

# Regional arts plan launched

By **RAY COONEY**  
The Commercial Review

The region was awarded \$35 million through a state initiative in 2024.

A branch of that initiative was added to support arts and culture throughout the state.

Forge ECI publicly launched its Regional Arts & Culture Plan last week after unveiling it to those who had been part of the planning process early this month.

The planning process was funded through a grant as part of Lilly Endowment's \$250 million initiative that focuses on blight elimination, redevelopment of vacant properties and public arts/cultural projects that was announced in 2024 alongside the Regional Acceleration and Economic Development Initiative (READI) 2.0. It is intended to provide a roadmap for expanding arts and culture in the region and is a step toward potentially earning additional grant funding for projects through the Lilly initiative.

The plan highlights arts and cultural assets across the region — Jay County's list includes Arts Place, Redkey Blacksmiths and Jay County Historical Museum, among many others — and lays out big ideas, priorities, goals and steps toward implementation.

*Document will guide arts and culture development; grant funding through Lilly will be available in 2026*

"East Central Indiana has always been a place where people create — where innovation, craftsmanship, and creativity are part of who we are," said Caitlin Hancock, president and CEO of Forge ECI, in a press release. (Forge ECI is leading the regional initiative for READI 2.0 and related programs.) "We Make Things Here is more than a tagline; it's a reflection of our past and a commitment to our future. This plan gives our communities the tools to invest in arts and culture not as amenities, but as essential drivers of economic vitality, talent attraction, and community pride. It's a roadmap for the next decade, built by the people who call this region home."

The full plan, and a shorter

executive summary, are available at [grow.forgeeci.com](http://grow.forgeeci.com).

### The process

Forge ECI worked with Sara Peterson Consulting of Bloomington to develop the plan, including visits to all of the counties — Jay, Randolph, Blackford, Delaware, Fayette, Grant, Henry and Wayne — in the region.

Those involved in the arts, economic development, education, health care and a variety of other areas were invited to be a part of the process and develop strategies for how they can move forward together. Outreach included eight community sessions, 18 focus groups, more than 50 interviews and two public surveys.

Jay County was well-represented in the process, accounting



Regional Arts & Culture Plan

Forge ECI launched its Regional Arts & Culture Plan last week. It highlights assets in communities, including Dunkirk's glass heritage and Glass Days festival (pictured above), Arts Place and Jay County Civic Theatre.

for 14% of the participants despite having just 5% of the region's population.

Peterson and fellow consultant Paige Sharp used feedback from across the region as well as their own research to develop the plan.

"At Arts Place, we're excited about what it means," said Carolyn Carducci, executive director of Arts Place, this week. "Obviously, working together as

a region brings people in to all of the areas. I think for Arts Place being in rural communities, that's important. ... It's important that we work together because we're all in it for the love of the arts and we all want to share the arts together."

### The big ideas

The plan — it spans nearly 150 pages — lays out three big ideas: See **Plan** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Added to wall

Jay County High School added five wrestlers to its Wall of Fame during Tuesday's East Central Indiana Classic. Inductees, pictured from left, are 2025 graduates and state medalists Mattie Affolder, Lina Lingo, Emily Manor, Kiley Williams and Mallory Winner. Winner was a four-time state champion, including winning the inaugural IHSAA state title for girls wrestling at 170 pounds in 2025. Lingo was a two-time state medalist, including a fourth-place finish in 2024, and Affolder, Manor and Williams each earned one state medal.

# Ukraine, U.S. seek compromise for deal

By **VOLODYMYR VERBIANYI**

Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service

Russia will seek key changes to the latest U.S. peace plan to end its war on Ukraine, including more restrictions on Kyiv's military, according to a person close to the Kremlin.

Moscow regards the 20-point plan worked out between Ukraine and the U.S. as a starting point for further negotiations, as it lacks provisions important for Russia and fails to answer many questions, the person said, asking not to be identified discussing sensitive policy.

While Russia views the current document as a fairly typical Ukrainian plan, it will study it with a cool head, the person said.

Vladimir Putin hasn't yet commented on the latest proposals for ending Europe's worst conflict since World War II, which have

*Russia will seek changes, including military restrictions*

been worked out in weeks of negotiations involving U.S., Ukrainian and Russian officials. Kremlin envoy Kirill Dmitriev, who met with the U.S. team in Florida over the weekend, has briefed the Russian president on the results and Moscow will continue contacts on its position with Washington soon, Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Wednesday.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told reporters late Tuesday that differences remain between Kyiv

and Washington on territorial issues and on management of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant that Russia seized early in the 2022 full-scale invasion. Still, he offered an upbeat assessment, saying the negotiations had "moved significantly closer to finalizing the documents."

While Russia hasn't endorsed the latest version of the 20-point plan, it's unwilling to risk alienating U.S. President Donald Trump by rejecting it entirely. Trump said this week that talks were going "okay" and that there

was a chance to conclude a deal soon, though U.S. hopes for an agreement by Christmas have foundered.

There are no plans at present for Putin to speak with Trump, Peskov said, according to the Interfax news service.

Russia's concerns include guarantees against future eastward expansion by the NATO military alliance and on Ukraine's neutral status if it joins the European Union, according to the person close to the Kremlin.

The plan also lacks limits sought by Russia on Kyiv's post-war armed forces and types of weapons, the person said, and doesn't provide clear assurances on the status of the Russian language in Ukraine. Russia also wants clarity on the issue of removing sanctions and on hundreds of billions of dollars of

frozen Russian state assets in the West.

Russia wants Ukraine to give up land in eastern Donetsk that Putin's troops have failed to capture during almost four years of fighting. Ukraine rejects that demand, fearing that surrendering the area would leave it vulnerable to a new Russian attack.

Ukraine aims to persuade Trump to propose that Russia halt the war along the current contact line, Zelenskyy said.

Russia is currently suggesting it could pull back its troops from the Dnipropetrovsk, Mykolayiv, Sumy and Kharkiv regions, according to the Ukrainian president. But Moscow also wants Ukraine to withdraw from the area it still controls in Donetsk, which the U.S. believes should be designated as a "free economic" or "demilitarized" zone, Zelenskyy said.

### Deaths

**Ruby Overholser**, 90, Portland  
**Billie Mock**, 86, rural Portland  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

The high temperature reached 54 degrees Tuesday in Jay County. The low was 36.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the lower 40s. Expect mostly cloudy skies Saturday with a high in the mid 50s. There is a chance of rain Saturday night.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday in the parking lot at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, and Dunkirk City Park.

### Coming up

**Saturday** — A look at the new East Central Indiana Art & Culture Plan.

**Tuesday** — Coverage of the JCHS boys basketball game against Wapahani.

**Wednesday** — A look at the top 10 local new stories of 2025.





# Obituaries

**Ruby Overholser**  
*Nov. 6, 1935-Dec. 19, 2025*

Ruby Overholser, age 90, a resident of Portland, passed away on Dec. 19, 2025, at Persimmon Ridge Health and Rehabilitation in Portland.

