



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Scott swings

Ellee Scott, 5, Ridgeville, raises her hands in the air on the swings Saturday during the Ridgeville Fall Festival. The event offered carnival rides, music, food trucks and vendors in downtown Ridgeville.

County approves severance offer for workers

Jay County Country Living employees can get up to 4 months pay

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Jay County Country Living needs its employees to stay until the facility closes.

Jay County Commissioners have agreed to compensate them for sticking around and to provide an incentive to close sooner.

Commissioners on Tuesday recommended providing the equivalent of four months' worth of additional pay to Jay County Country Living employees if the facility closes by Dec. 31. If Jay County Country Living's doors remain open past the end of the year and close by June 30, employees will instead see the equivalent of two months' worth of additional pay.

The decision will require a salary ordinance amendment from Jay County Council, which meets next in November.

Jay County Country Living director Stacey Johnson explained she shared incentive letters for county officials to consider. She said after a recent meeting, staff members met and discussed the situation before proposing the county offer them an incentive to stay.

Johnson proposed the equivalent of six months' worth of additional pay if the facility closes by the end of the year, four months' additional pay if it closes in February and three months' additional pay if it closes in April. The department currently has eight part-time and three full-time employees.

Surpluses expected to end

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — Budget surpluses are projected to end in coming years.

Fort Recovery School Board heard its five-year financial forecast Monday.

Fort Recovery Local Schools finished fiscal year 2025 on June 30 with a year-end cash balance before encumbrances of \$8.141 million, about \$446,000 more than May estimates.

The school district is projected to finish fiscal year 2026 with a budget surplus of \$615,685, bringing its year-end cash balance

Changes in state funding will likely cut into balance

before encumbrances to \$8.757 million. That's down approximately \$622,000 from projections in May.

Budget surpluses for the school district are currently projected to end in coming years, with the year-end cash balances before encumbrances decreasing accordingly.

Estimates show fiscal year 2027 ending with an \$8.198 million cash balance, 2028 ending with a \$7.09 million cash balance, 2029 ending with a \$5.62 million cash balance and 2030 ending with a \$3.69 million cash balance.

"Overall, we still have a healthy

cash balance throughout the forecast," said Fort Recovery Local Schools treasurer Deanna Knapke.

She noted the state's contribution to schools is expected to decrease, with local shares to increase in fiscal year 2027. Estimates are that state foundation funding, which currently accounts for about 50% of district revenue, will drop to about 44%. That amounts to about \$300,000 less than the current year. (This year's unrestricted state funding came in at \$6.6 million, about a \$100,000 decrease.)

See **End** page 2

Application will wait

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — The city's application for funding to demolish a downtown building will have to wait until next year.

Mayor Jack Robbins updated Dunkirk City Council on the status of the Green Building, noting Monday that despite efforts it is not possible for the city to make this month's application deadline for state funding.

Monday's council meeting had been scheduled as a public hearing to seek support for the proposal to tear down the building at 303 S. Main St.

Robbins reported that there are additional steps that need to be taken before the decision can be made to demolish the structure. The process involves hiring a structural engineer to determine whether the historic structure can be saved.

He said he will continue to work with Jay County Development Corporation and HWC Engineering toward applying for \$275,000 in grant funding through the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. The next deadline is in April.

Robbins also told council members that he has a

City must consider options for historic structure

meeting with Jay County Development Corporation officials Wednesday (today) regarding a new residential blight removal program. He said he will work toward acquiring some of those funds for Dunkirk. (Robbins has led blight removal projects for decades during his time as safety officer, a council member and now mayor, utilizing both local and state funding mechanisms as they have been available.)

Council members Jesse Bivens, Christy Curts, Dan Watson, Donna Revolt and Randy Murphy also approved fire protection contracts for Richland (\$6,556), Jackson (\$3,673.74) and Knox (\$1,955.48) townships in Jay County and Niles Township (\$2,674.52) in Delaware County.

See **Dunkirk** page 5



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Choral candy

Jay County High School sophomore Lyla Kunkler performs Sunday during the junior-senior high fall choral concert. Kunkler and Just Treble performed "Come Little Children," "I Want Candy," "Queen of Pain," "Not While I'm Around," "Get Me Outta Here" and "Promise of a New Day."

Deaths

Brian Beeler, 65, Battle Creek, Michigan
Details on page 2.

Weather

The high temperature was 76 degrees Monday in Jay County. The low was 47.
Expect a low in the lower 40s tonight. Skies will be sunny Thursday with a high in the upper 60s.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Junior-Senior High School is holding parent-teacher conferences from 5:30 to 7 p.m. tonight in the commons. The event will also include a Financial Aid Presentation and FAFSA Completion Night at 6 p.m. with INvestED-Indiana providing information. Attendees should enter through Door 8.

Coming up

Thursday — Details from Tuesday's Redkey Town Council meeting.

Friday — Results from the FRHS volleyball team's tournament opener.

Saturday — Coverage of Friday's JCHS football regular-season finale against Heritage.

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Surpluses ...

Continued from page 1

Knapke also pointed to unknowns throughout the forecast, including income tax changes as well as the state biennium budgets beginning in 2028.

Fort Recovery Local Schools' five-year financial forecast for the fall came a month earlier than usual this year. Fort Recovery Local Schools treasurer Deanna Knapke explained Ohio House Bill 96 changed requirements for school districts filing financial forecasts, which are required twice a year. One of those changes requires financial forecasts to be filed by Oct. 15 and the end of February. (They were previously required in May and November.)

Also Monday, school board members informally voiced support for the village's plans to establish a Community Reinvest-

ment Area across the entire village.

Fort Recovery assistant village administrator Aaron Rengers attended the school board's meeting in July to explain the tax incentive program for building new and remodeling existing structures.

Plans are to offer 10-year, 100% abatements for new homes, 15-year, 100% abatements for residential remodels and eight-year, 75% abatements for industrial projects.

He said the project wouldn't decrease the money the school district is currently receiving in real estate taxes, saying it would be a deferral for future dollars. Hopes are to begin the Community Reinvestment Area in January.

School board member Greg LeFevre asked about the impact, with Rengers estimating there have been an average of three new houses built annually in recent

years. Answering a question from school board member Sean Kahlig about whether companies have shown an interest in communities with a Community Reinvestment Area, Rengers said the goal is to promote residential growth.

School board members took no vote on the matter but said they would be in favor of the idea.

In other business, school board members Mitch Fullenkamp, Greg LeFevre, Nick Wehrkamp, Don Wendel and Sean Kahlig:

- Approved spending up to \$15,000 on a feasibility study through architectural firm Garmann Miller of Minster, Ohio, for upgrades at Barrenbrugge Athletic Park. The project would be a collaboration with Fort Recovery Athletic Boosters.
- Authorized extending a contract with IGS Energy through Southwestern Ohio Educational

Purchasing Council for one year, with the contract to terminate no later than December 2028.

- Approved the district's gifted education plan for the current school year.
- Accepted the following as volunteer assistant coaches: Lucas Acheson, Corey Gerlach, Nate Bonifas and Jerry Vogel (all boys bowling); Ava Bulp and Teigen Fortkamp (swimming); and Shannon Osterfeld (diving).
- Approved various policy additions and amendments, including policies about attendance. Superintendent Tony Stahl noted changes are in line with requirements recently imposed by the state. He noted plans to address the cell phone policy at the November meeting.
- Accepted full-time custodian Kimberlie Jarrett's resignation effective Oct. 8.

Obituaries

Brian P. Beeler, Battle Creek, Michigan, a longtime Geneva resident who was born in Portland, Jan. 6, 1960-Sept. 8, 2025. A graveside service will be held at 1 p.m. Friday at Marion National Cemetery, 1700 E. 38th St., Marion.






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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

Thursday 10/16	Friday 10/17	Saturday 10/18	Sunday 10/19	Monday 10/20
				
68/45	72/56	76/51	64/41	62/41
Skies will be sunny with a high in the upper 60s.	Expect partly cloudy skies with a high in the lower 70s.	There is a 50% chance of rain with otherwise partly cloudy skies and a high in the mid 60s.	Rain is expected with a high in the mid 60s.	Skies will be mostly sunny with a high in the lower 60s.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 13-14-32-52-64 Power Ball: 12 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$273 million	Daily Four: 7-9-6-7 Quick Draw: 5-10-11-13-16-18-19-20-24-30-32-34-45-50-53-55-57-66-74-79 Cash 5: 2-7-24-30-34 Estimated jackpot: \$105,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$600 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 3-6-6 Pick 4: 4-0-0-6 Pick 5: 1-2-3-9-1 Evening Pick 3: 6-1-3 Pick 4: 0-3-1-4 Pick 5: 7-1-8-8-0 Rolling Cash: 2-9-18-20-39 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 2-4-2 Daily Four: 7-7-5-9 Quick Draw: 4-8-11-17-18-20-28-29-32-34-38-51-55-56-58-59-68-73-78-79 Evening Daily Three: 7-1-8	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.01 Nov corn3.96 Dec. corn4.11	Dec. beans9.72 Wheat 4.49
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.01 Dec. corn4.16 Jan. corn4.22	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.86 Nov. corn3.91 Beans9.70 Late Oct. beans9.75 Wheat4.85
The Andersons Richland Township Corn3.96 Dec. corn4.01 Beans.....9.64	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.11 Oct. corn3.96 Beans9.45 Dec. beans9.67 Wheat4.30

Today in history

In 1581, the first ballet, "Ballet Comique de la Reine," was performed in Paris.

