

# Budget discussions

## Portland meeting turns contentious again

By **RAY COONEY**  
The Commercial Review

Portland's city council and mayor have argued about recreational vehicle rules, personnel issues, the trash pickup ordinance, police pay, take-home vehicles, ordinance enforcement, handling of the council agenda and a policy regarding police officers eating at a local restaurant while on duty.

The topic of disagreement this time was the 2026 budget.

Portland City Council's meeting Tuesday turned contentious again, with council members, Mayor Jeff Westlake and clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips going back and forth about funding for the police department and about input on the budget overall.

Phillips presented the budget, which is currently proposed at \$10.24 million for 2026. That's down from \$10.61 million in 2025.

The tense discussion followed Police Chief Dustin Mock raising a



Screenshot of livestream

Matt Goldsworthy (right) addresses the proposed 2026 city budget during Tuesday's meeting while fellow Portland City Council members Ron May, Michele Brewster and Mike Aker listen. Discussion about the budget turned contentious over the allocation of funds for the police department and Mayor Jeff Westlake's view that he should have been more involved in the process.

question about his department's budget, noting that he had requested \$196,500 for two vehicles and a variety of other equipment. That number was removed from the budget, with \$64,000 instead allocated for equipment such as vests and Tasers in the general fund.

Phillips explained that

the state legislature removed local option income tax (LOIT) dollars for police departments for 2026. (It was later noted that legislators are expected to restore that funding for 2027.)

She said the dollars removed from the city's proposed budget would have covered the cost of

new vehicles — she pointed out that several vehicles are currently not being used — and added that she felt that was a prudent move with funding uncertainties.

Mock responded that three of the vehicles are "end of life" and five more will need to be replaced "soon."

Council member Matt Goldsworthy assessed the situation, saying sacrifices need to be made because of the current situation.

"What's the situation?" asked Westlake.

"The situation? Have you not been paying attention," Goldsworthy responded. "The situa-

tion is our taxes are getting slashed. ...

"We're gonna lose a couple million dollars over the next few years possibly. So until we're sure on that, what's happening, I think it's in our best decision to take things easy and slow down."

See **Contentious** page 2



Screenshot from livestream

Jay County Council member Bryan Alexander asks a question during Tuesday's meeting to review the proposed 2026 county budget. The county council spent about three hours reviewing the proposed numbers and discussing budget requests with department heads.

## Jay County Council spends three hours on 2026 proposal

By **BAILEY CLINE**  
The Commercial Review

Council members didn't spare department heads from scrutiny at their budget review.

Jay County Council took a closer look at its proposed budget for 2026 during a more than three-hour meeting Tuesday. No formal decisions were made at the meeting, which serves as a precursor to council's public hearing and first reading of the budget slated for 6 p.m. Sept. 24.

The county's 2026 budget is estimated at \$27,018,255, which is up approximately \$2.9 million

(roughly 12%) from the current year. Proposed changes include up to \$1.35 million in additional dollars for bridge repair and replacement, 3% raises across the board and three new correctional officer roles with Jay County Jail.

Council reviewed departments' proposed budgets on Tuesday, poring over funds with significant increases from 2025.

Jay County Highway Department budgeted an additional \$1.35 million into its cumulative bridge fund for culverts and bridge repairs.

See **County** page 2

# Trump accuses Xi

**Bloomberg News**  
Tribune News Service

President Donald Trump took aim at Chinese leader Xi Jinping as he hosted foreign leaders at a major military parade in Beijing, a reminder of the lingering tensions between the two sides over trade, tech and other issues.

"Please give my warmest regards to Vladimir Putin, and Kim Jong Un, as you conspire against The United States of America," Trump said on his Truth Social site, referring to the leaders of Russia and North Korea, without elaborating.

Trump also questioned whether Xi would credit the U.S. in a speech on Wednesday before the parade for the "massive amount of support" it provided to China during World War II. Trump added: "Many Americans died in China's quest for Victory and Glory."

The Asian nation's top leader ultimately didn't

## President says Chinese leader is conspiring against the United States

directly mention the U.S., though he offered his gratitude toward unspecified nations that helped Beijing.

China's Foreign Ministry didn't immediately reply to a request for comment.

Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, dismissed the suggestion when asked for a response in Beijing.

