



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

2025

The year in photos

It's a tradition for The Commercial Review to share a recap of its top 10 local stories in the final newspaper published each year. We also reviewed our top 10 photos. This feature is designed not to highlight the most important, impactful or influential events of 2025, but rather to give readers a glimpse of what the year was like through what we consider to be some of our best photos of the year. This year's selection is mostly full of happy times, from reactions at a polar plunge to athletic elation to Jay County High School pregame activities to a variety of other moments that elicited smiles. Our top photo of the year is the one displayed above featuring Abby Brockman rushing back out of the pond northwest of Moser Engineering during United Way of Jay County's Peggy's Plunge. The polar plunge in honor of Peggy Atkinson raised money for Jay County's Special Olympics, cancer society and homeless shelter. See **Photos** pages 5 and 6



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

At left, Jace Bonifas, 5, leads a sheep out into the Show Arena on July 1 during the peewee showmanship for kids between kindergarten and third grade. It was part of the Jay County Fair's celebration of Kids' Day. At right, Lilly Johnson (left) performs during Just Treble's show as part of Jay County Junior-Senior High School fall choral concert on Oct. 12. Just Treble's performance featured the songs "I Want Candy" and "Promise of a New Day."



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Zelenskyy asked for a 50-year guarantee

By OLESIA SAFRONOVA and DARYNA KRASNOLUTSKA
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service
Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he asked Donald Trump for U.S. security guarantees lasting as long as half a century to help deter any future Russian invasion. Current proposals under dis-

cussion as part of a peace plan set out a 15-year term with the possibility for an extension, though "I would like the guarantee to be much longer," Zelenskyy said Monday in an audio message to reporters. "We would like to consider the possibility of 30, 40, 50 years and then it will be a historic decision by Trump." U.S. security guarantees that

had been confirmed by Congress would combine with pledges by nations in the so-called Coalition of the Willing to form an effective protection for Ukraine, Zelenskyy said. European Union membership would also be part of the security arrangements for his country, he said. "Monitoring the ceasefire — our partners will provide it,

technical monitoring and presence. All these details will be in the security guarantees," Zelenskyy said. Both negotiating teams had agreed on the need for "strong" U.S. security guarantees for Ukraine, he said. The comments came after Zelenskyy and Trump held talks at the U.S. president's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida on Sunday. While Trump said "a lot of

progress" was made toward a deal to end Russia's almost four-year full-scale war on Ukraine, both leaders acknowledged that key issues remained unresolved. They included the status of territories in the east of Ukraine, and the fate of Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant that's occupied by Russia. See **Guarantee** page 2

Deaths	Weather	In review	Coming up
David Scotten, 94, Portland Robert Clifton, 80, Bluffton Details on page 2.	There was an extreme temperature swing from a high temperature of 64 Sunday to a low of 17 early Monday. Tonight's low will be in the mid 20s with winds gusting to 25 mph. Skies will be mostly cloudy Wednesday with a high in the low 30s and a chance of afternoon snow. See page 2 for an extended outlook.	Second Harvest Food Bank will host a tailgate food distribution at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, at Second Harvest Food Bank warehouse, 6621 N. Old State Route 3, Muncie.	Wednesday — A look at the top 10 local news stories of 2025. Friday — The newspaper staff shares some of its favorite books, music and movies. Saturday — Results from the girls wrestling sectional tournament.



Obituaries

David Scotten

April 26, 1931-Dec. 28, 2025
David A. Scotten, age 94, of Portland passed away Sunday, Dec. 28, 2025, at his residence.
He was born in Clayton, Indiana, on April 26, 1931, the son of Alva and Irma (Gulley) Scotten. He was married to Joy Moody in 1976 and she passed away in 2015.
David was a graduate of Clayton High School, served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean Conflict, and was member of Jay County Hospital Auxiliary and American Legion Post #211.
He had owned and operated the Portland Dairy Queen and prior to that worked for StrongBerg Carlson in the telephone business traveling to 32 states. He enjoyed doing stained glass work and had worked security at the Indianapolis 500 for over 20 years.
Surviving are two daughters



Scotten

Jackie Scotten of Flushing, Michigan, and Teresa Rummel of Pleasant Hill, California; his companion Dru Noble of Portland; two stepchildren Mary Ann Sheller of Valapairso, Indiana, and John Sheller of Sarasota, Florida; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren
There will be no funeral services. Burial will be in the Salamonina Cemetery.
Memorials can be made to Jay County Hospital Auxiliary.
Baird-Freeman Funeral Home in Portland is handling the arrangements.
Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Robert Clifton

April 2, 1945-Dec. 25, 2025
Robert L. “Bob” Clifton, 80 of Bluffton, passed away on Thursday evening, Dec. 25, 2025, at his residence.
Bob was born on April 2, 1945, in Muncie, Indiana, to Hershel and Elsie (Wright) Clifton. He graduated from Gray High School in Portland, Indiana,

with the class of 1963.
He was a life-long farmer in Jay and Wells County for 61 years, retiring in 2023. He also worked at Morgan Packing for two seasons, Shellers Globe for two years, Westinghouse, Drop Forge, Steffen John Deere and Smith’s Garage & Trucking.
Bob was known for telling jokes, gambling for fun and playing cards in his barn with neighbors, friends and his son, Mike. He was creative and always rigging together anything and everything to create something new.
On Dec. 10, 1965, Bob and Carolyn “Sue” (Cowan) Clifton were married in Portland, Indiana. They just celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Dec. 10 of this year.
Survivors include his wife, Sue Clifton; and their three children, Mike (Ella) Clifton of Warren,








Clifton

Valerie (Shane) Harnish of Bluffton, and Amy (Deon) Steffen of Bluffton. He is also survived by 10 grandchildren, Brandon Clifton, Dacia Irelan, Chelsea (Jay) Buchan, Cody Smith, Chantel Smith, Devin Clifton, Landon Clifton, Olivia Pula, Morgan (Dillon) Myers and Levi Steffen; and 11 great-grandchildren, Calvin Buchan, Bailey Buchan, Brinnley Myers, Adrian Buchan, Leah Myers, Melanie Barr, Bradley Barr, Matthew Smith, Chloe Smith, Jaxson Smith and Alejandro Hernandez. Bob is also survived by his sister, Carol (Don) McQueary of Bluffton.
He was preceded in death by his parents, Hersel and Elsie Clifton; and his siblings, Richard “Dick” Clifton, Arita Jeannine Coats, Dorothy Marlene Schell and Patricia Clifton(stillborn).
Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton, with Jeff Lemler officiating. Burial will follow at Stahl Cemetery south of Bluffton.

Visitation will take place from 3 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2025, at the funeral home and for one hour prior to the service.
The family requests that in lieu of flowers and gifts, memorials be made in Bob’s memory to Grace & Mercy Transitional Housing and can be directed to the funeral home.
Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.
Friends may share condolences with the family at thomarich.com.

