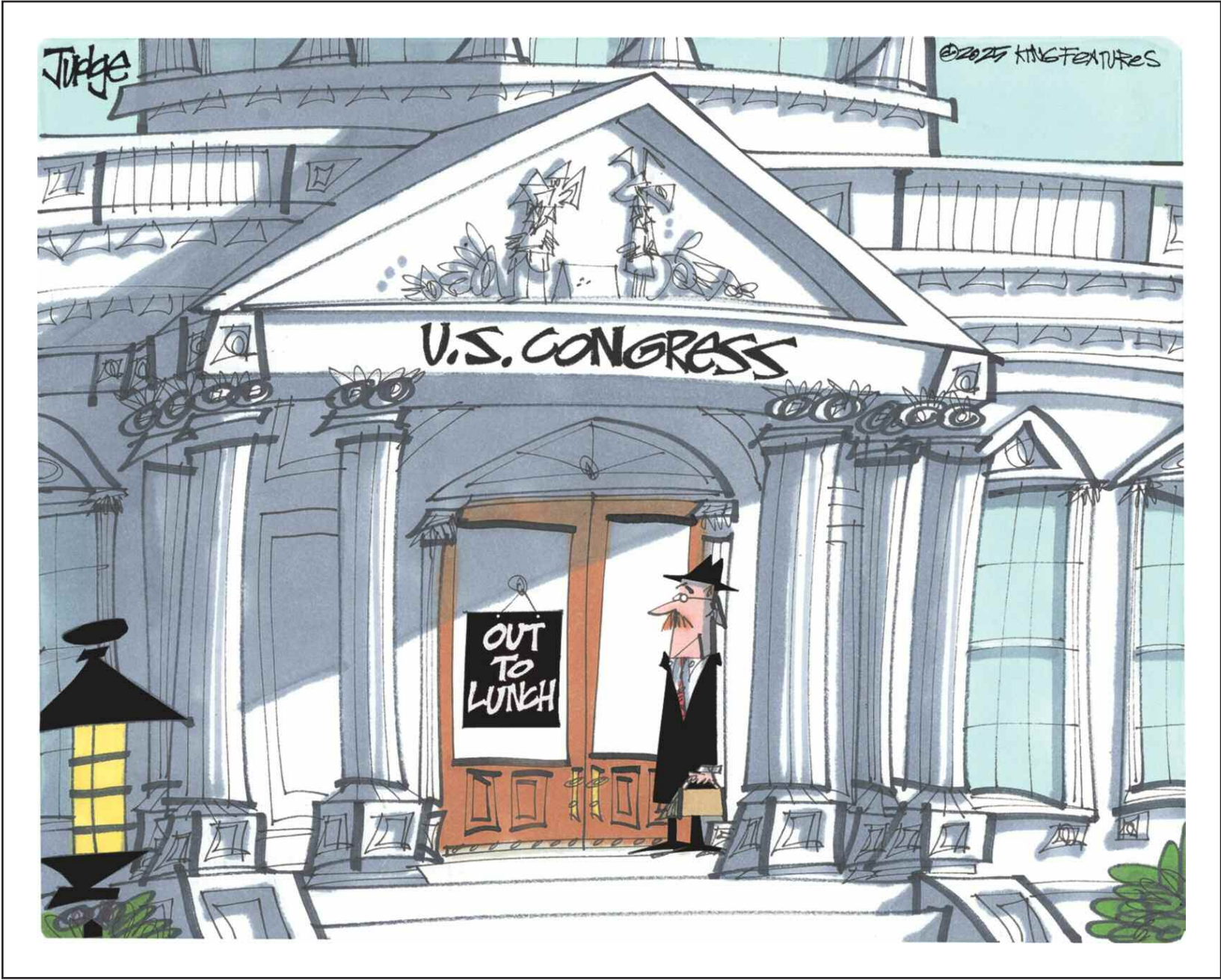
## Guest Editorial

• Local newspapers drive political engagement, particularly among younger voters. Young people are often characterized as the future of the nation, and that's one notable reason to support local journalism. According to the CIRCLE/Tisch College Post-Election Poll conducted in 2020, 50% of youth reported feeling more prepared to vote in the 2020 elections thanks to local news media. Local journalism