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte arrived on the island of St. Helena after being exiled.

In 1783, JeanFrançois Pilâtre de Rozier spent four minutes in the air in a balloon created by the Montgolfier brothers, Joseph-Michael and Jacques-Etienne. The act served as the world's first manned balloon flight.

In 1842, Karl Marx became the editor-in-chief of Rheinische Zeitung. The German philosopher and socialist later wrote "The Communist Manifesto" and "Das Kapital."

In 1878, inventor and businessman Thomas Edison and his investors formed the Edison Electric Light Company.

In 1951, the first episode of "I Love Lucy" aired on television. The classic series went on to produce 180 episodes through May 1957.

In 1989, Wayne Gretzky of the Canadian hockey team broke the scoring record in the National Hockey League by making 1,851 goals.

In 2010, the Jay County High School football team fell 44-0 to Greenville (Ohio).

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Thursday 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.
Monday 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, Main St.	7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Learning opportunity

Jessica Curtis of Jay Emergency Medical Service explains and demonstrates the workings of a LUCAS device, which is used for automated chest compressions during CPR, during Portland Fire Department's Fire Safety Day on Saturday. The event included a variety of safety-related activities and the opportunity to check out various emergency response vehicles.

Teacher pay up, still lags behind

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

New data shows that while Indiana teacher pay has climbed in recent years, Hoosier educators still earn less than peers in neighboring states — a gap union leaders and some legislators say threatens teacher retention and classroom success.

Members of the Interim Study Committee on Fiscal Policy spent much of their final meeting on Friday examining teacher and administrator salaries, student-to-teacher ratios, and other education funding trends.

The statewide median teacher salary was \$60,100 as of the 2025 fiscal year,

Despite increases, teacher pay still trails adjacent states

compared with \$98,193 for school administrators and \$114,825 for corporation administrators, according to a presentation prepared by the Legislative Services Agency.

The mean salary across Indiana was \$63,424 for teachers; \$99,556 for school administrators; and \$116,731 for corporation administrators.

Though average salaries rose about 4% from 2024 to 2025, LSA staff told the committee that when adjusted for inflation, median wages for teachers and administrators have actually declined since 2020.

Suburban districts continue to pay the most, while teachers in rural and small-town schools saw the smallest wage growth, according to the LSA analysis.

Public schools spent roughly \$824 million on teacher and administrator benefits in 2024, nearly 80% of it for health insurance.

See Pay page 5

SERVICES

Friday

Roessner, Verla: 10:30 a.m., St. Peter Catholic Church, 1477 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery.

Beeler, Brian: 1 p.m., Marion National Cemetery, 1700 E. 38th St., Marion.

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GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

Take a sunset stroll

Take a sunset stroll at Loblolly Marsh. Limberlost State Historic Site in Geneva will host Loblolly Sunset Stroll from 6 to 8 p.m. Oct. 24. Guided by the historic site's naturalist, visitors can explore the Loblolly Marsh during golden hour to discover what plants and animals live in the marsh. After the sun goes down, attendees will finish the evening making s'mores by the campfire. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for youth.

Advance registration is required for most programs this fall at Indiana State Historic Sites. Members receive a 25% discount on ticket prices. Visit IndianaMuseum.org to purchase tickets and find more information about all the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites events and locations.

Pumpkin decorating

Calling all pumpkin decorators. Jay County Public Library is hosting a family pumpkin decorating contest this month. Pumpkins are now available to pick up at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Families may decorate and return their

Taking Note

gourd to the library by Oct. 23. Participants must use pumpkins provided by the library, and the pumpkins can't be cut or punctured. Decorations must be family friendly. Submissions will be on display from Oct. 27 through Oct. 31 for library patrons to cast their votes. The winners will be contacted the following week and receive a gift basket.

Book sale

Fort Recovery Public Library will be hosting a used book sale Monday, Oct. 20, through Saturday, October 25, during normal business hours. A free-will donation will be accepted for materials selected at the sale.

The library accepts donations of clean and gently used items. Items not accepted are materials in poor condition, encyclopedias, dictionaries, textbooks, magazines, cassettes and VHS tapes. For

more information, contact the library at (419) 375-2869.

Statehouse interns

Indiana House Republicans are looking for interns for the 2026 legislative session.

The Indiana House of Representatives offers a spring semester internship at the statehouse in Indianapolis during the session, which starts in January and concludes in March. House interns are a paid, full-time position through the week.

The program offers opportunities for students to work in various departments related to their studies, including legislative operations, policy and communications.

Internships are open to college students and recent graduates of all majors. Interns will be paired with a staff member to work directly with an assigned group of state representatives. During this spring semester internship, students will have opportunities to interact with state legislators, state agencies and private sector organizations.

Applications are available online at indianahouseRepublicans.com/internship and are due by Oct. 31.

Sister is now dating ex-fiance

DEAR ABBY: Eight years ago, I split from my fiancé of 30 years, "Anthony," when he accused me of cheating, which I was absolutely not doing. Throughout the entire relationship, he hurt and belittled me. He is insecure and always suspicious. However, he remains attached to my family through my daughter and grandsons, which I am not happy about.

I live across the country now and recently took a trip home to visit my family. I have two sisters. Coincidentally, my niece's 40th birthday party was being held that Saturday. Nobody knew I was coming, so it was a surprise. But it turns out the real surprise was on me.

When we sat down to eat, one sister (my niece's other aunt) turned to me and said, "I'm gonna tell you something, and I don't want to hear anything about it. Anthony and I are in a relationship." You can imagine how that went over. Not only did she ruin our niece's birthday party, but I feel betrayed by that sister.

I have contacted her by text and email telling her how I feel, but she doesn't respond. Right now, I have no desire to talk to her or have any kind of relationship with her. I think she sees dollar signs since he has money, but it's not right to date your sister's ex because it breaks the "sister code." What is your advice on this situation? — BETRAYED SIS IN WYOMING

DEAR BETRAYED SIS: You may have had the longest engagement in history. Wish your sister better luck in their "relationship" than you had, because if your ex is as you described, she's going to need it. If you feel she violated a "sister

Dear Abby



code," then it appears that when money enters the picture, the code is obsolete.

DEAR ABBY: My wife of eight years is from Africa, and we have a 1-year-old daughter. I am white. My wife is Black and 29 years younger than I am. She was raised not to celebrate Christmas. She says it's because it is associated with pagan rituals coming from satanic worship in old times. She doesn't want our daughter exposed to this even though she lives in the U.S., where Christmas is a valued tradition, bringing people together with good cheer for generations.

My wife has no desire to compromise on this and is willing to leave the marriage over it. I feel like she thinks she can roll over me with no consequences. Should I start looking for a divorce attorney? — TRADITIONALIST IN TEXAS

DEAR TRADITIONALIST: Your wife is convinced she is doing the right thing and protecting her child by not celebrating Christmas. Although I tried, I was not able to find ANY association between a pagan religion that preceded Christmas and Satanism. Rather than look for a divorce attorney at this point, you might be better served to consult a marriage counselor as well as a religious adviser from the denomination to which your wife belongs.

Sorority news

Eta Chi Chapter of Sigma Phi Gamma International Sorority met Oct. 6 for a business meeting at Mt. Tabor Hall in Dunkirk. Kris Cook opened the meeting with the pledge. Renee Blumenhorst read the minutes of the last meeting and called the roll. Shari Van Nuland gave the treasurer's report.

The chapter sold apple dumplings at the Main Street

USA craft show Oct. 4 and made a profit of \$213.07. Apple dumplings will be sold by the members till

Oct 21 for \$4 each. Orders will be delivered to the members Nov. 4. Secret Families auction will be held Nov. 9 at 11 a.m. on Facebook.

Donations will be made of \$25 to the History Museum for the clock repair, \$50 to the Secret Families fund, and \$100

to the Methodist Church for the use of Mt. Tabor Hall.

Renee Blumenhorst won the 50/50 drawing.

The following members were present: Julie Adkins, Connie Retter, Kris Cook, Stephanie Faulkner, Shari Van Nuland, Renee Blumenhorst, Marsha Eglan, Rose Morgan, Kathleen Inman and Marlene Clevenger.

The next meeting will be Oct. 21.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

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

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

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-

based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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

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

Thursday

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

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.

EN AVANT CLUB — Meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SUICIDE GRIEF —

Meets from 1 to 2:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month. The support group serves to help individuals who have lost a loved one to suicide. To register, contact Stephanie Patterson at (260) 251-3259.

ORGAN TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the IU Health Blackford main conference room.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY HEALTH JAY HOSPITAL OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 6 p.m. the third Thursday of each month in Indiana University Health Jay Hospital Conference Room B. The group is for ostomy patients and their friends and family to offer mutual support and learn about the latest products and information.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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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GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

Ads must run in October. Rate does not apply to special sections.

