

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Growing practice



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Veterinarians Zack and Teresa Wasson, son and mother, expanded their Redkey Veterinary Clinic this year with the addition of lobby and office space and an overall renovation of the facility. They noted the growth of the business over the last 10 years and the additional privacy the cubbies provide pets visiting the office at 8908 Indiana 67, Redkey.

Redkey Veterinary Clinic expanded its facility and is preparing to welcome a new veterinarian

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

A decade of growth led to a need for more space.

With the expansion, the veterinary clinic in the southwest corner of Jay County is ready to take its next step.

It's been a year of transition for Redkey Veterinary Clinic, which opened its expanded facility this summer and is now preparing to welcome a new veterinarian to its practice.

The decision to add space to the clinic at 8908 Indiana 67, Redkey, came about three years ago.

"We just needed more room for the way the practice has grown," said veterinarian Zack Wasson,

who runs the practice along with his mother, Teresa Wasson.

Zack joined his parents — father Jim is now retired — in the practice after he graduated from Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2014 and worked with them to modernize the practice. That included a shift to in-house blood work, leading to faster results.

The facility also added new X-ray and anesthesia equipment, which Zack said improved both speed and safety.

He said the clinic quadrupled its business over the course of a decade, which resulted in an increase from three full-time employees to a dozen.

"It's very satisfying," said Teresa Wasson, a Montgomery County native, adding that the most exciting part of the process was having Zack come on board.

The additional customers and employees left the space cramped, so after working on plans and financing, the expansion project started in late 2024. During the work, the clinic brought in a trailer to use as exam rooms and a lobby.

"It was the longest six months of my life," said Zack, who bought into the business about two years after coming on board. "We were all on top of each other ..."

"Once we opened back up and

started getting used to the new building, it was a giant sigh of relief. It's been so nice having that lobby and the exam rooms back to normal. It really makes you appreciate things being where they're supposed to be."

Mid-States Construction of Redkey handled the project, which extended the building by 18 feet to the west. With the addition and some reconfiguration, the clinic ended up with about 1,500 additional square feet.

The expansion included new upstairs office space along with a conference room and break room.

See Growth page 2

Zelensky to meet Trump on Sunday

Comments from Russia raise doubts about a deal

By OLESIA SAFRONOVA and ALIAKSANDR KUDRYTSKI

Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he expects to meet with U.S. President Donald Trump in Florida on Sunday in pursuit of a deal to end Russia's nearly four-year invasion, though the latest comments from Moscow raise doubts about how close a final agreement ending the war really is.

Zelensky told reporters Friday that he would discuss sensitive issues with Trump including the future of the Donbas region in Ukraine's east and the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant.

The Ukrainian leader said he plans to refine Kyiv's agreements with the United States to the maximum extent possible, potentially as soon as Sunday's discussions, while the comprehensive 20-point peace plan would then require input from Russia and Europe.

The White House has not confirmed a meeting Sunday with Zelensky. Trump has previously said he would only meet with the Ukrainian leader or Russia's President Vladimir Putin if a peace deal were imminent.

For now, Ukraine has no direct communication with Moscow, Zelensky said, adding that his country's framework deal with the U.S. was "almost ready" and signing it would depend on the meeting with Trump.

Zelensky said he would like European leaders to be present online during his meetings with the U.S. He held a flurry of calls Friday with key allies, including German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte.

Retrospect

Newspaper reviewed the year's top stories

Twenty-five years ago this week, newspaper's staff shared its look at the top stories of the year.

The Dec. 30, 2000, edition of The Commercial Review reviewed the top 10 stories of the year, ranging from embezzlement from Jay School Corporation to the construction and opening of Arts Place.

The newspaper's annual top 10 — intended more as a review of the events of the year than as a judgment of importance — led with a story about a financial scandal with Jay School Corporation that saw Ray Dunn of Southern School Building's Inc. arrested and charged with four felony counts of theft. Dunn had failed to forward four of the school corporation's payments totaling about \$1.6 million

to Allstate Insurance Company, which held the loan that had paid for building Jay County High School. He committed suicide before signing a plea agreement that would have reduced the charges.

The Arts Place construction was the No. 4 story on the list that year, with groundbreaking early in the year and completion in December. The project included a new theater, gallery, workshop space, music practice rooms and the ceramic tile mural of Jay County landscape by Cleveland artist Rhonda Franklin along the south wall of Goodrich Hall.

Other items in the top 10 that year included:

•Tim McAbee and Bob Brumett, both of Portland, being sentenced to 85 and 55 years, respec-

tively, for murder and robbery with a deadly weapon, who killed 21-year-old Tony R. Thompson of Florence, Kentucky.

•Fundraising and groundbreaking for West Jay Community Center in Dunkirk. Leo Glogas and Chuck Huffman led the capital campaign.

•Barry and Elizabeth Hudson's donation of land to Portland Park Board for the construction of a new park to include a pond and amphitheater. (Eleven years later, that vision was realized with the completion of Hudson Family Park.)

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Editor's note: The Commercial Review's staff will share its list of the top 10 stories of 2025 in Wednesday's newspaper.



The Commercial Review/Jennifer Dattoli

Jay County Sheriff Todd Penrod (right) escorts Tim McAbee out of Jay County Courthouse during his May 2000 murder trial. Bob Brumett and McAbee's sentencings for murder and robbery were selected by The Commercial Review's staff as one of the top 10 stories of the year.

Deaths

Dorothy Bye, 82, Celina, Ohio
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 57 degrees Friday. The low was 37.

Skies will be mostly cloudy today with a high in the upper 40s. There is a chance of rain after midnight, with temperatures rising to around 50.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The Jay County Campus of Arts Place is hosting free movies next week:

•Tuesday, Dec. 30 — Jack Frost at 1 p.m. and A Christmas Story at 6:30 p.m.

•Friday, Jan. 2 — Miracle on 34th Street at 1 p.m.

For more information, or to register, go online to myartsplace.org.

Coming up

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

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

Friday — The newspaper staff shares some of its favorite books, music and movies.



Obituaries

Dorothy Bye

July 24, 1943-Dec. 25, 2025
Dorothy Bye, 82, a resident of Celina, Ohio, passed away peacefully on Christmas morning, Dec. 25, 2025, at her home. She was a former Portland, Indiana, resident.

Dorothy was born July 24, 1943, in Jackson, Kentucky, the daughter of Lewis and Mary (Gross) Reynolds.

Dorothy, also fondly known as Dot or Grandma Dot, graduated from Fort Recovery High School in 1961. She worked many years at Hartwig Poultry before retiring from CTS in Berne. Dorothy married Merritt Bye on June 9, 2019, with whom she spent her happiest days.

Dorothy enjoyed spending time with her family and didn't know a stranger. She became a born-again Christian in the early 1980s and shared her faith

with everyone she met. Her ability to love everyone came easy as she touched so many lives.

