

Sharing Favorites

Drive-thru is Homan’s first step toward bakery

By **RAY COONEY**
The Commercial Review

Menausha Homan spent a lot of time at her grandma’s house growing up. They baked together. Cookies, cakes, zucchini bars. Those times created memories and a desire to make baking a lifelong pursuit. “I just loved that,” she said. “I’m very passionate about baking. So I was like, I want to do something I love and that’s what I want to do.” She had shared her goal — having her own bakery with in five years — with her husband Trevor.

Early this month, she opened Grandma’s Favorites as a first step toward reaching that dream.

Grandma’s Favorites is the newest venture in the small structure at 124 N. Commerce St., Portland, across from the northwest corner of Jay County Courthouse. It’s been a barbecue joint for at least three different stints and most recently was home to a hot dog venture.

Homan is hoping it’s the perfect spot to launch her foray into food after she and her mom Hope Nixon started thinking about ideas last October.

When they started brainstorming, they thought about the need for a breakfast spot in Portland and a place to get home-cooked meals. So when Big Sean’s Dawgs moved out, there was an opportunity.

“The drive-through is a little bit more simple than a whole restaurant,” said Homan, who now rents the space from Steve and Janna Snyder. “So let’s



Photo provided

Homemade blueberry scones with a lemon glaze are one of the favorite items Menausha Homan offers at her new drive-thru breakfast spot Grandma’s Favorites in Portland. While the scones are her own creation, she also draws heavily on recipes she learned from her great-grandma Anna Louise Loy, grandma Jeannette Loy and mom Hope Nixon.

start there and see how that goes.”

Homan’s love of baking and cooking started with time spent with her grandma and has continued into adulthood. She and her mom have cooked for local auctions and for infield events

at the Jay County Fair for about the last five years.

“So this is kind of the opportunity to also incorporate that with our baking and a lot of my grandma’s recipes and my mom’s grandma’s recipes also,” Homan said.

Among her favorite items on the menu are pancake poppers, a sort of waffle ball that comes from her grandma’s recipe. Another is a blueberry scone drizzled with a lemon glaze of her own creation.

“Biscuits and gravy is kind

of a staple in every grandma’s kitchen,” said Homan, who draws inspiration and recipes from her mom, grandma Jeannette Loy and great-grandma Anna Louise Loy. “So that was an easy one.”

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Shop Local campaign gets underway

First Bank of Berne is partnering with local chambers of commerce on its Shop Local campaign.

The goal of the effort is to highlight the “critical role that local shops, restaurants, and service providers play in creating jobs, fueling economic growth, and preserving the unique character of each community.” It will involve advertising, promotions and community events to encourage residents to make everyday purchases locally.

“Small businesses are the backbone of our communities,” said Kent Liechty, president of First Bank of Berne, in a news release. “They employ our friends and neighbors, sponsor local programs, and give each place its character. This campaign is a reminder that choosing to shop local keeps dollars close to home and strengthens the future we all share.”

Ribbon cutting set

Jay County Chamber of Commerce has scheduled a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Encompass Behavioral Health.

The ribbon-cutting is set for noon on Friday, Dec. 5. Encompass, a mental health counseling, therapy and wellness services firm, is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland.

The chamber has also welcomed The Tippy Glass, Jay County Community Thanks-

Business roundup

giving Dinner and The Brass Bell as new members.

I&M gets approval

The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission approved an agreement last week between Indiana Michigan Power, the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor and consumer groups for the acquisition of Oregon Clean Energy Center.

The natural gas-fueled electric generation facility located in Oregon, Ohio, generates 870 megawatts of energy. Indiana Michigan Power plans to work over the next few months to transfer ownership and operations, expecting to take over completely in March.

“The Oregon Clean Energy Center is an important opportunity to further diversify I&M’s current generation portfolio, acquire dependable generation, and position us for future growth to the benefit of all our customers,” said Steve Baker, I&M president and chief operating officer, in a news release.

Site launched

Ardagh Glass Packaging – North America launched an

upgraded website for its bottles last week.

The site — BuyOurBottles.com — has a new design for craft food and beverage producers to browse and purchase products. The site includes improved product searches and filtering, order tracking and an optimized mobile platform.