can contribute to a more knowledgeable and engaged electorate, which is an invaluable benefit at a time of waning voter participation and reduced accountability of government. •Local journalism helps build communities. Community-building is another benefit of strong local journalism. In their book, "News Hole: The Demise of Local Journalism and Political Engagement," authors Danny Hayes and Jennifer Lawless connect a decline in local news with decreased participation in local elections. When voters participate less in local elections, they're less likely to learn about issues affecting their communities, whereas greater voter participation increases civic engage-

ment and helps to build stronger communities. •Local journalism keeps people up to date on their own communities. Cable news networks and their affiliated websites primarily focus on national and international news, leaving viewers and readers who rely exclusively on these mediums for their news with little or no access to information regarding issues affecting their own communities. Local newspapers have long filled that void, providing an invaluable benefit and a means for readers to learn what's being done and what can be done about issues affecting their daily lives and the communities they call home. •Local journalism holds local government officials account-

able. In early 2025, the Richmond (California) City Council voted to give themselves 80% increases in their monthly salaries. Though the merits of those increases were open to debate from both sides, chances are strong Richmond residents might not have learned about the salary adjustments had it not been for local journalists' reporting. The Richmond example underscores the vital role local journalism plays in relation to keeping an eye on local governments and holding them accountable. Local journalism is vital to a thriving democracy, and readers are urged to support the many local newspapers working hard to keep their communities well-informed.



# Is state's business climate losing traction?

**By NIKI KELLY**  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com  
Indiana's business climate has been an advantage for a decade or more — consistently landing the state enviably high in various economic development metrics. But that tide might be turning, and some mayors are concerned about the change. Gov. Mike Braun brings a different style — and fewer hand-outs to corporations. He repeatedly attacked the state's previous goals for focusing only on large companies while failing smaller businesses while on the campaign trail. Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton said that sudden shift is causing companies to back away from the Hoosier state. "They don't trust us. They don't trust the state of Indiana," he told a panel of lobbyists and public relations experts last month. "There's a loss of sense of direction. And I'm not going to say I totally was always on board with the direction before, but we had a direction, right? And sometimes it was a little confusing, but at least we had a sense of direction." Barton said on recent trips with site selectors he has seen a decided shift against bringing investment and job growth to Indiana. "For years, we'd go to those meetings and they were like, 'Oh,

**Niki Kelly**



you're from Indiana. You guys are rock stars...we'll put projects in Indiana every single day.' "This year, I've been on three different trips, and every single trip, all we heard was, 'Eh, we don't know.' We do not have — to the outside world — a clear economic development policy in the state of Indiana right now. Period."

And it's not just anecdotal. In 2024, Area Development — a national publication dedicated to site selection and economic development — ranked the top states for doing business and Indiana was fifth. The state especially excelled in the key categories of overall cost, access to qualified labor, business incentive programs, logistics and infrastructure. Compare that same ranking for 2025. Indiana dropped to 12th for top states to do business. And here is how Indiana fared in key categories:

- Overall cost — First to fifth
- Access to qualified labor — Fourth to sixth
- Availability of sites — Fourth to not ranked
- Business incentive programs — Third to not ranked
- Logistics and infrastructure — Third to seventh

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation has had some organizational changes in the last nine months. Its executive director left in September after being hired in January. Braun replaced the entire board in June, and the quasi-governmental agency has been part of a forensic spending audit. Lawmakers also mandated the hiring of a second leader, and that still hasn't happened five months later. "Gov. Braun's economic development strategy is to grow jobs and increase wages. He is prioritizing regional input and leadership from around the state, which is a shift away from the central Indiana-focused approach of recent years," said Commerce Secretary David Adams. "This strategy is already working, as the most recent numbers show, with incentivized jobs paying on average \$8,000 more per year and costing only a third of what they did a year ago."