The history hasn’t been forgotten

Editor’s note: This column is being reprinted from Oct. 13, 2010. Jack delved into the history of this community. His family, both the Ronald and Haynes sides, have deep roots here. He understood the importance of sharing history, the good and the bad, to help shape the understanding of what this community was and inform decisions as it strives toward what it can become.

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

There are still histories that need to be written. Unfortunately, with the passage of time, those who can tell the tale first-hand die off or move away or disappear. And whole chunks of human existence go down some memory hole. Driving up to Shipshewana to take an old friend to dinner last week, we passed through Ligonier. So when we got together with Andy, the old friend who had made a pilgrimage to Indiana from California in spite of nearly crippling arthritis, I mentioned what bits I’d heard of Ligonier’s Jewish history.

Back in the Saddle



Andy’s Jewish in addition to being an adopted Hoosier, and he was intrigued. But I only had scraps of information in corners of my memory. I’d read that the town had a substantial Jewish population and Jewish leadership in its earliest years, but that there’s next to no Jewish population today. Why the change? I had no clue, no history to share with Andy. The same would be true if he’d asked me about the free black communities of Randolph County. Retired doctor and good friend Gene Gillum grew up in Randolph County and has mentioned bits and pieces about communities that existed there before the Civil War and abolition. But today, despite valiant efforts of local historians, much of that story

has been lost, not erased from the history books because they were never even on the page. Similar lost histories echo in Jay County. In our case, the story that’s never been adequately told is that of the Klan. Like the rest of Indiana in the 1920s, our community got swept up in the weird mix of xenophobia, peer pressure, boosterism and mumbo-jumbo that was the KKK. Notice that I didn’t mention racism; that was so much a part of the landscape that it was taken for granted. Instead, in that era, the Klan targeted its brand of hate at Catholics and recent immigrants. The first couple of decades of the 20th century in America were the great era of joining, of organizing, of forming associations. That’s the era when the stellar service clubs like Rotary, the Lions, Kiwanis and Optimists came together. That’s when lodges like the Elks and Moose and Eagles were founded. That’s when returning soldiers from World War I formed the American Legion. But those were the healthy

forms of organizing. The Klan was cancerous. In Indiana, it assumed all the trappings of yet another civic organization then added its own mix of bigotry, exclusionism and corruption. Did it exist in Jay County in the 1920s? You bet it did. But when the state organization collapsed in scandal, those involved shed their robes and erased the story rather than be embarrassed by their own sinister foolishness. As a kid, I remember my mother stopping for a traffic light in downtown Portland and gesturing to an upstairs window in a brick building. It was there, she said, that she remembered seeing an electric sign of a burning cross, signifying the Klan’s presence here. As if that were not enough, somewhere in one of the bundles of papers I keep telling myself I’ll donate to the Jay County Historical Society there is a yellowed clipping. It’s from a Klan newspaper, and it denounces my grandfather — the Rev. Hugh N. Ronald Sr. — by name. It seems the Klan in Jay

County was flexing its muscle, using the sort of bully-boy, brownshirt tactics that would become familiar when the Nazis came to power in Germany. What they were doing was attending church. But they were doing it as a large body of men, and they were wearing their full regalia, including their hoods. Imagine for a moment the frightening impact of 20 or 40 hooded men in robes sitting in the first two pews of a local church. Then they came to my grandfather’s church. And they were denied entry. As the family story goes, while grandfather prepared for the Sunday service, my grandmother conveyed his simple message: You are welcome if you take off your hoods and show your faces to your neighbors. The Klan refused. My grandfather was denounced in some rag of a newspaper. And the story has been passed down for generations. So the history hasn’t been written, but it hasn’t been forgotten either.

Weiss’ principles are stellar ideals

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

Bari Weiss has done the unthinkable — she’s parlayed a media startup into a mainstream powerhouse, stepping into a new role as editor-in-chief of CBS News as part of a \$150 million deal that also includes the network combining forces with her online publication, The Free Press. Parent company Paramount Skydance made the announcement Monday.

Weiss’ name shot to fame in 2020 after she resigned from The New York Times, publishing a viral letter accusing the paper of an “illiberal environment” and saying she had been mocked by colleagues for her centrist views. But instead of giving up, she struck out on her own, launching The Free Press in 2021 as a forum for a wide range of thinkers and writers.

“I’ve always comforted myself with the notion that the best ideas win out,” she wrote.

The Paramount deal signals that her own big idea — that readers are reasonable enough to be confronted with difficult ideas and stories that challenge their worldview — has done just that.

While some are focused on her payday or how her more moderate sensibilities have upset members of CBS’ existing staff, what struck us most was the list of journalistic principles Weiss shared with staff upon assuming her new gig.

Good journalism programs have taught these values for decades. It’s hard to see how any reasonable person could take issue with such things. We don’t, especially because Weiss’ principles have much in common with this newspaper’s guiding values.

Our expert newsroom reports the facts to help you make sense of the world. At the separate editorial board, where we offer opinions and analy-

Guest Editorial

sis, we believe the public deserves the right to make up its own mind, and, imperfect as we may be, we see it as our job to help them do it. And we do indeed publish opinion articles reflecting a wide variety of views of topics of interest, as penned by authors with disparate points of view.

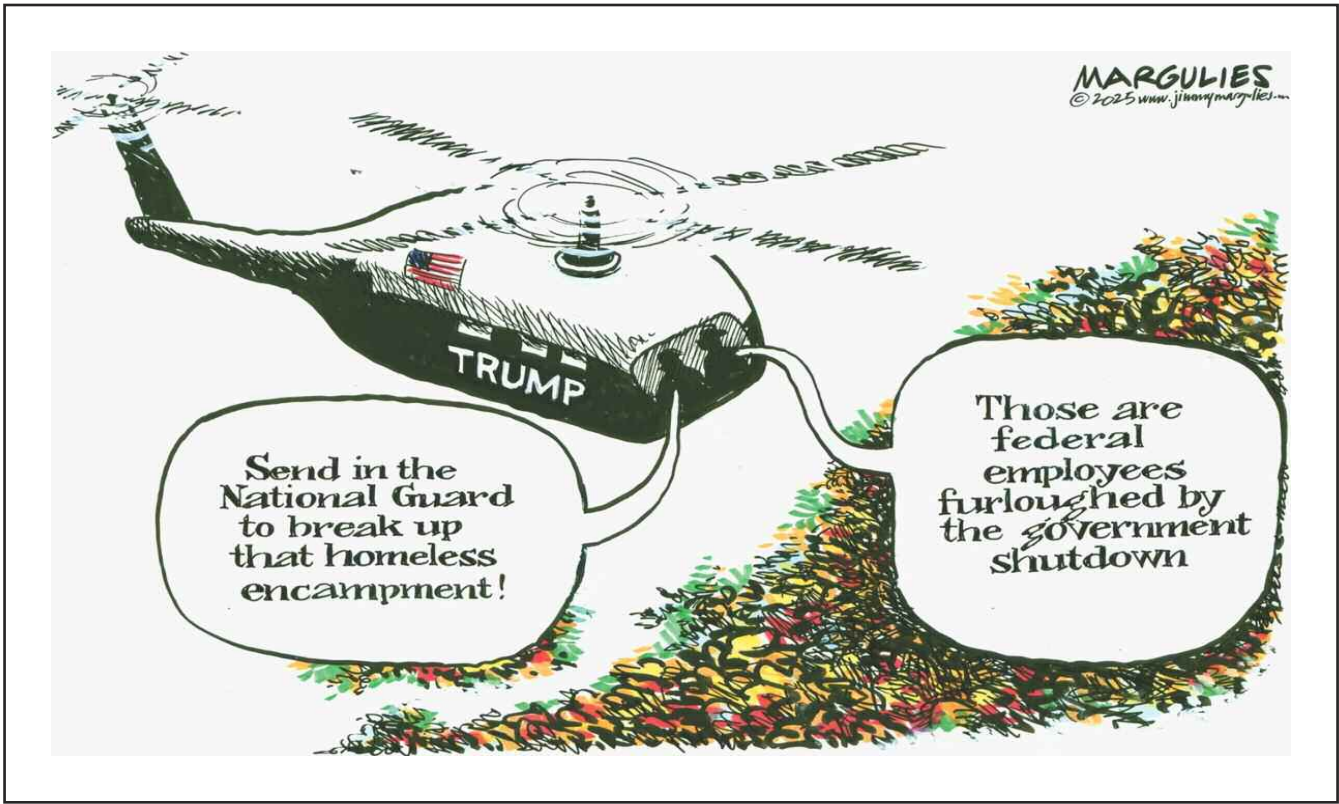
Some have described Weiss and The Free Press as “provocative,” a coded term meant to signal that they’re just shy of being conspiracy theorists. Frankly, the only way you could view either as such is if you’re out of touch with the common sense perspective Weiss and The FP present, and which a significant share of Americans share and value.

Where some may view Weiss’ coup as a backlash against “wokeism” or an attempt to muzzle one of the country’s largest broadcast networks, we see this news as both extremely interesting and a good business decision. In an age where digital matters immensely, anyone familiar with The Free Press knows its online presence offers viewers interesting and intellectually rigorous content that drives many to become subscribers.

