# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

# **Schools** propose deal for TIF \$

**Commission** will consider agreement for districts

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Representatives of Jay Schools have expressed concerns about funding cuts in future years.

The county may opt into an agreement specifying a portion of tax increment financing dollars go toward the local school system each year.

Jay County Redevelopment Commission agreed Wednesday to look into a proposed agreement with Jay School Corporation that would guarantee a certain amount of funding from new TIF districts to go into the school system's coffers each year. Commission members also formally approved a resolution and economic development plan to begin the process of enacting three new TIF districts in Jay County.

TIF districts capture additional property tax revenue created by property improvements and set it aside to fund initiatives within the district, with the redevelopment commission overseeing those dollars.

The redevelopment commission is in the midst of creating TIF districts creating districts encompassing prospective solar farms — Invenergy in northwest Jay County, Sun Chief Solar northeast of Redkey, Rose Gold Solar north of Dunkirk and New Jav Solar east of Dunkirk.

Jay County Redevelopment Commission non-voting member Shannon Current, who also serves as business manager for Jay School Corporation, read a statement prepared Wednesday to commission

members. "Jay Schools fully supports the county's initiative to attract private investment and recognizes the significant long-term value of such projects," Current said. "However, the fiscal landscape for public schools has changed substantially following the enactment of Enrolled Act 1." Senate

Current referenced statistics compiled by financial consulting firm Baker Tilly, saying Jay Schools is projected to experience a \$273,047 reduction in property tax levy capacity by 2028 and lose another \$553,152 in local income tax revenues beginning the same year. That's a total annual revenue decline of about \$826,000 starting in

"These losses will occur irrespective of enrollment or operational efficiency and will directly affect our ability to sustain classroom, transportation and facility operations," she

Current pointed to Indiana Code, which allows redevelopment commissions to allocate up to 15% of their annual TIF revenues toward educational or workforce training pur-

See **Propose** page 2

# Nearing closure



Jay County Country Living director Stacey Johnson reported Wednesday that the final residents still living at the facility are slated to move out in the next two weeks. The moves will facilitate the closure of the site formerly known as Jay County Retirement Center. This summer, Jay County Commissioners voted 2-1 to close the facility with a target date of Dec. 31, 2026. It is now expected to be closed by the end of this year.

# Jay County Country Living residents moving; council OKs incentive pay for facility employees

By BAILEY CLINE The Commercial Review

The remaining residents at Jay Country Living director Stacey Johnson reportnext two weeks.

Employees will be receiving additional wages for helping with efforts to close the facility by the end of the year.

County Council Jay approved the 2026 salary ordinance and an amendment that lists incentive pay amounts for facility employees Wednesday. Council members also made an \$82,000 additional

appropriation for the sever- of the year. They both commend- Dec. 31, 2026. Council moved that ance bonuses.

Jay County Country Living ed to council Wednesday that the residents still living at the facility are slated to leave within the

next two weeks. "It's been a lot of work, but my staff is awesome," Johnson

Council president Matt Minnich and vice president Cindy Bracy both expressed shock at the news of residents' early departure. Plans had been for residents to move out by the end

ed Johnson and staff for their efforts.

lenges and definitely a lot of emotions," Minnich said.

County officials have mulled over whether to continue funding and operating the residential center for years, pointing to tax dollars and liability issues. Jay County Country Living Advisory Board recommended in June that the county close the facility. Jay County Commissioners followed suit, deciding on a 2-1 vote in August to close the facility by

deadline up to June 30, 2026, when it approved the 2026 budg-"I know there's a lot of chalet in October and allocated half the living facility's regular annual amount.

Johnson said the facility could close as soon as the end of this year and asked officials to consider severance pay for employees who chose to stay until the last day. Commissioners agreed in October to provide the equivalent of four months' worth of additional pay to workers if the facility closes by Dec. 31.

See Closure page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

# **Coffey considers**

Amarah Coffey, 10, Muncie looks through sewn items at a stall Saturday during the The Delts' Holiday Crafts and Gifts Show at Jay County Junior-Senior High School. This year marked the 30th show, which generates most of the \$30,000 to \$35,000 the sorority raises each year.

# **Government opens** following shutdown

Stoppage that lasted 43 days was the longest in U.S. history

By JENNIFER SHUTT, **ARIANA FIGUEROA** and SHAUNEEN MIRANDA

Indiana Capital Chronicle indianacapitalchronicle.com

WASHINGTON — The longest shutdown in U.S. history ended Wednesday night when President Donald Trump signed a spending package that reopens the government and funds most of it through January.

The Oval Office ceremony came just hours after the House voted to approve the legislation, shortages and much more.

which senators passed earlier in

the week. "I hope we can all agree that the

government should never be shut down again," Trump said, before urging Senate Republicans to eliminate the rule that requires bills to garner the support of at least 60 lawmakers to advance. "Terminate the filibuster."

The 222-209 vote marked the first time that chamber took up a bill since mid-September, when Republican leaders recessed after members approved a stopgap spending measure they knew couldn't

advance in the Senate. That stalemate, centered around sharply rising health care costs, led to a 43-day shutdown that affected nearly every corner of the country through delayed funding for nutrition programs for millions of Americans, no pay for federal workers, flight delays tied to staffing

### **Deaths**

Norma Lawrence, rural Portland Derek Whitenack, 46, rural Ridgeville Sara Briggs, 97, Geneva Details on page 2.

## Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 52 degrees Wednesday. The low was 38.

Tonight's low will be in the mid 40s with winds gusting to 20 mph after midnight. Expect mostly cloudy skies Saturday with windy conditions and a high in the mid 60s. 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 — Results from the FRHS football regional semifinal against Marion Local.

**Tuesday** — Coverage of the JCHS girls basketball game at Hamilton Heights.

**Wednesday** — Details from next week's Jay School Board meeting.



# **Obituaries**

#### Norma Lawrence

Oct. 28, 1930-Nov. 12, 2025 Norma Jean Lawrence, age 95, of rural Portland passed away

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2025, in Crown Pointe in Portland.

She was born in Blackford County on Oct. 28, 1930, the daughter of Walter and Letha Pearl (Ford)



Knox. She was a 1948 graduate of Roll High School, worked in school cafeteria at Poling and Bloomfield schools, managed Essen Platz Restaurant at Amishville for 13 years and worked for Bearcreek Farms for 20 years. She was a Baird-Freeman Funeral Home member of Bryant Senior Citi- with Pastor Paul Van Cise prezens, Bryant Wesleyan Church siding. Burial will be in the Gar-

and Jay County Hospital Auxil-

Surviving are three sons, William "Bill" Lawrence of Bluffton, Charles Lawrence (wife: Sheryl) of Portland and John Lawrence (wife: Kelli) of Portland; three daughters, Patricia Frazee (husband: Ralph) of "Robin" Pennville, Roberta Myers (husband: Dave) of Bryant and Martha Hogg of Linn Grove; 20 grandchildren; 42 great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by sisters Ellen Knox and Betty Hardt; and son-in-law Randy

Funeral services will be Monday, Nov. 17, at 10 a.m. in the

den of Memories in Muncie. Visitation will be Sunday from noon and later TOA in to 3 p.m. in the funeral home.

Memorials can be made to the Jay County Cancer Society.

Condolences may expressed at bairdfreeman.com. helped others. He

#### Derek Whitenack

Nov. 4, 1979-Nov. 12, 2025 Derek Ryan Whitenack, age 46, a resident of rural Ridgeville, passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2025 at his home following a courageous

Derek was born Nov. 4, 1979, in

Portland, the son of Jeff and Melanie (Thornburg) Whitenack. He graduated from Winchester Community High School and then earned an Engineering Degree from Tri State Universi-

FCC in Portland Winchester.

Derek was a kind soul who cared about and enjoyed working on his cars and truck, collecting

and watching movies and listening to music.

Whitenack

Survivors include:

His parents — Jeff and Melanie Whitenack, rural Ridgeville, Indiana

His brother — Kyle Whitenack (wife: Maranda), Seymour, Indi-

One nephew and two nieces He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him, but his spirit and kindness will live on ty. He worked as an engineer for in our hearts.