Braun has urged his administration to focus less on large employers in central Indiana, instead looking at growth opportunities for communities around the state. A large swath of coun-

ties also have resisted energy-related developments such as wind, solar and data centers, which could be impacting rankings. Last week, the governor highlighted that year-over-year, the average wage of jobs incentivized by the IEDC to come to Indiana has increased from \$37 to \$41, a 10% increase. The average cost per incentivized job decreased from \$55,000 per job to \$16,000 per job. That's partly because the state no longer has federal money to spend for incentives. Under former Gov. Eric Holcomb there was hundreds of millions to give out. But the budget for the IEDC has dropped 60% — meaning less money to spread around. The agency also noted that a recent CNBC ranking saw Indiana jump from 11th to ninth in business climate. From an outside perspective, I can say that the IEDC was a free-wheeling, secretive entity that had entirely too much leash. And I appreciate that Braun is taking initiative and getting it under control. Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen said on the same panel with Barton that there are two things business leaders ask about most: health care and utility costs — both things lawmakers have wrestled to get under control. Braun has recently targeted

high energy costs in the state, appointing a new official to represent ratepayers and urging state regulators to think less about utility shareholders and more about Hoosiers paying the bill. His administration pushed certain health priorities over the finish line during the legislative session, but some had to be scaled back to get votes. But Jensen also acknowledged that part of the problem is a changing of the guard since Braun took over in January. "I think this vision of economic development starts at the very top, whether it be a mayor, whether it be a governor. And I think what we need to do right now is get out of our own way and go tell our story — and boldly tell our story. Not just in Indiana, but around the country and around the world. And have a clear message and a clear messenger," Jensen said. "I think it starts at the very top. We have to be visionary, we have to be bold, we have to be excited. We have to be transformational, and we have to get out of our own way."

.....  
*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.*

# The Commercial Review

US PS 125820

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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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# Telestroke program honors Mercer

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center's Telestroke Program has recognized Mercer Health with its third Door to Needle Award.

The honor is for organizations that “deliver life-saving clot-busting medication with speed and precision.” The award went to Mercer Health's emergency department.

Mercer Health achieved a time of 35 minutes during the 2024 Door to Needle Award Challenge, surpassing the national benchmark goal of 60 minutes.

“Strategic Healthcare Programs recognizes how much hard work is involved in providing excellent patient care, and we are proud to acknowledge the tireless efforts of our top-performing customers through our annual SHPBest award program,” said Dixie Davenport, telestroke program manager at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. “These organizations care deeply about the patient experience and they never stop striving to improve every single year. Reducing door-to-needle times directly improves patient outcomes, and Mercer Health's commitment to excellence is making a real difference.”

### Job fairs set

The United States Postal Service will host job fairs on Friday, Oct. 10.

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

## Business roundup

•Muncie — 501 W. Memorial Drive

### Winners announced

The Indiana Manufacturers Association announced last week that Grain Millers of Marion, Dart Controls of Zionsville and Steel Dynamics will be inducted to its hall of fame this year.

Also announced were 2025 Manufacturing Excellence Award winners:

- Manufacturing Talent Champion: Perfecto Tool & Engineering of Anderson
- Community Impact: Cleveland-Cliffs
- Emerging Leader: NASCO Industries' Jordan Sherman of Washington
- Outstanding Woman Leader in Manufacturing: Amatrol's Kimberly Perkins of Jeffersonville
- Safety Champion: dormakaba's Kristin Jarrett of Indianapolis
- Lifetime Achievement: Overton Industries' Ron, Steve and Rick Overton of Mooresville.

“Each of these honorees represent the best of Indiana's manufacturing industry and have made their communities and the state better through their work,” said Indiana Manu-

facturers Association president and CEO Andrew Berger in a press release. “The IMA appreciates their commitment to the industry, and I look forward to seeing their continued success and innovation in the years to come.”

### To donate

Scooter's Coffee will donate a portion of its sales of its new Courage Cookie Sandwich to Make-A-Wish.

The promotion began last week and will run through the end of October. Funds will be donated to support granting additional wishes for children.

“At Scooter's Coffee, our values are Integrity, LOVE, Humility, and Courage. Make-A-Wish delivers transformational wishes for families who demonstrate these values every day as they focus on improving their child's physical and emotional wellbeing,” said Scooter's chief strategy officer Malorie Maddox in a press release. “To honor their courage and support the mission of Make-A-Wish is an incredible opportunity, and a delicious new treat makes this partnership even sweeter.”

### Planning to build

Eli Lilly and Company announced last week that it plans to build a new \$6.5 billion manufacturing facility in Houston.

The synthetic medicine active pharmaceutical product facility is the sec-

ond of four Lilly plans to announce this year. It will focus on manufacturing small molecule medicines and is expected to be operational within five years.