The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Wednesday 12/31	Thursday 1/1	Friday 1/2	Saturday 1/3	Sunday 1/4
 31/17 Wednesday's forecast shows a 50% chance of snow showers with a low around 17.	 24/19 Thursday looks to be mostly cloudy with the high in the mid 20s.	 31/19 Mostly sunny skies Friday when the low may hit the upper teens.	 28/20 Another day of mostly sunny skies on Saturday when temperatures will be in the 20s.	 37/28 Sunday's temperatures may increase to the upper 30s.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$33 million	10-13-15-27-32-36-39-42-44-47-50-57-61-64-70 Cash 5: 2-4-26-34-36 Estimated jackpot: \$75,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$138 million	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 9-0-9 Pick 4: 6-4-5-8 Pick 5: 6-8-6-2-0 Evening Pick 3: 2-4-1 Pick 4: 4-6-2-6 Pick 5: 2-4-5-7-9 Rolling Cash 5: 10-11-15-19-34 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 4-9-4 Daily Four: 0-8-5-8 Quick Draw: 1-2-3-4-7-10-11-16-19-27-36-41-43-45-50-52-57-74-75-79 Evening Daily Three: 9-9-8 Daily Four: 1-3-0-1 Quick Draw: 3-4-6-7-9-	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.64 Jan. corn4.62 Feb. corn4.62	Jan. beans10.43 Wheat4.70
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.61 Jan. corn4.58 Feb. corn4.55	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.43 Jan. corn4.43 Beans10.43 Jan. beans10.43 Wheat4.85
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.48 Jan. corn4.48 Beans10.40	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.58 Jan. corn4.58 Beans10.15 Jan. beans10.15 Wheat4.65

Today in history

In 1922, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was formed in Moscow. The country eventually would include 15 republics and was the largest in the world until it was dissolved in 1991.
In 1972, seven were injured in a four-vehicle collision at the intersection of Indiana 67 and county road 700 West. Two drivers were parked along the side of Indiana 67 — one trying to help the other after a vehicle stalled — when a truck struck the first car and pushed it into the second. Another vehicle, traveling behind the truck, also failed to stop in time, striking the truck.
In 2021, Renna Schwieterman became the fourth player in Jay County High School girls basketball history to reach 1,000 career points, scoring a team-high 21 in a 62-37 victory over South Adams.
—The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Today 6 p.m. — Pennville Town Council public hearing and regular meeting, town hall, 105 N. Washington St.	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.
Monday 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, 5948 W. Indiana	7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

Guarantee ...

Continued from page 1
Zelenskyy said no consensus was reached at his talks with Trump on Russian President Vladimir Putin’s demand for Ukraine to withdraw from the Donbas region that’s partially occupied by Moscow’s troops. There was a lack of clarity over U.S. proposals to create a demilitarized or free economic zone in the area of eastern Ukraine, including on who would control the territory.
Trump said he was confident a deal was “getting a lot closer” though it might take a few weeks to conclude and there’s no set timeline. Zelenskyy said Sunday the peace plan was “90% agreed.”
Trump said he held “very productive” phone talks with Putin shortly before he met with Zelenskyy. The U.S. and Ukrainian presidents spoke with European leaders after their discussion.
Putin and Trump will hold another phone call “very soon,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Monday.
Ahead of that call, Putin on Monday held his seventh televised meeting with Russia’s army command since October, highlighting what he described as advances on the battlefield in Ukraine and ordering his

forces to continue efforts to seize more territory.
Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Monday that Ukraine attempted to attack a presidential residence in the Novgorod region more than 249 miles northwest of Moscow overnight with 91 drones, and Russia would retaliate, adding the targets were already selected, according to audio comments published by the state-run Tass news agency. Lavrov said Moscow would reassess its position in the negotiations, but had no intention of withdrawing from talks.
Zelenskyy called the claim the residence was attacked a “new lie,” and warned Russia could be using it as a pretext to prepare an attack on government buildings in Kyiv.
Ukraine seeks a meeting with European partners and Trump in January, Zelenskyy said, followed by a separate meeting with Russian officials “in one format or another.”
The Coalition of the Willing group will meet in early January to discuss its support for Ukraine, French President Emmanuel Macron said in a post on X on Monday.
After nearly a year of U.S. efforts to end the war failed to yield a deal,

Trump had said he would only meet with the Ukrainian and Russian leaders again if an agreement were imminent. So far, the warring sides have been negotiating mainly with Trump envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner.
Zelenskyy said Monday that Ukraine “does not care” about the format of negotiations with Russia, but wants Putin to demonstrate his willingness to reach a deal by ceasing attacks on Ukraine.
“These actions do not coincide with the peaceful vocabulary that he uses in dialogue with the U.S. president,” Zelenskyy said. “I told Trump this.”
Putin has continued to press his maximalist demands, including for Ukraine to cede territories in the country’s east that Moscow’s troops have failed to capture in Europe’s deadliest conflict since World War II.
Ukrainian officials have toiled over the last few weeks to revise a 28-point draft plan originally proposed by the U.S. but seen as overly favorable to Russia. The latest version has 20 points, but Moscow has warned that the plan includes elements it won’t accept, including on the size of Ukraine’s post-war military.

Capsule Reports

Hosting movies

The Jay County Campus of Arts Place is hosting the following free movies this 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, visit myartsplace.org.

Intersection crash

A Dunkirk man complained of chest pain and his passengers also sustained injuries after crashing into the back of a truck at the intersection of Indiana 67 and county road 700 South about 3:45 p.m. Friday.
Rickey Moore, 72, was driving his 2010 Dodge Grand Caravan north on the highway. At the same time, Caleb Thurston, 17, Albany, was driving a 2025 Chevrolet Silverado on the highway and stopped at its intersection with county road 700 South in order to turn west onto the road. Moore told emergency responders his vision got blurry and he wasn’t able to see Thurston had stopped in the road, causing him to crash into the back of Moore’s vehicle.

Arianna Conley, 14, Redkey, sustained a chest injury, Zeke Conley, 2, sustained a chest injury, and April Thurston, 44, complained of back pain. Multiple patients were transported to IU Health Ball Hospital in Muncie, according to a Jay County Sheriff’s Office report.
Damage is estimated between \$25,000 and \$50,000.

SERVICES

Today

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.

Wednesday, Dec. 31

Clifton, Robert: 10:30 a.m., Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home, 308 W. Washington St., Bluffton.

Service listings provided by
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Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm

Semiquincentennial products are coming

By JAMES FULKES
The Commercial Review

I guess one had to be first. For those of us of a “certain age,” we can all remember our nation’s bicentennial.

In that 200th year, I distinctly recall seeing a lot of products labeled and marketed in a myriad of ways as “Special Bicentennial Editions.”

Yes indeed, 1976 had its very own U.S. Mint-produced Bicentennial quarter.

Many auto manufactur-

Fulkys Mayhem



ers produced “Bicentennial Edition” vehicles with various paint and graphics to commemorate the nation’s birthday that year.

Cadillac had a luxurious Eldorado in white with red and blue pin-striping, and

even had a limited, numbered special-edition Eldorado convertible that year.

Pontiac had a Spirit of ’76 special-edition sports coupe, as did several other automakers.

Harley-Davidson had a white Electra Glide on the showroom floor with red and blue accents and listed it as a “rare Bicentennial special edition.”

With the nation’s 250th birthday rapidly approaching, I have been wondering who — and what — was going to produce special ...

Wait for it ...

It’s a mouthful ...

A special Semiquincentennial edition product lineup.

Semiquincentennial ... I’m just not seeing that casually rolling off the tongue as easily and conveniently as bicentennial did, a full 50 years ago.

I’m sure the products are forthcoming, but they’ll likely use an easier identifier like “The Big Two-Five-Oh” or something similarly simple to fit into the national lexicon.

Oh, and by the way, the first one I’ve personally been offered — a special limited edition — was an absolutely stunning cowboy hat.

Nope, not a Stetson. It’s from the other premier brand of Western hats: a Resistol.

Look up the Resistol 1776 Special Edition.

You’ll find that it’s limited, numbered, spectacular, beautiful and — oh, by the way — very expensive.

The 1000X white felt, in a limited, numbered Nation’s

250th Birthday Special Edition, comes with a price tag of \$10,000 for the hat and custom blue leather carrying case.

If you want the matching belt buckle, pony up another \$5,000.

I’m sure there’s plenty more to come in the upcoming months, but recently, the first one I’ve actually seen is a cowboy hat that would cost more than several vehicles I’ve purchased over the years.

Happy Semiquincentennial indeed!

Friend’s comments feel insulting, disrespectful

DEAR ABBY: I am a very overweight woman, but down 50 pounds from my top weight and continuing at a consistent, but slow, rate to lose. My A1C is now down to pre-diabetic, so I know my efforts are making a difference. I recently had a terrible bout of sciatica and pain in an arthritic knee, which kept me from some anticipated travel.