“Ardagh Glass Packaging is excited to introduce the new BuyOurBottles.com experience, designed with our customers in mind,” said Rashmi Markan, chief commercial officer for AGP-North America. “Built on Shopify’s powerful platform, the site offers a one-stop shop for craft food and beverage producers to browse, quote and purchase a variety of high-quality glass packaging that is proudly made in the USA, direct from the manufacturer.”

The site includes more than 20 glass bottles and jars in various shapes, sizes and colors.

Ardagh operates glass manufacturing facilities in Dunkirk and Winchester.

Chamber honors

The Greater Muncie Chamber of Commerce held its annual awards ceremony last week.

Honored with awards were:

- Enterprise Plumbing and Intersection — Small Business of the Year
- YMCA of Muncie — Economic Impact

•Kylene Swackhamer of Metropolitan Planning Commission — Excellence in Public Services

•Chris Walker of Muncie Central High School — Excellence in Education

•Jonathan Chambless of CRU Construction — Young Professional of the Year

•Summit Christian School — New Member of the Year

Ending, modifying

Tyson Foods announced Friday that it will close one of its beef processing facilities and modify another.

The company plans to close its beef facility in Lexington, Nebraska. It will convert its facility in Amarillo, Texas, to a single, full-capacity shift. Production at other facilities will be increased.

Tyson operates Tyson Mexican Original in Portland.

Hospital recognized

The American College of Cardiology awarded Lutheran Hospital of Fort Wayne with its Chest Pain Center Accreditation with Primary PCI and Resuscitation.

The accreditation is based on “the staff’s ability to evaluate, diagnose and treat patients who may be experiencing a heart attack.” To earn designation, facilities must have primary PCI always available, comply with protocols and be equipped with a “robust

hypothermia program” for post-cardiac arrest patients.

“It takes a dedicated and coordinated support and care for a village, and that is what we have here at Lutheran Hospital,” said Dr. Jack Scott, medical director of the emergency department at Lutheran Hospital, in a news release.

Worth \$1 trillion

Eli Lilly became the first health care company to reach a \$1 trillion market capitalization on Friday.

Lilly hit the \$1 trillion mark during morning stock trading, CNBC and other outlets reported. It was only the second non-technology company to reach that level, following Warren Buffett’s Berkshire Hathaway.

Purdue in top 10

Times Higher Education’s 2026 Interdisciplinary Science Rankings report released last week placed Purdue University at No. 10 for research excellence.

Purdue was also ranked No. 3 among U.S. public universities. The list included 911 institutions from 94 countries.


“Purdue’s global reputation is reflected in years of growing research expenditures, eclipsing \$1 billion for the first time ever this year,” said Purdue provost Patrick Wolfe in a news release.


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BECK'S

Favorites ...

Continued from page 1C

Monday's lunch menu featured mini chicken pot pies with macaroni and cheese or tomato soup and grilled cheese. For dessert, there were mini strawberry and cherry cheesecakes. (Patrons can get menu updates on the Grandma's Favorites page on Facebook. The eatery can also be reached at grandmasfavorites24@gmail.com or (260) 251-9512.)

The drive-thru at the corner of Commerce and Walnut streets in Portland is currently open from 5:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. for breakfast on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. (It will be closed this Thursday for Thanksgiving.) It also offers lunch from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Mondays.

The results have been good so far.

“We’ve gotten pretty good feedback from everybody,” said Homan, whose first day of operation was Nov. 3. “Everybody wants us to be open more.”

She also would like to be open more, but for now time is limited as she also works as an intensive care nurse at Reid Health in Richmond.

The 2016 graduate of Jay County High School and 2020 graduate of Indiana University East said her balance will likely flip as she turns more attention to her bakery goals, but she plans to continue nursing even as her business begins to demand more of her time.

“I do love being a nurse and I do love my ICU people,” Homan said. “I don’t think I could ever see



Photo provided

Menausha Homan is thankful for the help of her family and friends who have helped her get Grandma’s Favorites going. The drive-thru is currently open on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings for breakfast as well as from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday for lunch.

myself leaving that full-time because I love the knowledge and the skills I learned from that.”

When she’s not baking or nursing, she’s usually spending time with her 16-month-old daughter Charlotte. She also helps her husband Trevor with their animals, which include goats, chickens, cows, horses, ducks and pigs.

She hopes to incorporate those aspects of her life into the business in the form of fresh vegetables from home and locally raised eggs and beef from their 4 West Farms.

As for the long-term, Homan is not sure where the breakfast drive-thru may take her. A restaurant is a possibility. A bakery was her initial goal.