Dorothy was also very patriotic. She loved our county and would recite the Pledge of Allegiance anywhere she'd see a flag. She enjoyed crocheting blankets for many friends and family. She enjoyed playing UNO with grandchildren.

Dorothy also was dedicated to donating Bibles to organizations so the Gospel could be shared to some who may never get a chance to own a Bible. She was also a regular donor to veteran organizations.

Dorothy was a member of New Covenant Fellowship Church in Portland as well as Abounding Grace Ministries in



Bye

Celina, where she will be greatly missed.

Survivors include: Her daughters — Barbara Nichols (husband: Chris), Coughatta, Louisiana, and Sharon Watkins-Crockett (husband: Kraig), Celina

Three grandchildren — Paige Shivers (husband: Chuck), Celina, Nathan Watkins (wife: Christine), Willshire, Ohio, Kraig Crockett (wife: Haley), West Liberty, Kentucky

Great-grandchildren — Korbin, Jayce, Eryiann, Emmitt, Krue, Oletta and baby Easton, who will arrive any day

Stepchildren — Rodney Bye (wife: Kim), Portland, Kim Williams (husband: Dan), Celina, and Stacy Newton, Portland

Step-daughter-in-law — Patty Bye, Portland
Great-grandchildren, 22 step-great-grandchildren and four step-great-great grandchildren

Bonus son — Agustín Perales
One brother — Woody Reynolds (Della Link), Fort Recovery

Two sisters — Mary Burry (husband: Paul), Berne, Indiana, and Arlene Moore, Coldwater, Ohio

Sisters-in-law — Cheryl Reynolds, Decatur, Indiana, Maxine Reynolds, Greenville, Ohio, and Patricia Van Trees, Fort Recovery

Brother-in-law — Calvin Huss, Bluffton, Indiana
Numerous nieces and nephews

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by the love of her life, Merritt Bye; sisters, Lorene Huss and Judy Reynolds; brothers Nolan Reynolds, John Reynolds and Jesse Reynolds; nephew Jeff Reynolds; stepson Pastor Terry Bye; and brother-in-law Everett Moore.

Visitation will be held on Monday from 4 to 7 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

Services to celebrate Dorothy's life will be held on Tuesday at 11 a.m. at New Covenant Fellowship Church, 1238 W. 450 South, Portland. Pastor Chuck Myers will officiate and burial will follow at Gravel Hill Cemetery, west of Bryant.

Memorials may be directed to Sunlight Broadcast Network.

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

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

CR almanac

Sunday 12/28	Monday 12/29	Tuesday 12/30	Wednesday 12/31	Thursday 1/1
65/22	26/16	22/19	30/20	28/11
There's an 80% chance of rain on Sunday when the high will be in the mid 60s.	Monday's forecast shows cloudy skies with a low around 16 degrees.	Cloudy skies are expected Tuesday when the high will be around 22.	Mostly cloudy skies are in the forecast for Wednesday when the high will be 30.	Thursday's weather looks like mostly cloudy skies with a low around 11.

Lotteries

Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 1-1-7 Daily Four: 4-8-5-3 Quick Draw: 6-7-13-14-15-17-22-29-33-37-42-44-52-53-60-62-67-74-76-80	Pick 3: 4-6-3 Pick 4: 5-0-7-2 Pick 5: 9-0-9-1-0
Ohio Midday	Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$20 million
	Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$125 million

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.70 Jan. corn4.68	Wheat4.74
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.68 Jan. corn4.65 Feb. corn4.62	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.50 Jan. corn4.50 Beans10.52 Jan. beans10.52 Wheat4.89
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.55 Jan. corn4.55 Beans10.49 Jan. beans10.52	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.65 Jan. corn4.60 Beans10.24 Jan. beans10.24 Wheat4.69

Today in history

In 1512, the Laws of Burgos, intended to "regulate the relations" between Spain and the indigenous people of its American colonies, was issued by King Ferdinand II.

In 1801, Napoleon established the Republic of Lucca after he conquered Italy. The republic lasted less than four years, with Napoleon granting it to his sister Elisa as a principality as part of the new French Empire in 1805.

In 1822, Louis Pasteur was born in Dole, France. He developed the process of pasteurization, a heat-treatment process that destroys pathogens in foods and beverages, and developed vaccines against anthrax and rabies.

In 1831, Charles Darwin began his voyage on the HMS Beagle, a trip during which he would formulate his theory of evolution.

In 1900, Carrie Nation destroyed a bar in Carey Hotel in Wichita, Kansas, as part of her campaign against alcohol. Nation was the leader of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

In 2021, Dunkirk City Council approved Mayor Jack Robbins' recommendation to eliminate three police dispatch positions and to use the funds for those jobs to increase pay for the city's police officers.

In 2023, a crew from furniture manufacturing firm Palmer Hamilton was installing new wall coverings and other items as part of a renovation of the commons area at Jay County Junior-Senior High School.

In 2024, the Jay County High School wrestling team won the Battle at the Bear Den at Monroe Central.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday, Jan. 5 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland.	5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St., Portland.
5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland.	7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St., Fort Recovery.

Growing ...

Continued from page 1
Previously, managers were using an unenclosed loft area.

The most important part of the overall expansion project that came in north of \$500,000, Zack said, was the expansion of the lobby. It is configured into sections with half walls that create privacy for pets while still allowing their owners to communicate with staff.

"We made approximately four times as much seating space with modern cubbies where it's still an open feel but with privacy," added Zack, noting that it has

improved the workflow at the clinic. "So the animals have a place to kind of be tucked away but people can still see over it."

The next step in the transition will come next month when 2018 Delta High School graduate Breanna Cunningham joins the practice. After finishing her rotation at the Redkey Clinic, she will graduate from Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine.

Returning to join the practice full-time seemed like a natural next step for Cunningham, who also worked at the clinic for a

year after earning her bachelor's degree from Purdue University in 2021.

"We kept in touch while I was in vet school," Cunningham said. "So this was like returning home. ... I always knew that if the opportunity was here, this is where I wanted to come back to."

The addition of a new full-time veterinarian will allow Teresa to slow down a bit. She said she plans to continue until one more younger veterinarian is brought onto the staff before fully retiring.

Zack said he's excited to bring Cunningham on

board and get her acclimated with the day-to-day practice of veterinary medicine in Redkey.

He said he's not sure there's room for more growth in a small-town practice. But he also didn't rule out the possibility of buying another practice to expand the business.

For now, though, he's satisfied with the status of the practice that opened in 1912 and has been in his family for more than 40 years.

"When I stop and think about it ... and just pause and reflect, I am very proud of ... what Redkey Vet Clinic has become," Zack said.

Felony arrests

Methamphetamine

A Portland woman was arrested Tuesday for possession of methamphetamine.

Kala L. Grady, 34, 1928 S. Manuels Drive, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for the alleged crime, along with a Level 6 felony for resisting law

enforcement and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.