A good (so I thought) friend who was affected by my cancellation suggested that perhaps my weight was causing the sciatica and arthritis, and if I lost more weight things would go better. (DUH!!) Lots of thin people suffer from sciatica and arthritis, and it felt to me that her comment was condescending, hurtful and disrespectful. I don’t know what I feel, other than like throwing a canned ham at her. She has done this before.

When another dear friend died, and I expressed my grief and teared up, this same “friend” suggested I would do better if I got out more and socialized. This was during COVID.

Is there anything I can say to her? Should I ignore her comments and press on with the “friendship,” or is it time to move on? I’d like to tell her off, but I see no value in countering her more

Dear Abby



subtle form with overt aggression. Is there a single, good, deadly one-liner I could have used? — SLOW LOSER IN NEW YORK

DEAR SLOW LOSER: As I see it, you have two ways to play this hand. The next time this woman says something grossly insensitive, tell her it’s her third strike and repeat what you have written to me about what comes out of her mouth. Or simply do yourself a favor and from now on ice her out. (She may have been trying to help you — in some weird way — or she’s clueless.)

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DEAR ABBY: My daughter and son-in-law have decided to move his mom from California to our home state of Tennessee. The kids have a lovely home about an hour from my husband and me. Both are professionals. They have been married 10 years and have no children.

The mom, “Anita,” has an unmarried daughter with two kids living with her now and using her money. Anita wants to escape and be left alone. I’m afraid this could spell disaster for my daughter’s marriage. Their plan is to remodel their attic so they have the upstairs and Anita has the downstairs. Should I express my concerns to my daughter or both of them, or keep my mouth shut? We have a great relationship, and I never insert my opinion into their business. — PROTECTOR IN THE SOUTH

DEAR PROTECTOR: If this is still in the planning stage and the project has not yet begun, mention your concerns to your daughter and son-in-law together. One problem that occurs to me might be if your son-in-law’s sister plans to bring the kids and live with her mother in the future. However, once you have brought this up, do not insert yourself any further.

.....

DEAR ABBY: Should I change my financial arrangement with my husband? We have been married 18 years and have a joint checking account. He has a separate account for his side business that’s just for him. I have a sepa-

rate account I use for my job to renew licenses and finance my continuing education. During the last few years, he has insisted I pay my own medical bills (which had always come out of our joint account before). I have a history of thyroid cancer, and my family has a history of more serious cancers. He tells me I go to the doctor too often. I typically go for an annual physical, annual thyroid exam and to the gynecologist. We have medical insurance.

I’m starting to wonder if I should just ask for my paycheck to be deposited into my own account and then transfer money over to the joint account to cover our household bills, which he also pays. I don’t want to start a fight about it as he and I are quite traditional in most ways. Help! I feel like I have no money even though we both work full time. — DIVIDING IT UP IN INDIANA

DEAR DIVIDING: You have a valid point. It’s time for you and your husband to sit down with a FINANCIAL ADVISER and work something out that is fair to both of you. Your CPA may be able to help you or recommend someone.

.....

DEAR ABBY: My retired husband of 15 years, “Seth,” is push-

ing me to the edge of divorce. He’s extremely negative, verbally abusive and estranged from many friends, which has harmed my relationships with friends and family. He drinks almost all day (I drink as well), calls me horrible names I won’t repeat and refuses to respect my sleep needs (I’m still working). He thinks he’s being “funny” when he acts this way. Seth doesn’t hear well, so he talks softly, and this also leads to unnecessary arguments.

I love Seth, but I feel like he is destroying my spirit and who I am. I used to be an independent, capable person. Now I feel like I am always walking on eggshells. I dread coming home from work some days. I just want to run away. Your thoughts? — END OF MY ROPE IN IDAHO

DEAR ‘END’: Go online to Al-Anon (al-anon.org/info), find a location near you and attend some of the meetings. Then, if you are really at the end of your rope, draw the line with your disrespectful, alcoholic verbal abuser. Tell him LOUDLY, when he’s a little more sober than usual, that you have had it and that if he doesn’t stop drinking, his marriage is over. Then save yourself and follow through.

Community Calendar

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

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.

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 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.

at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. To learn more information, please call (260) 251-3259.

SOFT SHOULDERS — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place at Swiss Village in Berne. For more information, call (260) 589-3173.

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.

ROAD RIDERS FOR JESUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month in the West Walnut Church of Christ fellowship hall, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland. (Please enter from the door facing the alley on the north side of the building.) For more information, call (260) 726-8463.

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday’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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1/4-page B&W	– \$225

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

or (260) 726-8141

Payout is a tariff-based disaster

Los Angeles Daily News
Tribune News Service

If President Donald Trump’s tariffs and trade wars are so great for the American economy, then why does he have to shell out, as he did this month, \$12 billion to farmers adversely affected by tariffs and trade wars?

The simple answer is of course that tariffs and the trade wars they lead to are never great for our economy, or for that of any other country. They are additional taxes — as if we needed additional taxes — on the American consumer, and no one else.

Guest Opinion

In the 19th century, when our country was still a relatively young one, tariffs were an important part of raising money for the federal government. But as Jay Shambaugh of the Brookings Institution explains, “There is a reason that the United States and all other rich nations have moved away from funding their gov-

ernments with tariffs: Tariffs are a damaging and inefficient way to raise funds.” Trump’s trade war, he continues, will be disastrous for the nation’s economy: “It will hurt consumers. It will hurt the U.S.’s most productive firms. It will reduce economic growth. And, it will undermine U.S. relationships around the world.”

President Trump may be good at real estate development, but his understanding of how foreign trade works, and thus his passion for tariffs, is simply incorrect. Believing as he does that trade deficits — buying more than we sell —

with other countries is automatically a bad thing, he ignores the inherent efficiencies therein: cheaper goods for American consumers. Trade deficits are neither good nor bad in themselves. And in macro-economics, they are irrelevant.

The \$12 billion payout to farmers will go mostly to those who grow “row crops,” including the international powerhouse of soybeans, much of which was sold to China before Trump’s trade war with that nation. But it’s not going to help everyone in the already struggling American agricul-

tural sector adversely affected by tariffs. Tractor maker John Deere says that tariffs will cost it \$600 million in 2025.

At a press conference announcing the taxpayer bailout of farmers, Trump continued to sound delusional: “And we love our farmers,” he said. “And as you know, the farmers like me, because, you know, based on, based on voting trends, you could call it voting trends or anything else, but they’re great people.”

Farmers are indeed great people. Great people who should be allowed free trade to sell their crops to the world.

Ridesharing is a great creation

By LARRY GORE

The Macomb Daily (Mount Clemens, Mich.)
Tribune News Service

For many years, traditional taxi cabs have been the primary choice for on-demand transportation all around the world.

However, for almost 20 years, the revolutionary development of innovative companies like Uber and Lyft has significantly changed the way people get around. These ride-sharing platforms, which began operations in 2007 and 2008, initiated a new method of transportation that quickly gained popularity for its convenience, safety, cost-effectiveness, and accessibility.

Uber founders Garrett Camp and Travis Kalanick started Uber when struggling to find a taxi in Paris. A simple dilemma paved the way for revolutionary means of travel, which also led to the development of services like Uber X and Uber Eats.

Similar to the creation of Camp and Kalanick came Lyft, which is another transportation service that was founded by Logan Green and John Zimmer.

What started as a local alternative to cab service has since grown into a worldwide phenomenon. Uber has expanded their services to numerous countries, and their influence continues to spread across the globe. As a result, these companies are not only reshaping the transportation industry in their home markets but are also driving change and growth in many locations worldwide. Although local taxi services are not yet extinct, they have taken a major decline since the emergence of Uber and Lyft.

For decades, patrons around the world have complained about outrageous taxi fares, cleanliness, and suspected rigged meters, but with the new wave of transportation, those concerns have vanished.