Burial will take place at Lawn-Cemetery, east Ridgeville. A celebration of life service will be held at a later

Arrangements entrusted to Williamson-Spencer and Penrod

Funeral Home in Portland. Sara Lou Briggs, Geneva, March

1, 1928-Nov. 11, 2025. There will

be no services. •••••

The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, residence, city of birth/death datetime/date/location of services.

There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary serv-

# CR almanac

Saturday 11/15	Sunday 11/16	Monday 11/17	Tuesday 11/18	Wednesday 11/19
			-	
67/37	49/29	50/34	46/33	46/37
Saturday's forecast shows cloudy skies with a low in the upper 30s at night.	Mostly sunny on Sun- day when the low may dip at night around 29 degrees.	Mostly sunny, with the high reaching around 50 degrees.	Tuesday looks to be chilly with a 50% chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy skies are in the forecast fo Wednesday when the low may hit 37.

## **Lotteries**

#### **Powerball**

29-39-43-51-65 Power Ball: 23 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$546 million

#### **Mega Millions**

jackpot: Estimated \$965 million

#### Hoosier

Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 1-2-5 Daily Four: 8-4-6-3 Quick Draw: 1-3-6-11-18 - 20 - 22 - 26 - 32 - 35 - 39 - 47 - 53 -57-60-63-72-73-76-79 Evening

Daily Three: 3-1-5

Daily Four: 5-0-2-6 Quick Draw: 11-20-23-31-36-37-39-40-42-56-57-58-60-63-65-68-71-72-77-78

Cash 5: 8-9-21-36-45 Estimated jackpot: \$225,500

#### Ohio

Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 6-8-7 Pick 4: 1-3-5-9 Pick 5: 3-2-4-4-4 Evening Pick 3: 1-1-9 Pick 4: 5-6-8-9 Pick 5: 3-5-7-8-8 Rolling Cash: 3-5-26-29-

Estimated jackpot:

\$150,000

# **Markets**

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery	
Corn	4.52
Dec. corn	4.58

## **POET Biorefining Portland**

Nov./Dec. corn4.52
Jan. corn4.56

#### The Andersons **Richland Township** Corn ......4.43 Dec. corn ......4.48

Beans .....11.29

Dec. beans ......11.34

# Montpelier

**ADM** 

Dec. corn	4.37
Beans	11.26
Dec. beans	11.30
Wheat	4.95
I I a a will a wall	

Wheat ...... 4.90

#### Heartland St. Anthony

Corn	4.40
Dec. corn	4.45
Beans	10.99
Dec. beans	10.99
Wheat	4.80

# **Today in history**

Company of Philadelphia, founded by Benjamin Franklin High School athletics others November of previous year, signed intermediate a contract with its long-term goals for first librarian. The outdoor library subscriptions for 40 included determining shillings.

Nellie Bly started her field or replace it with trip around the world, artificial turf. (A attempting to beat the project is planned to mark set in the Jules install artificial turf Verne book "Around ahead of the 2024 the World in Eighty football season.) Days." She completed

In 1732, the Library the journey in just over 72 days.

In 2022, Jay County in director Steve Boozier the laid out immediate,

offered facilities. Those goals whether to continue In 1889, journalist with a grass football

—Ťhe CR

# Citizen's calendar

### **Monday**

Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland.

**Economic Development** Income Tax Advisory Committee, council lage hall, 201 S. Main St. chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St., Portland.

City Council, council port, 661 W. 100 North.

chambers, fire station, 5 p.m. — Jay School 1616 N. Meridian St.

6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery School Board, community room, high 5 p.m. — Portland school, 400 E. Butler St.

7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, vil-

## Wednesday

4 p.m. — Portland 5:30 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, air-

# **Propose**

battle with cancer.

Continued from page 1 is permissive instead of mandatory, funding for the school could be up to the discretion of future commission members unless a separate agreement is enacted.

She and Jay School Corporation attorney Josh Atkinson presented a draft agreement to redevelopment commission, noting it's modeled after a 2016 interlocal agreement Jeffersonville between Redevelopment Commission, the City of Jeffersonville and Greater Clark County Schools.

According to the agreement, dollars would be calculated based on the revenue "lost" by the school corporation as a result of the established TIF district. (Atkinson later clarified the school would be missing out on capturing additional tax dollars as a result of the upcoming solar farm developments.) It further states that each year the school's lost revenue would be calculated based upon what the school would have received if the TIF districts

weren't in place. Jay School Board member Chad Towell later shared a ballpark estimate for dollars the school would miss out on capturing, saying it would lose out on roughly \$33,000 between the 10th and 25th years of the

ous other redevelopment However, because the commissions and school corporations across the state with similar agreements, all of which requested specific dollar amounts.

"We're not asking for a set sum of money," he said. "Let's do a calculation to see what would make Jav Schools whole ...

County auditor Emily Franks expressed concern about calculating school's annual allotment in that fashion, saying the county would likely need to hire a specialized firm to calculate the costs annually and that it may cost more than it is worth.

Jay County Commissioner and redevelopment commission member Doug Horn pointed to various financial changes under

"I don't want to cheat the school system out of anything, but I'm not sure we are, and that's got to be explained to me better," he said, suggesting the board table the agreement until it learns more about the

Commission members Chuck Huffman and Harold Towell questioned whether the agreement needed to be approved along with other TIF legislation on the agenda Wednesday.

financial impact.

Atkinson said he wasn't looking for redevelopment man, with Towell dissentcommission to approve the ing, approved a resolution individual firms on the Atkinson pointed to variagreement Wednesday, sugto formally enact the TIF project.

Wes Schemenaur — he was absent — review the document first. He requested redevelopment commission forward the agreement along with approved TIF district legislation as it makes its way to other boards to keep the conversation going. Consultant Ed Curtin said attorneys could review the agreement over the next month and commission members could approve it at their December meeting.

Also Wednesday, the redevelopment commission approved an economic development plan for the three new TIF districts. According to the plan, the four solar projects represent a potential \$473 million in new private investment in rural Jay County. Commission president Carl Walker noted a few minor changes to the plan originally proposed last week, including language which now generalizes energy projects instead of specifying solar and wind – pointed to other potential energy projects in the future, such as nuclear energy. It also now allows using TIF dollars for educational purposes, an amendment proposed last week by Huffman.

Also. redevelopment commission members Horn, Walker and Huff-

gesting county attorney districts. (Towell explained after the meeting he felt the resolution had too many unknowns.)

A local resident questioned why redevelopment commission aimed to finalize legislation before Jan. 1. Walker explained land assessments are calculated at the beginning of the year. (As discussed at last week's meeting, Skycrest Solar Farm may begin construction soon. If not enacted before then, the TIF district could miss out on some tax dollars captured from the project.)

Plans were to present TIF legislation at Jay County Plan Commission's meeting Thursday and Jay County Commissioner's meeting Nov. 24. If approved, redevelopment commission will host a public hearing and vote on final approval in early December.

In other business, commission members briefly reviewed a 60% cost design opinion from design firm Rundell, Ernstberger and Associates for proposed infrastructure plans on the county's 68 acres along Indiana 67 in Portland. The cost is estimated at \$2.65

According to officials, no bids were submitted for the project. Per Indiana law, because there were no proposals, county officials may begin negotiating with

# Capsule Reports

### **Pedestrians hit**

Two children were injured after the vehicle a Portland man was driving struck them at the intersection of Water and Wayne streets about 7:35 a.m. Tuesday.

Kyle Vanhorn, 28, was driving a 2014 Jeep Cherokee north on Wayne Street and began turning east onto Water Street. He told police he was watching traffic and didn't realize the children were going to cross the street. A Portland police report says

without a crossing guard present, and the vehicle Vanhorn was driving bumped into them.

Neymar G. Herrera Hinojosa, 11, Portland, sustained an injury to his abdomen area, and 6-year-old Dafne V. Herrera Hinoiosa of Portland sustained a minor leg injury.