“Our new Houston site will enhance Lilly's ability to manufacture orforglipron at scale and, if approved, help fulfill the medicine's potential as a metabolic health treatment for tens of millions of people worldwide who prefer the ease of a pill that can be taken without food and water restrictions,” said David A. Ricks, chair and CEO of Indianapolis-based Lilly, in a press release. “This significant U.S. investment and onshoring of our API production capabilities will ensure faster, more secure access to orforglipron and to other life-changing medicines of the future.”

### Expanding flights

Indianapolis International Airport will add a second nonstop flight to Dublin each week beginning in the spring.

Aer Lingus began offering nonstop flights from Indianapolis to Dublin once a week in May. On April 13, it will add a second such flight each week.

“We're going from four nonstop flights per week to five per week,” said Maggie Cunningham, the airport's director of air service and airport experience, in a press release. “We had set a goal of increasing flight frequency in summer 2027, so to

hit that goal an entire year earlier is a testament to how successful the flight is among leisure and business travelers.”

### Papers purchased

Paxton Media Group has bought 15 newspapers in Illinois and Missouri from Better Newspapers Inc.

Paxton, the fifth-largest newspaper firm in the nation, also owns 17 Indiana newspapers, including The Courier-Times (New Castle), The Chronicle-Tribune (Marion), the Huntington Herald Press and the Connersville News-Examiner.

### Elected president

The Indiana State Medical Association has elected Dr. Richard Gunderman as its new president.

Gunderman is chancellor's professor of radiology, pediatrics, medical education, philosophy, liberal arts, philanthropy and medical humanities and health studies at Indiana University School of Medicine. He also chairs the medical association's Physician Wellness Steering Committee.

He will take over as president on Wednesday.

### Discussions planned

Registration is open for the annual conference of the American Society of Agricultural Consultants.

The conference will be held Nov. 2 through 4 at Embassy Suites by Hilton

Indianapolis North. It will feature speakers each day, with Margy Eckelkamp of Farm Journal's Top Producer brand moderating a “What I wish I knew then/What I know now” panel discussion.

For more information, or to register, visit [agconsultants.org](http://agconsultants.org).

### Courses scheduled

Indiana Chamber of Commerce has several programs coming up.

A forklift “train the trainer” course is set for 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Nov. 13. Attendees will learn how to effectively train their staff on safe and compliant forklift operations.

Each of the courses will be held at the Indiana Chamber of Commerce Conference Center in Indianapolis.

For more information, visit [indianachamber.com](http://indianachamber.com).

### 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](http://indianachamber.com).

\*\*\*\*\*  
*Does your business have news to share? Email us at [news@thecr.com](mailto:news@thecr.com) to be included in our weekly business roundup.*

# Analysis highlights lackluster oversight

By WHITNEY DOWARD

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

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation released a lengthy forensic analysis after a legal review Thursday, part of an ongoing effort by Gov. Mike Braun to reform the embattled, quasi-public state agency to restore public trust.

In particular, the private company tasked with reviewing the entity flagged eye-popping spending by its nonprofit — which is funded by an opaque system of donors — on international trips.

“When questions are raised about how taxpayer dollars are being used, we take that seriously. That's why we ordered a full forensic audit — no shortcuts, no politics,” said Braun in a statement. “The results are clear and this matter is resolved. We are now forward-focused on investing in, building and growing Indiana companies together.”

The final, 127-page report reviews past practices and pro-

vides recommendations for future action, emphasizing both transparency and identifying areas where governance and oversight must be strengthened.

“We have already begun this work,” said Secretary of Commerce David Adams, in a memo briefing Braun.

Adams said all votes must now occur before the IEDC's full board of directors and not in small committees. Additionally, the nonprofit arm — the Indiana Economic Development Foundation — had spending frozen in April. That entity will now “wind-down.”

A formal investment policy will “ensure taxpayer dollars are directed toward Indiana businesses,” and “conflict-of-interest checks with board members are now part of standard procedure.”

“These steps are not merely corrective. They reflect a deliberate effort to protect taxpayer resources, restore confidence and

position Indiana's economic development funds as a model of best practice,” concluded Adams.