For an average ride to a local grocery store or to a place of employment, you can book a ride on your phone using the app. From there, they deduct the funds from the primary payment method. The driver knows beforehand the passenger’s name, location and notation of any previous disturbances. The passenger is quoted the price of the fare and decides whether to accept or decline. For frequent travelers, these transportation services offer discounts for signing up to either a monthly or yearly membership, which could be significantly beneficial to the

Larry Gore



... both the driver and the rider are aware of the good and not-so-good in this means of travel ...

passenger.

Another great positive is that it has become a deterrent for individuals who may have had too much to drink and are not suitable for driving. Again, it was highly costly and somewhat unsafe to put someone in a taxi and send them across town with the meter ticking, racking up an astronomical tab.

Another positive is the increased mobility for seniors and people with disabilities. Safety features play a significant role in travel, as emergency buttons and GPS tracking are accessible on both the driver’s and passenger’s cellular phones.

However, some negatives come along with this for both the driver and the passenger. For passengers, there are price hikes at times when demand for transportation has reached its peak and may take minutes, even hours, for the price to drop.

One outstanding negative for drivers is the pay. Surpassing many benefits, such as flexibility and making extra income, is just that ... income. After covering their own gas cost, the maintenance of their vehicle, and insurance, they may find themselves in the red opposed to making a gainful profit.

Overall, both the driver and the rider are aware of the good and not-so-good in this means of travel, which has more benefits than it does negatives.

With technology improving daily, along with added features, this form of transportation is, without a doubt, one of the best creations of the new millennium.

.....
Gore is a Macomb County-based author.



Choose others, community

By ELISE SHROCK

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

As the year comes to a close and we look to brighter days ahead, I find myself thinking about wishes. Not the grand kind you’d buy if you had billions of dollars — the quiet type that grows in the chest, that takes the shape of a friendly face or a neighbor’s help that arrives at the exact moment you need it.

My wish for 2026 is simple enough to say, but stubborn, like all good hopes: That we keep choosing each other.

What I see in our community is not people waiting to be rescued. It’s working folks carrying one another through storms that never really made the headlines. The teacher who keeps granola bars in her desk because she knows who will come to school hungry. The retired electrician who snow-blows half the block without being asked. The parent juggling two jobs and still somehow managing to coach their child’s sport. The cashier who remembers your mom’s name.

None of them have billions of dollars. Most don’t even have the cushion they deserve. But they know a secret the rich keep trying to spend their way around:

Joy isn’t a luxury good. It’s a practice. A stubborn, daily rebellion against despair. And it thrives best in community.

And I’ll tell you how I talk about this with our kids. When we talk about wealth, I don’t reach for numbers; I reach for the good stuff. Some days, we are rich in beaded bracelets. Other days, we are rich in pick-up hugs. Many days, we are rich in dad jokes, which makes us equally wealthy in eye rolls. This, I tell them, is real wealth: the kind

Elise Shrock



you can’t deposit, can’t hoard, and can’t lose to the stock market. The kind that grows only when shared. And the sort of stuff that keeps us motivated when it is time to roll up our sleeves and get back into the fight for everyone’s opportunity to earn and thrive.

So my wish for 2026 is that we square up to that truth with both feet. That we stop pretending any of us has to deny someone else’s humanity to survive. We don’t. We never did. The lie that we must fight over scraps while a handful hoards the rest is wearing thin and people are beginning to see the threads now.

And yes, I also carry a quieter, harder wish. That the people who harm this community through peddling this false narrative, who wield their unprocessed wounds like weapons, find the healing they so desperately need. May they learn to sit with themselves instead of taking their unmet needs out on the public. May they rediscover the center they lost somewhere along the way, the reason they once felt called to public service. Before power became something to hoard, before they forgot that leadership was supposed to be a lantern, not a bludgeon.

Healing doesn’t excuse harm. And none of us is immune to committing it. But without healing, the harm just keeps circling. And we

are long past the time for the cycle to break.

My hope, audacious as it sounds, is that class solidarity becomes our neighborhood reflex. That we talk plainly about power: who has it, who doesn’t, and how we reclaim what was always meant to be shared. That taking care of one another stops being framed as idealistic and starts being understood as the oldest survival strategy in the human story.

May we keep insisting on the good life, not the glossy version on a billboard, but the real one:

- A life where families have time instead of fear.
- Where workers have dignity instead of exhaustion.
- Where leaders earn trust instead of demanding loyalty.
- Where we measure wealth in safety, in rest, in laughter, in the knowledge that someone down the street would show up for you and you’d show up for them.

This season, I’m holding tight to the belief that we can build that future — not through miracles, but through the small, unglamorous, everyday work of being decent to each other.

We do what we can, where we can, with what we have. And somehow, astonishingly, it adds up.

Here’s to a year of choosing each other. Here’s to a community that remembers its own power. Here’s to the quiet, ordinary wish that might just change everything.

.....
Shrock is a communications professional and policy advocate whose work intersects in the areas of spirituality, women’s empowerment and Hispanic affairs.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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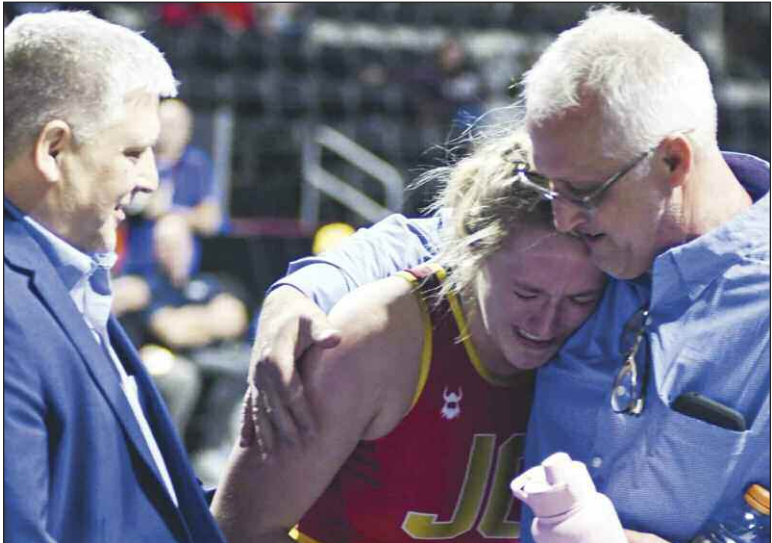
The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Photos ...

Pictured clockwise from above:
There were smiles and tears from the Jay County High School cheerleaders Aug. 2 as they claimed the first-place trophy in the large varsity no music division at the Indiana State Fair, Pictured, from left, Emma Hatzell, Paisley Fugiett, Kayla Jetmore and Faith Faulkner react as they carry the trophy back to their teammates. The victory was the first for the Patriots since 2012 and a redemption of sorts after coming up 0.1 points short last summer.
Jay County football fans had some fun Aug. 22 with a pre-game tailgate party that included music from John Beatrice Band, food, games and other activities. Pictured, 1-year-old Frank Hess plays in the midst of a bunch of bubbles blown by his aunt Gabby Williams.
JCHS senior Mallory Winner tears up while hugging assistant coach and father Jon Winner following the inaugural IHSA 170-pound state championship match on Friday at Corteva Coliseum at Indiana State Fairgrounds. No. 1 Winner pinned No. 11 Lydia Kwaleh of Perry Meridian after 2 minutes, 50 seconds.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

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Photos ...

Pictured clockwise from above left:

Wyatt Foster, the No. 2 hitter in the Jay County High School baseball team's lineup, gets low as he tries to lay down a bunt at South Adams on May 8. Foster drew a walk in the at-bat to drive in a run. The Patriots beat the Starfires 11-0 to pick up their second Allen County Athletic Conference win of the season.

JCHS junior Hallie Schwieterman screams at Elizabeth Barnett (2) after rallying in the fourth set as the Patriots secured the outright Allen County Athletic Conference regular-season volleyball championship with a win Oct. 2 over Class 3A No. 7 Heritage.