Ruby was born on Nov. 6, 1935, in Jay County, Indiana, the daughter of Jesse and Dorothy (Hines) Hammers.

Ruby graduated from Jefferson High School in Deerfield in 1953. She then worked at Sheller Globe in Portland for 28 years. She then retired from the Jay County Clerk Office.

Ruby attended Noble Christian Church in rural Portland and

was a member of JCH-Primetime, Arch Bridge Kroozers and Jay County Historical Society.

Ruby married Lemoine Overholser on Aug. 6, 1955, he passed away on July 11, 2015.

Survivors include:  
Son — Jeffery Overholser (wife: Lorie), Portland, Indiana  
Daughter — Sherry Overholser, Kokomo, Indiana  
Three grandchildren — Preston Overholser, Mackenzie Overholser and Shalynn Overholser



She was preceded in death by a daughter, Shelley Overholser

Visitation will be held Sunday from noon to 2 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral will follow the visitation at the funeral home at 2 p.m. Burial will be held in Green Park Cemetery in Portland, Indiana.

and Helen Marie (Cook) Mock. He was married on April 2, 1960, to M. Yvonne Pasos who survives.

Billie had worked for GM for over 34 years, retiring in 1995. He served in the U.S. Air Force and was a member of the D.A.V. and American Legion Post #211. He attended Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Portland and enjoyed furniture refinishing and woodworking.

Surviving are his wife of 65 years M. Yvonne Mock; two



sons, Mike Mock (wife: Helena) of Williamsburg, Virginia, and Steve Mock (wife: Shari) of Kalida, Ohio; one brother, Larry Mock of Auburn; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, Dec. 30, at 1:30 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Fr. Marty Sandage presiding. Burial will follow in the Salamonia Cemetery. Visitation will be Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Memorials can be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital or Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

CR almanac

Saturday 12/27	Sunday 12/28	Monday 12/29	Tuesday 12/30	Wednesday 12/31
46/42	59/19	24/17	28/23	32/17
Saturday's forecast shows mostly cloudy skies with a low temperature around 47.	Sunday looks like showers and wind, with the high in the 50s and the low in the teens.	Monday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with temperatures in the mid teens late in the day.	Mostly cloudy skies are expected Tuesday when temperatures will be in the 20s.	Mostly cloudy skies on Wednesday, when the low may hit the mid teens.

Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> 3-18-36-41-54 Power Ball: 7 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$1.7 billion	Daily Four: 5-5-3-9 Quick Draw: 7-8-14-21-27-34-35-36-47-52-55-57-58-61-62-64-67-70-77-80 Cash 5: 12-18-24-37-41 Estimated jackpot: \$95,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$125 million	<b>Ohio</b> Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 6-2-2 Pick 4: 4-8-9-7 Pick 5: 3-6-5-6-7 Evening Pick 3: 7-1-3 Pick 4: 7-2-4-5 Pick 5: 0-7-8-1-9 Rolling Cash: 5-9-15-20-22 Estimated jackpot: \$217,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 3-9-2 Daily Four: 1-1-8-0 Quick Draw: 2-5-6-9-13-14-21-27-28-31-37-43-46-52-62-65-66-69-77-79 Evening Daily Three: 9-9-2	

Markets

<b>Cooper Farms</b> <b>Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.70 Jan. corn .....4.68	Wheat ..... 4.80
<b>POET Biorefining</b> <b>Portland</b> Corn.....4.67 Jan. corn .....4.64 Feb. corn .....4.61	<b>ADM</b> <b>Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.50 Jan. corn .....4.50 Beans .....10.53 Jan. beans .....10.53 Wheat .....4.95
<b>The Andersons</b> <b>Richland Township</b> Corn .....4.55 Jan. corn .....4.55 Beans .....10.50 Jan. beans .....10.53	<b>Heartland</b> <b>St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.65 Jan. corn .....4.60 Beans .....10.25 Jan. beans .....10.25 Wheat .....4.75

**Today in history**

In 1898, Marie and Pierre Curie announced the existence of radium to the French Academy of Sciences. They later won the Nobel Prize in Physics for their discovery.

In 1941, United States president Franklin D. Roosevelt formally established the fourth Thursday of November as Thanksgiving, a federal holiday.

In 1973, “The Exorcist” horror film adapted from William Peter Blatty’s book was released in the United States. It became one of the highest-grossing movies.

In 2004, thousands of people died from a tsunami triggered from a 9.1 magnitude earthquake off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia, in the Indian Ocean. The tsunami devastated coastlines in 15 countries.

In 2017, Jay County Commissioners approved a \$43,000 contract with Bill and Kathy Fields for animal control in unincorporated parts of the county.

— The CR

Citizen’s calendar

<b>Monday, Jan. 5</b> 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland. 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St., Fort Recovery.	<b>Tuesday, Jan. 6</b> 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St. 7 p.m. — Salamonia Town Council, School-house Community Center. <b>Thursday, Jan. 8</b> 5:15 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.
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# Plan ...

Continued from page 1

- Amplifying communities with cultural districts
- Development of a shared regional marketing strategy
- Partnering across regions to develop an “Indiana Music Corridor”

The cultural districts would be unique to each community but connected to provide a framework for downtown revitalization across the region.

“Every county in the region has at least one city that has either a plan to create part of its downtown into a cultural district, has done work in that direction or has a base of assets that it could use to start moving in that direction,” said Peterson.

For marketing, the plan pushes for creating a regional brand based on arts and culture icons, industries that drove growth (gas and glass, for example) and unique attractions.

Peterson noted the deep music history of Richmond — it involves Starr Piano Company and Genett Records, which recorded jazz musicians including Louis Armstrong — and other areas that could be used to showcase the region.

tional arts activities. It notes the importance of festivals, including the Jay County Fiber Arts Festival, Glass Days and the National Center for Great Lakes Native American Culture Powwow.

Jay and Blackford counties already have 10-year Art and Culture Master Plans in place, developed through Arts Place via a National Endowment for the Arts Our Town Grant. (Peterson said the goal is that other counties will develop similar plans to work in partnership with the regional plan.) Goals in that plan include downtown placemaking, building opportunities for art-related businesses, youth engagement, strengthening existing events and initiatives and sustaining programs through collaboration, leadership and long-term funding.

“Advancing creative economy embedded in local history, heritage and people’ emerged as a guidepost early in the engagement process revealing a core strength of drive and ambition continuously emphasized through ongoing input,” the plan says.

**What’s next?**  
The first steps toward Miah Michaelsen, direc-

implementing that plan focus on communication locally and throughout the region. It encourages arts organizations, creatives and leaders at the community and county level to meet together and engage with others such as community foundations, tourism groups, the chamber of commerce and Main Street organizations.