In addition to the IEDC and its foundation, the audit also focused on Elevate Ventures, the Applied Research Institute and the Limitless Exploration/Advanced Pace District — otherwise known as LEAP, which has become a controversial Boone County economic development project.

Braun promised an “audit” of the IEDC in April, after Indiana Legislative Insight reported allegations of self-dealing and more among IEDC and its partners. In May, Washington D.C.-based FTI Consulting began work. The contract is worth up to \$800,000 and extended for a year.

In a preview last week, Braun's office said there were no criminal findings within the audit. However, FTI flagged “concerns about the potential for favoritism and misuse of public funds.”

The Indiana Economic Development Foundation was set up in

2005 as a nonprofit organization to raise and manage private contributions and help fund the state's economic development priorities.

Administrations in the past have refused to disclose who the major funders are for the entity, which largely paid for international travel for the governor and other economic development officials.

Former Gov. Eric Holcomb traveled extensively on the foundation's dime, including 27 international trips during his eight-plus years in office.

The review ran from Jan. 1, 2022 to Dec. 31, 2024, and identified 107 entities that donated \$6 million. Sixteen donors made up 78% of the total. They included NIPSCO, Duke Energy, CenterPoint Energy, AES Indiana, Indiana Michigan Power, Rolls-Royce, Hoosier Energy and Old National Bank.

But the identity of eight others is still shielded by a state law that

prohibits public agencies from requiring nonprofits to share certain personal information. Public agencies are also prohibited from disclosing personal information.

Of the 107 entities that made donations to the foundation, 46 were identified as having received \$238 million in either payments or tax credits from the IEDC during the review period.

“Discussions with IEDC personnel indicated that due diligence is conducted and ‘waivers’ are used to ensure there is no quid pro quo. As such, FTI requested supporting documentation (e.g., invoices, evidence of due diligence, etc.) for a sample of contributions. While invoice support was provided, no additional documentation was made available to demonstrate that any review or due diligence was conducted on the contributions, including consideration of potential conflicts of interest,” the audit read.

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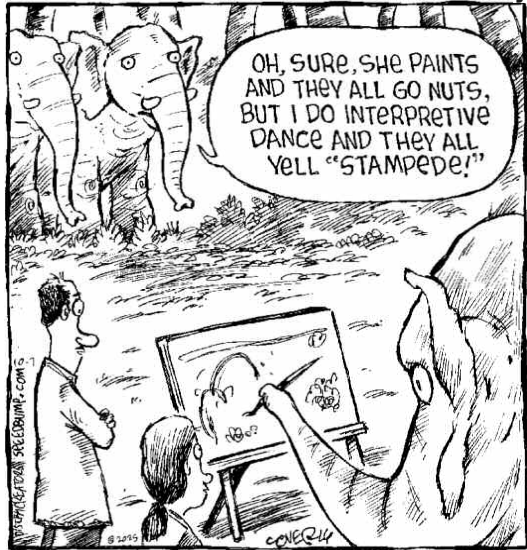
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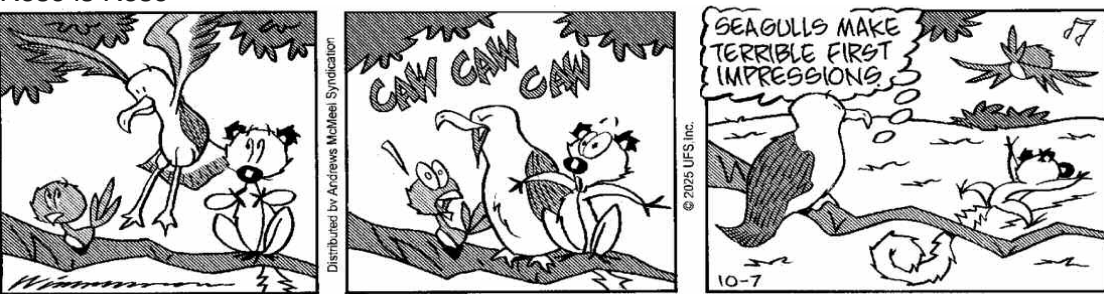
By Bil Keane