Chris Baker of Cincinnati Circus eats fire April 13 during a duo performance along with Lauren Ashley to close the 2025 Eric R. Rogers Performance Series at Arts Place in Portland. Baker and Ashley shared a variety of talents with the audience, including juggling, hula hooping and aerial tricks.

The last day of school on May 22 at Bloomfield wouldn't have been complete without the faculty lining the front lawn to wave goodbye to their students. The Bloomfield staff was looking forward to vacationing, spending time with their loved ones and taking some time for themselves.



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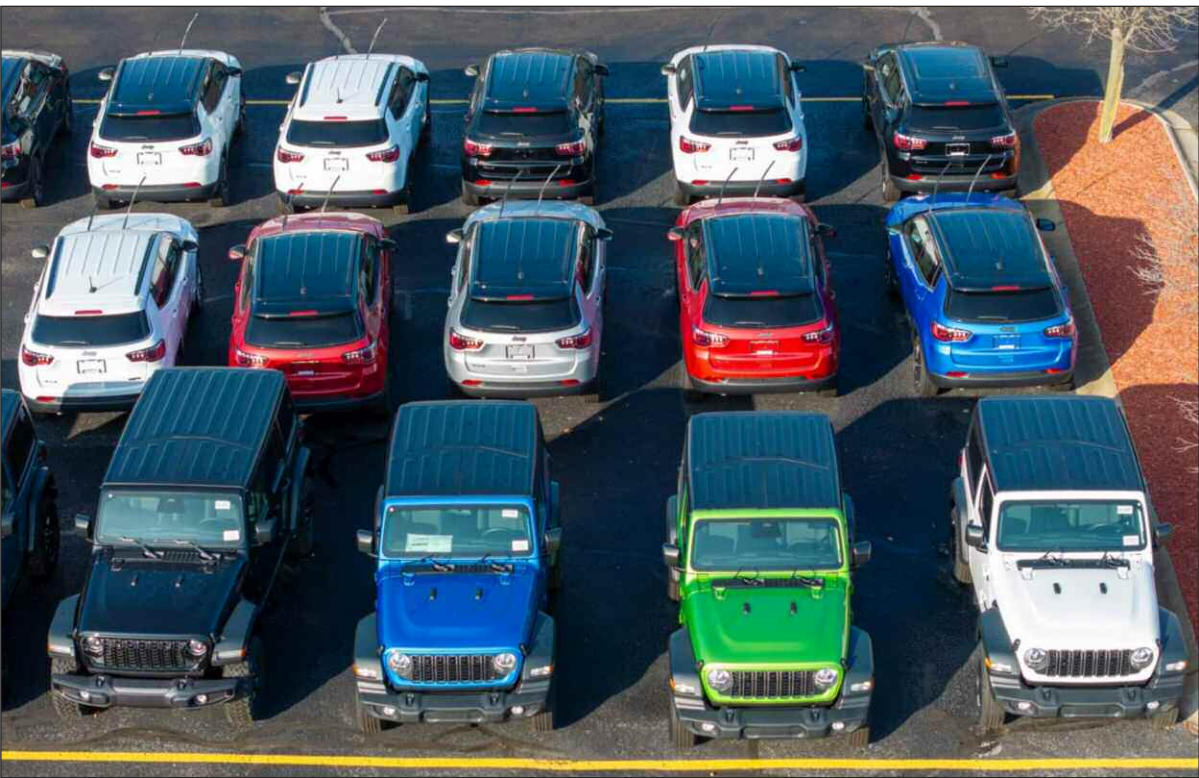
Stellantis sees hints of recovery

Models are moving faster, leading to optimism

By LUKE RAMSETH
The Detroit News
Tribune News Service

Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep and Ram dealers were in open revolt against parent company Stellantis NV for much of last year. Poor corporate decision-making had tanked sales, the retailers said, while a mishmash of over-priced vehicles piled up on their lots and their profits plummeted to Great Recession-era lows. They sent sharply worded letters and publicly griped that the once-proud company had lost touch with the American consumer.

Much has changed since then. A new CEO, Antonio Filosa, is in charge and based in Auburn Hills, not Europe. He's promised to listen to the U.S. dealer body's input, unlike former chief Carlos Tavares. The company has adjusted prices and streamlined trim levels, and is launching a series of new and refreshed models that



Tribune News Service/The Detroit News/Andy Morrison

Stellantis dealers say their inventories are no longer bloated, but the automaker continues to sell down vehicles slower than the industry average. Dealers have cheered many of the changes and are finally starting to feel optimistic about the future of their businesses.

dealers say better align with an American audience that appreciates V-8 engines and hybrids. The automaker has launched a hiring spree to better support its more than 2,000 U.S. stores in sales,

parts and service, and has also pledged to spend more on local advertising. Stellantis dealers have cheered many of the changes and are finally starting to feel optimistic about

the future of their businesses, according to multiple interviews. However, recent sales and market share figures show the company's turnaround effort remains stuck in first gear.

"There's a lot of work that needs to be done still — got to get through some bad product, and praying that the R&D comes through," said Jerry Romano, a Hawaii dealer. "But I think that they're making the right moves. It's definitely a better position than it was last year at this time."

Romano and several other dealers told The Detroit News that their monthly sales are essentially flat from a year ago, though others said they are starting to see growth in recent months. In the third quarter, Stellantis' overall U.S. sales increased 6%, snapping a series of quarterly declines that stretched back two years; full-year sales will be released in the coming days.

"Sales have been, I don't want to say stagnant, but year-over-year it's pretty similar," said Mark Trudell, general manager at Extreme Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram in Jackson, who added he's found some momentum in December and is optimistic about 2026. He said corporate communication with dealers has improved, as have the automaker's vehicle incentive programs.

Stellantis U.S. market share has fallen sharply in recent years — from 12.5% in 2020 to just 7.7% through the first 11 months of this year, according to car-shopping firm Edmunds.com Inc. That's a lower share than predecessor Chrysler Group plunged to during the Great Recession when the company went through bankruptcy.

Gmail allowing address swaps

Changes now possible without losing data

By NILESH CHRISTOPHER
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

Google has finally answered users' cries, allowing Gmail users to swap out embarrassing teenage email addresses. Gmail account holders can now change their existing @gmail.com address while retaining their data and services. Once changed, old email addresses will remain active, and users will continue to receive emails sent to both the old and new addresses. Saved data connected to earlier addresses, including photos, messages and emails, will not be affected. The ability to change Google Account email addresses is gradually rolling out to all users, and

is not immediately available to everyone, Google noted on its support page. Competing services such as Microsoft Outlook have long allowed users to easily change their primary address by adding an "alias." Google only allows accounts that end in @gmail.com to make changes, and the new address must also end in @gmail.com. While users can reuse their old Google Account email address anytime, once changed, they cannot register another email address for the same account for the next 12 months. Users interested in changing their emails under the new system need to confirm that it has been rolled out for their account. In their Gmail account, users can click "Manage Your Google Account." Under "Personal Info," they can click on their Gmail account email address. If the option is available in their region, they can proceed by clicking on the "Change your Google Account email address" option.

GameStop closes in its headquarters

Video game retailer has been under pressure

By BRIAN WOMACK
The Dallas Morning News
Tribune News Service

GameStop has been racking up store closures for a while, but a new shuttering is coming in its own backyard. The national retailer that's been under pressure has shut down its store at Grapevine Mills, according to Simon, which counts the mall among its lineup of shopping centers. The shuttering was due to a natural lease expiration. The shop also happens to be in the same city as the company's headquarters: Grapevine. With the shuttering, there are now no stores in Grapevine listed for customers on its website. The massive mall is about an 8-mile drive away from the GameStop headquarters. The company — known in some circles more for its "meme stock" days and its

push into Bitcoin — is a retailer that's faced challenges as consumers access different platforms that don't require physical video games to engage with their favorite titles. In its latest quarterly report, sales fell though net income rose as expenses declined. GameStop started in Dallas 45 years ago as a shop called Babbage's with the help of local businessman Ross Perot, an early investor in the retailer. The shop found success selling games, accessories and consoles for the Atari 2600. The release of the Nintendo Entertainment System later in the decade was a catalyst for a major video game sales boom. After Babbage's was acquired a handful of times and became a subsidiary of Barnes and Noble Book-sellers, it was renamed GameStop in 2000. The company, which has thousands of sites, has been shuttering locations. During fiscal 2024, GameStop initiated a review identifying shops for closure — "based on many factors, including an evaluation of current market conditions and individual store performance," the company said in a regulatory filing.