She was released on her own recognizance.

Resisting law

A Pennville woman was arrested Wednesday for resisting police.

Star L. Powers, 55, 108 E. Park Ave., was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for the alleged crime, along with two Class C misdemeanors for operating without a license and reckless driving.

She was released on a \$4,500 bond from Jay County Jail.

Capsule Reports

Fisher's accident

A Muncie woman struck a parked vehicle in the Fisher Meats parking lot in Portland at 12:15 p.m. Tuesday.

Jenna Scott, 41, was driving a 2024 Chevrolet Silverado north in the alley west of Fisher Meats, 300 W. Walnut St., when she overcorrected and sideswiped a 2015 Chevrolet Malibu occupied by 17-year-old Lauren Fisher of Bryant.

Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000. The truck Scott was driving is registered to GC Transport of Gaston.

Alley crash

A Portland woman crashed into another Portland woman's vehi-

cle as she was turning onto Arch Street about 2:45 p.m. Tuesday.

Ana M. Reyes Lopez, 57, was driving a 2016 Kia Sorento in an alley when she began to turn onto Arch Street. She struck an oncoming 1988 Volvo 760 Series driven by 72-year-old Stephen Jenkins.

The vehicle Reyes Lopez was driving was towed. Damage is estimated between \$1,000 and \$2,500.

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SERVICES

Sunday, Dec. 28

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

Tuesday, Dec. 30

Bye, Dorothy: 11 a.m., New Covenant Fellowship Church, 1238 W. 450 South, Portland.

Mock, Billie: 1:30 p.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

Optimists donate

The Portland Evening Optimist Club recently donated \$2,500 to the Jay Community Center for the Boomer Sports Program as well as \$250 for its upcoming Family Fun Night. Pictured from left are Jay Community Center director Kyle Cook and Portland Evening Optimist Club president Cheryl Ruiz.

Husband withholds health information

DEAR ABBY: Two years ago, my husband was told that our adult child's partner had tested positive for COVID two days before we were scheduled to visit them. My husband — a forever Good Time Charlie — decided not to inform me. Neither of us at that point had contracted COVID. We had taken every precaution we could to avoid it.

I have MS, which can react in unpredictable ways to viral exposures. My husband knows this very well, which is why I'm perplexed and furious that he thought it better to "stay on the good side" of our son by not allowing me to decide for myself whether I wanted to walk into a potentially deadly situation.

I only realized the danger I was facing when our son, while driving us to his apartment, suddenly apologized to my husband, stating he "couldn't do it," and said his partner was in the throes of COVID!

I was shocked speechless, but I held my tongue until we were alone.

My husband said he didn't think it was a "big deal" because we wouldn't have stayed long, and he knew I'd back out of the visit and "ruin it for everyone." He doesn't understand the issue, and I'm considering a divorce because he withheld information which could have led to a serious health outcome for me.

Is his behavior as major an

Dear Abby



issue as I think it is, or am I overreacting? We've been married 40 years, in a generally fair relationship, but we married very young. His blatant disregard for my health, let alone his own, not caring how either of us would react if we had become exposed to COVID, may be unforgivable. Do you agree? — GOOD TIME CHARLIE'S WIFE

DEAR WIFE: Was your husband's selfish lapse in judgment a one-time thing or has he always been this way? "Ruin the visit for everyone"? Your son's partner was in no condition to entertain.

You are fortunate the visit didn't turn into a tragedy. I think you should discuss this not only with your physician but also an attorney and take your cues from them.

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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 Dear-Abby.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.

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 - BRIANNA'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 - BRIANNA'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.

on Wednesdays at West Jay Community Center.

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

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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

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

Wednesday

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

PING PONG — Will be played from 11 a.m. to noon

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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

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

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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Bookstore comeback is good news

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

As winter settles in and daylight fades early, Americans long have turned to books for comfort, curiosity and company. The good news this holiday season is that the bookstores which make that habit possible are rebounding, too.

In the late 1990s, many book lovers often looked with scorn upon the likes of Barnes & Noble and the now-defunct Borders, favoring the dusty shelves of their preferred independent book haunt. Fast-forward to now and bookstores of any kind have been harder to come by in many communities. The old bookstore wars are over. In an age of Amazon dominance, readers have

Guest Editorial

learned to root for anyone selling physical books, and that enthusiasm appears to be paying off.

Barnes & Noble is leading the charge, opening nearly 70 new stores this year with plans to add another 60 in the new year.

"2025 has been a fantastic year for us," Barnes & Noble CEO James Daunt told CNBC on Dec. 15. To be sure, not all Barnes & Noble locations are built alike,

with some maintaining a smaller footprint wedged into strip malls while others maintain the standalone, bulky presence many identify with the brand. Examples of both versions can be found peppered through Chicago and its suburbs.

Discussing what may be behind this positive news, Daunt said the naysayers might tell you books do really well during a recession. He had a more hopeful perspective, crediting strong releases from the publishing world and a growing thirst for book supply among the public. While COVID was awful in so many ways, it appears pandemic lockdowns had the effect of igniting a love of reading in lots more folks — making it possible

for the bookstore ecosystem to grow.

"Once you get into the habit of reading books — and that clearly happened during the pandemic — you retain that habit," Daunt said. He also noted that tariffs, which have hindered so many other industries, have had "virtually no impact" on books.

These good habits aren't just bolstering big brands like Barnes & Noble, they're leading to a resurgence of independent booksellers, too. The American Booksellers Association reported that more than 420 new bookstores opened this year, part of a rebirth of bookshops after the initial Amazon/big-box shock that caused so many to go under. We found it interesting to follow the

timeline of this evolution by tracking ABA's membership, which peaked in 1995 with 5,500 members across 7,000 stores before dropping as of 2009 to 1,401 members across 1,641 locations. The group's most recent numbers from 2022 — 2,178 members at 2,593 locations — reflect an ecosystem that is rebounding modestly post-pandemic.

We couldn't be happier. To read is to learn, to feel, to expand your horizons beyond the tiny corner of the world you occupy. To come to the realization that you are but one small part of a much bigger world without ever leaving your sofa.

And if more people are coming to this realization, all the better for us all.

Policy ignores most challenging weeks

By JIM O'CONNOR

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

Federal agencies are preparing new guidance on recovery housing, transitional housing and long-term recovery supports. The shift comes at a time when communities face growing pressure from rising addiction, repeat overdoses and a widening gap between treatment and stable housing. Programs serving people in recovery need clearer expectations, stronger coordination and sustainable funding that reflects current realities.

Many people who participate in homelessness or crisis services today carry a mix of untreated addiction, chronic health conditions and long periods of instability. Short treatment episodes often end before people regain the skills required for independent living. Communities benefit from programs that offer routine, counseling, peer support and daily engagement so residents can rebuild the foundation needed for long-term stability.

