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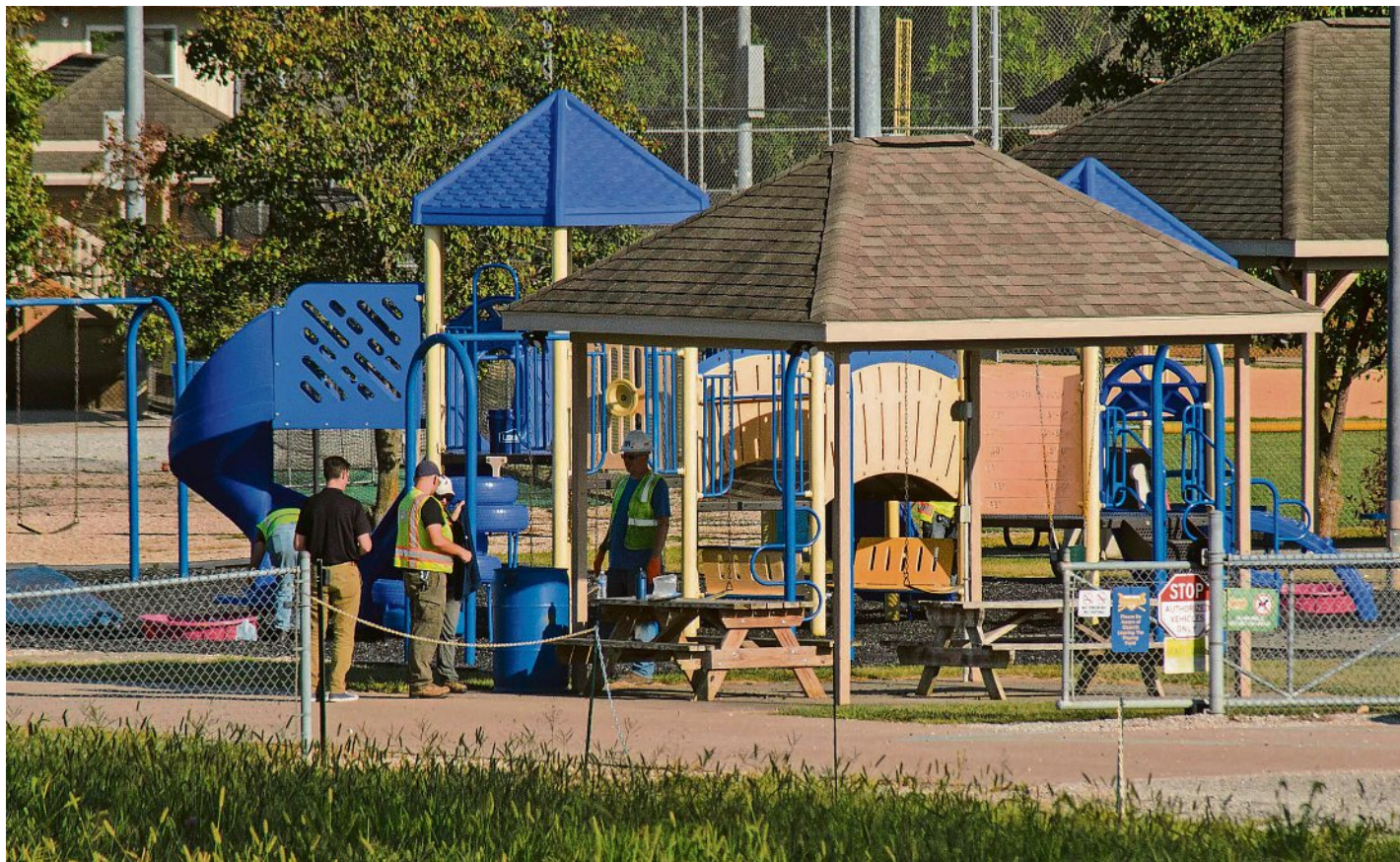


Evansville  
**COURIER & PRESS**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2025 | COURIERPRESS.COM

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# EPA completes cleanup after fire at manufacturer



**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials and contractors are seen cleaning ash from a playground at Vann Park on Sept. 9 after the PBT Corp. fire in Newburgh, Indiana. PHOTOS BY HOUSTON HARWOOD/COURIER & PRESS**

**Houston Harwood**  
Evansville Courier & Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

NEWBURGH — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced it had completed its cleanup activities a little more than a week after a fire at a Newburgh electroplating facility deposited ash across parts of Warrick County, Indiana.

The EPA completed its cleanup operation Sept. 15 and dissolved a unified command structure with state and local agencies after officials agreed the arrangement was no longer needed.

The federal agency also released a detailed accounting of its work in Warrick County, reporting that more than 100 property owners utilized an EPA email address to request ash and fire debris assessments.

**See EPA, Page 2A**



Burned-out barrels and debris are seen near the rear of a PBTT Corp. manufacturing facility in Newburgh, Indiana, on Sept. 7 in the aftermath of what officials said was a large chemical fire.

# Ex-Evansville banker sentenced to prison

**Jon Webb**  
Evansville Courier & Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

EVANSVILLE - A former Evansville banker has been sentenced to 30 months in prison and three years of supervised release after pleading guilty to stealing more than

\$150,000 from customer accounts between 2023 and 2024.

Dekoda S. Clark was sentenced in U.S. District Court earlier this month. According to the judgement handed down by Richard L. Young on Sept. 5, he'll also be required to repay the full \$158,208.53 prosecutors say he stole both through withdrawing funds

from customers' checking counts without their knowledge and creating debit cards under their names.

He'd faced one count of bank theft and another of access device fraud. Both offenses allegedly took place between

**See BANKER, Page 2A**

# Groundwater plant design contract gets OK

**Sarah Loesch**  
Evansville Courier & Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

EVANSVILLE — The Evansville Water and Sewer Utility Board unanimously approved plans to move forward with a new groundwater treatment plant for the city.

EWSU and city officials have said the new design will save over \$200 million in construction costs, meaning there's a chance it could save customers money.

The board approved a professional services agreement 4-0, with Black & Veatch Corp. totaling \$4,966,953 Tuesday afternoon. One board member was absent from the meeting. Black & Veatch will be tasked with designing the groundwater treatment plant and well field project.

The change to the project has been in the works since at least October of last year, when the utility announced a “temporary pause” on its plan to build

**See CONTRACT, Page 2A**

# Area teacher out of a job after posts about Kirk

**Thomas B. Langhorne**  
Evansville Courier & Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Days after reposting social media content celebrating the fatal shooting of conservative leader Charlie Kirk, a Gibson County, Indiana, teacher is out of a job.

Ian Gamroth, formerly a teacher at Gibson Southern High School, resigned after reposting content showing a photograph of Kirk and stating, "HUMANITY IS NOW A BETTER PLACE." Another post Gamroth shared included a quote often attributed to poet and playwright Oscar Wilde: "Some men improve the world only by leaving it."

Still another post re-posted by Gamroth noted Kirk's shooting and followed with, "(Expletive) that guy. He's a fascist carnival barker who built a career turning college campuses into

**See TEACHER, Page 6A**

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