



LOCAL | **A5**
Rock out for a good cause this weekend

LOCAL | **A6**
Teens and Tweens attend Flawless event



KOKOMO TRIBUNE

KokomoTribune.com

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2025

\$2.50

City of Tipton announces new holiday tradition

The City of Tipton and Mayor Kegan Schmicker have announced the first ever Tipton Tree Lighting Tradition from 4-6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 1, in downtown Tipton. The event will conclude with the official lighting of a 30-foot Christmas tree in the heart of downtown.

The tree, which will feature 820 ornaments, will be installed by the

Tipton Municipal Services Department in the coming days.

This new holiday tradition is being introduced as a way to bring the community together and celebrate the start of the Christmas season in the heart of Tipton.

Details for the evening continue to be finalized, including live entertainment from local schools, seasonal

music, and opportunities to enjoy warm hot chocolate. Family friendly activities for children are also being planned. The city's goal is to create a welcoming and festive experience for residents of all ages.

This inaugural event is being supported by The Farmers Bank. Established in 1876, The Farmers Bank will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2026 and has a long history of supporting community traditions and local celebrations.

To help engage young residents in the new tradition, The Farmers Bank is sponsoring a special tree lighting coloring contest. Coloring sheets will be distributed to local schools and are now available for pick up at Tipton City Hall. Children who return

their completed coloring sheet to City Hall by Wednesday, Nov. 26, will be entered for a chance to be selected as one of two young residents – a boy and a girl – who will join Mayor Schmicker on stage to officially light the Christmas tree on Dec. 1.

“We purchased the Christmas

See **TRADITION** on A2

IT'S OVER



Photos by Jacquelyn Martin | Associated Press

President Donald Trump displays the signed funding bill to reopen the government, in the Oval Office of the White House, Wednesday in Washington.

Trump signs funding bill, ending record 43-day government shutdown

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump signed a government funding bill Wednesday night, ending a record 43-day shutdown that caused financial stress for federal workers who went without paychecks, stranded scores of travelers at airports and generated long lines at some food banks.

The signing ceremony came just hours after the House passed the measure on a mostly party-line vote of 222-209. The Senate had already passed the measure Monday.

The shutdown magnified partisan divisions in Washington as Trump took unprecedented unilateral actions — including canceling projects and trying to fire federal workers — to pressure Democrats into relenting on their demands.

Democrats wanted to extend an enhanced COVID-era tax credit expiring at the end of the year that lowers the cost of health coverage obtained through Affordable Care Act marketplaces. They refused to go along with a short-term spend-



President Donald Trump signs the funding bill to reopen the government, in the Oval Office of the White House on Wednesday.

ing bill that did not include that priority. But Republicans said that was a separate policy fight to be held at another time.

Medicare telehealth waivers that allow millions of older adults to get virtual health care without leaving home were restored

through Jan. 30 in the government funding bill, after lapsing during the 43-day shutdown.

Patients and caregivers reacted with relief — but called for more action.

“We are pleased that Congress has worked together to temporar-

ily restore the telehealth funding, but we hope they can make this a permanent part of the health-care system,” said Martha Swick, a full-time caregiver for her husband Bill, who uses the program for speech therapy to treat his degenerative brain disease.

The deal also restored funding through Jan. 30 for a Medicare program that allows some patients to receive hospital-level acute in-person care at home.

Federal workers deemed essential, including Capitol Police officers, TSA workers and air traffic controllers, had been forced to work without pay during the shutdown.

But Kevin Hassett, chair of the National Economic Council at the White House, said their checks should soon be on the way.

“I think that the payments will probably come in the next week,” Hassett said. “Maybe even before.”

It’s unclear whether the parties will find any common ground on health care before the Decem-

See **SHUTDOWN** on A2

Evidence depicting Odinism released in Delphi case

KIM DUNLAP
KOKOMO TRIBUNE

INDIANAPOLIS — A year after being sentenced to 130 years with the Indiana Department of Correction for the February 2017 murders of Delphi teenagers Libby German and Abby Williams, court officials have now released more than 1,200 pages of evidence as part of Richard Allen’s appeals process.

That evidence, released earlier this week, was requested by Allen’s appellate team who claim it relates to potential “third party involvement,” as well as an alleged connection to Odinism.

Odinism refers to a modern pagan religious movement, a branch of Heathenry, that centers on the worship of the Norse god Odin and other figures from Old Norse religion.

Some interpretations of Odinism are associated with racist ideologies, while others, like the Odin Brotherhood, actively distance themselves from such views.

Practitioners often adhere to a moral code like the Nine Noble Virtues and may engage in rituals and worship.

In September 2023, a few weeks before Allen’s jury trial began, Allen County Judge Frances Gull ruled that the evidence could not be used in court due to what she called at the time a lack of “nexus” and connection to the case.

But according to Allen’s legal team, that evidence is key to their client’s claim of innocence.

Many of those pieces of evidence contain Facebook posts and other pictures shared by a Carroll County man whom Allen’s attorneys claim had ties to the pagan Norse religion and whose son was a friend of Williams.

For instance, in one of the Facebook posts highlighted in the new evidence released last Monday, there was a photo of a large branch covering two individuals, which Allen’s legal team argues is similar to the layout of the crime scene.

Another one of the images found on the Carroll County man’s Facebook was a painting Allen’s attorneys said resembles the way one of the girls’ bodies was positioned, with sticks surrounding the body that they claim looked like Odinist “runes.”

See **DELPHI** on A2

WEATHER



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