

Going gray



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Youth Service Bureau’s residential facility is getting a new look as gray siding is being installed on what staff as long referred to as “the big white house at the corner of the next block.” The project, which comes in at just under \$100,000 funded through Employee Retention Tax Credits, also included replacing the deck and updating some windows.

YSB’s facility is getting a facelift

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Those who drive past the corner of Pleasant and Arch streets in Portland will see a transformation happening. The big white house on the northwest corner is gradually becoming gray. The installation of new siding is part of an ongoing project to make upgrades at Youth Service Bureau’s residential facility. PJ Corwin, executive director of Youth Service Bureau, explained that the project was made possible when funding became available. It is being funded through Employee

Retention Tax Credits, for which the organization was eligible because of losses it suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic. “We were pleasantly surprised that we qualified for some of that funding,” said Corwin. In addition to the siding that is changing the exterior look of the building, the project also includes replacement of the deck and the installation of some new windows. Those portions of the project stemmed from safety issues and energy efficiency, respectively. “The deck was in a situation

where nails were starting to come up,” Corwin said. “It was time to replace it for safety issues.” Windows were removed, consolidated and replaced, “which I think makes it look more like a typical house now,” Corwin added. The siding replacement project also includes replacing the soffit and gutters. While the work was not mandated, Corwin noted that Indiana Department of Child Services representatives were starting to notice siding coming off the building during their regular site visits.

The total project comes in at just under \$100,000. Limberlost Construction of Geneva is handling the work. Youth Service Bureau provides residential and emergency care via the residential facility, serving those ages 10 through 19. It is licensed for 12 beds — males on the first floor and females on the second — though it is limited to eight at current staffing levels. It can accept placements from anywhere in Indiana, typically through referrals from the Department of Child Services or probation departments. See **Gray** page 2

Judge halts federal job cuts

By KEVIN RECTOR
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service
SAN FRANCISCO — A federal judge blocked the Trump administration Wednesday from firing thousands of government workers based on the ongoing federal shutdown, granting a request from employee unions in California. U.S. District Judge Susan Illston issued the temporary restraining order after concluding that the unions “will demonstrate ultimately that what’s being done here is both illegal and is in excess of authority and is arbitrary and capricious.” Illston slammed the Trump administration for failing to provide her with clear information about what cuts are actually occurring, for repeatedly changing its description and estimates of job cuts in filings before the court, and for failing to articulate an argument for why such cuts are not in violation of federal law.

“The evidence suggests that the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, and the Office of Personnel Management, OPM, have taken advantage of the lapse in government spending and government functioning to assume that all bets are off, that the laws don’t apply to them anymore,” Illston said — which she said was not the case. She said the government justified providing inaccurate figures for the number of jobs being eliminated under its “reduction in force” orders by calling it a “fluid situation” — which she did not find convincing. “What it is is a situation where things are being done before they are being thought through. It’s very much ready, fire, aim on most of these programs,” she said. “And it has a human cost, which is really why we’re here today. It’s a human cost that cannot be tolerated.”

Indiana revises school accountability structure

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana education officials on Wednesday unveiled major updates to the state’s proposed school accountability system — including new reading and “back on track” indicators — as they work to finalize rules that will replace the state’s former A-F grading model by the end of the year. The presentation to the State Board of Education marked the second draft of the overhaul first released in June. Under a state law passed earlier this year, the Indiana Department of Education must deliver a final plan by Dec. 31 that aligns school ratings with the state’s “Graduates Prepared to Succeed,” or Indiana GPS, framework. “This is critically important public policy for education in Indiana,” said Ron Sandlin, IDOE’s chief innovation officer. “What

Formula will include new reading, diploma measures

we’ve built is a model that values both academic mastery and the knowledge, skills and experiences that make up a student’s full story — not just a test score.” The latest proposal keeps the state’s A-F letter grade scale but revises how those grades are calculated. Schools would earn points based on each student’s academic achievement and additional indicators such as attendance, literacy progress, work-based learning and credential attainment. Sandlin said the revision “creates more consistency” in how points are awarded and simplifies the system

so that “the average Hoosier can look at it and feel comfortable.” A central change to the proposal is what Sandlin and Indiana Secretary of Education Katie Jenner described as an “n of one” model in which school quality is evaluated based on the outcomes of each individual student rather than aggregated percentages. “Every single student matters,” Sandlin told the board. “Their success as an individual should inform school success — not the averages of large groups where individual stories get lost.” See **Revises** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Project complete

Tim Gillum from Brumbaugh Construction of Arcanum, Ohio, removes a road closed sign from the east side of the Seventh Street bridge over the Salamonie River in Portland on Wednesday afternoon. A project to rehabilitate the bridge and add a sidewalk on the north side is complete.

Deaths

Virginia Ann Clott, 84, Costa Saracena, Sicily
Details on page 2.

Weather

The high temperature was 64 degrees Wednesday in Jay County. The low was 53. Tonight’s low will be in the mid 50s. Expect mostly sunny skies early Saturday, with clouds moving in later. There is a 50% chance of rain with highs climbing into the lower 80s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

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

Coming up

Saturday — Details from Thursday’s Jay County Election Board meeting.

Tuesday — Results from volleyball and cross country sectionals.

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



Gray ...

Continued from page 1

The organization also offers home-based programming in Jay and surrounding counties and other programs such as Healthy Families, Keeping At-Risk Students in Schools and Children in the Middle.

The residential facility was originally constructed in 1899 as a home for the Starbuck-Haynes family. It later became a nursing home for a short period of time. Youth Service Bureau acquired the property in the late 1970s and it has served as the organization's residential facility ever since.

Looking ahead to future projects, Corwin said the roof will need to be replaced. He added that he'd like to expand parking — it is currently

House was constructed for Starbuck-Haynes family in 1899

limited to the north side along the alley — to wrap around to the east side of the building along Pleasant Street.

“Parking has been a problem down there,” he said. “It has been for a long time.”

Those changes are topics of conversation for future years.

Currently, the talk around Youth

Service Bureau is about getting used to the changes that are underway.

“The big joke around here right now is we used to always refer to it as the big, white house at the corner of the next block down,” said Corwin. “So now it'll be the big gray house at the corner of the next block down.”

Felony arrests

Methamphetamine

A Portland man was arrested Tuesday for possession of methamphetamine.

Alan W. Shawver, 42, 1003 W. North St., is charged in

Jay Superior Court with a Level 6 felony for the possession of methamphetamine.

He was released from Jay County Jail on a \$5,000 bond.