Damage is estimated at less than

### **Stopping crash**

An Ohio man crashed his car into they began walking across the street the back of a Portland woman's car as \$2,500 and \$5,000.

she attempted to stop along Indiana 67 about 7 a.m. Wednesday.

Allison E. Franks, 43, was driving her 2010 Chevrolet Traverse south on the highway near county road 125 South when she noticed a deer carcass in the road. She began braking to avoid hitting the animal. Andrew J. Bear, 51, Lima, was driving his 2014 Volvo truck behind her and didn't realize Franks was stopping, causing him to crash into the back of her car.

Damage is estimated between

# Closure

Continued from page 1 she's grateful the facility began relocating residents as soon as possible instead of waiting until next year. She said the process helped to ease worries for all those involved. She also talked about the incentive pay, saying she wanted to make sure employees were taken care of amid the holidays and the gap between their current job and future endeavors.

Bracy, who also has served as president of Jay County Country Living Advisory Board, mentioned she visited the facility Monday for a meeting. She spoke highly of Johnson's leadership amid the transition.

"I did a floor-to-ceiling walkthrough, and the facility was looking wonderful," she said. "I just want to commend you, coming up with, these were people, these were beating hearts, and we appreciated that. And as far as public concerns, this was not a decision additional

future."

2026 salary ordinance. They also made an \$82,000 for the bonuses.

In other business, counmembers Bryan Alexander, Randy May, Matt Minnich, Harold Towell, Cindy Bracy and Michael Brewster, absent Faron Parr:

 Reviewed Jay County Redevelopment Commission's draft capital plan, with Bracy emphasizing projects for a public safety building, new emergency responder radios and upgrades to the highway department's garage. Alexander questioned the timeline for Jay County Solid Waste Management District's new building, pointing out the plan lists a \$300,000 allocation to the district in 2031. (The project is expected to begin next year.)

•Made the following appropriathat was made lightly or tions: \$49,560 in Jay Coun- Public Library Board.

easily, and it was the best ty Solid Waste Manage-Johnson expressed that thing for the county, and ment District's budget for it's the best thing for land; \$40,000 for various them, and we have a new furniture and equipment repairs at Jay County Council approved the Courthouse; \$7,500 for additional sealant work at the courthouse; \$7,050 for additional appropriation Ritter Strategic Services' work with the emergency responder radio project; \$5,200 for courthouse maintenance supervisor pay through the end of the year; \$4,894.87 from a donation for Jay County Country Living; \$1,000 for equipment repair at Jay County Surveyor's Office; and \$361.73 for surveyor's

office excavator fees. Approved transfers, including \$19,000 between Jay County Country Living's funds for housekeeper supervisor wages to part-time wages, \$15,000 between Jay County Country Living's funds for overtime wages to wages laborers and \$1,000 in Jay County Superior Court's funds for overtime wages to translator wages.

Carolyn Appointed Journay to Jay County

## **SERVICES**

Friday, Nov. 14 Knapke, Carol: 10:30 a.m., St. Peter Catholic Church, 1477 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery. Madden, Virginia: 7 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home,

Steen, John: 8 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Saturday, Nov. 15 Hudson-White, Barbara: 10:30 a.m., Grace Community Church, 900 Smith Road, Fremont.

Monday, Nov. 17 Lawrence, Norma: 10 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Tuesday, Nov. 18 Rigby, Mary: 10 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Service listings provided by

**PROGRESSIVE** 

**DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS** 120 N. Meridian St. Portland, Indiana 47371 (260) 726-9201 progressiveofficeproducts.com





Photo provided

## **Veterans honored**

Doug Inman, executive director of The Portland Foundation, spoke at Portland Evening Optimist Club on Monday about nonprofit organization Honor Flight Northeast Indiana, which actively fundraises and coordinates honor flights for war veterans. Pictured above are veterans and club members Gary Maitlen, Doug Inman, Ferrell Blazer, Mike Leonhard, Jane Jobe, Tony Fisher, Pat Gibson and Don Shauver.

# Smoker gave up packs 50 years ago

DEAR ABBY: I often see ads about stopping smoking. I'd like to share my story of success in overcoming this filthy habit in the hope that it may help someone else.

I smoked four packs of non-filtered cigarettes every day. At the age of 37, I knew I wanted to quit. I set a goal to stop one month away, and on that day, cold turkey went

I'm almost 86 now and have had no desire to smoke again since that day. People, be brave. Be strong and follow through. I hope this will help someone else to live long. — FREE IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR FREE: Congratulations. You are fortunate that your heavy smoking didn't cause health problems for you later in life. I'm pleased that going "cold turkey" worked so well for you. Today, products are available (gum, patches, etc.) to ease the discomfort of nicotine withdrawal.

**Cancer Society has sponsored** retired early to be at home to care

Dear Abby



an event called The Great American Smokeout. The theory behind it is, if someone can refrain from smoking for ONE DAY, he or she can build upon that for two days, a week, a month, etc.

Many former smokers have quit this way. This year, the Smokeout is on Thursday, Nov. 20. I wish those of you who decide to give it a try good luck and good health.

DEAR ABBY: I have a close friend who, I think, needs help. She's a loving and caring mother, wife, teacher and friend. Because for him. She recently confided to me that they haven't been intimate in almost 20 years.

Two years ago, she started a romantic relationship with a man she knew. She says they both lack physical affection in their marriages and came together to fill that void. I was shocked and disappointed. Why would she risk everything for a roll in the hay?

How do I remain a supportive friend when I disagree philosophically with what she's doing? She knows I don't condone her actions, and we haven't discussed the issue since she told me. — DISAPPOINT-ED FRIEND IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR FRIEND: You describe this woman as a loving, caring mother, wife and friend. Her husband may have been impotent for the past 20 years. It is possible to be a supportive friend without passing judgment on her predicament, and that is what I recommend you do. If you would prefer she not For decades, the American her husband has health issues, she discuss her affair with you, tell

Friday. For more informa-

tion or to schedule an

appointment, call (260)

726-8636.



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# **Community Calendar**

space is available. To sub-call (260) 251-3259. mit an item, email news@thecr.com.

### **Today**

PAST Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition

Community Calendar as more information, please

### **Saturday**

ALCOHOLICS ANONY-MOUS — Will meet at 10 RECOVERY a.m. at Zion Evangelical SERVICES — Peer Addic- Lutheran Church, 218 E. tion Support Team recov- High St., Portland. For ery support group meets more information, call at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

DUNKIRK HISTORIoffice at 100 N. Meridian CAL MUSEUM — Is open

Notices will appear in St., Portland. To learn from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on to 5 p.m. Monday through the third Friday and Saturday of each month at Webster Depot, 132 W.

Railroad St.

MUSEUM OF THE SOL-DIER — 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.

### **Sunday**

A BETTER LIFE – BRI-ANNA'S HOPE — A faithbased 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 BREAK-FAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restau- $PING\ PONG\ -\ Will\ be$ 

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

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

THE LIFE CENTER Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy, as well as help with the needs of the family. The center is located at 1209 S. Shank St., Portland. Hours are 1

evember Specials \*\*
\$500 Full-page color Full-page black and white

1/2 page color (INCLUDES TILE AD ON CR WEBSITE \$325

THROUGH END OF 2025)

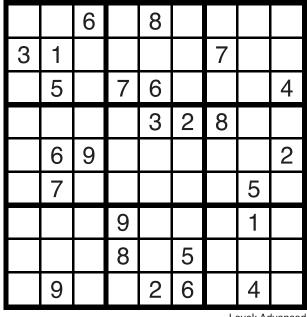
1/2 page black and white \$275

1/2 page black and white

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he Commercial Review

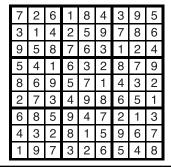
# Sudoku



Level: Advanced

### Thursday's Solution

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



# Poverty is a continuing disgrace

By MORTON J. MARCUS

The latest numbers available from the Census Bureau reported Indiana had 816,000 persons in poverty in 2023. That was registered as 12.2% of the state's population. We had the 20th highest poverty rate in the nation.