I run the Second Story Foundation in Illinois. Our program provides long-term recovery housing at no cost, and residents take part in daily structure, counseling, employment preparation and community reintegration. Many arrive with limited recovery capital. With time in a consistent environment, they develop the capacity to work, reconnect with family and move toward permanent housing.

Federal policy is beginning to reflect these needs. Agencies are signaling support for recovery housing models that include clear participation expectations and drug and alcohol free environments when clinically appropriate. Recovery community organizations and peer specialists are also gaining wider recognition as essential partners. Their ongoing guidance helps people stay engaged after treatment and provides continuity during the long process of rebuilding stability.

Tens of thousands of people leave short-term residential addiction treatment programs each year in the United States, but the period immediately after discharge is where the system often breaks down. Many leave without income, transportation, a housing plan or reliable follow-up care, and the first weeks carry the highest risk of relapse or overdose.

Yet they have already shown commitment by completing treatment and engaging with clinical

Guest Opinion

staff. Federal and state systems should meet that investment with a second stage of support that includes long-term recovery housing, peer guidance, practical skill-building and structured daily expectations.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is also placing more attention on transitional housing with structured services. Programs that combine case management, routine skill-building, preparation for steady employment and consistent daily structure help residents stabilize more effectively. Strong coordination with health providers and community recovery organizations creates a more reliable and connected system of care.

Connections to workforce partners are another important part of the solution. Regular work provides a routine they can count on and helps them keep moving forward in their recovery. A steady paycheck brings stability and lets residents handle more of their own responsibilities. Employers gain workers they can depend on, and the community benefits from a stronger, more consistent workforce.

Federal and state leaders can strengthen this progress by investing in programs that combine recovery housing, counseling, peer support and job readiness. These programs cost far less than prolonged reliance on emergency services by people who are unhoused and repeated involvement with law enforcement.

Recovery is a long process. People need housing, routine and support that continue after formal treatment ends. Federal policy is moving toward a more realistic understanding of what long-term recovery requires. Communities can build on this momentum by supporting programs that are compassionate, practical and designed for lasting stability.

.....
O'Connor is founder and executive director of Second Story Foundation, a Chicago-area nonprofit that provides long-term recovery housing, job training and community support for men rebuilding their lives after substance use disorder.



God love bookish people

By JOHN KRULL

TheStatehouseFile.com

Outside, the fog and mist hover, making the lights of this old city shimmer wetly over the cobblestones, turrets and rooftops in the night.

I'm inside a small pub in Prague's Old Town, sipping a dry Czech red wine while I read from a slender volume of Franz Kafka's short stories, "A Country Doctor." The wine chases the chill from the night and the book focuses the mind.

I picked the book up at a little shop in the Golden Lane, the tight little alleyway lodged within the arms of the great castle that overlooks from high on a hill the Vltava River that bisects Prague.

The shop once provided a home for Kafka. It was where he wrote several of the stories, including the title one, in the book I hold.

The young woman managing the shop was of a literary bent. She asks me if I've read any Kafka.

I had, I said, but it had been years. I knew something about Kafka—that he died young, just a month shy of his 41st birthday, that he was only sparsely published in his lifetime and that his literary reputation had grown almost exponentially in the little more than a century since his passing in 1924.

The young shopkeeper filled in blanks. She said the writer lived in this small space, courtesy of a beloved sister, when he was in his early 30s. She also talked about how Kafka spoke to her.

After the shopkeeper rang up my purchase, she asked me to write down American writers she should read, which I did. I asked her to do the same with Czech

John Krull



authors I should know, which she did.

God love bookish people. In fact, I was 18 the last time I dove with any determination into Kafka. I read "The Trial" and "Metamorphosis" and came away from the experience not entirely satisfied.

Kafka's themes of absurdity and oppression didn't speak then to a young buck on fire to burn his way through life. In those days of my early manhood — let's not do the math on how long ago it was, shall we? — I believed I could make my mark in the world without having the world make marks on me.

A few decades and more than a few griefs and stumbles have taught me otherwise. Life is large. Sorrow and defeat are just as much a part of the ride as joy and triumph.

Now, as I sip my dry Czech wine, Kafka speaks differently to me. The world he sketches, in which some sights, events and forces elude understanding, makes sense now, as do his rueful explorations of the realms of absurdity.

When the waiter, a young man several decades my junior, asks me if I need anything more, he notices the book in my hand. He starts to talk—this city seems heavily peopled with bookish sorts—about the impact reading Kafka made on his life.

That resonates. Just before I settled in this little

pub, I walked the three miles from my lodging to Prague's New Jewish Cemetery, where Kafka is buried. The headstones there nestle closely together.

The writer's is a dignified stone structure. Time and weather have left their marks on its surface.

Many visitors have left pens and pencils in tribute to a writer who touched them. I stood there pondering the power of literature, the mysterious way words on a page can reach across generations and affect us.

After I'd walked the miles back to the Old Town, I was ready for a drink, a respite from the nip of the gathering night and a chance to read. The pub provided a welcome refuge.

Now, though, it is time to leave. I signal for the check and pay it.

As I begin to slip my book back into my bag, the waiter approaches and pours me another glass of wine.

"On the house," he says. "We like readers here."

God love bookish sorts. Soon, I step back outside. I take in the lights glowing in the moist, dark air, making every sight seem dreamy and ethereal.

I try for an instant to strip away the years and picture a slight, intense young Kafka striding these same cobblestones, but the sight refuses my summons.

So, I continue my journey through the mist and mystery of this great deep dark world.

.....
Krull is director of Franklin College's Pulliam School of Journalism and publisher of TheStatehouseFile.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students.

The Commercial Review



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

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

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CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to cold and flu season. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: T = E)

A. 14 2 19 19 26 8 11
Clue: Helps prevent illness

B. 6 26 16 16 13 11 16
Clue: A must-have for runny nose

C. 19 1 13 23 17
Clue: Reflex to clear airways

D. 16 8 11 11 3 11
Clue: Sudden expulsion of air

Trivial Review

(Answers are printed below, upside down.)

It's a date

1) What civilization is credited with first celebrating the New Year around the spring equinox?
2) What calendar system uses a 60-year cycle made up of combinations of animals and elements?

(1) The Babylonians
(2) The Chinese calendar

CRYPTO FUN

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Clue: A must-have for runny nose

C. 19 1 13 23 17
Clue: Reflex to clear airways

D. 16 8 11 11 3 11
Clue: Sudden expulsion of air

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to cold and flu season.

RSVUI

Answers: A. Vaccine B. Issues C. Cough D. Sneeze

GUESS WHO?

I am an actor born on December 26, 1986 in London. I wanted to become a war correspondent as a child, but acting drew me in. I am best known for a very popular HBO series about battles over a particular chair. I also voiced a role in a 2014 animated film about dragons.

Answer: Kit Harington

kids' corner

What's the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.