Revises ...

Continued from page 1

Jenner said Indiana is “forging ahead” by measuring both academic mastery and real-world skills.

“Please call us on it,” she added. “Academic mastery, assessment and accountability matter in Indiana —

regardless of what the federal government does or does not do — but there are other things that matter as well.”

This story was edited for length. For the full version, visit indianacapitalchronicle.com.

CR almanac

Saturday 10/18	Sunday 10/19	Monday 10/20	Tuesday 10/21	Wednesday 10/22
				
81/56	59/39	67/49	61/39	57/38
There's a slight chance of rain Saturday. Otherwise, mostly cloudy with 15 to 25 mph winds.	Sunday has an 85% chance of rain with a low around 39 degrees.	Skies will be sunny on Monday with a high around 67 degrees.	There's a 60% chance of showers on Tuesday when the low may hit the upper 30s.	Mostly sunny skies on Wednesday when the low may dip to 38 degrees.

Lotteries

Powerball 10-13-28-34-47 Power Ball: 15 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$295 million	Daily Four: 4-2-8-5 Quick Draw: 4-5-8-9-11-12-16-27-29-33-34-42-55-58-60-61-63-66-69-70 Cash 5: 3-11-24-30-32 Estimated jackpot: \$115,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$625 million	Ohio Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 7-3-8 Pick 4: 5-8-5-1 Pick 5: 7-0-1-2-9 Evening Pick 3: 4-4-0 Pick 4: 6-0-6-3 Pick 5: 4-7-6-3-9 Rolling Cash: 8-26-30-31-36 Estimated jackpot: \$130,000
Hoosier Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 9-9-9 Daily Four: 0-8-1-6 Quick Draw: 3-4-10-13-14-18-21-24-28-29-31-32-37-40-54-57-58-60-67-74 Evening Daily Three: 4-9-9	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.07 Nov. corn.....4.02	Wheat 4.54
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.12 Nov. corn.....4.12 Dec. corn.....4.27	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.95 Nov. corn.....4.00 Beans.....9.77 Nov. beans.....9.82 Wheat4.89
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....4.02 Nov. corn.....4.02 Beans.....9.77 Nov. beans.....9.87	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.02 Nov. corn.....4.02 Beans.....9.47 Dec. beans.....9.69 Wheat4.34

Today in history

In 2013, Barry Hudson was voted chair of the Portland Historic Preservation Commission. He took over for Emily Roberts, who had resigned from the post. In 2018, recreational marijuana was legalized in Canada.

In 2019, the Fort Recovery High School volleyball team rolled to the sectional championship as it recorded 20 aces in a three-set sweep of Columbus Grove. Kierra Wendel led the Indians with 10 aces.

In 2020, Sophia Fugiett and Lydia Keihn of Jay County High School advanced to the semistate thanks to their efforts in the regional cross country meet at Muncie Sportsplex. Keihn a sophomore, finished in 15th place while Fugiett, a senior, was 26th.

In 2022, Jay School Corporation superintendent Jeremy Gulley presented Jay School Board with a tentative collective bargaining agreement with Jay Classroom Teachers Association. The agreement sought to sort out oddities with the wage scale that saw teachers in the middle of their careers not keeping up with competitive salaries.

—The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Monday 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.	Tuesday 9:30 a.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. 10 a.m. — Portland Historic Preservation Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St.
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Local/Indiana

Obituaries

Virginia Clott

Aug. 1, 1941-Sept. 26, 2025

My mom, Virginia Ann Clott, age 84, born on Aug. 1, 1941, to Kenneth H Barger and Ruth E (Bailey) Barger, passed away on Sept. 26, 2025, in my arms, her only child.

My wife and I are thankful that she was with us in her final moments. She had spent the last eight years in our home.

Mom was a graduate of Fort Recovery High School in 1959 and lived in Fort Recovery most of her life, right across the street from the Fort Recovery Monument. She worked at the Jay Garment in Portland in her younger years, and for 29 years she worked at the courthouse in Celina, Ohio, as a recorder of deeds and marriages and at the end of her career as deputy recorder under Pat Grote and Tammy Barger.

She is survived by her ex-husband Donald Clott of Portland; son Greg; her daughter-in-law Irina of Sigonella Navy Base, Sigonella, Sicily; three grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Mom's brothers, Harold and Keith, passed before her, Harold in 2013 and Keith in 1983.

Mom very much enjoyed her tea times with Janet McCain while living in Fort Recovery, and visits from Bobby Betz, John Betz and his dog Tripper.

I want to thank Jerry and Tammy Barger for being her guardians all



Clott

those years and for Celina Manor for providing her with outstanding rehabilitation after her strokes. When she arrived at Celina Manor, she was unable to talk clearly, walk by herself, feed herself, go to the bathroom or bathe herself. After her rehabilitation, she was able to do all of those things. Chalk one up for neuroplasticity and the efforts of the professional staff at Celina Manor! Mom loved playing bingo there, picking on the nurses and getting her hair done. Jerry and Tammy picked a great place for her to rehabilitate and to live.

In 2017, mom came to live with my wife Irina and I in Crestview, Florida. Her favorite things to do during that time were to make and drink coffee and to read romance novels by Nora Roberts and Sandra Brown. We took her to get her hair and nails done, go to the Crestview library to collect her (15) books every two weeks and have a meal at Johnny O'quiglies, Cracker Barrel or Waffle House. She loved the waffles. Since June 2023, she lived on the shore of Costa Saracena, Sicily, as I took a job with the United States Navy at Region Headquarters Sigonella Sicily.

A final thanks needs to go to my wife Irina for taking such good care of her all the years she lived with us. She always made the right choices for her in her diet and care and cooked her delicious home cooked meals and soups that she loved. Mom also loved my falling-off-the-bone BBQ ribs and chili soup. Mom always complimented me on my apple dumplings that my

grandmother Mildred Clott had taught me how to make.

In Sicily, mom continued to read books, cruise Facebook on her Kindle to keep up with the goings on with her family and friends, smoke out on the balcony overlooking the sea and Mount Etna (Mount Etna smoked with her as an active volcano), drink her coffee and feed the dogs under the table (grumble). And we took her to get her hair and nails done to keep her the beautiful lady she was. She is in God's hands now and hopefully visiting with family who have moved on before her.

Guests may visit with her family on Monday, Oct. 20, 2025, at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, Fort Recovery, from 5 to 7 p.m. A celebration of Virginia's life will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday at the funeral home with Pastor Ron McCallum officiating.