Arts Place and Purdue Extension are already in place to lead the plan specific to Jay and Blackford counties, as was recommended through their planning process. The organizations will pull in other key individuals and organizations to discuss implementation, with those efforts logically flowing into the regional framework as well.

Forge ECI will work to support the implementation across the region.

“We’re really excited to have this launched,” Hancock said during the presentation. “I think next year will be an exciting year to really start to implement some of these things and as the regional organization starts to look at how we can continue to promote the arts in east central Indiana.”

tor of Indiana Arts Commission, noted that there will be \$65 million in grant funding provided through the Lilly Endowment available for arts and culture projects throughout the state beginning in 2026. She encouraged interested parties to be thinking about initiatives that would make sense for funding with an eye on advancing goals and strategies in the plan and a focus on sustainability.

Ultimately, she said, success will come down to the individuals in each community who take action.

“You are the people you have been waiting for as it relates to implementation,” Michaelsen said. “This plan, regardless of whatever region in the state I’m talking to, is entirely incumbent on the folks in the region to make this come to pass. ... It’s the passion and the energy and the commitment of the region and the folks within it and the organizations within it and the creatives within it and the others within it to make a plan come to life.”

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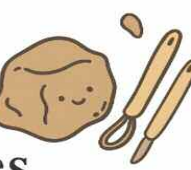


Send cover letter and resume to mitch@sprungersas.com

SERVICES

Sunday, Dec. 28  
**Overholser**, Ruby: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Tuesday, Dec. 30  
**Mock**, Billie: 1:30 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

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2026 ArtWorks Classes

register online @ myartsplace.org  
260-726-4809

Jay - 131 E Walnut St, Portland, IN 47371	Blackford - 107 W Washington St, Hartford City, IN 47348
Open Studio Ceramics January (1/5-1/30) \$40	Cookies & Canvas w/ Lydia Rowles (1/22 @ 6-8pm) \$20
Art Club w/ Allison Smiley (1/19 @ 3:30-5pm) \$5	Miniature Bookshelf Decorating w/ Leann McKissack (1/28 @ 6-8pm) \$20
Adult Wheel Throwing w/ Katie Cale (6 weeks 1/26 - 3/2 @ 6-8pm) \$120	Art Club 3 <sup>rd</sup> + 4 <sup>th</sup> w/ Lydia Rowles (1/29 @ 4-5pm) \$5
Toddler Art w/ Sheron McClung (6 weeks 1/30 - 3/6 @ 1-2pm) \$30	Art Club 5 <sup>th</sup> + 6 <sup>th</sup> w/ Lydia Rowles (1/29 @ 5-6pm) \$5
Open Studio Ceramics February (2/2 - 2/27) \$40	Wood Carving w/Paul Hyatt (2/11 @ 6-7:30pm) \$25
Youth Wheel Throwing w/ Katie Cale (4 weeks 2/9 - 3/2 @ 4-5:30pm) \$70	Mead Making w/ Leroy Brown & Stephanie Fields (2/12 @ 6-8pm) \$25
Art Club w/ Allison Smiley (2/16 @ 3:30-5pm) \$5	Cookies & Canvas w/ Lydia Rowles (2/19 @ 6-8pm) \$20
Mead Making w/ Leroy Brown & Stephanie Fields (2/17 @ 6-8pm) \$25	Art Club 3 <sup>rd</sup> +4 <sup>th</sup> w/ Lydia Rowles (2/26 @ 4-5pm) \$5
Oil Painting w/ Scott Anderson (2/24 - 3/31 @ 6-8pm) \$85	Art Club 5 <sup>th</sup> + 6 <sup>th</sup> w/ Lydia Rowles (2/26 @ 5-6pm) \$5

Coming Soon:  
Ceramic Vase and Flowers, Ceramic Jewelry Making, Ceramic Luminary Candlestick Holder





The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Festival winners

Jay County Chamber of Commerce announced Festival of Trees winners Dec. 18. Pictured at left are People's Choice Award winner Youth Service Bureau with representative PJ Corwin, chamber director Amanda Nixon-Randall, Jay County Public Library children's services librarian Shana Neuenschwander and Tami Vormohr. Above are third place winner Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition with executive board member Doug Johnson, Nixon-Randall, Neuenschwander and Vormohr.

# Son's death grows more difficult to bear

DEAR ABBY: My son died of cancer at 33. It was heartbreaking. My daughter-in-law, "Belinda," had grown distant before his death, and although they had a son through artificial insemination, I have almost never seen him. I helped with the wedding in my son's yard, but any time I came, Belinda always had the baby at the park or someplace else.

Now that my son is gone, she won't answer any phone calls or texts. We do have some contact

## Dear Abby



with her family. They have asked her why she won't contact us, and she has no explanation. My theory is that Belinda was uncomfortable sharing our son, and it has transferred to the grandchildren.

I say "grandchildren" because she used his sperm to have another child. We found out by accident that a baby girl was born. We were never notified. While I doubt this plays a big part in this, Belinda is bipolar. As it stands, I no longer make an effort to have a relationship with my grandchildren. They are so young, and I anticipate difficulty in pursuing grandparents' rights because of their ages and their mother's attitude toward us. This is painful, as they are the only part of my son

that remains. I feel helpless and have pretty much blocked out the fact that I have grandchildren. Do you have any advice? — BLOCKED IN OHIO

DEAR BLOCKED: What a sad letter. I do have some thoughts about your situation. The first is that because your son's sperm was used to conceive the children, you might benefit from discussing this with an attorney and asking if your state is one in which there are grandparents'

rights. The second is, because you are hurting, ask your doctor for a referral to a licensed family therapist to help you accept what you cannot change. You have my sympathy.

.....

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

## Community Calendar

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

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

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

**Sunday**  
A BETTER LIFE - 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.

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.

**Tuesday**  
COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP —

A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

A BETTER LIFE - BRI-ANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

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

## Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

### Wednesday's Solution

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

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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Big business card (3x3.5) - \$105

Business card (2x2) - \$52

Section will be distributed in The Commercial Review, The News Gazette & The News Times

Space for color ads is limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Deadline for ads is Wednesday, Jan. 20

Contact Lindsey at

[L.Cochran@thecr.com](mailto:L.Cochran@thecr.com)

or (260) 726-8141



# Can the spirit of the season last?

By MORTON J. MARCUS

The holiday season gets to me. I become awash in the noble thoughts of goodwill to all. I look in on the merriment at the Cratchit family, remembering that this is but one of many households not favorably endowed. And I wonder: What would it take to spread the cheer of the season to the entire population for a full year?

In 2024, among American workers age 16 and older with earnings (income from work), half earned less than and half earned more than \$46,949 for the year. More fortunate were those who worked full time, year round, with median earnings of \$61,583.