HEALTHCARE

Warning signs of gastrointestinal issues

Gastrointestinal issues (GI) are prevalent across the globe. A recent analysis published in the journal Gastroenterology indicated there were 2.86 billion prevalent cases of digestive diseases in 2019. Such figures astound and underscore just how significant a problem GIs are for people from all walks of life and in all corners of the globe. It's easy to write off certain gastrointestinal issues as a temporary nuisance. But any discomfort or pain in the abdominal area merits consultation with a physician, as untreated GIs can result in unwanted and dangerous consequences, including death. With that in mind, individuals are urged to recognize these symptoms of GIs and to report any that appear to a physician.

Cramps

Abdominal cramps is a known indicator of Crohn's disease, which the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation notes is an inflammatory bowel disease marked by chronic inflammation of the gastrointestinal tract. WebMD notes that abdominal cramps associated with Crohn's disease flare up when the disease is active.

Abdominal swelling

Abdominal distension is the term used to describe an abdomen that is abnormally swollen outward. The Cleveland Clinic notes this distension is visible and sometimes even measurable. This condition can make a person feel bloated or as if gas or digestive contents are trapped in their stomach. The Cleveland Clinic notes chronic abdominal distension is often a sign



of an underlying digestive issue, which may include celiac disease and inflammatory bowel disease.

Dehydration

Dehydration can be symptomatic of a wide range of ailments, including small bowel obstruction. The online medical resource Healthline reports that a small bowel obstruction can block the contents of the small intestine from passing through the digestive tract. This potentially serious condition can cause cramps and also lead to dehydration.

Bloody bowel movements

WebMD notes that blood after wiping could indicate any of a number of serious issues affecting the gastrointestinal system. Blood in the toilet after a bowel movement is another

sign that merits immediate discussion with a physician. The presence of either or both of these symptoms may be a sign of colon cancer, colon polyps, colitis, diverticulosis, or other issues, including rectal tears or hemorrhoids.


Lower right abdominal pain

Lower right abdominal pain is a potential warning sign of appendicitis, which is an inflammation of the small pouch known as the appendix that protrudes from the large intestine. The Cleveland Clinic notes this pain might begin around the belly button and then gradually intensify and shift toward the lower right abdomen. Gastrointestinal issues affect billions of people across the globe. Learning to recognize these symptoms can compel people to get potentially life-saving treatment.

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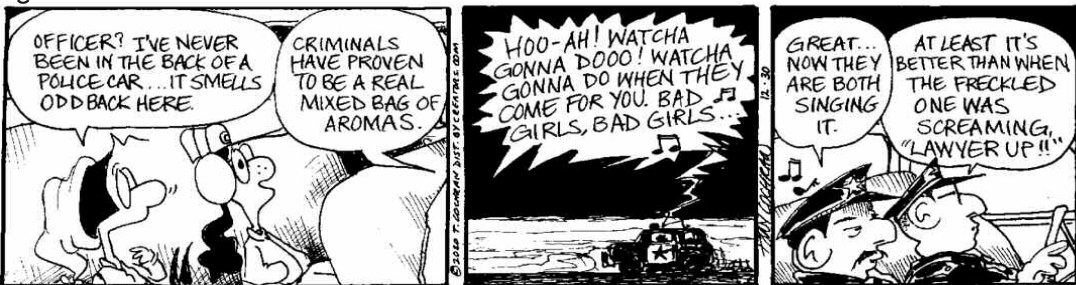
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Bidding a lot with a little

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K 9 8 5 4 2
♥ 5
♦ —
♣ 8 7 6 5 3 2

WEST
♠ 7
♥ A K Q 6 4
♦ Q 9 7 5
♣ A K Q

EAST
♠ J
♥ J 10 9 8
♦ K J 10 2
♣ J 10 9 4

SOUTH
♠ A Q 10 6 3
♥ 7 3 2
♦ A 8 6 4 3
♣ —

The bidding:
North Pass
East Pass
South 1♠
West Dble
North Pass
East Pass
South Pass
West Dble

Opening lead — king of clubs.

This deal occurred during a national team championship played in San Francisco in 1981. The distribution of the four hands was certainly unusual, with two voids and three singletons scattered around the table. And, as one might expect, the bidding reflected the peculiar nature of the hand.

At the first table, South opened the bidding, after two passes, with a perfectly normal one-spade bid.

West doubled for takeout, whereupon North jumped directly to five spades!

This was not intended as an effort to get to a slam; on the contrary, North was simply doing as much as he could to make it difficult for East to enter the bidding. From North's viewpoint, it seemed likely that East-West could make either a game or a slam in hearts or diamonds, and he was trying to make things as difficult as possible for them.

Both East and South passed five spades, and West doubled again. Everyone passed, and when the smoke cleared, South had made five spades doubled with two overtricks!

He ruffed the club lead and cashed the ace of spades and ace of diamonds, discarding dummy's heart. He then crossruffed diamonds and clubs until dummy's last two clubs became established and so finished with 13 tricks for a score of 1,250 points. All this was accomplished with a total of only 13 high-card points in the combined North-South hands!

Remarkably, at the second table the bidding, the play and the outcome were exactly the same, and the deal proved to be a washout!

Tomorrow: It's a very logical game.
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12-30 CRYPTOQUIP

F J A G B Y J F A X F C E C
G M C E B Y C S E H Q E T O L E M R
V G C R H F O Y S G X F R Y A X L H L ,

SXYL'MY VMGQEQLHL TGL OGF.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SHOP THAT SELLS MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF GADGETS FOR SPYING ON PEOPLE: A SNOOPER-MARKET.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals L

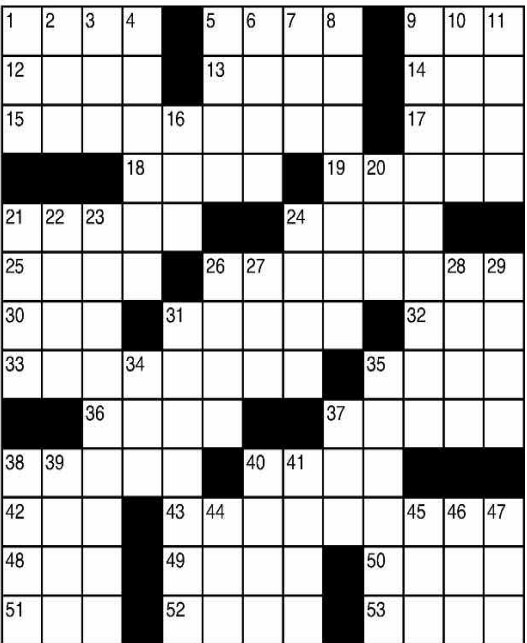
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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5 Clear
9 Gaiety
12 Beloved
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26 Toast
27 Stop —
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29 Bring up
31 Signifi-
34 Drench
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Holding ...

Continued from page 10

One beneficiary of those looks was Jayden Comer. The Patriot guard set up Forthofer's late heroics by tying his career-high of 23 points despite not attempting any free throws. He shot 10-for-15 from the field and drained three 3-pointers, with his efficiency likely thriving due to Jay County's presence down low.

"Just getting to the rack and getting paint touches, getting it in there to our big guys, and then (if) they don't get it, they swing it out," Comer said. "(The coaches) preach that, getting it into the paint, because they're going to get on them, and then it's easy from there."