A graveside service, during which her cremains will be interred with her parents, will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2025, at Spring Hill Cemetery, Fort Recovery.

Condolences may be shared with her family by visiting brockman-boeckmanfh.com.

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.

Capsule Reports

Combine fire

A combine was destroyed in a fire Tuesday in rural Redkey.

Redkey Fire Department responded to a call about 5:13 p.m. for a combine on fire along county road 900 South just west of 1100 West. Three firetrucks arrived on scene to fight the flames, putting out the fire in about 30 minutes. The combine is owned by Retter Farms.

Parking accident

A Portland woman's leg was injured after a car pulled next to her while she was exiting the vehicle along Park Street about 1:55 p.m. Monday.

Geraldine Irwin-Elliott, 75, Pennville, was driving her 2008 Ford F-150 and turning into what she believed was a parking space at 200 N. Park St., Portland. Markings didn't allow for parking in the area, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office

report. Her vehicle hit a parked 2010 Mercury Milan. Katherine Robert, 80, was attempting to get out of the vehicle at the time of the crash and caught her lower leg in the door.

Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

Mirror hit

A Bluffton man's semi truck hit the sideview mirror on a Portland woman's car along U.S. 27 in Jay County about 5:40 p.m. Wednesday.

Ashley N. Byer, 23, Port-

land, was driving her 2017 Ford Fusion north on the highway and turning into the driveway at 5510 N. U.S. 27, Bryant. At the same time, Samuel R. Schaefer, 73, was driving his 2019 Kenworth and passed them on east side. The truck hit Byer's mirror on the passenger side and broke it.

Schaefer didn't realize he struck Byer's vehicle, and police tracked him down by a picture of the semi's license plate. Damage is estimated between \$1,000 and \$2,500.



Registration is OPEN!

Handbell Ensemble: \$30
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5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

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Mondays, October 27th through December 15th
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SERVICES

Today

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.

Saturday

Coy, Frederick: 2 p.m., Hudson Family Park, Portland.

Monday

Shauver, Allan: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.
Clott, Virginia: 7 p.m., Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, 308 S. Wayne St., Fort Recovery.

Service listings provided by

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Photos provided

New Rotary members

Portland Rotary Club recently inducted four new members. Pictured above at left are new member Amanda Blair, sponsor Bonnie Maitlen, new member PJ Corwin and sponsor Trent Paxson. At right are sponsor Tracy Carpenter and new member Isaac Gorrell.



Longtime friend feels ignored

DEAR ABBY: My friend of 50 years passed away a few months ago. I sent a fruit basket to her family and tried calling, but I was unable to get through. I couldn't reach them via email or text either. I also sent a sympathy card. I heard nothing back from her husband or the daughter I am closest to. She's my godchild, and I was always involved in her life.

Nobody contacted me to tell me where they were going to have her wake. Luckily, I found out, so I did attend. Her family had tables set up with photos, including one with photos from her teenage years. A few pictures of her and another one of her friends from that period were on the table, but none included me. We did remain friends throughout

Dear Abby



the years, seeing each other occasionally, especially when our children were young and more often during her illness. Her illness lasted a year before she died, so I couldn't understand why I was being ignored. I feel very hurt, and I'm wondering whether I have a right to feel that way and how I can overcome my feelings. — LEFT OUT IN THE EAST

DEAR LEFT OUT: As you have described it, you were the woman's longtime friend when you all were younger and came back into her life to a greater extent during her final year.

Is it possible that because of the hiatus, her husband and daughter didn't realize how close you were? It is the only logical explanation I can come up with for why you appear to have been written out of the picture.

Of course you have a right to your feelings, but please take comfort in what you know to be true about your friendship because her family appears to be too wrapped up in their own feelings to consider yours.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

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

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Meets at noon Friday, Oct. 17, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

Saturday

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

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

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

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE – BRI-ANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will

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

Monday

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

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

JAY RETIRED TEACHERS — Will meet at noon Monday, Oct. 20, at Richards Restaurant in Portland. All retired school employees are invited to attend. You need not have worked in Jay County to be a member of the group. Attendees can reconnect with former colleagues, listen to entertainment and hear about what's happening in the state.

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland.

New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

THE LIFE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy, as well as help with the needs of the family. The center is located at 1209 S. Shank St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

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

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Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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



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Indiana adds jobs but falls behind

By MORTON J. MARCUS

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) collects detailed employment data.

From these data, we'll compare how the 50 states and the District of Columbia are doing in job growth, which many people see as the objective of economic development. For others, however, the key data are wages. We'll look at both here.

In March 2015, Indiana ranked 15th among the states with 2.9 million jobs counted by BLS. Ten years later, we had added 267,000 jobs for a total of 3.2 million, but fell to 17th in the nation.

Indiana's growth rate was 9.2% for that decade, 26th fastest, but

Morton J. Marcus



far less than the national leader, Utah, which posted a 30.5% growth rate. The job growth rate for the entire United States was 12.5%.

In terms of average weekly wages for those jobs, Indiana did better: Our average weekly wage in 2015 was \$857 (35th in rank), but it advanced \$1,323 (30th). This growth of \$466 per week was 26th

best in the nation and a 54.4% increase, the 19th highest among all the states and D.C. (These data are not adjusted for inflation, which was 35.4%, March 2015 to March 2025.)

At the county level, Marion County not only had the largest number of jobs (over 622,000 in 2025), but had the greatest increase in the number of jobs over the decade (47,000). Boone County saw the greatest job growth rate at 40.2%.

Of our 92 counties, 60 saw an increase in the number of jobs. Of the 32 job-losing counties, Howard, Noble, Vigo and Kosciusko, each lost 1,000 or more jobs. What percent or number of job losses should arouse concern?

In terms of wages, Indiana had 82 counties with wage growth in excess of inflation's 35.4% increase. Franklin and LaGrange were in a virtual tie for first place in the rate of wage growth.

To enjoy high wages and still climb higher is a significant achievement. Marion and Bartholomew counties fit this description. Marion moved from second place to first in the state for average weekly wages at \$1,779 or 34% higher than the state's \$1,323 level.

Bartholomew displaced Martin County in 2025 to claim second place, 32% above the state average after a 64% growth rate. Martin County (Crane) was still

high at 30% above the state, but had a sub-par growth rate of 30% (89th in the state).

Lake County was among the hardest hit counties in the state as its average weekly wage moved from \$890 (10th place) to \$1,048 (38th place). This was the result of a weak 18% growth rate for the decade, Indiana's lowest.