"Let's hope this was meant in some figurative sense, not a literal one, especially since nobody is hatching any conspiracies," he said in a video circulated by a Kremlin pool reporter.

Xi is using the military display along with a summit of Shanghai Coopera-

tion Organisation leaders earlier this week to assert his nation's presence on the world stage. Xi hopes to use that sway to erode American influence, especially in Asia, where China and the U.S. face a potential military conflict over Taiwan — the self-ruled island Beijing considers its own territory.

When asked if the parade posed a challenge to U.S. power, Trump earlier dismissed such claims. "I have a very good relationship with President Xi, as you know," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office hours before the event.

## Memorial moment

Ashley Rockwood of Portland hugs her niece and 8-year-old son, Connor Oliver, during a moment of silence Friday at Hudson Family Park. Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition hosted an overdose awareness memorial, lighting lanterns and sending them out across the pond in memory of those who have died from overdose.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Deaths

Lanny Frasher, 77, Nashville  
Larry Fenstermaker, 88  
Details on page 2.

Weather

The high temperature was 80 degrees Tuesday in Jay County. The low was 49.  
Tonight's low will be in the upper 40s. Expect mostly sunny skies Friday with a high in the mid 70s. There is a 20% chance of rain in the evening.  
See page 2 for an extended forecast.

In review

Arts Place's open mic nights will kick off next week with an outdoor session at Arts Park in front of the Hudson Center for the Visual Arts in Portland. Sign-ups will begin at 6:30 p.m., with performances at 7 p.m. The Bizzy Dips food truck will be on hand for the kick-off event.

Coming up

**Saturday** — Coverage of the JCHS football game at South-ern Wells.  
**Tuesday** — Details from Monday's Jay County Commis-sioners meeting.

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# County ...

Continued from page 1

Jay County highway superintendent Bob Howell talked about the need to repair bridges across the county. Hopes are to use the additional dollars as matching funds for grants.

Highway department administrative assistant Stephanie Klarer explained the county is now applying for Community Crossings grants for bridge repairs. Previously the county had been applying for road paving projects.

“Since we have a bridge problem, we’re focusing on that,” she said. “It definitely costs a lot more money, our match.”

There are 157 bridges in Jay County, noted Klarer. Answering a question from council vice president Cindy Bracy, she and Howell said 10 of those bridges are in dire need of repair. County officials have started seeking funding or working on repairs to all but one of those bridges, they added.

The alternative to repairing unsafe bridges, explained How-

ell, would be to close sections of county roads.

Klarer shared plans to begin a rotation cycle for repairing and replacing bridges moving forward.

Per direction from council, department heads incorporated 3% raises for employees into their budgets for next year, a \$260,754.20 increase from the current year. A few departments also suggested additional payroll changes.

Jay County Sheriff Ray Newton requested adding three new correctional officers — it would be an additional \$134,264.22 — to his staff. He pointed to a jail staffing study completed in spring 2024 as directed by the state jail inspector. (Prior to last year, the jail hadn’t undergone a staffing study in a decade.) The study indicated a need at that time for an additional nine correction officers to safely staff the facility.

Newton added three correctional officer positions to the jail at the beginning of 2025. He

explained next year’s additional jobs would help the department continue to work toward filling staffing needs.

“Basically, we’re understaffed,” he said. “There again, we’re having a hard time retaining people.”

He noted the department has gone through 36 correction officers since 2023.

“This is a job that not really too many people want to do,” he said.

Newton pointed out the high turnover has resulted from employees quitting — he referenced higher wages at other law enforcement agencies, including Portland Police Department — as well as terminations. As of Tuesday, the department had three open correctional officer positions.

Amid discussion, Newton pointed out the jail’s average daily inmate count has decreased significantly this year. In 2024, Jay County Jail averaged between 80 and 100 inmates. So far this year, it has averaged 50.

Part of Newton’s budget request also included an additional \$100,000 for medical and hospital supplies. Newton pointed out the jail also takes care of its inmates’ medical needs, explaining his goal is to eventually have medical staff at the jail at all times.

Jay County coroner Brayden Fields requested a 15% raise, an approximately \$3,000 increase from the current year, as well as doubling his department’s amount allotted for part-time help and increasing his budget for deputies by \$3,500.