Paramount Skydance reported that The Free Press has about 1.5 million subscribers on Substack, including more than 170,000 paying members — The Financial Times estimated \$15 million in annual subscription revenue. For a company that launched just five years ago with a small staff, it’s impressive.

We’re not so naive as to think every ideal works easily in practice. So we’ll see what Weiss can do at CBS.

We wish her well.



Shutdown harms low-income families

By BRITTANY HICKS
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Tribune News Service

When Americans endure a federal government shutdown over spending, it can be hard to understand what’s at stake.

But I can tell you one important program on the line, especially after so many Georgians have experienced sticker shock over their electricity bills this year: LIHEAP, or the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which has prevented or reversed utility disconnections in 4.6 million Southern households since 2016.

As Congress works to finalize this year’s budget, it’s critical that programs like LIHEAP remain protected. Because behind the numbers are real people — and Georgia families can’t afford to lose this support.

I will never forget the day I sat across from an elderly man, Earl, defeated, tired and suddenly the sole caregiver of his two young grandchildren. Their mother had left, his wife had left, and he found himself alone and responsible for raising children on a fixed income.

Every day, he was forced to find a way to stretch every dollar, praying for help. After being told he qualified for utility benefits through LIHEAP, he broke down in tears. Not because we solved all his problems, but because, for once, something helped. One less burden meant keeping his home warm and stable for the two children he never expected to raise alone.

Earl’s story is not unique. Across Georgia, seniors are living on limited fixed incomes, raising grandchildren, living alone or managing health conditions that make

Brittany Hicks



them especially vulnerable to extreme temperatures.

What happens when the heat is unbearable and there is no relief? What happens when winter settles in and your elderly neighbor can’t afford to turn on the heat? For our elder population, maintaining utilities is not just a financial strain — it’s a risk to their health, safety and survival.

Community Action was established through President Lyndon B. Johnson’s War on Poverty and the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, with the goal of empowering local communities to address poverty and inequities in ways that reflect their unique needs.

Today, more than 1,000 Community Action Agencies across the country, including 20 in Georgia, continue that legacy by helping families overcome barriers to stability through coordinated services like case management, job training, housing and utility assistance, and early childhood education.

One of the essential programs Community Action Agencies administer is LIHEAP. This results-driven program helps households afford the basic necessity of home energy — protecting our most vulnerable neighbors, promoting energy security, and reducing the risk of energy-related emergencies.

At Partnership for Community

Action, which serves DeKalb, Gwinnett, Newton, Rockdale and Walton counties, we provided heating and cooling assistance to 27,605 households, 57% of whom were seniors. In a state where the average monthly utility burden totals \$570, and the average Social Security income for a retired worker remains limited, utility expenses can consume around 29% of a senior’s income.

As the executive director of a Community Action Agency serving some of Georgia’s most vulnerable families, I have witnessed firsthand the critical role programs such as LIHEAP play in keeping children safe, seniors healthy and working families stable.

For many households, LIHEAP is not just a single service. It’s often one of many steps toward greater stability. When individuals come to us for energy assistance, we can also connect them to a broader network of support, whether through services offered by our agency or in partnership with other local organizations. Community Action Agencies are uniquely positioned to address both urgent needs and the long-term factors that support long-term sustainability.

Without vital programs like LIHEAP, Georgia’s most vulnerable residents will be faced with impossible choices — like Earl and his grandchildren were about to face. Heat or medication? Electricity or groceries? That is not a future we can accept. And we don’t have to accept it: let’s keep funding this program.

.....
Hicks is executive director for Partnership for Community Action, a non-profit designated as a Community Action Agency.

The Commercial Review



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

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Mail: Monthly auto-pay – \$15; 13 weeks – \$53; six months – \$86; one year – \$161.
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Dunkirk ...
Continued from page 1
The Niles Township contract also calls for an additional \$1,000 to be paid into the non-reverting firefighters' equipment fund.

Murphy reported that street paving through the most recent Indiana Department of Transportation Community Crossings grant is slated to begin today (Wednesday). It will involve paving Pleasant Street on the west side of the city, Fourth Street, D Street and Lincoln Avenue between Main and Angle streets.

In other business, the council:

- Heard from Robbins that his State of the City address will be at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21, at West Jay Community Center.
- Learned from Revolt that the city's annual Feel the Warmth of Christmas celebration is scheduled for 5:30 to 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 1. It will include a tree lighting, hot chocolate and snacks at city hall and a visit from Santa to Glass Capital Motors.
- Approved the following: a \$200 sponsorship for the Jay County Junior-Senior High School choir; a \$100 sponsorship for the city's annual turkey drop, which is scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, at Webster Depot; updates to the city's handbook to conform with new state laws; an additional appropriation of \$37,200 in economic development income tax funds for Dunkirk Industrial Development Corporation; payment of claims totaling \$294,526.51; and vacating an alley at property owned by Michael Bubp at 220 E. Commerce St.
- Received a thank you card from Secret Families Christmas Charity of Jay County for the city's sponsorship of the organization.

Pay ...

Continued from page 2
Joel Hand, representing both the American Federation of Teachers Indiana and the Indiana School Social Workers Association, told the committee that Indiana "still lags far behind our other Midwestern states."

He pointed to Wisconsin, for example, where teacher salaries averaged \$65,196 for the 2023-24 school year. Ohio, meanwhile, reported average teacher pay at \$72,644.

"If we want to keep those students who are getting degrees in education from leaving to go to Illinois or Ohio or Wisconsin or Michigan, we simply have to raise teacher pay," Hand said.

He emphasized that Indiana currently ranks 39th in the nation for average teacher salary, citing data from the National Education Association.

"If we want to address teacher retention ... we have to raise teacher pay across the board," Hand told lawmakers.

Gail Zeheralis, with the Indiana State Teachers Association, echoed those concerns. She reminded the committee that the 2019 Governor's Teacher Compensation Commission had set a goal of a \$60,000 average teacher salary.

"A \$40,000 salary in 2019 equates to roughly \$50,000 today, and a \$60,000 average in 2019 equates to about \$76,000 in today's dollars," she said. "Indiana must continue increasing state funding."

LSA staff told lawmakers that statewide, student-to-teacher ratios have declined — from 17.6-to-1 in 2019 to 15.6-to-1 in 2025 — while the student-to-administrator ratio dropped from 208-to-1 to 196.9-to-1 over the same period.

The trend, said LSA Assistant Director Austin Spears, mirrors national patterns but is "really driven by an increase in

the count of teachers" rather than student enrollment growth.

Still, Sen. Fady Qadoura, D-Indianapolis, noted the roughly 1,300 open, unfilled teaching positions currently posted on the Indiana Department of Education's website.

But other committee members questioned whether funding decisions at the local level steer too few dollars directly to classrooms.

"It's frustrating up here ... that we want to take care of teachers as best we can, because we think that helps us educate kids better," said Sen. Scott Baldwin, R-Noblesville. "But dollars going into the school system from this body don't seem to always make it into the classroom or teachers' pockets."

Hand responded that "the erosion of collective bargaining for teachers at the local level" has weakened educators' ability to advocate for fair pay and working conditions.

Hand additionally called attention to Indiana's severe shortage of school social workers, which he and others flagged as a "critical" issue in the midst of growing mental health needs across the state's schools.

The latest data from the state and national school social worker associations showed that Indiana has a student-to-social worker ratio of 1,829 to 1 — massively above the recommended ratio of 250 to 1.

"With the enormous crisis we have in Indiana — and really throughout the country — with mental health in our schools, this is a ratio that I would strongly challenge you as members of the General Assembly to work on," Hand said.

School social workers are different from school counselors and are primarily focused on students' lives outside of the classroom and on helping deal

with issues outside of school that interfere with academic progress.

Hand said that despite holding master's degrees and being specially-certified, school social workers are typically not considered to be teachers and many are not on teacher contracts.

He urged legislators to include social workers in the state's definition of "teacher" for funding purposes, arguing that change will make it easier for school social workers to get hired or be qualified for raises.

Lawmakers and education advocates pointed to Senate Enrolled Act 146 — approved earlier this year — as a starting point for potential reform, but said additional changes are needed to make teacher pay competitive.

That law raised the minimum teacher salary from \$40,000 to \$45,000 beginning June 30, and increased the share of state tuition support that school districts must spend on teacher compensation from 62% to 65%.

It also created a statewide Teacher Recruitment Program to help fund training and placement in high-need schools, while requiring annual reports on expanding affordable health plan options for educators.

Several lawmakers on the committee signaled interest in going further.

Rep. Jeff Thompson, R-Lizton, suggested offering weighted funding or incentive pay for shortage areas such as special education and STEM fields — "a market-based approach," he said, that would help schools recruit for the hardest-to-fill roles.

Baldwin continued to push for greater transparency in local spending to ensure that "dollars reach classrooms and teachers," rather than being absorbed by administrative growth.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Tossing tires

Austin Jellison, 18, throws a tire into the truck Saturday at Jay County Junior-Senior High School. Jay County Solid Waste Management District over the weekend hosted Jay County Tox Away Day, an annual event for local residents to donate toxic materials.