Peanuts



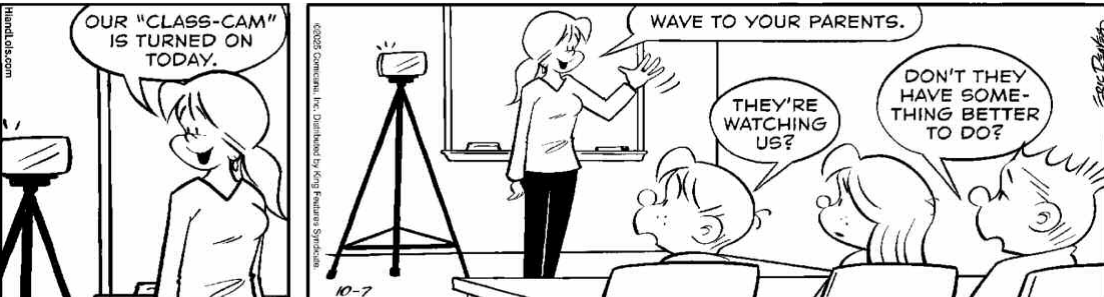
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Agnes



Hi and Lois



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Contract  
Bridge

By Steve Becker

A little rope ...

North dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ J 7 6 5  
♥ Q J 5 2  
♦ K Q 9  
♣ A 6

**WEST**  
♠ —  
♥ A 10 8 3  
♦ 7 6 5 4 2  
♣ Q J 10 8

**EAST**  
♠ Q 10 8  
♥ K 9 6  
♦ 10 8  
♣ K 7 4 3 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K 9 4 3 2  
♥ 7 4  
♦ A J 3  
♣ 9 5

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
2 ♣ Pass 4 ♣ Pass

Opening lead — queen of clubs.

Take this deal from a team match where the contract was four spades at both tables. At the first table, West led a club to dummy's ace, and declarer played a low spade to the ace, on which West showed out. South eventually went down one, losing a trump, two hearts and a club.

At the second table, West also led a club to dummy's ace, but here declarer played the jack of spades instead of a low spade from dummy at trick two. East covered the jack with the queen, which proved to be a fatal error. After taking the ace and seeing West show out, it was easy for declarer to avoid a trump loser by subsequently taking a finesse against East's ten, and he wound up with 10 tricks.

Obviously, leading the jack of spades from dummy proved more successful than leading the five. More importantly, leading the jack couldn't hurt South regardless of how the missing trumps were divided. The play therefore offered a chance to gain a trick if East had all three trumps and made the mistake of covering with the queen.

The second declarer, of course, had no intention of finessing if East followed low, but leading the jack gave East a chance to err, and to that extent increased the chance of making the contract.

It doesn't matter to declarer whether he makes a contract because his side has overwhelming high-card strength, because of his skillful play, or because an opponent makes a mistake.

What counts above all else is making the contract, and whatever can be done to bring this about is all to the good. While declarer has no objection to succeeding on merit, he also doesn't mind succeeding by inducing an opponent to commit an error.

Tomorrow: Blitzkrieg!  
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10-7

CRYPTOQUIP

OW GRFA WZOAKMG VZA  
BVHOKN V NVEWAGU VERCU V  
HAZQ WVFCRG PAXAEZOUQ,  
OG UBVU OMRX PBVUUAZ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BIG CAR SHOW HAVING MODELS WITH NAMES SUCH AS CUTLASS CIERA AND ALERO: A NO-OLDS-BARRED EVENT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals H

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Workout count  
5 Eager  
9 Passing craze  
12 Jai —  
13 Taylor of "Mystic Pizza"  
14 Flamenco cry  
15 Flame-colored gems  
17 Caviar base  
18 Earth sci.  
19 Con-structor  
21 Postpone  
24 Has a cold  
25 Goofs  
26 Saving diary  
30 Fib  
31 North African capital  
32 Half of XIV  
33 Arctic floaters  
35 Left on a map  
36 Spoken