Again, we wonder how the state responds to these facts as many suggest the state should not respond. They say let the market determine how the rewards in life are distributed.

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

Pay for visas is a distraction

Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

With America's global leadership in scientific innovation facing unprecedented competition, getting high-skilled immigration right should be a top priority in Washington. The first task for the White House is to get out of its own way.

The administration sparked fear and confusion last month by announcing that it would impose a \$100,000 fee on H-1B visas — temporary work permits designed for college-educated foreigners.

There's an element of bluster to the new policy: It only applies to new applicants outside the country, allows for certain exemptions and, in any case, expires in a year. Nevertheless, it threatens to discourage companies from investing in the U.S., lest they're blindsided by other haphazard and costly changes that impact their workforce. Health care, education and religious organizations are challenging the fees in court.

The White House says it's aiming to stamp out "large-scale abuse" of the H-1B program. The problem is real. For the past two decades, the government has issued these highly coveted visas using a lottery system. Taking advantage of weak oversight of wage rules, IT and consulting companies have flooded the pool with lower-paid applicants — submitting multiple petitions for a single worker, at times for jobs that don't exist. Fortune 500 companies then hire these firms to provide low-cost staff for back-office work, some of whom later transfer that business overseas.

At the same time, these companies are crowding out more deserving applicants. Because visas are capped at 85,000 annually, with some exemptions, thousands of talented workers get turned away every year simply for lack of better luck. Employers say the shortage of skilled labor is slowing advancements in critical fields including artificial intelligence, robotics and biotechnology.

The answer, however, isn't to make the H-1B program — to borrow a phrase from Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick — so "uneconomical" that it's abandoned altogether. The White House would be wiser to scrap the new fee entirely, as the Chamber of Commerce and others have argued.

The goal of any reform should instead be to reward

Guest Opinion

For decades, corporate America's openness to foreign talent has given the U.S. a natural advantage over other countries.

the highest earners, ensuring American companies can hire the world's top talent and U.S. workers benefit from rising wages. A more recent proposal from the administration moves in this direction. Days after the fee announcement, the Department of Homeland Security proposed a rule that would end the current lottery system and instead hand out visas by wage level.

Even this system could remain susceptible to cheating — for example, if employers assign high salaries to low-paid roles. But the bigger issue is that the rule is sure to be challenged in court. The job of allocating visas — whether by wages or any number of other factors, including age and education — should be left to Congress. If potential gaming can be addressed, the program should also be expanded judiciously.

Sensible visa reform could hardly be more urgent. For decades, corporate America's openness to foreign talent has given the U.S. a natural advantage over other countries. That gap is rapidly narrowing.

China, which just introduced a new visa for foreign professionals specializing in science and technology, has made stunning advancements in artificial intelligence and pharmaceutical innovation. European countries are offering new incentives to attract top researchers and scientists. The last thing the U.S. should be doing is making it harder for prized recruits to find their way to its shores.



When leaders fail, Hoosiers pay

By BRIAN DAGGY AND JIM LOVE

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Hoosiers deserve more than platitudes, conflicts of interest and unbid contracts. We deserve leaders who answer to the people, not to a select circle of insiders with the right connections. Unfortunately, the unfolding scandal at the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) proves yet again that when politics, money, and power collide, it is everyday Hoosiers who are left footing the bill.

The recent revelations about "The Three Kings" — former IEDC executive Dave Roberts, Purdue Research Foundation President Chad Pittman, and former advisor to Gov. Mitch Daniels, Paul Mitchell — should concern every taxpayer in Indiana. Over six years, entities tied to these men collected more than \$180 million in taxpayer-funded grants and no-bid contracts. These weren't isolated missteps. They were patterns of behavior, aided and abetted by a quasi-public state agency that operated in secrecy and with little accountability.

Let us be clear: while Gov. Mike Braun's audit may have reportedly found "no criminal activity," that is hardly a stamp of integrity. Ethical impropriety does not need to rise to the level of criminality in order to erode public trust. Rules were clearly bent, disclosures were kept behind closed doors, and oversight was bypassed. Ordinary citizens know that if you break the rules, there are consequences. Yet when politicians or their allies do it, the refrain is always the same: "Mistakes were made, but let's move on."

We reject that. What message does it send if those responsible are allowed to continue cashing in on state con-

Guest Opinion

tracts? Is the message that corruption is acceptable as long as you wear a suit and call it economic development? A factory worker who cuts corners would be fired. A farmer who failed to meet reporting requirements would lose subsidies. But insiders with access to millions in public funds are excused with a shrug. That double standard is corrosive to democracy. These findings need to be referred to the Inspector General and an investigation launched.

Braun has dubbed himself as a reformer, but his actions suggest otherwise. His administration's first instinct was to control the narrative by hiring an out-of-state firm for nearly a million dollars to conduct a tightly managed audit, then withholding findings until after a legal review. That is not transparency; that is damage control. And when it came time to answer questions from the press, the governor literally walked away. Hoosiers see through this.

The Boone County Preservation Group cares about this issue because the IEDC was less than transparent on plans for the LEAP district in our community. The recently-released audit shows that during the review period, one-third of overall IEDC expenses went to the LEAP Project — about \$495 million. Of that, \$77 million went to Pure Development, which kept about \$18 million for its work and paid the remainder to subcontractors. The Pure contract was awarded to them with no competition.

We believe the solution is not

another round of half-measures or insider promises of "better controls." The solution is independent oversight, free from political ties. We need further investigation from the Inspector General and an executive order banning the individuals who violated ethical norms from participating in future contracts, grants, or state business. Otherwise, bad behavior is not punished: it is rewarded.

We also believe it is time for the governor to stop pretending that this scandal is someone else's mess. The LEAP District, the IEDC's crown jewel, continues to swallow up farmland, deplete water resources, and saddle Hoosiers with billions in hidden costs. These deals weren't coincidences; they happened because Indiana's leaders, both past and present, placed secrecy and speed over accountability and stewardship.

Braun cannot phone in reform. He cannot duck out of press conferences. He cannot promise transparency with one hand while delaying reporting with the other. If he truly serves the people of Indiana, he must stand up to the very insiders who built their empire on the backs of Hoosier taxpayers.

Until that happens, we will continue to speak out. Because preserving Indiana's farmland, our water, and our communities requires more than ribbon cuttings and glowing press releases; it requires honest leadership. And right now, that's what's missing at the Statehouse.

Daggy and Love are members of the Boone County Preservation Group.