A 

B 

Answers: 1. Coke on plate 2. Missing candy cane 3. Missing design on inside of cup 4. Computer screen is lit up

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

DEC 22

1807: The Embargo Act is passed by the U.S. Congress, forbidding trade with all foreign countries.

1808: Ludwig van Beethoven conducts and performs at the Theater an der Wien, Vienna.

1937: The Lincoln Tunnel opens to traffic in NYC.

NEW WORD MERRY

cheerful and lively

COLD & FLU WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS: ACHES, ANTIBIOTICS, CHILLS, CONGESTION, CONTAGIOUS, COUGH, FATIGUE, FEVER, GERMS, HEADACHE, HYDRATION, IMMUNITY, INFECTION, MEDICINE, MUCUS, PREVENTION, REST, RUNNY, SNEEZE, STUFFY, THROAT, TISSUES, VACCINE, VIRUS

Holiday FACT:

This time of year is one of the most profitable for businesses and busiest for consumers.

Answer: Holiday season

Did You Know?

Festive decorations are commonly featured in homes and stores throughout the holiday season.

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Nutcracker

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Piece of fabric, 5 Openings, 9 Variety, 12 Gumbo, 13 Jacob's brother, 14 Author of 'The Catcher in the Rye', 15 Connector, 16 Office job, 17 Spanish verb, 18 Varieties of, 19 An safety, 20 Another, 21 Celebrate, 23 Unit, 25 Continue, 26 Year, 32 Like, 33 Verb, 34 Breeders, 35 Spanish verb

DOWN: 2 Spade, 3 Sharp, 4 Showers, 6 Actress, 7 Spade, 8 King, 9 French, 10 King, 11 One, 16 Spade, 17 Spade, 18 Spade, 19 Spade, 20 Spade, 22 Spade, 24 Spade, 25 Spade, 26 Spade, 27 Spade, 28 Spade, 29 Spade, 30 Spade, 31 Spade, 33 Spade, 34 Spade, 35 Spade

Solution time: 25 mins.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Look for the silver lining

East dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ A K 10 9 5
♥ 7 2
♦ Q 4 2
♠ 10 7 3

WEST
♦ 7 6 4
♥ 10 8 6 5 3
♦ 5
♠ K 8 4 2

EAST
♦ Q 8 2
♥ K J 9 4
♦ A 10 9 8 3
♠ 6

SOUTH
♦ J 3
♥ A Q
♦ K J 7 6
♠ A K J 9 5

The bidding: East Pass, South 1♣, West 1♦, North 1♥. Opening lead: five of hearts.

A true test of declarer play is provided by this deal, where South winds up in three notrump after the auction shown. West leads a heart, and declarer takes East's king with the ace. How should he proceed?

If South starts by taking a spade finesse, East wins and returns a heart, establishing three heart tricks for the defense, to add to the ace of diamonds and the spade already won. Since South at this point has only eight tricks

two hearts and two clubs he goes down one.

Similarly, if declarer attacks clubs rather than spades at the outset, the outcome will be the same.

However, there is much more to the deal than initially meets the eye, and the answer lies in the bidding.

East's takeout double at his second turn makes it a matter of whether declarer can put this information to good use. And the solution is that South should temporarily ignore both of his long suits in favor of attacking diamonds first!

For this approach to be effective, though, the initial diamond lead must come from dummy. If instead declarer leads a diamond honor from his hand, or a low diamond to dummy's queen, he will meet the same sorry fate described earlier.

To assure the contract, South should cross to dummy with a spade at trick two and return the diamond deuce, placing East in a hopeless position. If he plays low, declarer wins and establishes his clubs to produce nine tricks — two spades, two hearts, a diamond and four clubs. And if East goes up with the diamond ace instead, declarer again has nine tricks — two spades, two hearts, three diamonds and two clubs.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Cube, 5 Group, 8 The, 12 The, 14 Frank's, 15 The, 16 The, 17 The, 18 The, 20 The, 23 The, 25 The, 26 The, 29 The, 30 The, 32 The, 34 The, 35 The

DOWN: 2 The, 3 The, 4 The, 6 The, 7 The, 8 The, 9 The, 10 The, 11 The, 13 The, 14 The, 15 The, 16 The, 17 The, 18 The, 19 The, 20 The, 21 The, 22 The, 23 The, 24 The, 25 The, 26 The, 27 The, 28 The, 29 The, 30 The, 31 The, 32 The, 33 The, 34 The, 35 The

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer: 2-33

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ J 10 8 5 3
♥ K 10 6 4
♦ A 9 8 4

WEST
♦ Q J 9 8 6
♥ Q 4
♦ Q 7 2
♠ J 3 2

EAST
♦ K 10 7 5 3 2
♥ K
♦ J 8 3
♠ Q 7 6

SOUTH
♦ A 4
♥ A 9 7 6 2
♦ A 9 5
♠ K 10 5

The bidding: South 1♣, West 1♦, North 1♥, East 1♠. Opening lead: queen of spades.

This remarkable hand, played many years ago by Clagett Bowie of Baltimore, features an extraordinary endplay.

Bowie had bid six hearts fully aware that if his partner had a spade void, his ace would be of doubtful value. However, he also thought that his six-heart bid might induce the opponents to bid six spades.

The slam seems impossible to make, even if you see all four hands. Declarer has a certain trump loser and also a loser in both diamonds

and clubs. But Bowie made the contract and, furthermore, could not be defeated!