Many who study income and poverty seem to agree that \$60,000 a year is about the

Morton J. Marcus



amount needed to support a family of four in most places today. The problem is that 36% of full-time, year-round workers make less than \$50,000, while 39% make more than \$75,000.

What if employers decided to adjust matters themselves? Voluntarily. Without any minimum wage legislation. Without any intervention by government, private employers would choose to end poverty. It's a dream, but not inconceivable if the fever of self-

interest in America were to decline.

What would it take? Increasing the earnings of the 44.6 million workers making less than \$50,000 annually by decreasing the earnings of the 30.5 million who earn \$100,000 or more per year.

This might raise some prices while lowering others. For example, used car prices might rise as those now driving unsafe vehicles move into better used cars; however, luxury vehicles might take a hit in demand, lowering prices of new cars.

Currently, I estimate those with earnings of \$100,000 or more enjoy 44% of all earnings; that share would be reduced to 37%.

If the Indiana rule applied — equal percentages of sacrifice — it would mean those earning \$1 million would give up \$70,000 and

those at the \$100,000 level would be cut back by \$7,000.

Why should we do this? Because low wages reduce spending on health-related needs, such as rent for housing with good insulation. These homes are better for students in both winter and summer.

Because low wages make two jobs necessary, denying children the benefits of full-time parents while denying parents the joys and lessons of parenting.

Because low wages destroy economic dignity.

Good housing and good parenting contribute to greater success for children. That can reduce crime, improve learning, and provide us all with a more civil and prosperous society.

To the extent we can reduce punitive and other services cur-

rently absorbing tax dollars, we can increase the productivity of the workforce and increase tax revenues. We'd all be better off.

But isn't this contrary to economic reality? Why would firms raise the earnings of the less productive and reduce the earnings of the more productive?

Perhaps our calculus is wrong. It may be that those we judge to be less productive are worth more than they are currently paid. It may be that the person who collects the garbage provides more value than the resident who puts that garbage to the curb. We may be suffering from a cultural misalignment of values.

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Marcus is an economist formerly at the IU Kelley School of Business. Contact him via email at [mortonjmarcus@gmail.com](mailto:mortonjmarcus@gmail.com).



# Report is a bad way to end the year

By MICHAEL J. HICKS

The final jobs report of 2025 makes one thing abundantly clear: The critics of President Donald Trump's tariffs were right. The detritus of a failed policy appears in every element of this jobs report.

In the seven months since Trump's Liberation Day in April, the U.S. has created 119,000 new jobs. Compare that to the prior seven-month period between September 2024 and April 2025, which saw employment rise by 1.1 million jobs.

So far, the Trump economy is far worse than the Biden economy — if you believe the Trump administration data releases.

Since April, the unemployment rate rose from 4.2% to 4.6% and the number of workers who have had their hours cut to part time for economic reasons rose by almost 800,000. Other labor market measures tell similar stories.

The number of discouraged workers rose by 57% since April. Those who are marginally attached to the labor market saw their numbers rise by 13%, and the share of workers holding multiple jobs rose by 5% since April.

The mix of jobs tells an even harsher truth. Since the Trump tariffs, manufacturing has shed 67,000 jobs and business services that support factories have lost another 76,000 jobs. Transportation and warehousing jobs have slumped by 50,100 workers.

Manufacturing job openings

Michael J. Hicks



are down 130,000 positions since April, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Private sector help wanted advertisements for production workers have sunk by a whopping 27.4% since Liberation Day.

The U.S. is in the early days of a manufacturing contraction that will run through most of 2026, even if the tariffs are lifted today. We should call it the deindustrialization of America.

All of this flies in the face of the nonsensical claims of a manufacturing renaissance or onshoring that would bring factory jobs back to the U.S. The only domestic manufacturing the Trump tariffs have boosted is the production of lies about a growing economy. At least there we've had a banner year.

It isn't just that tariffs are bad. The uncertainty about tariff levels also cost us domestic jobs. Trump's TACO-ing has caused more changes in American tariff rates in the last 249 days than during the previous 249 years.

In the wake of that monstrous uncertainty, almost no business will onshore production. Building a factory in the U.S. to dodge

unknowable tariffs would be foolish. That's particularly true because the tariffs seem likely to be ruled unconstitutional next year.

It'd be far wiser to automate away the current domestic workforce. That way, you keep the production cost savings no matter what Trump does tomorrow, and you are sure to get a state tax incentive to do so.

Tariffs aren't going to boost manufacturing. We are in the early stages of larger job losses.

It is critical to identify those who pushed these policies. The Heritage Foundation laid out this tariff regime in Project 2025, while another think tank, American Compass, fabricated stories about the hollowing out of factory production.

It is worth noting that manufacturing GDP peaked in 2024 and then again in the second quarter of 2025 as factories pushed to meet the pre-tariff demand for goods.

Voters are going to have to deal with elected leaders who brought us here.

Yet, it is important to admit that concerns for working-class Americans are real and should be part of a policy debate. Far too many Democrats have supported tariffs over the years, with the equally unschooled belief that restricting trade would make Americans better off. Tariffs are going to look a lot more idiotic by summer, so now would be a fine time to oppose them.

One silver lining: This fiasco will remind Americans of the folly of tariffs for another century or so. One way to really reinforce this lesson is to examine the effect of tariffs on those middle-class workers that Heritage, American Compass and a slew of ignorant politicians claimed they'd help.

Since April, the unemployment rate for native-born workers rose from 3.9% to 4.3%, rising faster than that for foreign-born workers. The loss of factory jobs is impacting native-born Americans far more heavily than immigrants, who tend to be better educated and more likely to work in more stable sectors, like health care.

Since Liberation Day, American men have seen employment rise by only 4,000 out of the 119,000 jobs. Women have seen almost 29 new jobs for every new job held by a man. That's a notable achievement for an administration that made the explicit claims that they were focusing on the economic plight of working-class men.

The U.S. economy is in a clear deceleration. The economy averaged 160,000 new jobs per month during the seven months prior to Liberation Day. In the seven months since, we averaged 17,000 new jobs per month.

I'm reluctant to give former President Joe Biden credit for those strong 2024 and early 2025 job numbers. Presidents usually don't have a short-term effect on

economic performance. But, Trump and his tariff enablers in Congress are personally to blame for these worsening economic conditions. How much worse can they get?

The answer is much worse. From April to August (the latest data we have), domestic auto production has declined by more than 11%. Recreational vehicles — a stalwart predictor of economic performance — saw year-over-year sales fall 0.6% during the six months after Liberation Day, compared to 3.5% growth during the previous six months.

Both the auto and RV industries stockpiled maybe five months of imports before the full tariffs hit in August. We are now on the cusp of the real price effects of tariffs, which will spill over into almost every sector, but most heavily in manufactured goods. More jobs will disappear.