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We welcome letters to the editor, which are accepted by email only to letters@thecr.com. They should be 700 words or fewer, signed, with city/town of residence and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit for content and clarity.

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TONIA HARDY
Business manager

LOUISE RONALD
Board chair

BRIAN DODD
Production manager

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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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Project explores plants as sentinels for chemical activity

If successful, the current



STR specializes in sensors, signal processing, modeling, simulation, analytics, artificial intelligence, machine learning and cyber issues. The company brings the needed data analytics capability to the project, and enlisted Purdue as a partner to pro-

Along with Young and

Major components of the project involve Jin's Leaf-Spec technology and Purdue's Ag Alumni Seed Phenotyping Facility. Jin is the president and CEO of Leaf-Spec LLC, which holds an exclusive license from the Purdue Research Foundation Office of Technology Commercialization to market the company's handheld leaf-imaging technologies. Jin, who helped set up the phenotyping facility, will link imaging results to the plants' chemical responses.

Widhalm will oversee the biochemical data collection and analysis needed to explain any chemically triggered observable features in the plants. This

If the STR-Purdue eX-Virentia project proves successful, McFarland said, "it has potential for other applications across biology, but particularly for plants."

Another distinct characteris-

"In some studies, these armadillos have been known to use multiple burrows, sometimes over 30 in a single year," MacGowan said. "If they run into

Armadillo sightings are also

only helps the DNR track these shifts, but also deepens our understanding of a continually evolving ecosystem. After all, you never know what remarkable creature might be unexpectedly making its home in Indiana.



Thanksgiving Specials

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Contact Lindsey at
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(260) 726-8141

These rates are **ONLY** for our November 26th Thanksgiving edition.



SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly

10-17

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

10-17

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Test your defensive play

You are West, defending against Four Hearts, South having bid one heart, North two hearts and South four hearts. When you lead the eight of diamonds, your partner wins with the ace, South playing the six, and returns the four. South plays the king, which you ruff. What would you do now?

NORTH
♦ Q 5
♥ K J 8
♦ 9 5 3 2
♠ Q J 7 3

WEST
♦ 10 9 7 3
♥ 9 4 2
♦ 8
♣ K 10 9 6 2

If you have faith in partner, you should return a low club. You should assume that East read your diamond lead as a singleton and expected you to ruff the diamond return at trick two.

In these circumstances, East's lead of the four — his lowest diamond — has a special meaning. It is a suit-preference signal telling you to return a club rather than a spade at trick three. Had partner wanted a spade return, he would have led a high diamond instead. (If partner had no preference, he would return a medium-sized diamond.)

Declarer's hand probably looks something like: ♠AK84 ♥AQ1053 ♦KQ6 ♣8, in which case South goes down one if you return a club, but makes the contract if you return a spade.

It is true that leading a club away from the king at trick three, with dummy holding Q-J-7-3, looks very unappetizing. But, assuming that East is familiar with standard suit preference signals and does not play his cards idly, it is clearly the right play.

If it turns out that partner has the spade ace and not the club ace — or neither ace — and declarer makes the contract as a result of your club return, you can show your partner this column to teach him the error of his ways.

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

60 SERVICES

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90 SALE CALENDAR

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS AUCTION
Evening Optimists of Portland, Saturday, November 1st, 10:00am-?. Smitley's Auction House, 119 E Main, Portland. Door prizes every hour. Items in Auction: Miscellaneous, personal, household items, gift certificates and food items. All new! Proceeds to fund Optimist projects and Christmas families. Sandwiches, pies, drinks to purchase. Lacey Smitley will be the auctioneer. AU10600051

Peanuts

10-17

Rose is Rose

10-17

Agnes

10-17

Hi and Lois

10-17

Between Friends

10-17-25

Blondie

10-17

Snuffy Smith

10-17

Beetle Bailey

10-17

CRYPTOQUIP

WOSXDFHX KM QPQSCU EWQ
SUMPYH SD KWVC KC QSDR
PUDYPYH, P VC RS HDPYH

EPSXDFS KPQQPYH W ROCWS.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HOW MIGHT A PERSON DESCRIBE SOME COLD DESSERT DRINKS THAT WEREN'T PALATABLE? NO GREAT SHAKES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals S

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 HMO fee
6 Massa-chusetts
9 Financial pro
12 Mistreat
13 Bedazzle
14 That guy
15 Formal decrees
16 Brunch cocktail
18 Sports-caster
20 Snake eyes, in Vegas
21 Arles buddy
23 Heavy weight
24 "Crikey!"
25 Eric of "Munich"
27 Water pipes
29 Evening party
31 Scalding, as soup
35 Zodiac ram
37 Zilch
38 Action words
41 Texting format, for short

DOWN

1 Scoundrel
2 Kimono sash
3 "Turandot"
4 Regard-ing
5 You'll get a rise out of it
6 Poolside structure
7 Is in debt
8 Costa — Sol
9 Porcelain
10 Yearned
11 Out of whack
17 Accesses the Web
19 Actress Marisa
21 Tummy muscles
22 — Zedong
24 Rock's Brian
26 Lan-guage of Egypt
28 Reply to "Who's there?"
30 Hosp. areas
32 Famed escape artist
33 Toronto's prov.
34 Casual shirt
36 Spotted
38 Smoked an e-cig
39 Ham it up on stage
40 Com-poser Ned
42 Test a perfume
45 Burden
46 Holly-wood's Kazan
48 Oahu or Kauai (Abbr.)
50 Snaky fish
51 Driller's deg.

Solution time: 25 mins.

B	E	L	L	P	A	L	S	P	A	S	
O	R	E	O		O	D	E		T	O	R
D	I	E	U		S	E	A		E	S	T
S	C	R	I	P	T		P	O	R	T	E
		S	O	U		P	E	I			
N	A	P	A		R	A	P	S	O	N	G
I	D	O		E	C	O		G	O	O	
A	S	S	E	S	S	E	S		A	S	A
		T	R	U				T	R	I	
I	M	D	O	N	E		P	A	R	A	D
B	E	A	D		B	O	O		B	U	R
A	N	T	E		A	W	N		E	T	A
R	U	E	D		Y	E	E		D	O	T

Yesterday's answer 10-17

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District ...