Offer ...

Continued from page 1
"Basically I think it's important to keep everybody moving fairly quickly in the right direction, because I've noticed that if we pull back at all, everybody starts getting confused, 'Am I not moving? Am I moving?'" Johnson said. "And so those are daily questions still that are coming up."

Commissioners voted in August to close the facility by the end of 2026. With Jay County Council approving its 2026 budget last week and slicing the facility's funds in half next year, that deadline has been essentially moved up to June 30. (Council members could make additional appropriations to keep the facility running beyond that date.)

Commissioners also decided in September not to allow new residents at the facility. At that meeting, commissioner Duane Monroe talked about financially incentivizing employees amid the transition to close. He proposed at that time the equivalent of three months' worth of additional pay for employees if the facility closes by the end of the year, with the amount to decrease to two months' pay if closed by June 30 and one month's pay if closed by Dec. 31, 2026.

"It is a pretty good severance package giving six months' pay there, so, but then again we do need those people to stay," commissioners president Chad Aker said.

Commissioner Doug Horn pointed out the county still saves money the sooner it closes the facility. Johnson agreed, mentioning utilities as one example. She pointed out her current plans are to have the facility closed by the end of the year.

Goal is to have facility closed by end of 2025

Commissioners discussed a lesser incentive, such as offering four months' pay instead of six months' pay. Johnson argued the county is dropping a large expense from its budget in coming years with the facility closing and pushed for the six months' pay incentive. She also suggested discussing nondisclosure agreements.

Commissioners decided to offer the equivalent of four months' worth of additional pay if the facility closes by Dec. 31 or two months' additional pay if the facility closes by June 30.

In related news, Jay County Country Living Advisory Board president and Jay County Council member Cindy Bracy noted the county needs to consider how it will move forward with building maintenance.

She also pointed out a delay in plans with The Journey Home of Winchester. The Department of Veterans Affairs hasn't been able to tour the building because of the federal government shutdown, she explained.

The Journey Home, an organization aimed at ending veteran homelessness, has expressed interest in leaving the space it rents from Randolph County and moving its operations to the rural Portland site.

.....

For more news from the commissioners' meeting, see Thursday's newspaper.



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By Bill Keene



I'VE GOT JACO FEVER BABE!

HOW DO YOU LIKE MY GOLD CHAINS?

WHAT DO YOU SAY, BABE? DO YOU COME HERE OFTEN?

WHAT'S YOUR SIGN, BABE? YOU A LEO?

BROWN

AGNES: YOUR FINGERNAILS COULD USE A TRIM.

FIVE. TW. AND IT IS MY ENDLESS HYPOCHONDRIA. "TWO" JUST... HERE! HAPPY NOW?

THAT PART NEEDS FINISHED! THIS PART NEEDS SCRUBBED! GOT SOME SOAP! GET SOME! TWO NEEDS A BRUSH! A TISSUE! IT'S NEVER OVER!

IF YOU'VE GOT RUSS, MAYBE YOU UNDERSTAND THE FORTUNE TOLD MUCH.

UNTIL THEN... I JUST CARRY A STYLUS.

Panel 1: A boy with a wide-brimmed hat and a backpack looks to the right. A speech bubble says: "I HEARD THIS PLACE IS VERY POPULAR..."

Panel 2: The boy is walking with a girl. He looks at a poster on a wall. The poster says "Beauty Salon" and "LIKE US?". A speech bubble from the boy says: "WITH LADIES OF A CERTAIN AGE."

EMMA'S BOYFRIEND LIVES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, SO I DON'T KNOW HOW WE'LL GET A CHANCE TO MEET

I CAN'T FLY OUT THERE TO VISIT BECAUSE I'M STARTING MY NEW JOB SOON

INVITE HIM HERE FOR CHRISTMAS

I CAN'T DO THAT - IT'S TOO MUCH PRESSURE FOR A FIRST MEETING

MAYBE YOU CAN CATCH HIM AT THE WEDDING

IS THAT SNARK? I'M DETECTING!

TOUGH DAY, ALEX?

UGH! THE WORST. DAD!

OVER-THE-TOP FIGHTS, BRAWLS, SCUFFLES AND OFFENSIVE PRESSURE

UGH, BRUTA! FOOTBALL PRACTICE, WHU?

NO, THAT WAS JUST ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

MY PAW WUZ
A MAN OF VERY
FEW WORDS !!

TOO BAD
HE'S NOT
STILL
'ROUND,
LUKEY
!!

HE COULD
TEACH MY PAW
HOW TIE LUKE
THAT !!

SO I SEE THEM BLAH BLAH
BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH AN'
HE COMES BACK WIF BLAH
BLAH-BLAH-BLAH-BLAH AN'
THATS WHEN I BLAH-BLAH-
BLAH-BLAH-BLAH-BLAH ..

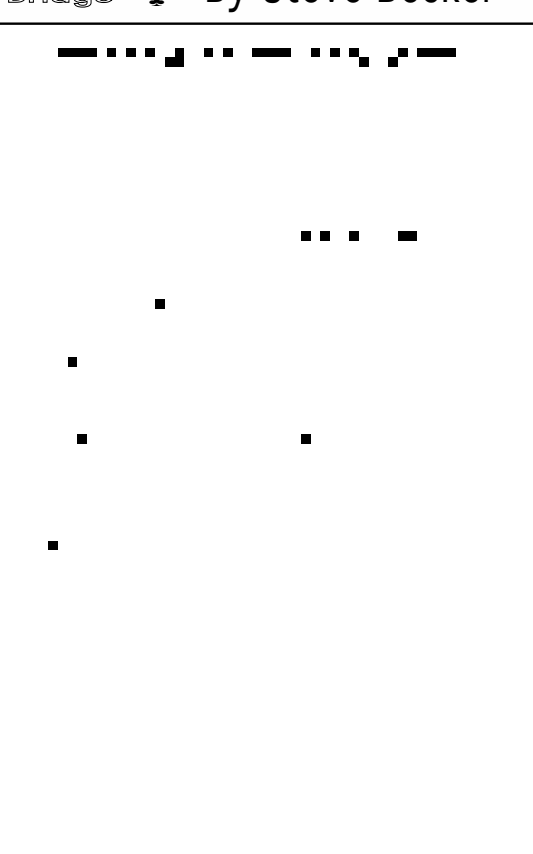
DOES OTTO GO EVERYWHERE WITH YOU?

PRETTY MUCH

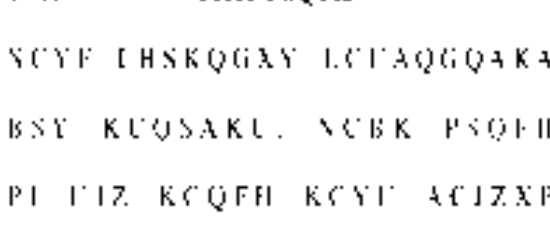
STAYING CLOSE TO SARGE IS ALL ABOUT THE FOOD

P.K.

By Steve Becker



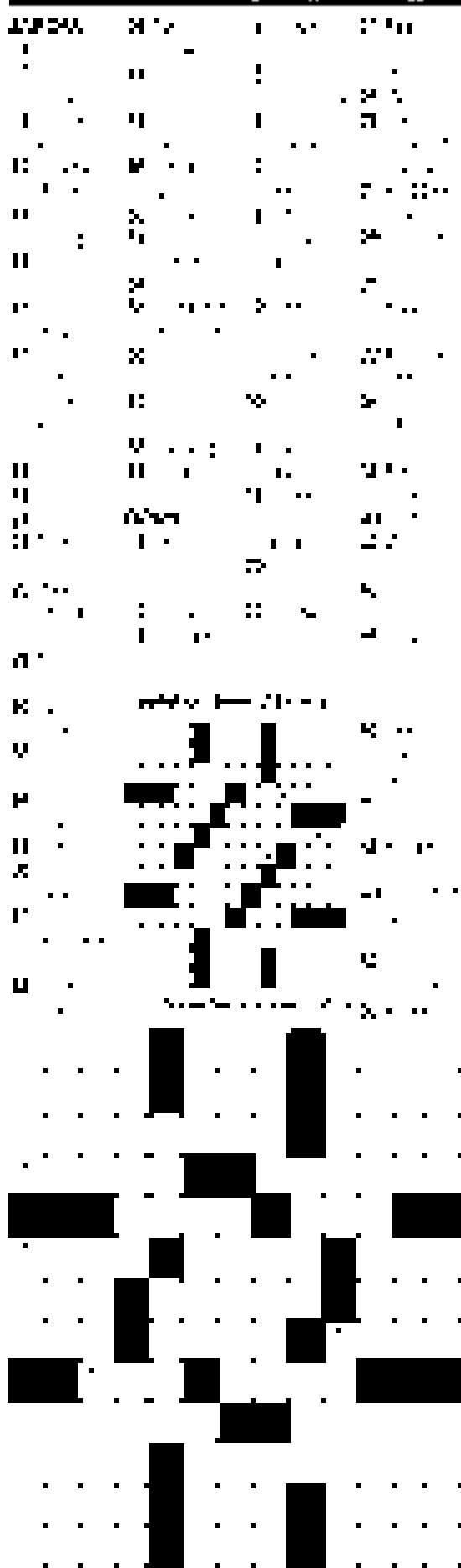
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GCDJAY! NYLKJF KSB.