What didn't come as easily was curtailing a potent Wapahani offense, which outscored Jay County 33-29 in a spirited second-half effort. Camden Bell, who produced 20 points in the final two quarters, powered the Raiders with 26 on the night.

Despite Bell and the Raiders equaling the Patriots' 54% shooting, Jay County did just enough to hold on for the victory.

"They could shoot the ball, but we were doing a good job on defense, trying to play help and turning them over," Forthofer said. "And that's what it takes to win."



The Commercial Review/Ethan Oskroba

Jay County High School boys basketball's Gradin Swoveland maneuvers around Wapahani's Layton Spence during the Patriots' 60-55 victory over the Wapahani Raiders on Saturday. Swoveland entered the game as Jay County's leading scorer but struggled to find his rhythm, scoring just two points on 1-for-8 shooting. Jayden Comer (23 points) and Cole Forthofer (19 points) picked up the slack in the Patriot triumph.

Browns deny Steelers playoff-clinching victory

By NICK FARABAUGH
pennlive.com
Tribune News Services

The Pittsburgh Steelers need to get ready for clash next week against the Baltimore Ravens after their 13-6 loss in Cleveland on Sunday. Pittsburgh came out flat and slow against the Browns, going down 10-6 at halftime, and an uneventful third quarter did not lead to much of anything, either.

Shedeur Sanders' touch-down pass to Harold Fannin helped jump the Browns out to an early 10-0 lead over the Steelers, though the Steelers clawed within striking distance over the next few quarters, sinking two field goals in the second quarter.

However, the second half was a slog between both teams. Sanders threw his second interception on an odd throwback pass that saw Kyle Dugger, the man who allowed Fannin to score earlier in the game, pick the rookie from Colorado off.

With the Steelers' loss they have set up a winner-takes-all matchup with the Baltimore Ravens. The Browns came into the

Steelers will play Ravens for playoff berth

game hoping to 'ruin' the Steelers' season, with cornerback Denzel Ward and edge rusher Myles Garrett both stating their intentions to do that.

The Steelers' offense struggled for most of the game, with their third down offense being putrid after shining last week against the Detroit Lions. Without DK Metcalf, Calvin Austin III, and Darnell Washington in the lineup, that became apparent.

All in all, Pittsburgh ran for 131 yards on 24 carries. Yet, the passing game became the focus, even in many obvious short yardage spots where the run game would have been optimal.

Instead, they now have a winner-takes-all game heading into Week 18 against the Ravens to clinch a playoff berth.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
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.

Saturday
Jay County — Boys wrestling at Monroe Central — 8:30 a.m.; Boys basketball at Muncie Central — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Girls bowling in tournament at Roolhouse Fairfield — 9 a.m.; Boys bowling vs. St. Henry at Plaza

TV schedule
Today
2 p.m. — College football: Independence Bowl — Coastal Carolina vs. Louisiana Tech (ESPN)
4 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Lanes — 1 p.m.; Boys basketball vs. Botkins — 4:30 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball at Parkway — 10 a.m.

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)

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LEGAL NOTICE
The Jay County Property Assessment Board of Appeals will meet Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. in the Jay County Commissioner's Room, Second Floor Jay County Courthouse, 120 North Court Street, Portland, Indiana. The board will consider appeals of property tax assessments for assessment year 2025, review the Land Order for the next cyclical reassessment and any other business properly brought before the board.
Robin Albersson
Jay County Assessor
CR 12-30-2025-HSPAXLP

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
City of Dunkirk
2026 CCMG Dunkirk Project
Sealed Bids for the 2026 CCMG Dunkirk Project will be received by the City of Dunkirk at the Jay County Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian Street, Suite D, Portland, Indiana 47371, until Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 10:00 a.m local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. The Project includes the following Work: The resurfacing of various streets within the City of Dunkirk. Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found and downloaded at the following website: choiceoneengineering.com/projects-out-for-bid. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered through the designated website. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office of Choice One. For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.
Owner: City of Dunkirk
By: Jack Robbins
Title: Mayor
Date: December 23, 2025
December 30, 2025
CR 12-23,30-2025-HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
Town of Redkey
2026 CCMG Redkey Project
Sealed Bids for the 2026 CCMG Redkey Project will be received by the Town of Redkey at the Jay County Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian Street, Suite B, Portland, Indiana 47371, until Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 10:00 a.m local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. The Project includes the following Work: The resurfacing of various streets within the Town of Redkey. Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found and downloaded at the following website: choiceoneengineering.com/projects-out-for-bid. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered through the designated website. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office of Choice One. For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.
Owner: Town of Redkey
By: Brenda Beaty
Title: Council President
Date: December 23, 2025
December 30, 2025
CR 12-23,30-2025-HSPAXLP

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Notice is hereby given that the following is a list of approved deduction applications that were allowed in the County Jay, Indiana, for 2025 pay 2026			
Name & Address	Deduction Amount	Years	Approving Body
Real Property FORT RECOVERY INDUSTRIES INC 710 E 100 N Portland, Indiana 47371	\$128,240.00	10	Portland City Council
Commercial Electric Company 600 E. Votaw PO Box 1266 Portland, Indiana 47371	\$5,070.00	10	Portland City Council
St. Henry Tile Co DBA Berne Ready Mix 86 E 100 N Portland, Indiana 47371	\$18,010.00	10	Portland City Council
NextEra Energy Bluff Point LLC 380 W 800 S Portland, Indiana 47371	\$62,460.00	10	Jay County Council
Minnich Poultrey 8657 E 300 N Portland, Indiana 47371	\$3,454,880.00	3	Jay County Council
RAMLEON HOLDINGS LLC 9885 W SR 67 Redkey, Indiana 47373	\$102,272.00	10	Redkey Town Council
RAMLEON HOLDINGS LLC 304 W High St Portland, Indiana 47371	\$11,520.00	10	Portland City Council
FCC (Jaytec) 555 Industrial Dr Portland, IN 47371	\$165,020.00	10	Portland City Council
SSS Land Group 400 Industrial Dr Dunkirk IN 47366	\$74,340.00	10	Dunkirk City Council
Pioneer Warehousing LLC 1600 N US 27 Portland IN 47371	\$290,600.00	5	Portland City Council
Joyce Dayton 1621 N Meridian St Portland IN 47371	\$230,300.00	5	Portland City Council
Total:	\$4,542,712.00		
Personal Property Abatements FCC INDIANA MFG LLC 555 Industrial Dr Portland, Indiana 47371	\$2,667,480.00	5	Portland City Council
Fisher Packing Company 9885 W HWY 67 Redkey, Indiana 47373	\$324,450.00	5	Redkey Town Council
Priority Plastics Inc 500 Industrial Park Portland, Indiana 47371	\$3,392,820.00	5	Portland City Council
Tyson Mexican Original PO Box 2020 Springdale, AR 72765	\$1,118,360.00	5	Portland City Council
FORT RECOVERY INDUSTRIES INC 710 E 100 N Portland, Indiana 47371	\$365,300.00	5	Portland City Council
Nextera Energy Bluff Point 700 Universal Blvd PSXAJB Juno Beach, Florida 33408	\$11,557,432.00	10	Jay County Council
Bitter Ridge Wind Farm LLC 1805 29th Street Ste 2050 Boulder, CO 80301	\$34,262,665.00	10	Jay County Council
Pioneer Equipment 215 E Lincoln Ave Portland IN 47371	\$1,299,500.00	5	Portland City Council
Joyce Dayton Corp 3300 S Dixie Dr Dayton OH 45439	\$323,270.00	5	Portland City Council
Total:	\$55,311,277.00		
Grand Total:	\$59,853,989.00		
I, Emily Franks, certify the above to be a list of deductions approved for the year 2025 in Jay County, Indiana, and published pursuant to IC 6-1.1-12.1-8 Emily Franks Auditor Jay County			

CR 12-30-2025 -HSPAXLP

By ETHAN OSKROBA
The Commercial Review

The Raiders have won three straight regional titles and hadn't lost to Jay County since 2003.