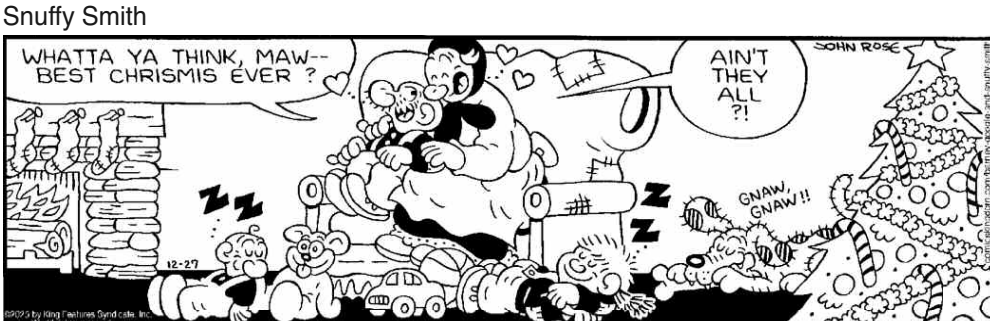
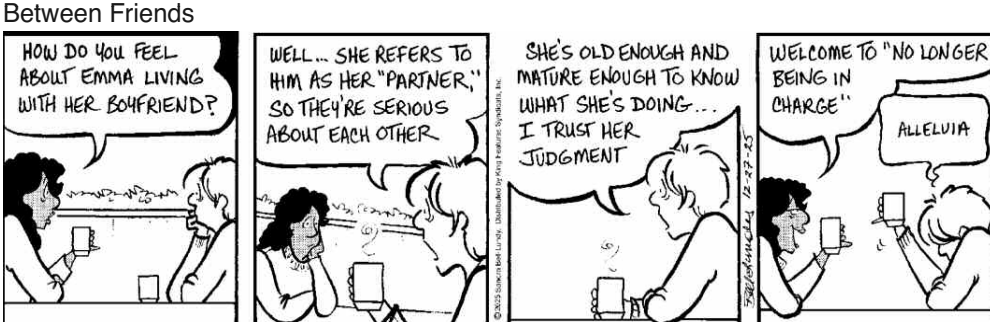
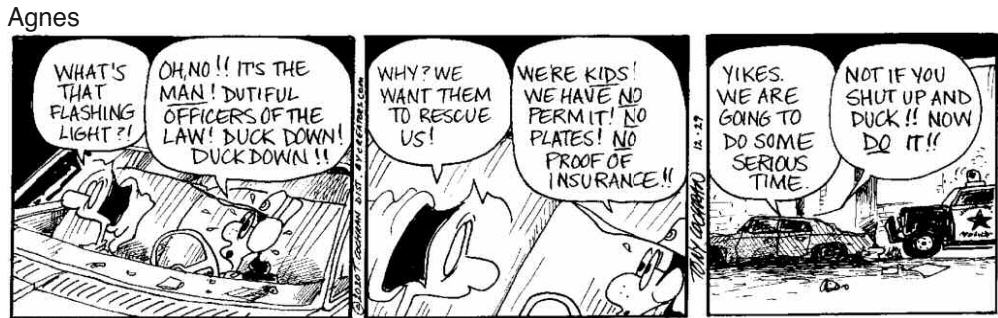
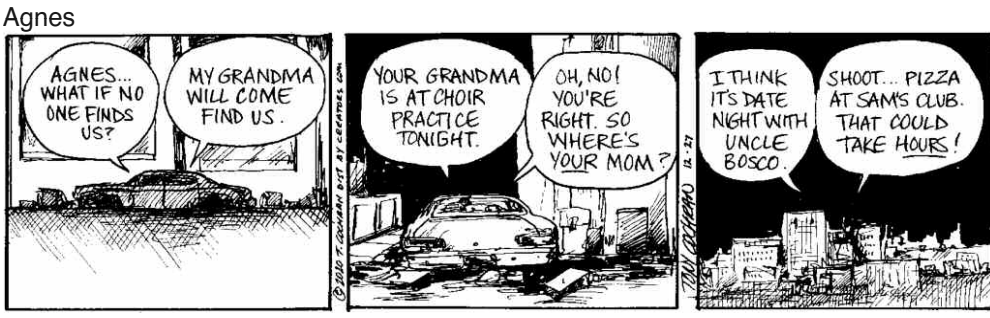
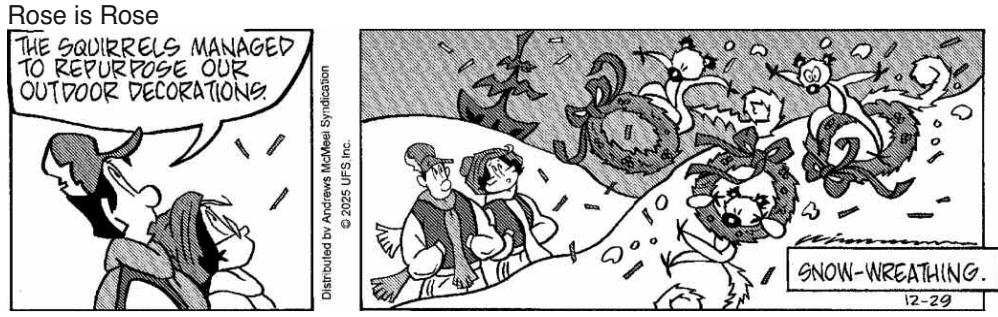
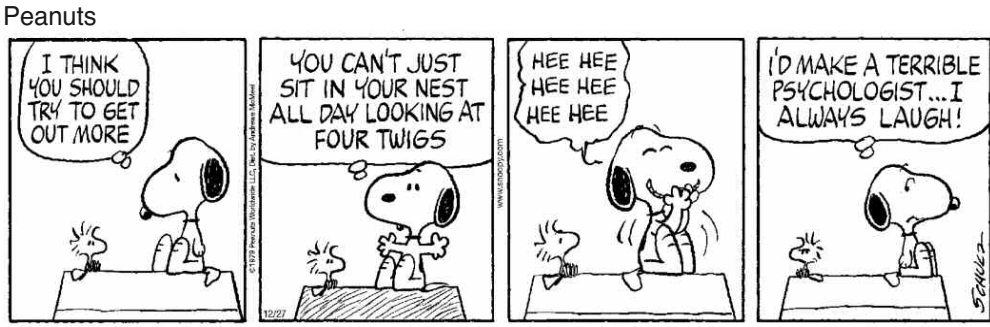
He ruffed the lead in dummy and led a heart to the ace. Then, to set the stage for the endplay he visualized, he trumped the ace of spades in dummy!

Bowie next led a trump, and after winning with the queen, West had no safe return. If he led a spade, declarer would ruff in dummy, discard the club five and then establish an extra club trick in dummy by ruffing the third round. If West instead returned a club or a diamond, South would score four tricks in that suit and simultaneously avoid a loser in the other suit.

If, for example, West led a low club and East played the queen, West's jack could then be overcome via a finesse. Or if West led the club jack instead, East's queen could then be trapped by going up with dummy's ace. The same was true if West shifted to a diamond. All roads thus led to 12 tricks.

Note that if Bowie had discarded a club or a diamond from dummy instead of ruffing the ace of spades at trick three, the slam would have failed. After being thrown on lead with the trump queen, West would have returned whichever suit Bowie had discarded from dummy. The setting trick would then have come from the other suit.

Saturday's answer: 12-29



We Deliver

Maybe it's a chuckle from reading a vintage Peanuts cartoon. Maybe it's a column by a member of The CR staff. But we try to keep our sense of humor.