**DOWN**

37 Buenos  
38 To date  
40 Morays  
42 Sprite  
43 End  
48 — kwon do  
49 Addict  
50 Celestial bear  
51 Aleppo's land (Abbr.)  
52 News reporter  
53 Indigent  
2 Yalie  
3 Standard  
4 All-out attacks  
5 Dog's strategy  
6 Test tube  
7 Under the weather  
8 Send away  
9 Pays up, reluctantly  
10 Soap additive  
11 Ante-lope's playmate  
16 "— the fields we go ..."  
20 Cleric's garment  
21 Sub shop  
22 Rocker  
23 Promo-tional  
24 Un-repaired  
26 Knitting stitch  
27 "Hulk" director  
28 French river  
29 Young foxes  
31 Weepy  
34 Bikini top  
35 Get smart  
37 100%  
38 Collec-tions  
39 Skin care brand  
40 Weizman of Israel  
41 Poet  
44 "This — stickup!"  
45 Acapulco gold  
46 Mil. morale  
47 Sailor

**Solution time: 22 mins.**

SAVE	OOH	SPAS
HACIENDA	QUIT	
HARDENER	URDU	
ELO	DNALAB	
HENRY	TBAR	
EROS	HEAVENS	
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90 SALE CALENDAR

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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 by's 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.  
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# Colts blow out Las Vegas

The Raiders' offense was missing left tackle Kolton Miller (ankle) and tight ends Brock Bowers (knee) and Michael Mayer (concussion). Smith struggled to pick up the slack. He was sacked four times in the loss.

13. Publication Title	Commercial Review
14. Issue date for Circulation Data Below 9-30-2025	(The)
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation.	
Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	
a. Total No. Copies (Net Press Run)	1,632
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	148
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	515
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(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail®)	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))	2,016
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(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	2
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4))	14
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)	2,030
g. Copies not Distributed	0
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)	2,030
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)	99.31%
No. Copies of Single Issue Published	
Nearest to Filing Date	
a. Total No. Copies (Net Press Run)	1,577
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	
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e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4))	14
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)	1,935
g. Copies not Distributed	0
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)	1,935
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)	99.28%
16. If total circulation includes electronic copies, report that circulation on lines below.	
Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	
a. Paid electronic copies	77
b. Total paid print copies (line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies	2,093
c. Total print distribution (Line 15F) + Paid Electronic Copies	2,107
d. Percent Paid (Both Print and Electronic Copies)	99.00%
17. Publication of Statement of Ownership	
If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required.	
Will be printed in the 10-7-2025 issue of this publication.	
17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner	
Tonia Hardy	
Business Manager	
Date 9-30-2025	
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).	



2025 girls golf

All-GPC team



Graphic Printing Company

Player of the Year

Kenzie Brannon

Wapahani High School senior

Kenzie Brannon was selected as the second Graphic Printing Company Player of the Year for girls golf. She follows teammate Delaney Dodd, who won in 2024. “Honestly, I don’t really know (how I feel), but it feels great that I’ve been able to accomplish these things over the last couple of years,” Brannon said. “It’s a milestone I didn’t know I’d be able to reach.” Brannon held the best average among area golfers in nine-hole matches at 42 strokes. She had the lowest average in 18-hole tournaments prior to the sectional. Brannon also tied Olivia Knapke of FRHS with seven match medalist honors. In total, she had a balanced average of 44.5 strokes per contest, leading all golfers. While the Raiders stumbled in the sectional, they brought home their second straight Mid-Eastern Conference title and went undefeated during the season. But more than anything, she just enjoyed playing the game. “Being able to play with those girls (from Wes-Del, Daleville and Wapahani) that I’m friends with and being able to just have fun and not always perform the best but it’s those moments of cherishing those things with people that I don’t particularly play with every single week.” “She was definitely the one that carried us on most nights,” said WHS coach Brad Miller. “She was medalist (63.6%) of the time in our dual matches. It’s nice being able to count on her having one of those solid scores night in and night out.”

All-Graphic Printing Company first team

<b>Ella Churchill</b> Delta junior	Churchill led all golfers from the Graphic Printing Co.’s area of coverage in 18-hole tournaments with 90.2 strokes. She played a key role to help the Eagles reach the regional.
<b>Lexi Taylor</b> Wapahani freshman	Taylor acted as the sidekick to Brannon throughout the season and even surpassed the senior five times. She finished with the second-best nine-hole average at 44.4 strokes.
<b>Charlee Morris</b> Monroe Central soph.	Morris was the Golden Bears’ most steady golfer throughout the season. She averaged 46.4 strokes in nine-hole matches to lead MCHS to a 10-5 record.
<b>Olivia Chalfant</b> Delta junior	Chalfant pushed Churchill during the regular season and posted a 90 at the sectional tournament to help get the Eagles to their sixth consecutive regional.