Perhaps it was fitting that two days after Christmas, the Patriots proved that all that mattered was the present.

The Jay County High School boys basketball team shot a blistering 54% from the field to fuel a 60-55 home victory over the Wapahani Raiders on Saturday.

"We did some things that we haven't done, just winning basketball-wise," said Jay County coach Tyler Rigby, who praised his team's ball security and defensive rebounding. "Those things equal winning, and we haven't done those. Luckily, we've gotten away with it a couple times, but we just grew up. We looked mature."

In total, the Patriots committed just six turnovers and surrendered only two offensive rebounds. The clean outing was also an efficient one, as Jay County converted 67% of its shots from inside the arc.

"We're playing at a better pace," Rigby said. "We're starting to find the area where we can play fast enough, but we don't get sped up mentally and just make dumb decisions. We're playing a little more under control, and I like where we're at offensively."

One essential piece in

the Patriots' season-best 60-point performance was Cole Forthofer. The center, listed at 6-foot-9, asserted his dominance throughout the night, tallying a season-high 19 points. He did so on 9-for-10 shooting and hauled in five offensive rebounds, equaling the combined total of every other player on either team.

"We knew coming into the game we were going to be the bigger team," Forthofer said. "We had to punch it inside ... It was a hard-fought, close game, but I was just having fun trying to play as physical as I could."

The senior saved his best work for when he was needed most, tallying 11 points in the fourth quarter, including a thunderous dunk with just under three minutes to go. His reliable scoring helped fend off a frenetic Raider rally, as Wapahani (3-5) shaved its deficit to as few as three points with a minute to go after Jay County (5-2) had led by as many as 12 earlier in the night.

"It means a lot to me," Forthofer said. "Just doing what I can. Got to thank my teammates for trusting me with the ball. I trust them with the ball to take shots like that, so it's a team effort."

Jay County turning to Forthofer late in Saturday's clash could be a sign of things to come for the Patriots, who will aim to glean more production



The Commercial Review/Ethan Oskroba

Jayden Comer of the Jay County High School boys basketball team drives to the basket during the Patriots' 60-55 win over the Wapahani Raiders on Saturday. Comer set a new season high and tied his career high with 23 points in the victory.

from their post game as the season continues.

"We've talked about that all season, and this is kind of the first time where we really executed

it well and looked for him," Rigby said. "He just has a really good touch down there at that size. It's really hard to find ... And whenever you get to

the paint that much, you play inside out. You're going to get some good looks, some good things are going to happen."

See **Holding** page 9

Box score				
Wapahani Raiders at Jay County Patriots				
Boys varsity summary				
Wapahani (3-5)				
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
Cam. Bell	10-14	2-3	26	
Spence	5-10	0-0	13	
Lewis	2-2	1-3	6	
Car. Bell	2-7	0-0	5	
Andrews	2-5	0-0	5	
Co. Bell	0-1	0-0	0	
Totals	21-39	3-6	55	
	.538	.500		
Def. Rebound percentage: .636				
Jay County (5-2)				
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
Comer	10-15	0-0	23	
Forthofer	9-10	1-4	19	
Barnett	3-5	2-2	8	
Overton	2-8	1-2	6	
Swoveland	1-8	0-0	2	
Sommers	1-1	0-0	2	
Wasson	0-1	0-0	0	
Phillips	0-0	0-0	0	
Totals	26-48	4-8	60	
	.542	.500		
Def. Rebound percentage: .895				
Score by quarters:				
Wapahani	17	5	16	17—55
Jay Co.	18	13	13	16—60
3-point shooting: Wapahani 10-16 (Cam. Bell 4-4, Spence 3-6, Car. Bell 1-2, Andrews 1-2, Lewis 1-1, Co. Bell 0-1). Jay County 4-15 (Comer 3-6, Overton 1-5, Barnett 0-2, Wasson 0-1, Swoveland 0-1).				
Rebounds: Wapahani 16 (Car. Bell 5, Andrews 3, Cam. Bell 3, Co. Bell 2, Lewis 2, Spence 1). Jay County 25 (Forthofer 8, Overton 4, Barnett 3, Phillips 3, Swoveland 3, Comer 2, Sommers 2).				
Blocks: Wapahani 0. Jay County 3 (Swoveland 2, Forthofer).				
Personal fouls: Wapahani 12 (Spence 3, Lewis 3, Cam. Bell 3, Car. Bell 2, Co. Bell 1). Jay County 8 (Overton 4, Barnett 2, Forthofer 1, Swoveland 1).				
Turnovers: Wapahani 8. Jay County 6.				

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FR girls basketball picks up 1st victory

Local Roundup

FORT RECOVERY — The Tribe finally broke through. And not only was it the first victory of the season, but it was a milestone win for the school.

The Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team picked up its first win of the season and the 700th in school history over Preble Shawnee 59-26 on Saturday.

Makenna Huelskamp and Bridget Homan both rattled off a game-high 16 points. They combined for 11 of the Tribe's 15 first-quarter points and had just under half of the scores in the second.

Cameron Muhlenkamp added eight points to support the Indians (1-9). Six more Indians got involved with Maddie Schoenlien dropping four points, Hope Evers and Paisley Hart both scoring three, Kenlee Kremer hitting one hoop and Emma Schmitz and Kayden Ranley both making one free throw.

Josie Mondello-Garrett led Preble Shawnee (4-6) with 15 points. Aubrey Unger added nine while Jenna Dixon had the only other two points.

The Arrows never scored more than eight in a quarter, while Fort Recovery had a low of 13.

Indians escape

BERNE — Fort Recovery's boys basketball team shut down the South Adams Starfires' leading scorer in the final period to pull off a 59-57 victory Saturday.

Derek McKean fueled the Starfires offense with 22 points through three quarters to hold a 49-47 lead. McKean scored 16 points in the third, but Fort Recovery's defense stepped up to hold the Starfires scoreless in the fourth.

Hudson Overman, who led Fort Recovery (6-1) with 19 points, scored six in the final period to power the Tribe to the win.

Brody Barga (nine points) and Colson Post (six) both had hoops in the fourth quarter while Grant Fortkamp (13) hit a free throw.

Other Indians to score were Breaker Jutte with seven points, Braylon Dilworth with three and Dylan Klenke with two.

Owen Roe also broke into double figures for South Adams (1-5).

Thien leads

NEW BREMEN, Ohio — Lilah Thien rolled the high series for the Fort Recovery girls bowling team as it beat the Parkway Panthers 2,450-2,262 Saturday at Speedway Lanes.

Thien bowled the best game of the afternoon, totaling 237 pins en route to the high series of 406.

Deanna Brown wasn't far behind, throwing games of 207 and 189 for a 396 series. Jayden Wyerick was the only other Indian to bowl two games, finishing with a 300 series.

In individual games, Lilianna Williams shot a 160, Malia Grisez rolled a 158, Elizabeth Kahlig had a 147 and Claire Gaerke followed with 142.

Nicole Heitkamp led Parkway (4-4, 0-2 Midwest Athletic Conference) with a 332 series.

Fort Recovery (5-1, 3-0 MAC) only tallied 741 pins in the baker games, while the Panthers had 826.

Tribe wins

NEW BREMEN, Ohio — Fort Recovery's boys bowling team defeated the Parkway Panthers on Saturday at Speedway Lanes 2,808-2,569.

Garrett Diller and Reece LeFevre both had strong days for Fort Recovery (7-0, 3-0 MAC). Diller rolled games of 215 and 198 to lead the Tribe, while LeFevre followed with 210 and 193 games.

Anthony Roessner had the team-high game of 218 pins en route to his 381 series. A.J. Siefring added 342 pins from individual games.

Will Tressel led the Panthers (3-6, 0-3 MAC) with a 479 series by shooting a match-high 262 in his first game. Dylan Bollenbacher also broke the 400 mark with a 409 series.

A high game of 224 helped the Indians gain a 942-720 advantage in the baker games as well.

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