It is hard to be honest about the data and be anything but bearish for the coming year. But, as 2025 winds down, many of us will wish to forget about the terribly destructive policies that have just begun to batter the U.S. economy. Unfortunately, those policies won't forget about us.

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Hicks is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and the George and Frances Ball distinguished professor of economics in the Miller College of Business at Ball State University. Email him at [mhicks@bsu.edu](mailto:mhicks@bsu.edu).

# The Commercial Review

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# Seed banks can boost research

*Collection improves genetics and breeding research*

By LAUREN QUINN  
University of Illinois

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign corn breeders know profitability is about more than yield. By tweaking kernel composition, they can tailor corn for lucrative biotech applications, industrial products, overseas markets, and more. But to efficiently unlock these valuable traits, breeders must first understand their genetic underpinnings.

Traditional corn breeding usually takes years and requires acres of replicated trials, not to mention federal funding to support the research. But tapping into public genebanks and shared data, along with modern computational tools, can dramatically speed up the process.

Corn breeder Martin Bohn, professor in the Department of Crop Sciences in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at Illinois, recently led a project exploring kernel composition in nearly 1,000 diverse maize inbred lines from the USDA-ARS North Central Regional Plant Introduction Station in Ames, Iowa. The collection is part of the nation's system of seed banks — including two major collections housed at Illinois — representing many thousands of high-quality crop genotypes that are freely accessible to researchers.

Using near-infrared spectroscopy and publicly available genomic data, the team, which included undergraduate researcher Stephen Gray, identified genetic regions influencing both the average values and the variability of key kernel composition traits.



University of Illinois

A University of Illinois study showed that public seed banks can fast-track corn quality research. Pictured, Martin Bohn, a corn breeder and professor in the Department of Crop Sciences at the University of Illinois, and Christopher Mujjabi, a doctoral student, look at an ear of corn.

“Seed banks contain an incredible amount of genetic diversity, but they are often underused for quantitative genetics and breeding,” Bohn said. “Our results show that these resources can be used effectively to generate meaningful genetic insights, even before launching large, multi-year field experiments.”

Because seed bank accessions are typically available only in small quantities, often as packets of 100 seeds from a single genotype, the study relied on unreplicated seed samples, a situation traditionally viewed as a major limitation in scientific studies. To address this challenge, the researchers validated their findings by comparing their results with large, replicated field studies conducted by other research

groups. Strong agreement between studies confirmed that the unreplicated data captured real genetic signals.

“We compared our estimates with a huge replicated field experiment by colleagues in Minnesota that overlapped with 200-300 of the lines we used from the NCRPIS collection,” Bohn said. “We found that the correlation between their kernel data and ours was actually pretty high, so it gave us confidence that our data is actually meaningful and can be trusted.”

The team applied genome-wide association studies, variance-based genetic analyses, and genomic prediction models to identify both well-known and previously unreported genomic regions associated with kernel composition traits.

“Many of the signals we found were in regions where genes had already been identified for the traits that we were interested in — protein, starch, oil, and some others — so it confirmed that our analysis was on the right track,” Bohn said. “But we also found new ones. This is cool because these are new candidate genes we can explore further.”

The fact that the study uncovered new breeding targets is just one reason Bohn and his colleagues are excited about the research.

Doctoral student Christopher Mujjabi, a co-author on the study, said the work highlights a shift in how breeding research can begin. “Instead of starting with years of replicated field trials, researchers can first explore what’s already stored in gene

banks,” he said. “That helps prioritize the most promising material and makes breeding programs more efficient.”

The findings demonstrate how public germplasm collections, high-throughput phenotyping, and shared data can be combined to accelerate crop improvement, particularly for traits tied to nutrition, processing quality, and emerging specialty markets.

Bohn added, “We have developed a pipeline that allows researchers to utilize the genetic treasures that are located in our gene banks. You don’t always have to do an elaborate experiment as a first step. You can get an idea of what is in that collection, dive into the really interesting materials, and then utilize these for further studies.”

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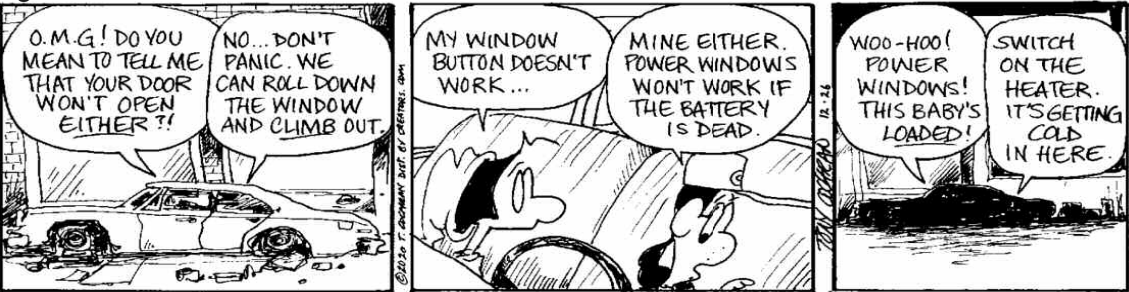
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Rose is Rose



Agnes



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Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

You have the following hand:  
♠ J ♠ 9863 ♦ AKQ1084 ♣ A7  
1. You deal and bid One Diamond. Partner responds One Spade. What would you bid now?  
2. You deal and bid One Diamond. Partner responds One Heart. What would you bid now?  
3. You deal and bid One Diamond. Partner responds Two Clubs. What would you bid now?  
4. You deal and bid One Diamond. Partner responds Three Diamonds (forcing). What would you bid now?

\*\*\*

1. **Two diamonds.** It is true that this is a slight underbid which could cost you a game (in notrump) that partner might bid if you elected to bid three diamonds instead.

Despite this, the winning bid in the long run is two diamonds. You need a fairly decent hand from partner to make a game, and you should assume that if he has it, he will bid again. It is a good idea to remember that your partner is just as anxious as you are to make a game rather than a partscore.

2. **Three hearts.** You should certainly apprise partner of a possible game in hearts, and you do this by making a double raise (16-18 points) in his suit. If your hearts were, say, Q-9-8-6, you could jump to four.

You are not likely to miss a game if partner passes three hearts, which he is permitted to do. If he is so weak (six or seven points) that he has to pass, he might have his hands full just trying to make nine tricks.

3. **Three diamonds.** This time, as distinguished from the first problem where your partner could have only six points, you can afford to jump to three diamonds to show your extra values. Partner's two club bid promised 10 points or more, and since this, in conjunction with your values, adds up to a probable game, you should make a jump-rebid (forcing once partner has indicated at least 10 points).

4. **Four clubs.** About all you can do is to tell partner, by cuebidding the ace of clubs, that your hand is not a minimum and that you have first-round control of clubs. Whether you make a slam, or even a game, depends on how well partner's hand fits with yours. If he has, say, ♠62 ♥AK ♦J9632 ♣KQJ5, you have an easy 12 tricks, while if he has ♠AQ3 ♥Q5 ♦J9765 ♣QJ4, you might not even make 11 tricks.