Continued from page 8
The next point — a Cameron Muhlenkamp kill — also came on a scramble play.
“That was what we actually talked about in between the sets,” said Guggenbiller, who also got six digs from libero Kayla Gaerke and three blocks from Willmann. “I said, ‘One area I want to see us getting better at is our out of system.’ We can play our out of system too safe. In a game like today, we can really challenge ourselves on that. We’ve got to make a risk — high risk, high reward kind of concept. You’re not going to get better unless you try those.”
The Indians were so in control in the third set — they scored the first six points and rolled out to a 16-2 lead — that they cleared the bench, first bringing in Haley Easton, then Hope Evers, Trinity Rammel and Kinlee Kremer, and then Addy Brunswick. (Gaerke, a freshman, stayed on the court with them.)
Kremer lit up the crowd when she smacked a kill for the 21st point, and Brunswick got a tip for No.

22. Evers eventually finished off the match as she blasted a kill through the middle of the Riverside defense.
“It was really cool, to be able to put it away to the end,” said Evers. “I think it’s really cool to be able to step in and play like that.”
A win Tuesday would send the Indians to the district championship match on Saturday, Oct. 25, at Fairmont, with a chance to earn a second consecutive regional berth.
Guggenbiller plans to use the almost a week off between matches to continue to work on improving when his team is not able to run its offense, mixing up serves and increasing communication.
“Out of system is an area I want to improve on a lot,” he said. “We do a nice job at attacking a ball out of system — it’s not like we have a lot of errors — but we’re not real effective. We’re keeping the other team in system. ...
“We’ve got to do a better job at seeing the court and making those adjustments in the game ... and keep improving in that aspect of the game.”

Alexis Grisez of Fort Recovery smacks an attack Wednesday evening during the Indians’s three-set sweep of the Riverside Pirates in the opening round of the Division VI Southwest District tournament at Newton. The junior had three kills, one block and one ace for FRHS, which advances to play Northeastern in the district semifinal at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at Newton.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Football vs. Heritage – 7 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Football at Anna – 7 p.m.

Saturday
Jay County — Cross country sectional at Taylor University – 10:30 a.m.; Volleyball sectional semifinal vs. Connersville at New Castle – 11 a.m. (championship – 6 p.m.); JV football at Heritage – 10 a.m.
Fort Recovery — Cross country district at Cedarville University – 10 a.m.; JV football vs. Anna – 10 a.m.

TV schedule

Today
1:30 p.m. — Formula 1: United States Grand Prix (ESPN2)
6:08 p.m. — MLB Playoffs: Toronto Blue Jays

at Seattle Mariners (FS1)
7 p.m. — College football: Louisville at Miami (ESPN)
7 p.m. — College hockey: Michigan State at Boston U (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — College football: Nebraska at Minnesota (FOX)
8 p.m. — NBA Preseason: Indiana Pacers at San Antonio Spurs (FSDN Indiana)
8:38 p.m. — MLB Playoffs: Milwaukee Brewers at Los Angeles Dodgers (TBS)
10:30 p.m. — College football: North Carolina at Cal (ESPN)

Saturday
12 a.m. — MotoGP: Australian Grand Prix (FS1)
7:30 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Nottingham Forest at Chelsea (USA)
8 a.m. — Horse racing: Champions Day (FS1)
10 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Brighton &

Hove Albion at Newcastle United (USA)
11:30 a.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Series: United Rentals 250 (CBS)
12 p.m. — College football: LSU at Vanderbilt (ABC); Washington at Michigan (FOX); Georgia Tech at Duke (ESPN); Arizona at Houston (FS1); Baylor at TCU (ESPN2)
12 p.m. — College soccer: Ohio State at Maryland (BTN)
12:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Fulham at Arsenal FC (NBC)
12:30 p.m. — NWSL soccer: Washington Spirit at Orlando Pride (CBS)
1 p.m. — College football: West Virginia at UCF (TNT)
3 p.m. — College football: Purdue at Northwestern (BTN)
3:30 p.m. — College football: Texas A&M at Arkansas (ESPN); Ole Miss at Georgia (ABC); Ohio State at Wisconsin (CBS); UNLV at Boise State (FS1)

3:30 p.m. — Grand Prix of Figure Skating (NBC)
4 p.m. — College football: Texas Tech at Arizona State (FOX); Memphis at UAB (ESPN2)
6:30 p.m. — College football: Oregon at Rutgers (BTN)
7 p.m. — College football: Texas at Kentucky (ESPN); Maryland at UCLA (FS1)
7 p.m. — NHL: Dallas Stars at St. Louis Blues (FSDN Indiana)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Tennessee at Alabama (ABC); USC at Notre Dame (NBC)
8 p.m. — College football: Utah at BYU (FOX); Cincinnati at Oklahoma State (ESPN2)
8:08 p.m. — MLB Playoffs: Milwaukee Brewers at Los Angeles Dodgers (TBS)
9:45 p.m. — College football: Nevada at New Mexico (FS1)
10 p.m. — USL Championship soccer: Monterey Bay at Pittsburgh Riverhounds (CBS)
10:30 p.m. — College football: Florida State

at Stanford (ESPN)

Local notes

Cooper to host
Cooper Farms will host its 18th Annual Turkey Trot 5K benefitting EverHeart Hospice on Nov. 1.
The race will begin at Cooper Farms Turkey Harvesting Plant at 1 Cooper Farms Drive, St. Henry, OH. Registration is at 9 a.m. with the race beginning at 10 a.m.
There will be age groups from 9-and-younger to 60-and-older. Awards will be handed out to the top female and male from each age group.
Refreshments and a to-go turkey meal will be provided for all runners.
For more information on registering, visit speedyfeet.com and search “Cooper Farms Turkey Trot 5K” or email Tonya Huber at tonyah@cooperfarms.com.
.....
To have an event listed in “Sports on tap”, email details to sports@theocr.com

90 SALE CALENDAR

LAND AUCTION
MONDAY OCTOBER 20TH, 2025
TIME 5:00 P.M.
LOCATED: CR 200 S AND CR 300 E. PORTLAND, IN
REAL ESTATE
74 +/- Acres in Section 35, Wayne Twp, Jay County Indiana with 67 Acres Tillable, balance being Wooded and Road Frontage. Farm has Frontage on CR's 200 S and 300 E. Typographic: Level. Possession: Upon Closing or Harvest of 2025 Crops. Taxes: To be Prorated the Day of Closing. Very Desirable Farm in a Great Location. Drive by's are Welcome or Phone Auctioneers for More Information. Auction Held On-Site.
OWNER: Gary D and Kimbra L Weesner
Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
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AUCTIONEERS
Zane Shawver
Lic. #AU10500168
260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver
Lic. #AU19700040
260-726-5587