Being better than Kentucky shouldn't be our goal. Furthermore, 235,000, 15.1% of Hoosier children under age 18 were living in poverty. The poverty threshold for a family of four with two children in 2023 was

That absurd amount is not used even by most federal programs which set eligibility at some percent above that level. Yet no one can reasonably claim that any of our poverty programs are excessively generous.





Of course, beginning next year, in Indiana, all limits on household incomes will be removed to qualify for state money to pay for school vouch-

That's not the full story. The motivation behind the vouchers is hardly better education, it is to segregate children from affluent households from those who are disliked or distrusted by their parents. It is for parents to seize control of public money and income. What can be done to have yet stronger control over increase income? There are the thoughts and associations of their children. To reinforce cultural tribalism, the politically powerful can redirect public expenditures to their private purposes.

Within Indiana, of the 10 counties with the highest poverty rates, seven had median household incomes below \$58,000 per year and all were below \$62,000. Of the three counties with the highest poverty rates (Vigo, Grant and Delaware), each had a formerly significant urban center (Terre Haute, Marion and Muncie) and none had a median household income above \$55,800.

It is so obvious to say, it seems totally unnecessary: Poverty is the consequence of insufficient betters.

increase income? There are many steps that can be taken, but Indiana is reluctant to do anything that actually raises income within the working life of today's poor.

Yes, we believe in early education, improved reading skills, higher standards of academic performance, preparation for work, internships or any program the federal government is prepared to fund.

The problem is presumed to be the inadequacy of the worker. S/he lacks the necessary skill, the right attitude for rigorous work, the willingness to sacrifice, the desire for advancement and faith in the enterprise system in which we all respect our

Yet 30 of the 50 states have raised the minimum wage above the federal \$7.25 per hour adopted in July 2009. Simply adjusted for inflation, that amount should now be \$11. Even if a household has two people working full-time for \$11 an hour, the total income is only \$45,760, still insufficient for two in today's world. However, that minimal adjustment does not reflect the increased dependence of Americans on the mar-

Indiana stands firmly, defiantly in the past. Even Scrooge McDuck might be embarrassed to be a Hoosier.

•••••

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

## NBA, America have a gambling problem

**Bloomberg Opinion** 

"There's nothing more Guest important to the league and its fans than the integrity of the competition." So says Adam Silver, commissioner of the National Basketball Association.

He was referring to dual indictments unveiled Oct. 23, which alleged that NBA players and coaches had disclosed nonpublic team information to a criminal gambling ring; engaged in wire fraud and moneylaundering conspiracies; and participated in rigged poker games that involved elaborate cheating technology, an assortment of hustlers, four Mafia families and a bouncer known as Albanian Bruce. "Integrity" isn't the first word that comes to mind.

Since the Supreme Court opened the U.S. gambling market in 2018, 39 states and counting have legalized sports betting to varying degrees. Americans made about \$150 billion in legal wagers last year, up from \$13 billion in 2019. Nearly half of young men have an active gambling account. Unfortunately, as the NBA's dustup shows, this experiment is turning out to be a terrible bet.

Criminality aside, the social effects of widespread wagering are alarming. One study found that the legalization of do more to break the online sports gambling in a mobile-gambling given state is associated with deteriorating credit scores and rising bankruptcy rates, debt collections and auto-loan delinquencies. Another found rising credit debt and bank overdrafts. There may even be a link to domestic vio-

The pairing of gambling and smartphone technology has proved especially pernicious. Even casual punters find themselves beset by texts, emails, push notifications, in-game ads and other prompts, while the sports books—like any casino company—finetune their offers to keep everyone coming back: Less than 5% of gamblers withdraw more money from their apps than they deposit. It's no surprise that indicators of addiction are soaring.

debt, addic-All this tion, desperation — has an obvious appeal for organized crime. But the industry worsens matters by offering so-called prop bets on the performance of individual players. Such wagers are a standing invitation to corruption: NBA players Jontay Porter and Terry Rozier are both chancer — always comes accused of removing them- due.

# **Opinion**

selves from games to capitalize on props. (Rozier has denied wrongdoing; Porter pleaded guilty last year to wire fraud conspiracy.) For unpaid college athletes, the temptations may be worse.

With so much money coming in — to gambling companies, to sports leagues, to state governments — this genie won't be rebottled anytime soon. Yet public support for gambling is waning quickly. Policymakers should pay attention and seek to make sports betting fairer, less harmful and less prone to manipulation.

At a minimum, prop betting on college sports should be banned, as the National Collegiate Athletic Association has explicitly urged. For pro leagues, sports books should be required to limit props to prominent athletes, void them if a key player's injury or participation status is in doubt, and subject them to minimum statistical thresholds (i.e., only over a full game rather than a quarter).

Lawmakers should also doom loop. Banning push notifications and restricting the use of artificial intelligence to customize offers would be a start. Ideally, wagers should have to be placed in person, at a casino or similar venue. States will experiment with various other approaches, but the goal should be simple: Make it harder to place impulsive bets.

Finally, sports leagues need to accept more responsibility of their own. In the NBA, for instance, insider information — about injuries, "load management" decisions, tanking — appears to have been routinely exploited for corrupt purposes. If the league wants to continue its partnerships with the likes of DraftKings and FanDuel while maintaining its credibility (sorry, "integrity"), it needs to make a serious effort to protect such information. If it doesn't, it should expect further attention from the Justice Department.

As with any vice, gambling is fun while the good times roll. But the bill for the country as for the



"AND ON THE 1,743,258TH DAY OF THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN..."

# Realities must take center stage

By MARY ROBINSON

Chicago Tribune Tribune News Service

Even though their farms account for only 12% of the world's farmland. they grow a third of the world's food, and nearly 70% of Africa's. They are smallholder farmers, many of them women, and they are facing the most severe impacts of climate change, yet they produce enough to literally feed ions. At COP30, the realities of smallholder farmers must be central to the conversations on resilience and adaptation. They are an industry too big to fail but are almost entirely excluded from the investment meant to strengthen their resilience; they receive less than 1% of all climate

finance. If their farms were to collapse, it would have catastrophic global consequences, exacerbating hunger and destabilizing societies. The threat is no longer hypothetical. Over 150 disasters attributable to climate change occurred in 2024 — a new record and farmers are already being battered by droughts, floods, new pests and diseases, and increasingly erratic growing seasons.

Adaptation remains neglected in the climate response, often dismissed as too complex to measure or too difficult to fund. Wealthy nations have still not delivered the \$100 billion annual adaptation pledge made in 2009. Beyond this, there is a critical failure to engage with adaptation as both a necessity and an opportunity, a driver of innovation and the foundation of the better future we urgently need to hurry toward.

Across the world, smallholder communities are already adapting. Far from being passive, they actively drive innovation, drawing on generations of knowledge of local ecosystems. They have fostered environments where groundbreaking solutions are emerging, even in resourceconstrained settings.

Unfortunately, the aid sector's depictions of smallholders — and

Mary Robinson



female farmers in particular — have about who they are and what they contribute. Smallholder and rural female farmers are almost always portrayed as helpless victims rather than the agricultural experts that they are. Providing them with access to climate-resilient seeds, sustainable farming practices, improved irrigation and early warning systems would yield substantial benefits in terms of food security, poverty reduction, biodiversity conservation and climate mitigation. If they were to receive investment equivalent to their output, it would add \$1 trillion to the global economy.

Where female farmers have received investment, the results are striking. In southern Ethiopia, investment is helping create more gender-balanced leadership in water governance, and their participation is making water access reliable. The climate-smart irrigation techniques they've implemented enable yearround production, increasing growing seasons from one to three. There's a greater diversity of crops, with a higher nutritional and economic value, which in turn boosts household incomes and strengthens the local economy, creating a powerful ripple effect that lifts the entire community.

Similarly, in Maharashtra, India, investment has equipped women to become leaders in bamboo cultivation, creating climate-resilient, longterm livelihoods out of unproductive land. These entrepreneurs are now part of a global supply chain, and the bamboo they grow will become furni- dent of Ireland.

ture, flooring, textiles and paper. This new source of income is improving their long-term financial security strengthening community resilience. And bamboo also benefits the environment, absorbing up to 45% more carbon dioxide than equiv-

alent tree plantations and releasing

30% more oxygen than most trees.