Tomorrow: Look for the silver lining.  
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12-26

CRYPTOQUIP

BASU GNQSR "ATB RT DTV  
HSX XT XAS IPSGQCGNX  
PSNXGVPGX?," XAS CPTH  
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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: UNUSUAL GENRE OF READING MATERIAL FOR KIDS ABOUT ONE OF SANTA CLAUS' REINDEER: COMET BOOKS.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals H

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 32 Minimize 1 "Hum- director  
1 Tampa 34 Male deer Joel  
Bay NFLer 35 Goals 2 Half of 20 Oust  
4 Antique 36 Nile dos 21 Spoken  
cars feature 3 Thai- 22 Boasts  
8 Intro 37 Indian land's  
studio metrop- author  
class olis 4 Singer Uris  
12 Navarro 40 Mediocre Wain- 25 Gift tag  
of "The pizzicato wright word  
View" 41 Not 5 Messes 26 Go  
13 Grecian 42 Folkys up hog-wild  
vessels 46 Nullify 6 Low digit 27 Latin 101  
14 Fibs 47 Landed 7 Opposite word  
15 Out of 48 Colson of NNW 28 Medita-  
jeopardy White- tive  
17 "Cola" head's exercise  
lead-in "— 9 Mob 30 Roman  
18 A/C Harbor" scene 402  
measures 49 First lady 10 Cal or 33 Brutes  
19 Heath- Truman Georgia 34 Meeting,  
cliff's love 50 Citi Field in slang  
20 Rainy day team 16 Words to 36 Taboos  
footgear 51 Green a back- 37 Smear  
22 Hoofbeat prefix stabber  
38 Sea flier  
24 Language of TV  
Pakistan screens  
25 Unfet- FLAP ONS MBAS  
tered re- LUSH BOT AONE  
creation ESAI GMA RODE  
29 Avril ATPLAY RICK  
follower UNTIL BINGCROSBY  
30 Sing like TOON STY ROSA  
Sinatra AGO ALS GAPER  
31 Moody HOLIDAYINN  
rock KOOL SNAILS  
genre FWIW OWL WRAP  
DATA MOE AYDA  
ASSN SET YSER

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 12-26

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# Rivers, Wenk ...

Continued from page 8

“The one consolation round kind of killed us a little bit. We didn't really win a lot there. But we kind of bounced back from that with our placement round.”

Rivers, who ran his record to 13-4, had perhaps his biggest challenge in his quarterfinal match at 126 pounds, falling behind 6-0 to Union City freshman John Mangen. He roared back and pulled even at 9-9 in the third period before notching a pin in 4 minutes, 35 seconds.

After dispatching Alexandria-Monroe's Cannon Runyon by a 24-8 technical fall in the semifinal, Rivers dominated his championship match. He racked up nine first-period points against Daniel Rupp of South Adams, had a 12-1 lead after a takedown early in the second period and used a four-point near fall to finish off a 19-2 technical fall.

“The first two matches, I started off a little shaky,” said Rivers. “I went into that (championship) match with Rupp just ready to go 100%. I wanted to put it all in the mat ...

“I felt really good the whole match. ... I got to my shots pretty well and I finished all of them. So I was pretty happy.”

Wenk's day went more as would be expected at 120, as he scored a first-period pin over Blackford's Benjamin Rose-nauer in the quarterfinal before getting a tech fall over Joseangel Perez-Contreras of Union City in the semifinal.

He gave up an early takedown to Alexandria-Monroe's Jayden McPhearson with the championship on the line and trailed at the end of the first period. But when McPhearson chose the bottom position to start the second, Wenk quickly maneuvered into a cradle for a four-point near fall that gave him the lead for good.

McPhearson closed the gap to 8-5 with a reversal at the 1:08 mark of the final period, only to have Wenk (18-1) reverse him back to secure a 10-5 victory.

“I think he did everything right,” said Leonhard. “He's just on that killer mindset right now where nobody can beat him. It shows on the mat.

*‘I felt really good the whole match. ... I got to my shots pretty well and I finished all of them. So I was pretty happy.’*

—Alex Rivers, Jay County sophomore

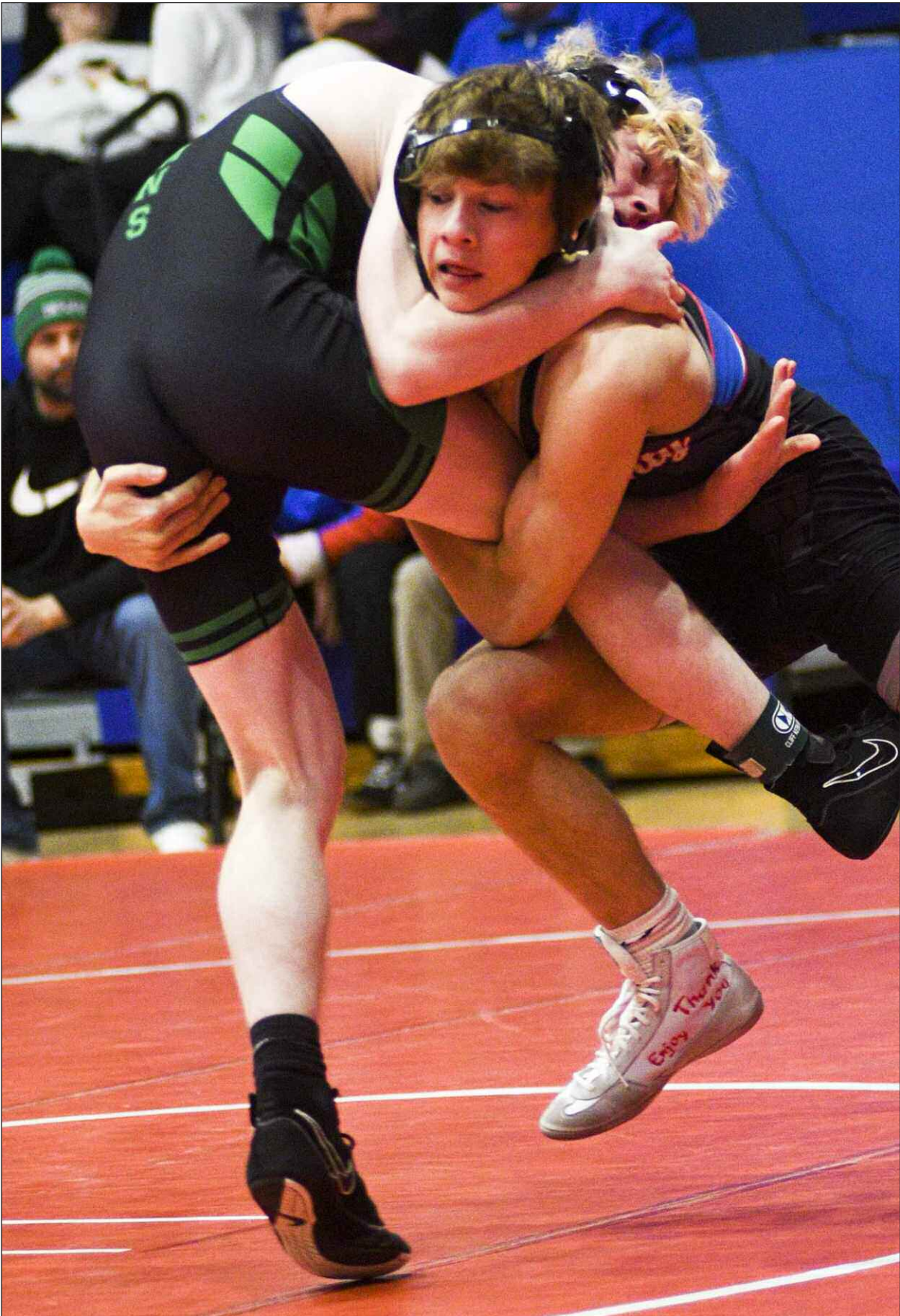
He would wrestle really well on his feet; when he got on top, he dominated on top. I can't think of a single thing that he did wrong.”