Honorable mention

Aberee Ervin, sophomore, Monroe Central	Olivia Knapke, senior, Fort Recovery
Josey Morris, junior, Delta	Molly Weber, freshman, Delta
Braylin Patterson, senior, Wapahani	Lucy Huston, sophomore, Monroe Central

Jay draws Spartans

The Patriots couldn’t have gotten much better of a draw. The Jay County High School volleyball team will open the IHSAA Class 3A Sectional 24 hosted by New Castle against the Connersville Spartans in the semifinals. The Patriots (16-8) will skip an opening round matchup and instead will play Connersville (9-15), which they beat in three sets during the regular season, in the Oct. 18 11 a.m. semifinal. A win would earn them a spot in the 7 p.m. championship match. Delta (10-10) and host New Castle (13-10) will play in Oct. 16’s opening round. The victor will face No. 10 Hamilton Heights in the second semifinal match on Oct. 18 for a shot in the championship. Jay County previously fell to Delta in five sets and lost to New Castle 2-1 in a tournament. The Patriots will see the Trojans one more time in the regular season finale. Brooklynn Byrum’s

Jay County roundup

**Garringer returns** EATON, Ohio — The top runner for the Jay County boys cross country team returned on Saturday during the Ed Lease Classic at Fort St. Clair Park. The Patriot boys finished 19th with a 459 – Beaver Creek won the race with a 52 – while the girls climbed to fifth with a 168. Celina won the girls race with 38 points. Caleb Garringer paced the boys in his first race since Sept. 2 with a time of 17 minutes, 24.6 seconds to cross the finish line in 14th place. The other top-five finishes for the Patriots came from Max Klopfenstein (33rd – 18:21.1), Grant Glentzer (48th – 19:08.7), Alex Rivers (80th – 20:05.1) and Ethan Powers (117th – 22:33.7).

21:17.9 was the best time for the girls and earned her fifth place in the race. Ava May also claimed a top-10 finish as she put out a 21:24.9 to earn eighth. Other scores for the Patriots came from Paityn Wendel (19th – 22:18.8), Alexis Sibray (27th – 22:47.6) and Jessie Homan (29th – 22:51.7).

**Final loss** HUNTINGTON — Jay County’s boys soccer team fell to Huntington North 3-2 in Saturday’s regular season finale. The Vikings (6-7-3) scored the only goal of the first half to enter the intermission 1-0. Jacoby Penrod evened the score on an assist from Raif Beiswanger. The Patriots (6-9-1) pulled ahead nine minutes later when Emmitt Reynolds assisted Beiswanger. Huntington North scored the final two goals of the game to pull away with the win. Peyton Yowell recorded one save, while Xavier Hudson had eight.

Spikers beat Tigers

ANSONIA, Ohio — The Tribe will be walking away from the weekend with some smiles. The Fort Recovery High School volleyball team took down the Ansonia Tigers 25-12, 25-16, 25-16 on Saturday and was awarded the No. 2 seed in the OHSAA Division VI Southwest 3 district tournament. Cameron Muhlenkamp led the Indians against either third seeded Triad or No. 6 seeded Houston. The championship will take place at Fairmont on Oct. 25. **Heitkamp leads** COLDWATER, Ohio — After a week off, Fort Recovery’s cross country teams traveled to Coldwater on Saturday to compete in the Lions Club Invitational. The Tribe boys team finished 17th with a 481, while the girls’ 447 points placed 18th. Rileigh Heitkamp posted the best finish of all the Indians as she claimed 20th with a time of 21 minutes, 19.55 seconds. See Roundup page 7

Fort Recovery roundup

against either third seeded Triad or No. 6 seeded Houston. The championship will take place at Fairmont on Oct. 25. **Heitkamp leads** COLDWATER, Ohio — After a week off, Fort Recovery’s cross country teams traveled to Coldwater on Saturday to compete in the Lions Club Invitational. The Tribe boys team finished 17th with a 481, while the girls’ 447 points placed 18th. Rileigh Heitkamp posted the best finish of all the Indians as she claimed 20th with a time of 21 minutes, 19.55 seconds. See Roundup page 7

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