Yesterday's Cryptopuzzle: If a new company is formed which designs car ignition systems, is it a startup or a start-up?

Today's Cryptopuzzle: Please!!

CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

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6 insertions.... \$1.14/
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12 insertions. \$1.52/
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26 insertions. \$1.77/
word
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74 +/- Acres in Section
35, Wayne Twp, Jay
County Indiana with 67
Acres Tillable, balance
being Wooded and
Road Frontage. Farm
has Frontage on CR's
200 S and 300 E.
Typography: Level. Pos-
session: Upon Closing
or Harvest of 2025
Crops. Taxes: To be Pro-
rated the Day of Clos-
ing. Very Desirable Farm
in a Great Location.
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or Phone Auctioneers for
More Information. Auc-
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OWNER: Gary D and
Kimbra L Weesner
Note: Check Auctionsoft
and AuctionZip for more
photos.

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AUCTIONEERS
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Preview dates: Oct. 22,
2025 - 4:00-7:00 PM, &
Oct. 25, 2025 - 10:00
AM - 1:00 PM
or by appointment.
TRUCK-TRACTOR-
SKID LOADER-EQUIP-
MENT-TRAILERS
2022 Dodge Ram 2500
Laramie (4x4, Diesel;
10,3xx mi, 1 owner);
2015 Sure-Trac Tilt Trail-
er; 2018 Force 6.5x12
Utility Trailer w/ramp; JD
709 rotary cutter, 7';
2011 JD 318D Skid
loader, (3) hay wagons,
(1 w/hoist).
FIREARMS-AMMO
J Stevens Shot 22 cal;
Sears Roebuck/ Ted
Williams Model 340
Lever Action 22 Cal;
Ardesa 54 Cal. Muzzle-
loader; Winchester
Model 1890 22 cal
(reconditioned); Ardesa
Spain 50 Cal Black Pow-
der Muzzleloading Pis-
tol; Various ammo and
more not listed.
HOUSEHOLD-TOOLS-
COLLECTIBLES
Toy farm equip.; Rocker;
Dresser; Gun Cabinet;
Collectibles; Primitives;
Crocks; Arrowheads;
Stereoscope w/ cards;
Pins/Award Geneva;
Vint. Scout Patches;
Portland & Geneva Year-
books; Lg. Trading Post
Sign; Older Baseball
Cards;Adv. Cans; Deer
Horns; (3) Lg portable
barn fans; Saddles (1-
Oliver); Horse equip;
Ladders; Bandsaw;
Table saw; Yard tools,
Old Comics, and much
more not listed!
Larry Moser, Deceased

90 SALE CALENDAR

(Jennifer Gray, Repre-
sentative)
Mel Smitley's Real
Estate & Auctioneering
119 E Main St. Portland,
IN
Laci Smitley -
AU10600051
260-729-2281 - Cell
Ryan Davidson
AU10600063 260-726-
5076
PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Auburn Street,
Dunkirk, IN.
Tuesday Evening
OCTOBER 28, 2025
6:00 P.M.
REAL ESTATE
This parcel of land cons-
ists of 3.408 acres of
bare land located in
Dunkirk Indiana. This
property is zoned resi-
dential. This property
would make a nice
investment for further
development or a nice
building site.
Terms of Sale are 20%
down day of auction and
balance due at closing.
Seller to provide Title
Insurance and Warranty
Deed. Seller to pay the
November 2025 tax
installment and Buyer to
assume taxes due and
payable of May 2026
and thereafter. Any
statements day of sale
take precedence over
previously written or oral
matter. Seller confirma-
tion day of sale.
For more information
contact Gary Loy Auc-
tioneer 260-726-5160 or
Kim Loy, Real Estate
Broker (260) 726-2700
RKM LLC
Loy Auction
AC#31600027 Auction-
eers
Gary Loy AU01031608
PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Bulp Exhibition
Hall at the Jay County
Fairgrounds, 806 W
Votaw St., Portland, IN
Saturday Morning
OCTOBER 25, 2025
9:30 A.M.

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

NOTICE TO BIDDERS FOR
JAY SCHOOL CORPORATION
JAY COUNTY, INDIANA
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Board of School Trustees
of the Jay School Corporation (the "Owner") will receive sealed
bids for the Jay County Jr/Sr High School Pool HVAC Renova-
tions.
Bids will be accepted at Jay County School Corporation Ad-
ministration Office, 414 East Floral Avenue, Portland, Indiana,
until 2:00 p.m. (local time), on November 13, 2025. Bids will be
opened and tabulated at that time in the Board Room. A Pre-
Bid Meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at Jay
County Jr./Sr. High School, 2072 West SR 67, Portland, Indiana.
All bidding and construction shall be in accordance with con-
struction documents prepared by Barton-Coe-Vilamaa, Archi-
tect and Engineers, Inc., which can be obtained from the office
of Barton-Coe-Vilamaa. Call 260/489-9079 (office of Barton-Coe-
Vilamaa) to request an invitation to receive digital access to the
bidding documents.
Bidders will be required to file, with their bids, a certified
check made payable to Jay School Corporation or a Bid Bond
for an amount not less than five percent (5%) of their maximum
bid or bids. Should a successful bidder withdraw its bid, or fail to
execute a satisfactory Contract, Jay School Corporation may
then declare the bid deposit or bid bond to be forfeited as liq-
uidated damages.
Each successful bidder shall be required to furnish an ap-
proved Performance Bond and a Labor and Materials Payment
Bond which cover faithful performance of the contract and the
payment of all obligations arising thereunder. A Maintenance
Bond shall also be required. Said bonds shall remain in full
force and effect for twelve months from the substantial com-
pletion of the Work.
The contract will be awarded to the lowest responsive and re-
sponsible bidder complying with the conditions for bidding,
provided the bid is reasonable and it is to the best interest of
the Owner to accept it. The Owner reserves the right to reject
the bid of any or all bidder in accordance with Indiana Code 36-
1-12.
Bids not reaching said office by 2:00 p.m., on November 13, 2025
will not be opened and will be returned unopened to the origi-
nal bidder.
Dated this 15th day of October 2025.
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
JAY SCHOOL CORPORATION
CR/NT 10-15-2025-HSPAXLP

260 PUBLIC AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION

Located on Auburn Street, Dunkirk Indiana
on Tuesday Evening
OCTOBER 28, 2025
6:00 P.M.
REAL ESTATE
This parcel of land consists of 3.408 acres of bare
land located in Dunkirk Indiana. This property is
zoned residential. This property would make a nice
investment for further development or a nice
building site.
Terms of Sale are 20% down day of auction and
balance due at closing. Seller to provide Title
Insurance and Warranty Deed. Seller to pay the
November 2025 tax installment and Buyer to
assume taxes due and payable of May 2026
and thereafter. Any statements day of sale take
precedence over previously written or oral matter.
Seller confirmation day of sale.
For further information please contact Gary Loy,
Auctioneer at (260) 726-5160 or Kim Loy, Real
Estate Broker at (260) 726-2700.
RKM LLC
LOY AUCTION AC#31600027
GARY LOY AUCTIONEER
AU01031608
CR 10-15-2025

90 SALE CALENDAR

ANTIQUES - OLD &
COLLECTORS ITEMS-
MODERN HOUSEHOLD
GOODS
Oak dry sink; Oak pie
safe with screen doors;
railroad cart coffee table;
The Smithsonian Collec-
tion by Lexington Casual
wicker sofa, chair and
ottoman; Chief Paints
double sided sign;
Pennzoil double sided
sign;; Pan American
World Airways toy plane;
old ball gloves; Ansel
Toney kite, never flown;
Model T jack; Sterling
Silver necklaces and
rings; LARGE ASSORT-
MENT OF COSTUME
JEWELRY TO INCLUDE
RINGS, BRACELETS,
NECKLACES, AND
EARRINGS; ; Pete
Brewster cards and pic-
tures, autographed by
Pete; and other items
note listed.
TOOLS
UC Body Co tool cabi-
net; Shop Series 10i
table saw; Craftsman 4
drawer tool box; 2 pc.
metal tool chest; ; Snap
On wrenches; channel
locks; Craftsman router;
machinist cabinet;
machinists tools; metal
shelves; propane tanks;
and other items not list-
ed.
AUCTIONEERS NOTE:
Many of these items
have been stored in
totes so pictures will be
uploaded to Auction Zip
by 10/22. Please note
that we will be running 2
rings a portion of the
day.
EDITH DICKEY
&
JOHNSON FAMILY
Loy Auction
AC#31600027
Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer
AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112
Kaden Khayyata
AU12400069
PUBLIC AUCTION
LOCATION: 4372 W 500
N Portland IN 47371
SATURDAY OCTOBER
25, 2025
9:00 AM
PICKUP TRUCK-
TRAILERS- TRACTOR-
MINI EXCAVATOR
2004 Dodge Ram 3500
4wd, 4 Door, Dually,