No. 15 Alan Ortiz (13-2), also a senior, made the championship match in the heavy-weight bracket but ended up finishing in second place. The title match was scoreless until Haydon Standlee of Alexandria-Monroe got an escape six seconds into the final period. Ortiz tried for a single-leg takedown late in the match but wasn't able to finish it, leading to a Standlee takedown for a 4-0 final margin.

Corbin Lothridge at 106, Cooper Glassford at 132, Jason Landers at 138 and Caleb Sibray at 165 all finished their days strong, winning their final matches to finish in third place. Glassford, Landers and Sibray were all 3-1 on the day while Lothridge went 2-1.

“Ending the day on a win is definitely a good thing,” said Leonhard. “Jason Landers ... he works with Alex Rivers and he's a tough-nosed wrestler. ... He has that, that killer mentality. He works hard.”

Adding top-six finishes for the Patriots were Spencer Smitley (fifth – 285) and Bryce Whisler (sixth – 113).



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Cooper Glassford of Jay County takes down Keegan Carter of New Castle during the opening round of Tuesday's East Central Indiana Classic. Glassford was one of four Patriots to finish in third place — the others were Corbin Lothridge, Jason Landers and Caleb Sibray — as he defeated Alexandria-Monroe's Bryan Rowland in his final match of the tournament.

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Saturday**

Jay County — Boys basketball vs. Wapahani – 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Girls bowling vs. Parkway at Speedway Lanes – 9 a.m.; Wrestling at Parkway – 9 a.m.; Girls basketball vs. Preble Shawnee – 11 a.m.; Boys bowling vs. Parkway at Speedway Lanes – 1 p.m.; Boys basketball at South Adams – 6 p.m.

### TV schedule

**Today**

1 p.m. — College football GameAbove Sports Bowl: Central Michigan vs. Northwestern (ESPN)

3 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Manchester United at Newcastle United (USA)

4:30 p.m. — College football Rate Bowl: New Mexico vs. Minnesota (ESPN)

7:30 p.m. — NBA: Boston Celtics at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)

8 p.m. — College football First Responder Bowl: FIU vs. UTSA (ESPN)

**Saturday**

7:30 a.m. — Soccer: Premier League – Nottingham Forest at Manchester City (USA)

10 a.m. — Soccer: Premier League – Arsenal FC at Brighton & Hove Albion (USA)

11 a.m. — College football: Military Bowl – Pittsburgh at East Carolina (ESPN)

Noon — College football: Pinstripe Bowl –

Penn State at Clemson (ABC)

2:15 p.m. — College football: Fenway Bowl – Connecticut at Army (ESPN)

2:30 p.m. — Horse racing: America's Day at the Races (FS1)

3:30 p.m. — College football: Pop-Tarts Bowl – Georgia Tech at BYU (ABC)

4:30 p.m. — College football: Arizona Bowl – Miami (Ohio) at Fresno State (CW)

4:30 p.m. — NFL football: Houston Texans at Los Angeles Chargers (CBS)

5:45 p.m. — College football: New Mexico Bowl – North Texas at San Diego State (ESPN)

7:30 p.m. — College football: Gator Bowl – Virginia at Missouri (ABC)

8 p.m. — NFL football: Baltimore Ravens at Green Bay Packers (NBC)

9 p.m. — NHL hockey: Anaheim Ducks at Los Angeles Kings (FOX)

9:15 p.m. — College football: Texas Bowl – LSU at Houston (ESPN)

### 90 SALE CALENDAR

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026  
10:00 A.M.  
Location: 7851 W. 400 N., Pennville, IN 47369

**OPEN HOUSE:**  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025 - 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 2026 - 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM**

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### 90 SALE CALENDAR

IN

Laci Smitley - AU10600051

260-729-2281 - Cell

Ryan Davidson AU10600063 260-726-5076

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Saturday February 14, 2026

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For more information on consigning your farm machinery please call: Dusty Uhlenhake 419-733-3096

Rick Uhlenhake 419-852-0800

Machinery consigned by January 17, 2026 can be advertised

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
ROLLIN J LANES BUSINESS LIQUIDATION

Located: 1616 N. Meridian Street, Portland IN JANUARY 1, 2026 10:00 A.M.

**RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT**

Manitowoc ice maker; MD TEP-25 pizza oven; TS 70000 conveyor baker; (2) Anets deep fryers; Delfield cooler; Model C51-242 electro freeze ice cream machine; Whirlpool side by side refrigerator; Frigidaire upright freezer; Star Model 524 table top grill; stainless prep table;

### 90 SALE CALENDAR

nacho cheese warmers; Budweiser Lite Up sign; bowling pins; popcorn machine; credit card machines; trophies; file cabinets; and many other items not listed.

**TRAILER - BOWLING EQUIPMENT - TOOLS**

Storage trailer; Phoenix lane cleaner; CTX digital conveyor; ball polisher; bowling shoes;3T floor jacks; Craftsman sockets; tap & die set; C clamps; wrenches; Campbell Hausfield 26 gallon upright compressor; LARGE LOT OF SCRAP; several metal shelves; and many other items not listed.

Auctioneers Note: Please note that this auction will be held inside but there is no heat in the building so please dress accordingly.

Loy Auction AC#31600027

Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112 Kaden Khayyata AU12400069

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### 260 PUBLIC AUCTION

## PUBLIC AUCTION

Located at 1616 N. Meridian Street, Portland Indiana

## JANUARY 1, 2026

10:00 A.M.

### RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT

Manitowoc ice maker; MD TEP-25 pizza oven; TS 70000 conveyor baker; (2) Anets deep fryers; Delfield cooler; Model C51-242 electro freeze ice cream machine; Whirlpool side by side refrigerator; Frigidaire upright freezer; Star Model 524 table top grill; stainless prep table; nacho cheese warmers; coffee maker; kitchen scale; crock pots; Insta pot; fry cutter; warmer; plastic straws; gloves; stirrers; Hatco holding cabinet; SAM 45 cash register; Bunn VPS Series coffee maker; Paragon Model 2028D cheese warmer; chip racks; napkin dispensers; beer buckets; metal lockers; Budweiser Lite Up sign; clarinet; camping chairs; fog machine; plastic chairs; beer mirrors; kegerator; dart boards; TV monitors; folding tables; bowling pins; popcorn machine; several disco ball; EAW SB1 80R speakers; UVL speakers; Razmataz light; gum machines; fire extinguishers; TV's; Oreck sweeper; Tineco rechargeable vacuum; Hurricane fans; 6 tables with ball holders; tables; bar stools; chairs; bowling pin bar stools; credit card machines; trophies; file cabinets; Honeywell fire safe; Honeywell heater; decorations; banners; trash cans; glasses; and many other items not listed.

### TRAILER - BOWLING EQUIPMENT – TOOLS

Storage trailer; Phoenix lane cleaner; Brunswick Kustodian lane cleaner; CTX digital conveyor; ball polisher; bowling shoes; bowling balls; bowling ball racks; drill press; Task Force metal tool box; 3T floor jacks; Craftsman sockets; tap & die set; C clamps; wrenches; pliers; ½ hp submersible pump; 16’ aluminum extension ladder; Dewalt DW756 – 6” bench grinder; impact wrench; Makita palm sander; Campbell Hausfield 26 gallon upright compressor; electric motors; shovels; rakes; pipe wrenches; sockets; drill bits; screwdrivers; metal cabinet; saws; Reed vise; drop cords; shop towels; indexes; hydraulic jack; 2 gallon air compressor; come along; 2 x 4 lumber; 2 x 12 lumber; insulation; LARGE LOT OF SCRAP; several metal shelves; and many other items not listed.

Auctioneers Note: This is a partial listing of the items to be sold. Please note that this auction will be held inside but there is no heat in the building so please dress accordingly.

## ROLLIN J LANES BUSINESS LIQUIDATION

LOY AUCTION AC#31600027

**AUCTIONEERS:**

Gary Loy-AU01031608 Travis Theurer-AU11200131

Aaron Loy-AU11200112 Kaden Khayyata-AU12400069

CR 12-26-2025



# Rivers, Wenk win

*Jay County senior and sophomore win championships as host Patriots finish fourth in East Central Indiana Classic*

**By RAY COONEY**  
The Commercial Review

Alex Rivers spent the entirety of his ECIC day last season in the consolation bracket. He lost his opening round match and went on to finish in seventh place.

The Patriot sophomore has spent the last year working to get to where he stood at the end of the day Tuesday — atop the podium.

Rivers and senior teammate Silas Wenk earned championships in the East Central Indiana Classic to lead the host Class 2A No. 10 Jay County High School boys wrestling team to a fourth-place finish.

“You know, first time I ever had first place,” said Rivers. “Pretty excited about it. Pretty happy, pretty pumped.”

“It just shows that I’ve gone so much better ... It means a lot to win.”

The Patriots scored 168.5 points, holding off Centerville by 1.5 points for the No. 4 spot despite having one fewer wrestler. They trailed only teams that are ranked.

Class 1A No. 4 Alexandria-Monroe rolled to the team title with 235 points while Class 1A No. 8 South Adams (194.5) held off New Castle (192), which is No. 19 overall in the state power poll, for third place in the field of 19 teams.

“We definitely had some highs and lows,” said JCHS coach Tyler Leonhard, whose team was selected Monday to participate in the Indiana High School Wrestling Coaches Association Class 2A Team State Duals on Jan. 10 at Brownsburg.

See **Rivers, Wenk** page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Alex Rivers of Jay County High School grapples with Daniel Rupp of South Adams during their 126-pound championship match in Tuesday's East Central Indiana Classic. Rivers won the match 19-2 by technical fall as he and 120-pounder Silas Wenk earned championships for the host Patriots.



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## Vonn qualifies for the Olympics

*41-year-old continues to turn back the clock*

**By STEVE HENSON**  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

It's been one surprise after another lately from Lindsey Vonn. And the announcement that the 41-year-old slopes queen has qualified for the Milano Cortina Olympics in February isn't the last of it.

It might have been her post on Instagram that stated unequivocally that this will be the end.

"I am honored to be able to represent my country one more time, in my 5th and final Olympics!" Vonn said.

Vonn's remarkable and inspiring comeback from injuries and a seven-year hiatus from top-level competitive skiing has injected the U.S. team narrative with an irresistible storyline. That her quest will culminate in the mountains of northern Italy just two months from now will make it must-watch television and social media video.

The last two weeks have thrust Vonn back onto the international stage as well as the podium, which she climbed in four of her first five races this season. That includes a spectacular win in the downhill in St. Moritz, Switzerland, on Dec. 12.

That marked her first World Cup victory since 2018. And now it's official that Vonn will compete in her fifth Olympics where she won gold in the downhill and bronze in the super-G at the 2010 Games in Vancouver and bronze in the downhill in the 2018 Games in PyeongChang.

Much of the astonishment circles back to her age. Vonn's win in St. Moritz made her the oldest woman to win a World Cup race — by seven years. Federica Brignone of Italy set a record a year ago when she won 10 races at age 34.

She also is the first World Cup winner with titanium implants in her right knee. And she'll become the first quadragenarian to lead the U.S. Alpine skiing squad seven years after she had all but retired.

In a moving column on Feb. 10, 2019, at the World Championships, The Los Angeles Times' Helene Elliott wrote what essentially was a sendoff for Vonn: "She went all out to the very end, because that's the only way Lindsey Vonn knew how to ski. She was bruised and battered as she went to the start gate on Sunday for the final race of her career; sore all over and her right eye blackened by the impact of a crash she suffered during a super-giant slalom race earlier in the week at the World Championships. Her ligaments tore and her bones sometimes broke but her competitiveness was never dimmed, never dented, never compromised."

Well, 2026 is around the bend and Vonn is back and intact, her competitiveness never compromised still. She has not officially qualified for the Olympics in the super-G, but she's the fastest American and No. 3 in the world, so count on that as her next headline.

"Lindsey qualifying for the 2026 Olympic team is a testament to her resilience and dedication, and the remarkable results she's delivered on the World Cup this season," Sophie Goldschmidt, U.S. Ski & Snowboard's president and CEO, said in a statement. "She's proven once again that elite performance isn't just about past success, it's about rising to the moment, race after race."