LARRY MOSER ONLINE ONLY
PERSONAL PROPERTY ESTATE AUCTION
Melsmitleyauctions.com
Bidding Opens: October 13, 2025
Ends: October 26, 2025 with a soft close at 6:00 PM
Location: 7851 W. 400 N., Pennville, IN 47369
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; JD 709 rotary cutter, 7'; 2011 JD 318D Skid loader, (3) hay wagons, (1 w/hoist); JD 5115M Tractor w/H310 loader
FIREARMS-AMMO
J Stevens Shot 22 cal; Sears Roebuck/ Ted Williams Model 340 Lever Action 22 Cal; Ardesa 54 Cal. Muzzle-loader; Winchester

90 SALE CALENDAR

Model 1890 22 cal (reconditioned); Ardesa Spain 50 Cal Black Powder Muzzleloading Pistol; 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 Yearbooks; Lg. Trading Post Sign; Older Baseball Cards; Adv. Cans; Deer Horns; (3) Lg portable barn fans; Saddles (1-Oliver); Horse equip; Ladders; Old Comics, and much more not listed!
Larry Moser, Deceased (Jennifer Gray, Representative)
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 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 more information contact Gary Loy Auctioneer 260-726-5160 or Kim Loy, Real Estate Broker (260) 726-2700
RKM LLC
Loy Auction
AC#31600027 Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU1031608

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Bubb Exhibition Hall at the Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 W Votaw St., Portland, IN
Saturday Morning OCTOBER 25, 2025 9:30 A.M.
ANTIQUES - OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS-MODERN HOUSEHOLD GOODS
Oak dry sink; Oak pie safe with screen doors; railroad cart coffee table; The Smithsonian Collection 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 ASSORTMENT OF COSTUME JEWELRY TO INCLUDE RINGS, BRACELETS, NECKLACES, AND EARRINGS; ; Pete Brewster cards and pictures, autographed by Pete; and other items note listed.
TOOLS
UC Body Co tool cabinet; 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 listed.
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 AU1031608
Travis Theurer AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112
Kaden Khayyata AU12400069

90 SALE CALENDAR

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, Long Bed, 167,000 Miles: 2024 (24') Interstate 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: (11) Pcs. Scaffolding with Walking Plank: (2) 40' FiberglassExt. Ladders: 28' Alum. Ext. Ladder: 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 Tractor w/ LA 2254 Self Leveling Loader, 200 Hours. Ford 3415 Tractor w/ 2346 QT Loader, 506 Hours. Kubota SVL 65-2 Track Skid Loader w/ 95 Hours. 1996 GMC Single Axel Dump Truck, 350 FI, 350 Engine, PTO 62,000 Miles. 2013 Polaris Sportsman 500 HO ATV. Quick Attach Stump Grinder. Misc Harley Davidson Parts including Tanks,

90 SALE CALENDAR

Frame, Fenders, Misc. Power Mate and Tote-Mig Welder. Buck and Cross Cut Saws and Other Primitive Tools. Shop, hand, and Power Tools. GUNS-KNIVES COINS-JEWELRY
Colt Mark IV 45 Cal Pistol 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 Magazines. Case XX 75th Anniversary 3 Knife Set. 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1935, Peace Dollars, Approximately 50. 1885, 1896, 1884, 1890 1921 Morgan Dollars. . Signed Marilyn Monroe Painting. 1965 Modern Scenes Retro Paintings. National Cash Register. Large Collection of Collectible Barbie Dolls. . 1939 10K Gold Pennville Class Ring. 10K Gold Bracelet. 14K Mens Wedding Band.
OWNER: Name Withheld for Security Reasons
Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE
AC31800004
AUCTIONEERS
Zane Shawver
Lic. #AU10500168
260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver
Lic. #AU19700040
260-726-5587

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110 HELP WANTED

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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 COLUMN

AG RENTAL Spreaders: BBI, Artsway Vertical. New Holland 228 skid loaders w/full cab, heat/ac. Fort Recovery 419-852-0309

200 FOR RENT

LEASE SPACE available, Coldwater, OH. Manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, distribution, offices, inside and outdoor storage. Easy access to major highways and railroad access with loading docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, www.sycamorespace.com

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

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Town Board of the Town of Redkey will meet in an Executive Session on, Tuesday October 28, 2025 at 5:00 pm. Before the regular meeting at 6:00 pm. At the Redkey Park Cabin 50 Morgan Drive, Redkey, Indiana 47373. The Executive Session is to receive information about and interviewing prospective employees pursuant too Ind. code 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(5). Gloria May Redkey Clerk/Treasurer 10-17-2025-HSPAXLP

READ THE CR THEN RECYCLE

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JAY, SS:
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
2025 TERM
Cause Number:
38C01-2508-JP-11
38C01-2508-JP-12
IN RE: THE PATERNITY OF
TYLER MORRIS and
JAXSON MORRIS
BRADLEY MORRIS
Petitioner,
And
EILEEN THOMPSON
Respondent.
NOTICE OF PATERNITY
BY PUBLICATION
Eileen Thompson is notified that a petition to establish paternity, custody, parenting time, and child support of two (2) minor children, named, Tyler Morris (DOB: 09/26/2020) and Jaxson Morris (DOB: 04/11/2018) was filed in the office of the clerk of Jay County Circuit Court, located at 120 N. Court St. Portland, IN 47371, and reachable at (260) 726-4951. Father filed his petition seeking custody in accordance with IC 31-14 and IC 31-17-2.8. Pursuant to Ind. Trial Rule 4.13, publication is required as Father has made all diligent efforts to locate Eileen Thompson and has been unable to do so.
If Ms. Thompson intends to contest the petition to establish paternity, custody, parenting time, and child support, then Ms. Thompson must file a motion to contest the petition in accordance with Ind. Trial Rule 4.14(B)(6) in the above-named court not later than thirty (30) days after the date of service of this notice.
If Ms. Thompson does not file a motion to contest the petition within thirty (30) days after service of this notice the above-mentioned court will hear and determine the petition for paternity, custody, parenting time, and child support without Ms. Thompson to enter orders in accordance with the motion requested.
No oral statement made to Eileen Thompson relieves Eileen Thompson of her obligations under this notice. This notice complies with IC 31-14 but does not exhaustively set forth a person's legal obligations under the Indiana paternity statutes. A person being served with this notice should consult the Indiana paternity statutes.
CR 10-10-2025-HSPAXLP

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Dominant district opener

Indians' strong serve leads scoring runs in romp over Riverside

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review
PLEASANT HILL, Ohio — Riverside led exactly once. The Pirates were up 2-1 in the second set. Cue a nine-point run for the Indians. It was the longest of the match for the second-seeded Fort Recovery High School volleyball team, which blistered No. 15 seed Riverside 25-12, 25-7, 25-9 in Wednesday's Division VI Southwest District quarterfinal at Newton. "I was happy," said FRHS coach Travis Guggenbiller. "I thought we played pretty strong across the board today. Our servers did well. "What I was happy with — we stayed disciplined with what we needed to stay disciplined in. ... So that was nice to see. "I thought overall, we moved well. We made good decisions on the court."