Laughter

The Commercial Review We Deliver

**A
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In Memory Up to 100
words.... \$13.00
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90 SALE CALENDAR

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SATURDAY, JANUARY
10, 2026
10:00 A.M.
Location: 7851 W. 400
N.,
Pennville, IN 47369
OPEN HOUSE:
SATURDAY, DECEM-
BER 13, 2025 -10:00
AM -2:00 PM
SATURDAY, JANUARY
3, 2026 -12:00 PM -2:00
PM
OR BY APPOINTMENT
REAL ESTATE BEING
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3,208 SQ. FT.; 3 BDRM;
1 BATH; KITCHEN; DIN-
ING RM/LIVING RM
COMBO; UTILITY RM;
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10% Non-refundable
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Property being sold as-
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has been completed in
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prorated until day of
closing. Possession at
closing. Closing to be
held within 45 days or
less from day of auction.
Title Insurance will be
provided and taxes pro-
rated to the day of clos-
ing. ANY ANNOUNCE-
MENTS MADE DAY OF
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Laci Smitley -
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260-729-2281 -Cell
Ryan Davidson
AU10600063 260-726-
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Coldwater, Ohio.
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90 SALE CALENDAR

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JANUARY 1, 2026
10:00 A.M.
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MENT**
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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 refrigera-
tor; Frigidaire upright
freezer; Star Model 524
table top grill; stainless
prep table; nacho
cheese warmers; Bud-
weiser 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 digi-
tal conveyor; ball pol-
isher; bowling shoes; 3T
floor jacks; Craftsman
sockets; tap & die set;
C clamps; wrenches;
Campbell Hausfield 26
gallon upright compres-
sor; 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 accordng-
ly.
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AC#31600027
Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer
AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112
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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JAY, SS:
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
2025 TERM
In the Matter of
the Unsupervised
Administration of the Estate of:
June Lucas, Deceased
No. 38CO1-2512-EU-000033
**NOTICE OF
ADMINISTRATION**
Notice is hereby given that
Judith Hammers and Vivian
Champ were, on the 23rd day of
December, 2025, appointed
Personal Representatives of the
estate of June Lucas deceased,
who died on November 4, 2025.
All persons who have claims
against this estate, whether or
not now due, must file the claim
in the office of the Clerk of this
Court within three (3) months
from the date of the first
publication of this notice, or
within nine (9) months after the
decendent's death, whichever is
earlier, or the claims will be
forever barred.
Dated at Portland, Indiana, this
23rd day of December, 2025.
HINKLE, RACSTER,
SCHEMENAUR & LANDER
121 W. High Street
Portland, IN 47371
Attorney
Melissa Elliott
Clerk of the Circuit Court,
For Jay County, Indiana
CR 12-27-25,1,3-26 HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice
JAY COUNTY ZONING ADMINISTRATION
JAY COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT: Minnich Eggs, 8657 E 300 N
Portland, IN has filed with the Jay County Board of Zoning Ap-
peals two (2) separate petitions #SpExc2025-12-18(1) &
#SpExc2025-12-18(2) to the Zoning Ordinance regulations to wit:
Parcel ID: 38-08-02-500-004.003-028
Location: 8657 E 300 N, east of intersection of CR 300 N and CR
800 E, on the south side, Noble Township, Section 2
Action Requested: Requesting Special Exception Use approval
to construct and operate a feed mill along with requesting Spe-
cial Exception Use approval to construct and operate a biochai
facility on said property. Both requests require approval from
the Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals.
A public hearing will be held by said Board on January 15, 2026
at 6:00 pm in the Community Resource Center, 118 S Meridian
Street, Portland, Indiana. At that time, all interested persons
will be given the opportunity to be heard in reference to matters
set out in the petition. The petition and file on this matter is
available for public inspection at the Jay/Portland Building and
Planning Department, 118 S Meridian Street / Ste E, Portland
Indiana 47371. If unable to attend the meeting, the Department
will accept letters from the public prior to the meeting date.
Questions may be directed to the office at 260-726-6904.
Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals
John Hemmelgarn
Zoning Administrator/Director
Date: 12/22/25
Jay County BZA Members:
Angela Paxson appt. by Commissioners 01/01/23-12/31/26
Kaleb Hemmelgarn appt. by Commissioners 01/01/22-12/31/25
Steve Ford appt. by Commissioners 01/01/24-12/31/27
Marla Lutes appt. by Co Council 01/01/24-12/31/27
Scott Hilfiker appt. by Plan Commission 01/01/23-12/31/27
CR 12-27-2025-HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

JAY COUNTY ZONING ADMINISTRATION
JAY COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT: Chris Schwartz, 7609 N 500
W, Bryant, IN has filed with the Jay County Board of Zoning Ap-
peals a petition, #SpExc2025-12-10, requesting a Special Excep-
tion to the zoning regulations, to wit:
Parcel ID: 38-02-08-100-010.000-023
Location: 7609 N 500 W, Bryant, IN, Jackson Township,
Section 8
Action Requested: Requesting Special Exception Use approval
to build mini barns and sell them from said property.
A public hearing will be held by said Board on January 15, 2026
at 6:00 pm in the Community Resource Center, 118 S Meridian
Street, Portland, Indiana. At that time, all interested persons
will be given the opportunity to be heard in reference to matters
set out in the petition. The petition and file on this matter is
available for public inspection at the Jay/Portland Building &
Planning Department, 118 S Meridian Street / Ste E, Portland
Indiana 47371. If unable to attend the meeting, the Department
will accept letters from the public prior to the meeting date
Questions may be directed to the office at 260-726-6904.
Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals
John Hemmelgarn
Zoning Administrator/Director
Date: 11/17/25
Jay County BZA Members:
Angela Paxson appt. by Commissioners 01/01/23-12/31/26
Kaleb Hemmelgarn appt. by Commissioners 01/01/22-12/31/25
Steve Ford appt. by Commissioners 01/01/24-12/31/27
Marla Lutes appt. by Co Council 01/01/24-12/31/27
Scott Hilfiker appt. by Plan Commission 01/01/23-12/31/27
CR 12-27-2025-HSPAXLP

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Third at ECIC

Corbin Lothridge of Jay County High School controls Northridge senior Adley Yder during their third-place match Tuesday in the East Central Indiana Classic. Lothridge, a sophomore, defeated Yoder 4-1 as the host Patriots finished in fourth place. The JCHS wrestlers are off until competing in the Battle at the Bear Den hosted by Monroe Central on Saturday, Jan. 3.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Detroit bounced from playoff picture

By RICHARD SILVA
The Detroit News
Tribune News Service

At times, it was clunky. The third-down efficiency wasn't always there, or the run game, for that matter. It took until about midseason for Jameison Williams to find his groove, and David Montgomery's usage never quite felt right. The offensive line had struggles protecting Jared Goff, who has now been sacked a career-worst 36 times this season. But one thing the Detroit Lions could always lean on was their ability to take care of the ball. The Lions entered Thursday with eight turnovers on the season, the lowest total in the NFL. The offense wasn't always pretty, but it was effective at limiting mistakes. That wasn't the case on Christmas against the Minnesota Vikings, who forced the Lions into six turnovers in a 23-10 loss

Lions out of contention after back-to-back division titles

that officially knocked Detroit out of the playoff race. Goff had two interceptions, and he was connected to three fumbles. The other giveaway came from Jahmyr Gibbs, who linebacker Eric Wilson stripped of the football in the second quarter. "It's something we've been really good at all year, and it sucks that it reared its head today," said Goff, who finished with 18 completions on 29 attempts for 197 yards and a touchdown, as well as his two interceptions. "Really bad by us in that area."