As leaders convene in Brazil for COP30, agriculture is set to feature more prominently than ever as countries grapple with the urgent task of transforming food systems. Yet that transformation will be meaningful only if it recognizes and supports those already sustaining global food security in the most challenging conditions. While debates over adaptation finance access, indicators and obligations will inevitably unfold in Belém, we must not lose sight of a core issue: how climate finance will reach those already driving resilience in their fields. Without predictable, accessible adaptation finance, the potential of female smallholder farmers will remain unrealized.

Leaders at COP30 must make more ambitious commitments on adaptation, and those commitments should be turned into fair, sustained access to finance. If the Baku to Belém Roadmap is to succeed, it must not only mobilize resources, but also channel them to the right people, including the smallholder farmers who sustain our food systems. This should not be seen as a handout but as the investment it truly is.

Smallholders are anything but small. When female smallholder farmers gain fair and sustained access to finance, productivity rises, communities prosper and the global economy could see returns of up to \$1

Investing in them isn't just the right thing to do, it's the smart thing

Robinson is co-founder of Project Dandelion and the first female presi-

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# Children on the farm Researchers explore support gaps for childcare

By NICOLE MILLER

University of Wisconsin When you search Google for "family farms," the dominant images served up show parents and their young children in bucolic agricultural settings, often walking together through verdant or golden fields.

These idyllic family portraits, however, overlook the reality that many farm parents face. Farmwork often involves high-tech equipment, heavy machinery, and large animals. That makes many farms hazardous places especially for kids.

According to data from the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety, a child dies in an agriculture-related incident about every three days, and around 33 injuries occur per day. Common causes of fatalities include transportation incidents with tractors and ATVs and contact with machinery and animals.

For more than 30 years, farm safety experts have been encouraging farm parents to seek dedicated, off-farm childcare. But rural areas tend to be "childcare deserts," with few affordable options nearby. That makes childcare a significant challenge and stressor for farm parents.

"Even though these pictures are often used to celebrate agriculture, they also create hardships for the people who are tryto do this work," says Michaela Hoffelmeyer, an assistant professor in the Department of Community and Environmental Sociology. "Farmers are really struggling because they often have to work off-farm to get health insurance for their families. They may have to drive many miles to find childcare. Recent studies have shown that farmers can feel a real sense of failure and anxiety around not being able to meet the expectations reflected in the images."

Hoffelmeyer is part of a team looking more closely at this issue through involvement in a multiinstitution project called Linking Childcare to Farm Children Safety, which seeks to understand what farm parents do with their children while they work and how these choices impact farm productivity and the safety of their children.

co-led by Florence Becot of the and Shoshanah Inwood of The Ohio State University. The project is part of the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety, which is based in Marshfield, Wiscon-

sin, and funded by the National tute for Occupational Safety and off perspective in a recent pres-Institute for Occupational Safety and Health at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Hoffelmeyer's portion of the project aims to get a better sense of the environment in which farm parents make decisions about childcare and farming, looking at how farm organizations, extension services, and agricultural agencies regard childcare. This includes whether these organizations consider childcare as part of the labor that goes into running a successful family farm or as a separate issue — more like a personal or household expense. The goal is to understand how these groups are attending to this issue, the broader implications, and, if needed, steps that could bolster support.

"We found a diversity of views of how farm business organizations perceive the centrality of children and families to overall farm viability," Hoffelmeyer

Hoffelmeyer joined CALS in 2023, a strategic addition to the UW Dairy Innovation Hub's faculty roster, to focus on public engagement with agriculture. More specifically, as a member of the Hub's "growing farm businesses and communities" theme area, Hoffelemeyer's role is to explore public awareness and engagement with broadscale social, economic, and ecological issues that are entangled with agriculture.

Hoffelmeyer (they/she pronouns) is a good fit for the job. Before joining UW, their work focused on how various groups access agricultural resources and how structural inequalities influence food production and environmental sustainability, focusing on rural and urban women farmers; LGBTQ farmers; and farm workers. Now, at UW, Hoffelmeyer will continue this work and also expand into new dairy-focused areas, such as robotics and market concentration. The underlying motivation remains the same. "My driving focus is to improve the agrifood system for everyone, with the goal of serving all farmers and celebrating all people involved in agricultural production," Hoffelmeyer says.

Hoffelmeyer's research on The Linking Childcare to women's farm organizations in Farm Children Safety project is the Northeast caught the attention of Florence Becot at Penn-Pennsylvania State University sylvania State University. Becot reached out to see if Hoffelmeyer would be interested in collaborating on the "Linking Childcare to Farm Children Safety" project, which launched in fall 2020 with funding from the National Insti-

Health at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

By the time Hoffelmever joined in 2023 the researchers had already conducted interviews with key informants, focus groups and a photovoice activity with women farmers, and a survev of farm households. In the survey, which is the first national assessment of childcare for the farm sector, over three-quarters of farm families with children under 18 reported that they had experienced childcare challenges in the last two years. Furthermore, three-quarters of farm families surveyed said they farm organizations believe should represent their needs in national childcare policy discussions. And the overall findings were clear: Farm parents expressed the need for childcare support. In particular, they cited a preference for holistic support that serves their household and childcare needs as part of their broader farm business needs.

Hoffelmeyer was brought onto the project to help assess an existing set of interviews conducted with leaders and service providers in the agricultural sector to uncover how these organizations are responding to and supporting farmers' childcare needs, with a special focus on the gendered dynamics of the situation.

For the UW portion of the study, Hoffelmeyer and their research assistant are taking a second look at interviews conducted with 36 professionals who provide support and educational opportunities to farmers, includservice farm safetv ing providers, farm business planning providers, federal and statelevel government agencies, and non-profit farmer organizations. Interviewees come from Ohio, Vermont, and Wisconsin, with one-third from the Dairy State. The interviews reveal a diversity of perspectives and approaches.

Some farm service providers position the presence of children on the farm and the need to provide childcare as liabilities for the success of the farm business. It's portrayed as a tradeoff," says Trish Fisher, a Ph.D. student studying community and environmental sociology, who conducted the analysis. This was the majority view, in fact.

"I think it's the health and safethe financial productivity of the farm," expressed one farm business organization representative. Fisher and Hoffelmeyer shared this paraphrased remark from an interview to illustrate the trade-

entation.

The initial analysis of the interviews, published in 2022 by Becot and colleagues, found that, when it comes to farm business planning, most interviewees don't incorporate childcare. Instead, children are considered personal or household expenses, and, therefore, outside the purview of a farm business plan. However, some organizations treat farm viability and the flourishing of the farm family like a united enterprise, considering childcare and health care as integral parts of farm business plan-

In cases where childcare was not actively considered, respondents cited several reasons. They explained that childcare was beyond the scope of their organization's mission, and they expressed having a lack of tools and resources on the topic area. In other cases, they believed other types of professionals or groups were already supporting farmers in this way and are in a better position to handle it. Still others reported a lack of demand from their constituents.

To build on these findings, the Wisconsin team was asked to dig into the interviews anew, exploring what was shared through a gender lens.

"A lot of these farm service organizations shared the sentiment that childcare for farm families is important, but their male farmers are not bringing those issues to the table," Fisher says. "I don't want to paint the wrong picture — this isn't a burden that is universally borne by women. Our collaborators involved in other areas of the overarching project have published findings showing that male partners are often also very worried about child safety. Everybody extremely stressed about it.'

At the same time, it's clear that gender dynamics are playing a

"I think one of the main themes so far is that, within these organizations that serve farmers, childcare is largely seen as a women's issue rather than a business issue," says Fisher. "So childcare, if it's being addressed, is often being addressed in contexts that are specific to women farmers.

there's a need that's not being change power dynamics and met adequately — at least, not inequality and big global issues." ty of the kids on the farm versus met adequately — at least, not

> "We've identified a number of structural and resource constraints that serve as barriers for these organizations to address the childcare issues being faced

by their constituents," Hoffelmever says.