For now she’s just thankful for the family and friends who are supporting her and for the opportunity to continue the passion her grandma helped her build.

“I’m kind of just seeing where this goes and I’m kinda open for literally anything,” she said. “I feel like it’s already gone past any expectation. We’re kind of just rolling with it.”

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Auction poised to recast Hollywood

By MEG JAMES
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

Now, the real jockeying begins for the future of Warner Bros. Discovery.

Paramount, Comcast and Netflix are each expected to submit proposals for all or parts of the storied media giant by Thursday's deadline, according to people familiar with the process but not authorized to speak publicly. The nonbinding bids mark the completion of the auction's first phase, accelerating the potential sale of some of the best-known brands in entertainment, including HBO, CNN and Warner Bros. film and television studios.

Warner Bros. Discovery Chief Executive David Zaslav and the company's board have unanimously rejected three earlier overtures from Paramount's David Ellison, including a largely cash \$23.50 a share offer, deeming it too low. Thursday's entry of new bidders could boost the value of the struggling media company to more than \$60 billion.

Analysts say Paramount should have an edge because its bid is backed by David Ellison's

Bidders to make proposals for Warner Bros. Discovery

father, Larry, who is among the top five billionaires in the world. But it's not a sure bet that Paramount will come away with the prize.

"I don't know that I'm calling a horse," Julie Clark, senior vice president of media and entertainment at information firm TransUnion, said Wednesday. "They all have a lot to gain — and a lot to lose."

Warner's board wants to pick a preferred partner by year's end, in part to determine whether they should continue working on their previously announced plan to carve the company into two parts.

Should Paramount prevail in its bid to buy the entire company, Warner Bros. Discovery would abandon its efforts to create a stand-alone streaming and stu-

dios entity called Warner Bros., and a second publicly traded firm, Discovery Global, comprised of CNN, HGTV, TLC and other basic cable channels.

But Comcast and Netflix are interested only in Warner's Burbank studios and HBO — not the company's other cable networks, people familiar with the process said. A Warner breakup then would go forward to facilitate those deals.

Warner Bros., Paramount and Universal Pictures all date back a century to Hollywood's fledgling days. Warner's sale will transform the business no matter which company wins the bidding, and the resulting handoff could bring the consolidation of two historic film studios.

A merger also would turbocharge the shift to streaming.

But the move would prompt layoffs in an industry already reeling from a production slowdown and the elimination of thousands of workers over the last two years, including at Warner, which has struggled to operate under a colossal debt burden brought on by its last merger — Discovery's \$43-billion takeover of WarnerMedia from AT&T in 2022.

"That was a failed acquisition," said Kenneth Leon, director of research at the financial firm CFRA.

Antitrust regulators are expected to pore over any deal.

However, President Trump has made his preference clear: He's rooting for Ellison, who dined at the White House on Tuesday night, along with other tech moguls, including Apple's Tim Cook and Tesla's Elon Musk, who toasted Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia.

Ellison and his investor Red Bird Capital Partners have already visited oil-rich Middle Eastern countries, holding preliminary talks with sovereign-wealth funds about potentially investing should Paramount

win the Warner auction, according to two knowledgeable sources.

Netflix

Netflix is the wild card. "For Netflix, this [acquisition] would be out of character," Leon said, adding that making a multi-billion purchase would represent "the total opposite of Netflix's success for over two, nearly three decades, which is to have organic growth with some tactical acquisitions — but very small ones."

Still, Netflix has its eye on the Warner Bros. stable of successful franchises that include Superman and other DC Comics, "The Matrix," "Game of Thrones," Harry Potter and "The Big Bang Theory."

For its part, Netflix has generated a handful of blockbuster franchises, including "Squid Game," "Bridgerton" and "Stranger Things," but the creators of the last series are decamping to Paramount.

If Netflix wins the assets, including the HBO Max streaming service, it would become the industry's undisputed king.

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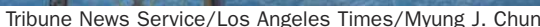
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"Peacock today is, at best, a

“Paramount lacks top-tier [intellectual property],” TD Cowen media analyst Doug Creutz wrote in a recent report. “Their biggest franchise is Tom

Clark sees the Warner Bros. Discovery auction as a consequential inflection point for the industry. "Fast-forward a couple of years, and we will look back on this moment as the building of the new [Hollywood] and the new walled gardens around content."

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