Turnovers weren't the only problem for the Lions on Thursday — they averaged 2.3 yards a rush, their third-lowest rate of the season — but it certainly helped a hapless Minnesota offense get in position to score. The Vikings (3.2) averaged less yards per play than the Lions (3.6), but quarterback Max Browner's unit scored 16 of its 23 points off of takeaways. That includes Detroit's first giveaway, which came on a botched exchange between Goff and center Kingsley Eguakun, who was filling in for Graham

Glasgow: "Miscommunication between him (Eguakun) and I," Goff explained afterwards. "It's one of those things that I've got to peek at the film," offensive tackle Penei Sewell said, when asked for a possible explanation on the Lions uncharacteristically turning it over so much. "But when the ball's on the ground or it's a lot of turnovers, it's just little things. We're not focused on those, and we're just kind of being a little loose with the ball." Added Sewell, who injured his leg and briefly exited Thursday's contest before returning to block for a fourth-down conversion that resulted in the Lions' only touchdown: "We had six (turnovers) today. That's probably the recipe to lose." The Lions hadn't turned the ball over six times in a game since Oct. 11, 2015. That came in

a 42-17 loss to the Arizona Cardinals. The Lions have played 426 games since 2000. Only one of those contests (against the Cleveland Browns on Sept. 23, 2001) featured more turnovers than what the Lions produced on Thursday. Over that 426-game stretch, the Lions only have seven instances in which they turned it over six or more times. "I'll have to watch the film," offensive tackle Dan Skipper said of the giveaways. "The reality is I don't see what's going on most of the time (because my back is turned). Half the time, you hear the crowd and you go, 'Oh, something bad just happened.'" "I don't know. I'm not going to sit here and point fingers, other than the fact the defense stood on their head. We didn't hold up our end of the bargain (on offense)."

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Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
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.

Monday
Fort Recovery — Boys bowling in tournament at TP Lanes — 8:30 a.m.; Girls bowling in tournament at TP Lanes — 8:30 a.m.; Girls basketball at Graham Local — 3 p.m.; Freshman boys basketball vs. Bethel — 6 p.m.

Tuesday
Jay County — Girls basketball vs. Yorktown (varsity only) — 7 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Swim in Holiday Swim meet at Lima YMCA — 8 a.m.

Friday
Jay County — Girls wrestling sectional at Muncie Central — 9 a.m.; Girls basketball at Woodlan — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys basketball vs. Lincolnview — 6 p.m.

TV schedule

Today
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 vs. East Carolina (ESPN)
Noon — College football: PinStripe Bowl — Penn State vs. Clemson (ABC)
2:15 p.m. — College football: Fenway Bowl — Connecticut vs. 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 vs. BYU (ABC)
4:30 p.m. — College football: Arizona Bowl — Miami (Ohio) vs. 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 vs. San Diego State (ESPN)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Gator Bowl — Virginia vs. 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 vs. Houston (ESPN)

Sunday
9 a.m. — Soccer: Premier League — Sunderland at Leeds United (USA)
11:30 a.m. — Soccer: Premier League — Crystal Palace at Tottenham Hotspur (USA)
12 p.m. — College Basketball — Illinois at Purdue (BTN)
1 p.m. — NFL football: Pittsburgh Steelers at Cleveland Browns (CBS)
1 p.m. — NFL football: New Orleans Saints at Tennessee Titans (CBS)
1 p.m. — NFL football: Jacksonville Jaguars at Indianapolis Colts (FOX)
1 p.m. — NFL football: Tampa Bay Buccaneers at Miami Dolphins (FOX)
1 p.m. — NFL football: New England Patriots at New York Jets (FOX)
1 p.m. — NFL football: Arizona Cardinals at Cincinnati Bengals (FOX)
1 p.m. — NFL football: Seattle Seahawks at Carolina Panthers (CBS)
2 p.m. — College Basketball — Winthrop at Texas Tech (TNT)
2 p.m. — Women's College Basketball — UCLA at Ohio State (BTN)
4 p.m. — Women's College Basketball — UConn at Butler (TNT)

4 p.m. — Women's College Basketball — Penn at Iowa (BTN)
4 p.m. — TGL Golf — New York Golf Club at Atlanta Drive GC (ABC)
4:05 p.m. — NFL football: New York Giants at Las Vegas Raiders (CBS)
4:25 p.m. — NFL football: Philadelphia Eagles at Buffalo Bills (FOX)
6 p.m. — PWHL Hockey — Seattle Torrent at New York Sirens (FSDN Indiana)
6 p.m. — College Basketball — Old Dominion at Maryland (BTN)
6 p.m. — Women's College Basketball — Creighton at Georgetown (TRU)
7 p.m. — College Hockey — Ferris State at Michigan State (FOX)
8 p.m. — NLL Lacrosse — Buffalo Bandits at Calgary Roughnecks (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — College Basketball — Gonzaga at Pepperdine (FOX)
8 p.m. — College Basketball — Nebraska-Omaha at Oregon (BTN)
8:20 p.m. — NFL football: Chicago Bears at San Francisco 49ers (NBC)

Monday
1 p.m. — Men's college basketball: North Carolina Central at Penn State (BTN)
2 p.m. — College football: Birmingham Bowl — Georgia Southern vs. Appalachian State (ESPN)
3 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Southern at Illinois (BTN)
3:30 p.m. — College ice hockey (FOX)
7 p.m. — College ice hockey (FOX)
8 p.m. — NBA basketball: Cleveland Cavaliers at San Antonio Spurs (NBC)
8:15 p.m. — NFL football: Los Angeles Rams at Atlanta Falcons (ABC)
10 p.m. — NHL hockey: San Jose Sharks at Anaheim Ducks (FOX)
10:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Dallas Mavericks at Portland Trail Blazers (NBC)

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Tuesday
2 p.m. — College football: Independence Bowl — Coastal Carolina vs. Louisiana Tech (ESPN)
4 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Howard at Northwestern (BTN)
5:30 p.m. — College football: Music City Bowl — Tennessee vs. Illinois (ESPN)
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Milwaukee at Wisconsin (BTN); Florida State at North Carolina (ESPN2); Seton Hall at Marquette (FS1)
8 p.m. — NBA basketball: Philadelphia 76ers at Memphis Grizzlies (NBC)
9 p.m. — College football: Alamo Bowl — USC vs. TCU (ESPN)
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Butler at Creighton (FS1); Notre Dame at Stanford (ESPN2)
10:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Detroit Pistons at Los Angeles Lakers (NBC)
11 p.m. — Men's college basketball: New Mexico at Boise State (FS1)

Wednesday
Noon — Men's college basketball: Wake Forest at NC State (ESPN2)
2 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Clemson at Syracuse (ESPN2)
4 p.m. — Men's college basketball: North Texas at Memphis (ESPN2)
6 p.m. — Men's college basketball: DePaul at Villanova (FS1)
8 p.m. — Men's college basketball: St. John's at Georgetown (FS1)