These findings are not surprising to Hoffelmeyer, who has spent a lot of time thinking about underpaid and undervalued labor on farms. "A real issue in farming more broadly is that, while we often take ownership very seriously, we've never taken labor seriously," they say. "If you look back, historically, women have often done a lot of unpaid and invisible labor, whether it was animal rearing or bookkeeping.'

Similarly, the tasks involved in social reproduction — such as raising kids, taking care of the elderly — often fall to women and are likewise unpaid and invisible, Hoffelmeyer notes. Yet these are critical tasks required by society to keep families going and for the succession of farms.

'We tend to value economic involvement more than household involvement [when it comes to ensuring the viability of family farms]," Hoffelmeyer says. "Because of this, there's a lack of support for the people who most acutely feel the need for childcare support. Oftentimes, that's women because of social norms, what people are expected to do."

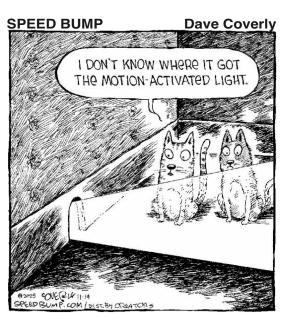
The next steps involve raising awareness about these issues. For their part, Hoffelmeyer and Fisher shared their initial findings at the 2025 Dairy Summit, a Hub event for farmers, agricultural leaders, and researchers. Hoffelmeyer's collaborators have also been sharing project findings through research briefs, conversations with federal congressional leaders and national farm organizations, and a traveling picture exhibit created with farm women who participated in the study.

As with most complex societal problems, Hoffelmeyer doesn't anticipate a quick fix. "In social sciences research, we often go to the root of the problem — looking at how it began," Hoffelmeyer says. "So, I think instead of offering a solution to a specific problem, we're really asking how did things get to be this way?

We actually know how to solve a lot of issues. And we even understand the causes of our problems, broadly, but it's often the cultural norms, the social expectations, those kind of dynamics that are preventing The overall findings show change. It takes a long time to

Yet it's satisfying work for Hoffelmeyer, doing what's possible to help ensure all members of the agricultural community are heard, considered, and support-





THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane KEANE

"Will somebody deck up the cards so I can serve 'em?'

#### **Peanuts**









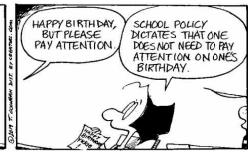
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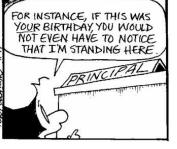






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### Between Friends









## Blondie







## Snuffy Smith

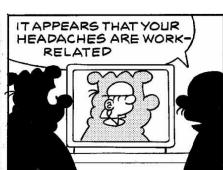






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#### Bidding quiz

 
 Vou are South, neither side vulnerable. The bidding has been:

 West
 North
 East
 South

 1 ★ 2 ★ Pass
 ?
 Vest North East South

↑ 2 ↑ Pass ?

What would you bid now with

each of the following five hands? 1. ★ KJ74 ♥ AJ6 ♦ Q3 ♣ K952 1. ± N /4 \ A J0 \ Q 3 \ R 892 2. ± 85 \ A 89843 \ Q J4 \ E K73 3. ± 6 \ 92 \ A 875 \ A Q9643 4. ± A J93 \ K Q74 \ 9 \ 8764 5. ± 75 \ K QJ8742 \ 74 \ A 8

1. Three notrump. Before discussing the proper action, it might be best to define the meaning of a non-jump overcall on the two-level.
Generally, this shows not only a very good suit but also the values for an opening bid.
Once this definition is accepted,

it becomes clear that this is a game-going hand, and the most likely game is in notrump. Two notrump, which would be invitational and not forcing, would be totally inad-

equate. **2. Three diamonds.** A partner who overcalls is usually much more interested in learning if you have support for his suit and the values for a forward-going bid than to learn whether you have a suit of your own and a hand of indeterminate strength. It is therefore better to raise diamonds with the given hand than to bid two hearts, which

you could also do with ♠ 974 ▼ KJ9852 ♦ 6 ♣ Q83. You are hoping, after you raise diamonds, that partner will be able to bid three notrump.

3. Four diamonds. Here you want to invite game in a suit rather than notrump. True, you have only 10 high-card points, but your distributional features more than make up for your lack of high-card strength. Another way of implying strong interest in game in diamonds would be to cuebid two spades, a method currently popular with many play-

4. Pass. Chances for game are poor, considering your lack of sup-port for partner's suit. To bid two hearts with a four-card suit is out of the question, and two notrump is likewise not feasible because partner's diamonds might prove useless as a significant source of tricks in as a significant source of tricks in notrump. Despite your singleton diamond, partner is a favorite to make two diamonds, so you should get out of the bidding while you still have a chance for a plus score.

5. Four hearts. Given partner's two-level overcall, you should be a heavy favorite to make four hearts, and you should bid it directly. It

and you should bid it directly. It would be wrong to bid only three hearts, which is highly invitational but not forcing.

Tomorrow: It's almost magic. ©2025 King Features Syndicate Inc

#### 11-14 **CRYPTOQUIP**

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Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals P

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# 2025-26 Fort Recovery boys bowling preview



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Pictured is the 2025-26 Fort Recovery High School boys bowling team. The front row from left are A.J. Siefring, Anthony Roessner, Troy Post, Zack Ervin and Leland Wilson, Back row is assistant coach Lucas Acheson, Gabe Acheson, Riley Stammen, Garrett Diller, Reece LeFevre and coach Jim Sheppard.

## **Top returners**

195 average pins, 417 series high

#### Reece LeFevre

190.8 average pins, 427 series high 175.4 average pins, 418 series high

## **Gabe Acheson**

#### **Key departures Riley Grieshop**

191.7 average pins, 440 series high

#### Eli Lennartz

#### **Drew Backs**

The Tribe had an up-and-down season that ended with it making the state tournament for the first time in program history. The Indians finished 11th in the state after placing fourth at the district tournament and second at the sectional. The Indians ended with a 6-9 record and finished 3-4 in conference. While they lost to St. Henry three times (once in conference play), Minster and Versailles — the Tigers had the same record in the MAC — FRHS managed to beat MAC champion Coldwater during the regular season. In the end, the Indians ended in a three-way tie with Minster and New Bremen for fourth in the MAC at 7-7 after a fifth-place finish in the MAC Tournament.

2024-25 season

#### Coach Jim Sheppard says

"We went to state last year and we've got a lot coming back this year, so our goals are going to be a little high. We'd like to get back to the state, finish well in conference. A lot of these boys, I've had for four years now. I've been with them a lot when they were on JV and then when they moved up last year, so I know them well, they're very coachable kids and they like to bowl. They like the competition."

## **Leland Wilson**

187 average pins, 434 series high

146 average pins, 203 game high

#### **Projected lineup**

Gabe Acheson - Senior Garrett Diller - Senior Reece LeFevre - Senior Anthony Roessner - Senior A.J. Siefring – Senior Riley Stammen - Junior James Westgerdes - Junior Leland Wilson - Sophomore

#### Fast facts

•The Tribe made its first state appearance but fell short of making it into bracket play, placing 11th.

This will be Jim Sheppard's first year at the helm of the Fort Recovery boys, taking over for Corey Gerlach. He has served as an assistant coach for the Indians the past five seasons.

•This will be the first year that bowling is recognized as a full school sport at Fort Recovery, rather than just a club sport.

•Three Indians earned All-MAC honors last season. Gabe Acheson and Reece LeFevre both were named to the All-MAC second team, while Riley Grieshop was an honorable mention.

### Matches to watch

Saturday, Dec. 13, vs. Minster

Minster was one of the three teams to beat Fort Recovery in the MAC last year. This will be the first conference match of the year and the only one in Fort Recovery, so the Tribe will look to start off on a strong note.