The Indians advance to play No. 11 seed Northeastern (5-15) in the district semifinal at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at Newton. The Jets defeated Franklin-Monroe 20-25, 14-25, 25-16, 25-18, 15-13 in Wednesday's opening round. After Fort Recovery (11-12) dominated the opening set Wednesday, the Pirates (2-21) gave up the first point of the second before going up 2-1 on a Valerie Knight kill and a double-hit. The advantage did not last long. Brynn Willmann, who also delivered the first point of the set, notched a kill to even the score and then stepped behind the service line. Riverside was unable to return her first two offerings, and then Bridget Homan, Alexis Grisez and Cameron Muhlenkamp (two) ripped off four consecutive kills for an 8-1 advantage that triggered a timeout. Out of the break, Fort Recovery tacked on two more points — the last came on another Willmann ace — for a 10-2 lead. It was one of 15 aces on the night for the Indians, who got five from Willmann, four from Kenna Dues and three from Muhlenkamp. They were especially effective with topspin serves.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

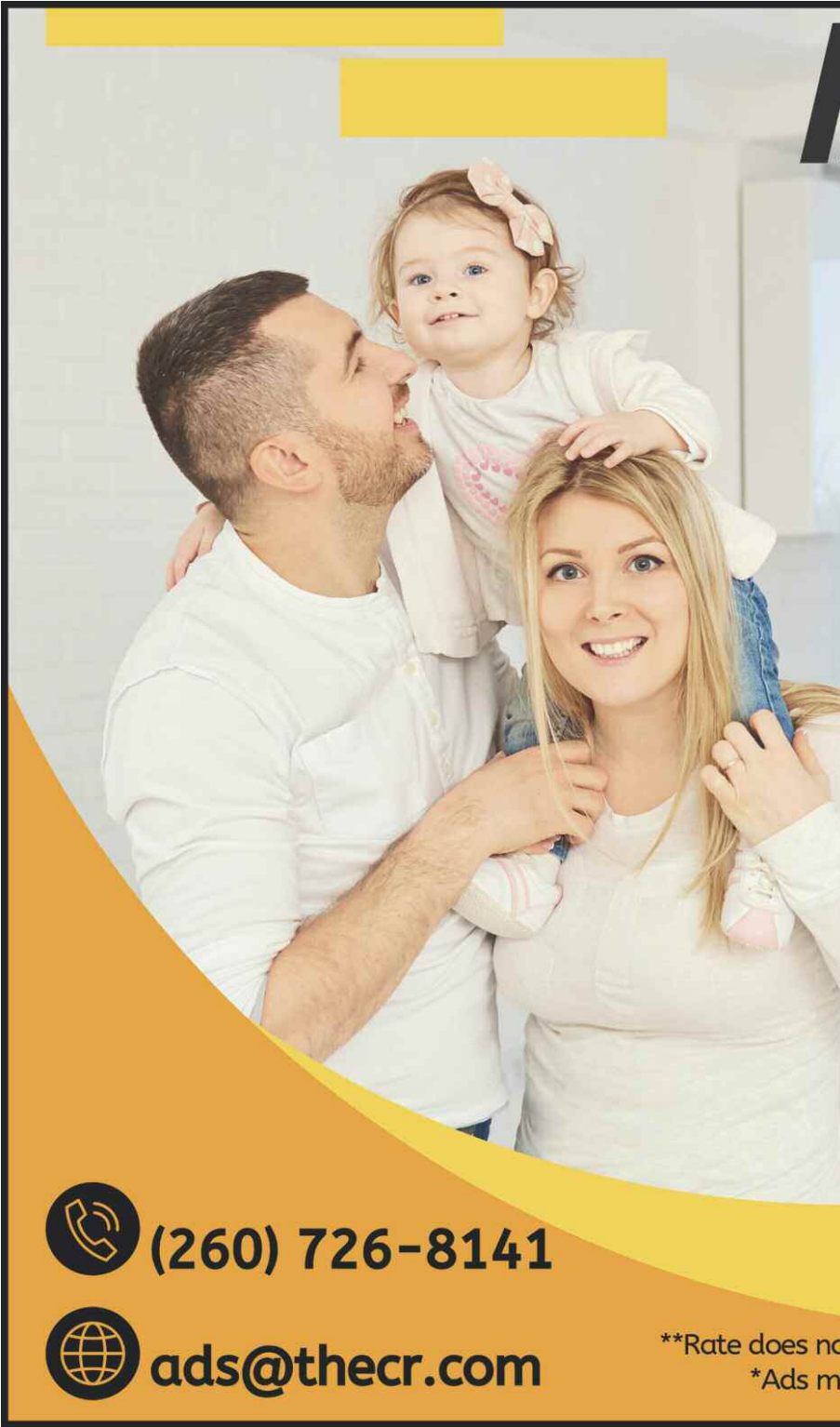
Fort Recovery High School freshman Hope Evers smacks the match-ending kill between Valerie Knight (30) and Lily Zwiebel (8) of the Riverside Pirates on Wednesday. Her kill capped a 25-12, 25-7, 25-9 victory for the Indians in the opening round of the Division VI Southwest District tournament at Newton.

"Some teams struggle with that," said Willmann. "And (Guggenbiller) has really pushed us to become more aggressive with our serves." Fort Recovery was dominant throughout. It had nine runs of four points or more while never letting the Pirates gain any

momentum. They scored consecutive points just three times. In addition to the aces, the Indians owned the net as Muhlenkamp's eight kills matched the total for the entire Riverside squad. Willmann and Homan added five kills apiece and Grisez notched three, while

setter Kayden Ranly put up 18 assists. Guggenbiller was just as happy with the way his team performed when things weren't going right. The opening point of the third set was an example, as the Indians twice chased down

attacks and scrambled off the court to keep the ball alive. On the second opportunity, they managed to pop the ball up just inside the attack line on the left side, where Dues stepped under it and delivered a cross-court kill. See District page 7



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