90 SALE CALENDAR

Long Bed, 167,000
Miles: 2024 (24') Inter-
state Cargo Trailer:
Kubota KX71-3 Mini
Excavator 4000 Hrs.:
Club Car Electric Golf
Cart: King Kutter 6'Tiller:
Assorted Excavator
Buckets 12" Bucket, (2)
24" Buckets, 36" Bucket:
1972 custom Chevy
Pickup Truck No Title:.
Jeep 4x4 Suv.
CONSTRUCTION-
SHOP-MISC. ITEMS
(5) Sets of X Brace
Heavy Duty Scaffolding:
(3) Sets of 5' Scaffolding
with Walking Plank: (2)
40' FiberglassExt. Lad-
ders: 28' Alum. Ext. Lad-
der: Champion Blower
& Forge Co. Forge: N.C.
Anvil: Craftsman 2700
Psi Pressure Washer:
Makita Battery Operated
Wheel Barrow with
Dump Bed: Kolbalt Tile
Saw: Air Framing Guns:
Assorted Hand Tools.
HOUSEHOLD
Speed Queen Washer:
Amana Dryer: (2)
Wardrobes: Misc.
Household Items
OWNERS: LEVI &
ANGELA STAUFFER
HILL AUCTION
CHARLIE HILL
#AU10700054
PUBLIC AUCTION
SATURDAY OCTOBER
18th, 2025
TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 2782 S. 700
W.
Portland, IN
Please Access Location
from the West due to
Bridge out on 700 W.
TRACTORS-SKID
LOADER-DUMP TRUCK
Kubota M 135 GX Trac-
tor w/ LA 2254 Self Lev-
eling Loader, 200 Hours.
Ford 3415 Tractor w/
2346 QT Loader, 506
Hours. Kubota SVL 65-2
Track Skid Loader w/ 95
Hours. 1996 GMC Sin-
gle Axel Dump Truck,
350 Fl, 350 Engine,
PTO 62,000 Miles.
2013 Polaris Sportsman
500 HO ATV. Quick
Attach Stump Grinder.
Misc Harley Davidson
Parts including Tanks,
Frame, Fenders, Misc.
Power Mate and Tote-
Mig Welder. Buck and
Cross Cut Saws and
Other Primitive Tools.

260 PUBLIC AUCTION

STAUFFER AUCTION

LOCATION: 4372 W 500 N Portland IN 47371
SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 25, 2025
9:00 AM
PICKUP TRUCK, TRAILERS, TRACTOR, MINI
EXCAVATOR
2004 Dodge Ram 3500 4wd, 4 Door, Dually, Long
Bed, 167,000 Miles: 2024 (24') Interstate Cargo
Trailer: 2018 PJ Dump Trailer 8 x 14: John Deere
5200 with John Deere 540 Loader: Kubota KX71-3
Mini Excavator 4000 Hrs.: Hustler Super-Z Hyper-
Drive 60" Deck: Kawasaki Mule: Club Car Electric
Golf Cart: King Kutter 6'Tiller: Assorted Excavator
Buckets 12" Bucket, (2) 24" Buckets, 36" Bucket:
3 Pt. Mower: 17' Michi Craft Aluminum Canoe:
1972 custom Chevy Pickup Truck No Title:. Jeep
4x4 Suv.
CONSTRUCTION, SHOP, MISC. ITEMS
(5) Sets of X Brace Heavy Duty Scaffolding: (3)
Sets of 5' Scaffolding: (11) Pcs. Scaffolding with
Walking Plank: (2) 40' Fiberglass Ext. Ladders: 28'
Alum. Ext. Ladder: 1 O' alum. Step Ladder: 12'
Fiberglass Step Ladder: (2) 22' Alum. Ladders:
Sheet Metal Brake: LP Gas Forge: Canedy Otto
Forge: Champion Blower & Forge Co. Forge: N.C.
Anvil: Stihl MS362 Chain Saw: Stihl Weed Trimer:
Echo Pole Saw: Bull Float & Brooms: Craftsman
2700 Psi Pressure Washer: Simpson 3100 Psi
Pressure Washer: Torch
Set: Predator 301 cc Trash Pump: Makita Battery
Operated Wheel Barrow with Dump Bed:
Handyman Jack: Assorted Bottle Jacks: KolbaltTile
Saw: Porta Power: Pipe Thread Dies :Ratcheting
Thread Cutter; Assorted Air Nail & Staple Guns:
Roofing Nail Gun: Power Floor Nailer: Air Framing
Guns: Assorted Hand Tools:
HOUSEHOLD
Speed Queen Washer: Aman a Dryer: (2)
Wardrobes: Misc. Household Items:
TERMS: Cash or Good Check. Not responsible for
accidents. Any announcements made day of
auction take precedence over printed matter. Go to
Auctionzip 50347 for a complete list and pictures.
Charlie Hill 260-341-4978
OWNERS: LEVI & ANGELA
STAUFFER
CHARLIE HILL
HILL AUCTION IN #AU10700054
CR 10-15,21-2025 NG 10-15,21-2025

90 SALE CALENDAR

Shop, hand, and Power
Tools. GUNS-KNIVES
COINS-JEWELRY
Colt Mark IV 45 Cal Pis-
tol w/ Mag. Smith &
Wesson Model 28 357
Highway Patrolman 6
Shot Revolver. Glock
Model 23 40 Cal Pistol
w/ Mag. Henry 12
Gauge Side by Side w/
Rabbit Ears. Large Lot
of Ammo. Drum Maga-
zines. Case XX 75th
Anniversary 3 Knife Set.
1922, 1923, 1924, 1925,
1926, 1935, Peace Dol-
lars, Approximately 50.
1885, 1896, 1884, 1890
1921 Morgan Dollars, .
Signed Marilyn Monroe
Painting. 1965 Modern
Scenes Retro Paintings.
National Cash Register.
Large Collection of Col-
lectible Barbie Dolls. .
1939 10K Gold Pennville
Class Ring. 10K Gold
Bracelet. 14K Mens
Wedding Band.
OWNER: Name With-
held for Security Rea-
sons
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

130 MISC. FOR SALE

FALL MARKET
Menchhofer Farms
5679 Wabash Rd.,
Coldwater, OH
419-942-1502
Open Thursday-Sunday
1pm-7pm
**SCRATCH PADS ARE
BACK** various bundles
sizes and XL pads. \$1.25
plus tax. Pick up at The
Commercial Review
Tuesday thru Friday
10am to 4pm.
**PAPER END ROLLS
FOR SALE** Various sizes
and prices. Call The
Commercial Review at
260-726-8141 for more
information.
**190 FARMERS COL-
UMN**
AG RENTAL Spreaders:
BB1, Artsway Vertical.
New Holland 228 skid
loaders w/full cab,
heat/ac. Fort Recovery
419-852-0309
200 FOR RENT
LEASE SPACE avail-
able, Coldwater, OH.
Manufacturing, ware-
housing, assembly, distri-
bution, offices, inside and
outdoor storage. Easy
access to major high-
ways and railroad access
with loading docks and
overhead cranes avail-
able. Contact Sycamore
Group, 419-678-5318,
www.sycamorespace.co
m
230 AUTOS, TRUCKS
WE PAY CASH for junk
autos. We pick up at your
location. 1-765-546-2642
or 1-765-857-1071.
Slocum's Salvage

100 JOBS WANTED

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

110 HELP WANTED

**HIRING PART-TIME
INSERTER** Hours vary
each week. Apply at The
Graphic Printing Compa-
ny. The Commercial
Review 309 West Main
Street, Portland, IN 47371
Office Hours: 10 am - 4
pm, Tuesday - Friday or
email
business@thecr.com. NO
PHONE CALLS PLEASE.
Equal opportunity employ-
er.