### Saturday, Jan. 24, vs. Coldwater at Minster

FRHS was the only MAC school to beat Coldwater last season. If the Indians want to push up in the standings, this is a chance to keep the ball rolling.

### Thursday, Feb. 5, MAC Tournament at New Bremen

The Midwest Athletic Conference Tournament is an opportunity to make up ground in the conference and will also act as a final tuneup before taking on the sectional.

## **Boys bowling**

Date Saturday, Nov. 15 Saturday, Nov. 22 Saturday, Nov. 22 Saturday, Nov. 29 Saturday, Dec. 6 Saturday, Dec. 13 Tuesday, Dec. 16 Saturday, Dec. 20 Saturday, Dec. 27 Monday, Dec. 29 Saturday, Jan. 3 Thursday, Jan. 8 Saturday, Jan. 10 Thursday, Jan. 15 Friday, Jan. 16 Saturday, Jan. 16 Saturday, Jan. 17 Monday, Jan. 19 Saturday, Jan. 24 Monday, Jan. 26 Friday, Jan. 30 Saturday, Jan. 31 Thursday, Feb. 5 Home matches in both	Opponent Minster St. Henry Van Wert Mississinawa Valley Tournament Minster Minster Marion Local Parkway Tournament St. Henry Bath Versailles Newton Memorial New Bremen Tournament Coldwater Ansonia Ponitz Fort Loramie MAC Tournament old at Miracle Lanes	Location Minster Celina Celina Union City Columbus Fort Recovery Celina Coldwater New Bremen Bellefontaine Celina Fort Recovery Versailles Versailles Fort Recovery Coldwater Bellefontaine Minster Versailles Fort Recovery Fort Recovery New Bremen	Time 9 a.m. 9 a.m. 1 p.m. 10 a.m. 12 p.m. 1 p.m. 5 p.m. 1 p.m. 8:30 a.m. 1 p.m. 5 p.m. 1 p.m. 8:30 a.m. 1 p.m. 5 p.m. 1 p.m. 5 p.m. 1 p.m. 4 p.m. 5 p.m. 1 p.m. 8:30 a.m. 1 p.m. 8:30 a.m. 1 p.m. 6 p.m. 1 p.m. 8:30 a.m. 1 p.m. 8:30 a.m. 1 p.m. 8:30 a.m. 1 p.m. 8:30 a.m. 1 p.m. 4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.
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# Sports on tap

### Local schedule

Fort Recovery Football regional semifinal at Marion Local - 7 p.m

#### Saturday Jay County -

Girls basketball at Hamilton Heights - 6 p.m. Fort Recovery — Boys basketball scrimmage

at Houston - 9 a.m.: Boys bowling vs. Minster at Community Lanes - 9 a.m.; Girls bowling vs. Minster at Community Lanes - 9 a.m.; Middle school boys basketball scrimmage at Russia - 9 a.m.

### TV schedule

Today - College wrestling: Penn State at

Oklahoma (BTN) 7 p.m. — NHRA: In-N-Out Burger NHRA Finals

7:30 p.m. — College football: Clemson at

Louisville (ESPN) 8 p.m. — College basketball: Xavier at Iowa

(FS1)

8 p.m. — NHL: Philadelphia Flyers at St. Louis Blues (FDSN Indiana)

9 p.m. - College football: Minnesota at Ore-

gon (FOX) College basketball: Michigan at TCU (ESPN2)

- College basketball: Gonzaga at Arizona State (ESPN2)

## Saturday

9 a.m. - World Cup Qualification soccer: Kazakhstan at Belgium (FS1)
12 p.m. — College football: South Carolina at

Texas A&M (ESPN); Wisconsin at Indiana (BTN); Michigan at Northwestern (FOX); Notre Dame at Pitt (ABC); Arizona at Cincinnati (FS1); South Florida at Navy (ESPN2)

12 p.m. — NWSL soccer: Washington Spirit at

1 p.m. — College football: West Virginia at Arizona State (TNT)

3 p.m. — Curling: U.S. Olympic Trials (USA) 3:30 p.m. — College football: Oklahoma at Alabama (ABC); Penn State at Michigan State (CBS); Maryland at Illinois (FS1); Iowa at USC

(BTN); Virginia at Duke (ESPN2); N.C. State at Miami (ESPN); UCF at Texas Tech (FOX) 4 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Notre

Dame at Michigan (NBC) 7 p.m. — College football: Florida at Ole Miss (ESPN); Purdue at Washington (FS1); Utah at Bay-

lor (ESPN2); Texas at Georgia (ABC); UCLA at Ohio 7 p.m. NBA: Toronto Raptors at Indiana

Pacers (FDSN Indiana) 7 p.m. — College basketball: UConn at BYU (FOX); Oklahoma at Nebraska (BTN)

7 p.m. — Curling: U.S. Olympic Trials (USA) 9 p.m. — College basketball: Green Bay at

Minnesota (BTN) 10:15 p.m. — - College football: TCU at BYU

10:30 p.m. — College football: Wyoming at Fresno State (FS1); UC Davis at Montana State (ESPN2)

### **60 SERVICES**

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#### 90 SALE CALENDAR LAND AUCTION

**MONDAY** DECEMBER 1st, 2025 5:00 P.M. LOCATED: CR 100 N, 6.5 MILES E OF HWY 27. PORTLAND, IN REAL ESTATE 96.6 Acres in Section 16, Noble Twp. Jay County, Indiana. Tract 1: 76 +/- Acres with 68 Acres Tillable with frontage on County Road 100 N.

Tract 2: 20 +/- Acres

Wooded with Access via

a 25' Lane from County

### 90 SALE CALENDAR

Road 100 N. Wooded Acreage in Classified Forest. Tract 3: Combination of

**Tracts** 1 and 2. Note: Tillable Acreage does have some tile but

not systematically drained. More acreage can be made tillable. Very desirable Farm in a great location! OWNERS:

Jeffrey V & Agnes M Smith. Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.

SHAWVER AUCTION-**EERING AND REAL ESTATE** AC31800004

**AUCTIONEERS** Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229 Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040

260-726-5587

**PUBLIC AUCTION** Located: Women's Building at the Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 E Votaw St., Portland, IN Thursday Evening DECEMBER 4, 2025

6:00 P.M.

**REAL ESTATE - PIKE** 

## 90 SALE CALENDAR

TOWNSHIP, JAY **COUNTY INDIANA** TRACT 1 - 31.48 acres of land located in Section 30 of Pike Township. 28.92 acres of tillable land and the balance in non tillable land and roadway. This parcel of land has road frontage on CR 175W and

CR 800 S. TRACT 2 - 43 +/- acres of land with approximately 42 acres of tillable land and the balance in roadway and utility transmission tow-

This parcel of land has road frontage on CR 175W.

TRACT 3 - 74.48 +/acres of land, which is the combination of Tract 1 and Tract 2.

For more information contact Gary Loy, Auctioneer at (260) 726-5160 or Kim Loy, Real Estate Broker at (260) 726-2700.

MITCH AND CHRISTI LOY Loy Auction AC#31600027

Auctioneers

Gary Loy AU01031608

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#### 130 MISC. FOR SALE

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 more information.

#### 190 FARMERS COLUMN

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

#### 200 FOR RENT LEASE SPACE avail-

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## **250 PUBLIC NOTICE**

## Public Notice

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ES-TATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE Date & Time of Sale: December 18, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. at 120 N

Court Street, Suite 305. Portland. IN 47371 Judgment to be Satisfied: \$43,603.71 as of October 30, 2025. Cause No: 38D01-2505-MF-000010 Plantiff: First Merchants Bank

Defendant(s): Esther M. Aker a/k/a Esther M. Shaneyfel By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Jay County, Indiana, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, at the date, time, and location listed above, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Jay County, Indiana as fol-

lows LOT NUMBER FOURTEEN (14) IN BLOCK NUMBER TWO (2) IN THE TOWN OF LANCASTER, NOW SALAMONIA, JAY COUNTY, INDIANA.

Commonly Known as: 5910 E 400 S, Salamonina, IN 47381 Parcel No.: 38-12-05-404-049.000-027

Subject to all liens, encumbrances and easements of record not otherwise extinguished in the proceedings known as cause #38D01-2505-MF-000010 in the Superior Court of the County of Jay, Indiana.

Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisement laws. This Notice shall also represent service of Notice of Sale of the above-described real estate upon the owners, pursuant to requirements of IC 32-29-7-3 Larry Ray Newton, Jr., Sheriff of Jay County Plaintiff's Attorneys

Matthew L. Kelsey, Atty. #29313-49 DEFUR VORAN LLP The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the commonly known address published herein. It is the

buyer's responsibility to research the legal description and

associated legal filings CR 11-14,21,28-2025-HSPAXLP

## 400 S Walnut Street, Suite 200 Muncie, IN 47305

Page 8 www.thecr.com The Commercial Review

# 2025-26 Fort Recovery girls bowling preview



Pictured is the 2025-26 Fort Recovery High School girls bowling team. The front row from left are Malia Grisez, Deanna Brown, Jadyn Wyerick and Lilah Thien. Back row are Elizabeth Kahlig, Claire Gaerke, Liliana Williams and coach Doug Stone.

Fast facts

the Year (Deanna Brown) and Coach of the Year (Alison Rosegrant).

provide a basis to judge where the Indians are at early.

chance at a third title, shared or alone, it will need to take this match.

•The Tribe has made back-to-back state appearances and claimed its first sectional championship during the 2025 season. They also shared the Midwest Athletic Conference title and had the MAC Bowler of

•This will be Doug Stone's first year at the helm of the Fort Recovery girls. He has previously served as

•This will be the first year that bowling is recognized as a full school sport at Fort Recovery, rather than

**Matches to watch** 

Friday, Nov. 15, at Minster

the lineup at any point. This non-conference match against a Midwest Athletic Conference team will

Saturday, Jan. 10, at Versailles

Saturday, Feb. 7, MAC Tournament at New Bremen

ished second in the conference tournament. This is also a final tuneup before taking on the sectional.

Even though the Indians were undefeated in the MAC during the regular season last year, they fin-

Fort Recovery has had to share the MAC title with the Tigers the past two seasons. If it wants a

With three girls departing from the program, Fort Recovery will need at least two new bowlers in

## 2024-25 season

The Tribe built on its success from the previous season and made it to state for the second time in school history. While the Indians struggled at state to finish in 12th, they managed to claim their second share of the Midwest Athletic Conference title with Versailles and won its first sectional tournament championship. After its 9-1 season (6-0 MAC), Fort Recovery had plenty of representation in the postseason awards. Deanna Brown was named MAC Bowler of the Year while Alison Rosegrant was named Coach of the Year. It also had three first-teamers, one second-teamer and two honorable mentions.

#### **Projected lineup**

Deanna Brown (Junior) Claire Gaerke (Soph.) Malia Grisez (Soph.) Elizabeth Kahlig (Soph.) Lilah Thien (Sophomore) Jadyn Wyerick (Soph.) Liliana Williams (Fresh.)

#### **Coach Doug Stone says**

"I've got three girls coming back that I think will be able to carry the team and I've got four girls that have just started bowling. We had a tournament this weekend and I had one of those (new) girls make the cut, which was good and then the other girls bowled really well. I still think I'm going to have a pretty decent team this year, being this is my first year (with the team)."

#### **Top returners Deanna Brown** 183.6 average pins

**Lilah Thien** 178.1 average pins

Jayden Wyerick 173.8 average pins **Key departures** Ella Schoen 186.9 average pins

**Emily Lauber** 

178.7 average pins

**Kayla Heitkamp** 

162.3 average pins

## Girls bowling

**Date** Saturday, Nov. 15 Saturday, Nov. 22 Saturday, Nov. 29 Saturday, Dec. 6 Saturday, Dec. 13 Saturday, Dec. 20 Saturday, Dec. 27 Monday, Dec. 29 Saturday, Jan. 3 Thursday, Jan. 8 Saturday, Jan. 10 Thursday, Jan. 15 Friday, Jan. 16 Saturday, Jan. 17 Monday, Jan. 19 Saturday, Jan. 24 Monday, Jan. 26 Friday, Jan. 30 Saturday, Jan. 31 Saturday, Feb. 7

<u>Opponent</u> Minster Van Wert Mississinawa Valley Tournament Minster Marion Local Parkway Tournament Tournament Bath Versailles Newton Memorial New Bremen Tournament Coldwater Ansonia **Ponitz Fort Loramie** MAC Tournament Home matches in bold at Miracle Lanes

Location Time Minster 9 a.m. Celina 1 p.m. **Union City** 10 a.m. Columbus 12 p.m. **Fort Recovery** 9 a.m. 9 a.m. Coldwater New Bremen 9 a.m. Bellefontaine 8:30 a.m. Fairfield 9 a.m. **Fort Recovery** 5 p.m. Versailles 9 a.m. Versailles 4 p.m. **Fort Recovery** 5 p.m. 9 a.m. Coldwater Bellefontaine 8:30 a.m. Minster 9 a.m. 4:30 p.m. Versailles **Fort Recovery** 5:30 p.m. **Fort Recovery** 9 a.m. New Bremen 9:15 a.m.

# **Skubal** gets 2nd Cy Young

the coach at Troy for 10 seasons.

just a club sport.

By CHRIS McCOSKY

The Detroit News Tribune News Service DETROIT

Tarik Skubal continues to entrench himself in the pantheon of great Detroit Tigers pitchers.

On Wednesday, by a vote of the Baseball Writers Association of America, Skubal won his second straight American League Cy Young Award.

He is the first American League pitcher to win the award in consecutive years since Boston Red Sox Hall of Famer Pedro Martinez won it in 1999 and 2000. And he joins Denny McLain (1968, 1969) as the only Tigers pitcher to win it more than once.

Skubal, a unanimous choice for the award in 2024, got 26 of 30 first place votes, beating out Red Sox Garrett Crochet (four first place votes, 26 second place votes) and Astros' Hunter Brown (Wayne State).

The Tigers were 21-10 in Skubal's 31 regular-season starts this past season. His 6.5 WAR and 2.21 ERA led the American League. Per Baseball Reference, Skubal led in 12 different statistical categories, including an MLBlow 0.891 WHIP.

His 195 1/3 innings and 241 strikeouts were career highs. He had a 32.2% strikeout rate and a 4.4% walk rate. His 7.30 strikeout-to-walk ratio was tops in the game. He allowed zero earned runs in 12 of his 31 starts, and two runs or less in 21 of them.

## **Pistons beat Bulls**

The Detroit News

Tribune News Service DETROIT — Headlined by the absences of Cade Cunningham and Jalen Duren, the Detroit Pistons came into Wednesday's game against the Chicago Bulls missing six of their core players. Despite being significantly shorthanded, the Pistons built a 23point lead midway through the third quar-

The Bulls made a strong comeback at the start of the fourth quarter and came within a point, but the Pistons avoided a collapse in final minutes, securing a 124-113 win at Little Caesars Arena. While extending their rebounds.

eight, the Pistons improved to 10-2 on the

season Paul Reed led the Pistons with a season-high 28 points, 12 rebounds and six assists, while Daniss Jenkins followed up his career performance on Monday night with 18 points and 11 assists. Duncan Robinson added 23 points on 7-of-10 shooting from behind the arc. With 4:33 left in the fourth quarter, Robinson's sixth 3-point field goal of the night put

the game out of reach. The Bulls, remain with Josh Giddey and Coby White, were led by Matas Buzelis, who recorded 21 points and 13

**ULL-PAGE COLOR AD** The Commercial Review, **The News-Gazette** 

and The News Times

**FULL-PAGE B/W AD** The Commercial Review. **The News-Gazette** and The News Times **\$750** 

1/2-PAGE COLOR AD The Commercial Review, **The News-Gazette** and The News Times

1/2-PAGE B/W AD The Commercial Review. **The News-Gazette** and The News Times \$450

Rates do not apply to The CR's Nov. 26 Thanksgiving edition. Color is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. If color is not available, ads will convert to black and white. Ads must run in November.



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