260 PUBLIC AUCTION

THE
CLASSIFIEDS
Find it
Buy It
Sell It!
(260) 726-8141

LARRY MOSER ONLINE ONLY PERSONAL
PROPERTY ESTATE AUCTION

Melsmitleyauctions.com
Location: 7851 W. 400 N., Pennville, IN 47369
Bidding Opens: October 13, 2025
Ends: October 26, 2025
with a soft close at 6:00 PM
Preview dates: Oct. 22, 2025 – 4:00-7:00 PM, &
Oct. 25, 2025 – 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM or by appointment
TRUCK – TRACTOR – SKID LOADER – EQUIPMENT – TRAILERS
2022 Dodge Ram 2500 Laramie (4x4, Diesel; 10,3xx mi, 1 owner); 2015 Sure-
Trac Tilt Trailer; 2018 Force 6.5x12 Utility Trailer w/ramp; 2015 JD 5115M s/n
1LV5115MAFJ741366 w/ H310 Loader, 1 Owner, MFWD, Prem cab, 16 speed
w/Powrreverser, 601hrs, bale spear sold separately; JD 709 rotary cutter, 7';
2011 JD 318D Skid loader, s/n 1T0318DBEA0194401, hand controls, two speed,
power quick attach, 72" material bucket, 470hrs; skid steer bale spear; skid steer
pallet forks 48"; Woods GSM84 Grader; Yard Tool 25 Ton Log Splitter; Old
Tiller; (3) hay wagons, (1 w/hoist); LP Tank, 325 Gal; Fuel Tank, 500 gal
w/pump
FIREARMS – AMMO
J Stevens Shot 22 cal; Sears Roebuck/ Ted Williams Model 340 Lever Action 22
Cal; W Richards 12g Shotgun double hammer; White powder 12g Single shot;
Thompson Center Black Powder 50 cal. Muzzleloader; Ardesa 54 Cal.
Muzzleloader; Winchester Model 1890 22 cal (reconditioned); Winchester Model
06 Pump 22 (reconditioned); Winchester Model 67; Winchester 1894 Cowboy
Commemorative 30/30 lever action; Winchester Model 37 20g; LLP Bull's-eye
22 Single Shot; High Standard 22 Revolver Pistol; Colt Model Cowboy 45 Cal.
Revolver; Replica Arms Model 1861 Officer 36 cal. Revolver (black powder);
Ruger New Model Blackhawk 357 Magnum; Ruger Old Army Black Powder
45/44 Magnum Revolver; Ardesa Spain 50 Cal Black Powder Muzzleloading
Pistol; Various ammo
HOUSEHOLD – TOOLS – COLLECTIBLES
Toy farm equip.; Rocker; Dresser; Gun Cabinet; Collectibles; Primitives; Crocks;
Arrowheads; Stereoscope w/ cards; Pins/Award Geneva; Vint. Scout Patches;
Portland & Geneva Yearbooks; Belt buckles; Jewelry (few turquoise); Ant. Ice
Chest; Cast Iron Skillet; Dinner Bell; Whiskey Barrel; Lg. Trading Post Sign;
Older Baseball Cards; Lanterns; Adv. Cans; Deer Horns; (3) Lg portable barn
fans; Saddles (1-Oliver); Horse equip; Various Gates; JD sign; Halters/feed pans;
Various feeders; Water Tanks; Fishing equip; Canoes; Stihl Chainsaw; Stihl
Weedeater; Generac GP6500 Generator; Wrenches/Socket; Pressure washer;
Nails, Bolts, Screws, etc.; Ladders; Bandsaw; Table saw; Yard tools, Old Comics,
and much more not listed!
Owner: Larry Moser, Deceased
(Jennifer Gray, Representative)
See website for terms, conditions, catalog and bidding instructions.
Melsmitleyauctions.com
Auctionzip #11389
Mel Smitley's Real Estate & Auctioneering
119 E Main Street
Portland, IN 47371
Laci SmitleyAU10600051 Ryan DavidsonAU10600063
260-729-2281 260-726-5076
CR 10-15-2025

All-GPC team

Graphic Printing Company Co-Players of the Year

Tyce Dishman and Aaron Elliott Delta High School junior and senior

Tyce Dishman and Aaron Elliott were selected as this year’s Graphic Printing Company Co-Players of the Year for boys tennis.

“It’s pretty unexpected,” said Elliott. “It’s awesome. We’ve worked really hard. We’ve played together for three years and worked hard for moments like this.

“We’ve worked hard with each other throughout the summer, throughout the season for the last three years,” said Dishman, “just non-stop playing with each other. It feels good to be awarded with something like that.

Delta’s No. 1 doubles duo stands at 17-2 on the year, helped lead the 13th-ranked Eagles to sectional and regional championships and will play in the doubles state tournament beginning Friday, Oct. 24, at Park Tudor. Since taking a couple of losses to Guerin Catholic and Columbus North in their season-opener at the Jeffersonville Invitational, Elliott and Dishman have won 17 consecutive matches.

Their streak included sweeps of Burris and Yorktown in the sectional, a 6-4, 7-6 (8-6) triumph over Payton Paramoure and Leyton Steil of No. 11 Westfield in the regional semifinal and a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Will Miller and Gabriel Pasalich of second-ranked Homestead in the semi-state.

“They deserve it,” said DHS coach Tim Cleland. “These kids have worked super, super hard year round to get the way they’re at ...

“With Aaron, his growth in confidence and just belief in big moments has grown this year. They’ve pulled out so many close matches against very good teams ...

“Ty is in a kid who’s been a part of our program basically since he was a fetus, because he’s had four older brothers and sisters that were all-state players for us ... It’s a lot of pressure on the youngster when everybody’s sitting around with dinner table has an all-state certificate.”



All-Graphic Printing Company first team	
Luke Atkinson Delta sophomore	Atkinson put together one of the best records by win percentage of any singles player while manning the No. 3 position for the Eagles. He ended up with a 19-4 record.
Jackson Darby Delta freshman	As a freshman, Darby played No. 1 singles for Delta, racking up a 17-9 record and pulled off key wins in the regional to get DHS its 26th semi-state appearance.
Charlie Vannatter Delta freshman	Vannatter had the most wins of any tennis player in the area with a 20-7 record. All but one of those wins came at the No. 2 position for the Eagles.
Ben Miller, Brandon Grubbs and Brady Williams Delta	Miller was a constant on Delta's No. 2 doubles squad, teaming with Williams and Grubbs at different points during the season. The duo of Miller and Grubbs racked up an 11-0 record while the combo of Miller and Williams finished 8-2.

Honorable mention	
Noah Allen, Senior, Randolph Southern	
Paul Dirksen, Freshman, Jay County	
Hunter Huffman, Sophomore, Blackford	
Grady Coyle and Diego Soria, Juniors, Randolph Southern	
Gabe Overton and Brock Wasson, Juniors, Jay County	

OCTOBER

Specials

The CR

Run a 2x2 ad in every edition of The Commercial Review in October

\$350

Run a 4x4 ad once a week in The Commercial Review in October

\$300

Run a 2x2 ad once a week in The Commercial Review in October

\$130

Promotion begins Oct. 1 (or at time of purchase thereafter) and concludes Oct. 31

Rate does not apply to special sections

GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

Contact Lindsey at L.Cochran@thecr.com or (260) 726-8141

Titans fire Callahan after 1-5 start to 2025

By **CHUCK SCHILKEN**
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

LOS ANGELES — Brian Callahan has the dubious distinction of being the first NFL coach to be fired this season.

The Tennessee Titans announced Monday they were parting ways with their second-year coach after starting the season at 1-5 with rookie quarterback Cam Ward, the top overall pick in April’s draft, under center. Callahan was 4-19 overall.

“While we are committed to a patient and strategic plan to build a sustainable, winning football program, we have not demonstrated sufficient growth,” Chad Brinker, Titans president of football operations, said in a statement. “Our players, fans, and community deserve a football team that achieves a standard we are not currently meeting, and we are committed to making the hard decisions necessary to reach and maintain that standard.”

Callahan, the son of former Oakland Raiders and Nebraska head coach Bill Callahan served in the same role at UCLA from 2002 to 2005. The former walk-on earned a scholarship his senior year, when he became the Bruins’ holder on field goal and extra-point attempts.

Callahan entered the coaching ranks upon graduation, winning a Super Bowl as a Denver Broncos assistant

Coach had 4-19 record in tenure leading Tennessee

coach in 2015. He went on to become quarterbacks coach for the Detroit Lions and Oakland Raiders, then offensive coordinator for the Cincinnati Bengals in 2019.

A hot commodity for teams in search of a head coach in 2024, Callahan was among at least nine candidates interviewed by the Chargers (that job ultimately went to former Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh) and one of 10 candidates for the Titans job.

Callahan replaced former coach Mike Vrabel, who had been fired after six seasons with the Titans. This weekend, Vrabel will lead the 4-2 New England Patriots into Nashville to play his former team. It remains to be seen who will be on the Titans sideline as interim head coach.

They’re in Good Hands Here

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Mon - Fri: 8-5 p.m.

call for appt on Saturday

Portland Veterinary Clinic

1407 Votaw St. • Portland • 260-726-7370

http://www.portlandvet.net • Christian Bader DVM

On tap	
Local schedule	
Today	Fort Recovery — Volleyball district quarterfinal vs. Riverside at Newton – 5 p.m.
Thursday	Fort Recovery — Middle school football vs. Anna – 5 p.m.
TV schedule	
Today	7 p.m. — College football: Delaware at Jacksonville State (ESPN)
7 p.m.	— College volleyball: Rutgers at Maryland (BTN)
7 p.m.	— NHL: Florida Panthers at Detroit Red Wings (TNT)
8:08 p.m.	— MLB Playoffs: Toronto Blue Jays at Seattle Mariners (FS1)
9:30 p.m.	— NHL: Chicago Blackhawks at St. Louis Blues (TNT)
10:30 p.m.	— NBA Preseason: Dallas Mavericks at Los Angeles Lakers (ESPN)
Thursday	6:08 p.m. — MLB Playoffs: Los Angeles Dodgers at Milwaukee Brewers (TBS)
7 p.m.	— College volleyball: Purdue at Indiana (BTN)
7:30 p.m.	— College football: Tulsa at East Carolina (ESPN)
7:30 p.m.	— NBA Preseason: Houston Rockets at Atlanta Hawks (ESPN2)
8:33 p.m.	— MLB Playoffs: Toronto Blue Jays at Seattle Mariners (FS1)