Council member Bryan Alexander asked if the raise aligned with the median pay for jobs as determined by a wage study completed by consulting firm Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele and Associates. Jay County auditor Emily Franks confirmed Fields’ pay as of this year is caught up with the study’s suggested amount.






Council president Matt Minnich questioned the increases in the part-time and deputies

funds. Fields said based on the amount of calls they’ve received — he said it’s double the amount of last year — he’s been planning for the future. As of Tuesday, his remaining funds for deputies are \$1,100 and part-time help is \$660. He also pointed to required training costs.

Jay County Commissioners’ budget increased to just over \$4 million, a roughly 16% bump from the current year. A chunk of the nearly \$573,000 in additional funding results from an increase of \$100,000 for a computer maintenance contract, a \$105,000 increase to building and liability insurance per rising rates and a \$33,500 increase for telephone fees.

Other increases largely came from employment, such as the choice to begin paying employees’ longevity (\$103,400) out of the commissioners’ budget, a \$108,768 increase for group health insurance and a \$67,600 increase to workers’ compensation as a result of recent claims.

CR almanac

Friday 9/5	Saturday 9/6	Sunday 9/7	Monday 9/8	Tuesday 9/9
 <b>73/48</b> <small>Friday's forecast shows partly cloudy skies with winds up to 25 mph.</small>	 <b>70/44</b> <small>Saturday looks to be mostly sunny with 10 to 15 mph winds.</small>	 <b>69/40</b> <small>Mostly sunny on Sunday. The low at night may dip into the low 40s.</small>	 <b>70/45</b> <small>Monday's forecast shows sunny skies with a high around 70 degrees.</small>	 <b>76/52</b> <small>Mostly sunny on Tuesday, when the low may dip to 52 degrees late.</small>

Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$1.4 billion	Daily Three: 9-9-8 Daily Four: 7-5-8-8 Quick Draw: 8-10-16-19-22-29-31-33-36-38-41-43-45-59-67-69-72-74-75-77
<b>Mega Millions</b> 7-17-35-40-64 Mega Ball: 23 Estimated jackpot: \$336 million	<b>Ohio</b> Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 7-9-9 Pick 4: 4-3-2-9 Pick 5: 8-4-1-8-2 Evening Pick 3: 5-7-3 Pick 4: 9-4-2-7 Pick 5: 5-4-3-0-5 Rolling Cash: 5-17-27-29-37 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 8-0-7 Daily Four: 8-1-1-8 Quick Draw: 1-4-16-17-18-25-42-45-46-47-49-50-54-55-64-65-67-69-73-79 Evening	

Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.04 Oct. corn .....4.00 Dec. corn .....4.18	Oct. beans .....9.93 Wheat ..... 4.78
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.18 Sept. corn .....4.08 Oct. corn .....4.03	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....3.93 Oct. corn .....3.88 Beans .....10.00 Oct. beans .....9.95 Wheat .....4.73
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....3.98 Oct. corn .....3.98 Beans .....10.08	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.08 Late Sept. corn .....4.03 Beans .....9.78 Late Sept. beans .....9.78 Wheat .....4.58

Today in history

In 2014, Portland Board of Works entered into a contract with Honeywell Building Solutions to evaluate the way the city’s buildings use energy and find ways to reduce energy usage.

In 2020, Roger Boyd, a former Jay County Sheriff’s Office deputy and

Dunkirk police officer, was arrested and preliminarily charged with the murder of James P. Miller of Montpelier. Boyd was convicted of the crime and sentenced to serve 53 years in Indiana Department of Correction.

— The CR

Citizen’s calendar

<b>Today</b> 5:15 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor’s office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St. 6:15 p.m. — Portland Plan Commission, council chambers, 1616 N. Franklin St., Portland.  <b>Monday</b> 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:40 p.m. — Jay Coun-	ty Solid Waste Management District, district office, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland. 4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Jay County Country Living Advisory Board, living facility, 1194 E. 200 North, Portland. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.
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## Obituaries

**Lanny Frasher**  
*July 5, 1948-Aug. 31, 2025*

Lanny Joe Frasher, age 77, of Nashville, Indiana, passed away on Sunday, Aug. 31, 2025, in Persimmon Ridge Healthcare in Portland. He was born in Portland on July 5, 1948, the son of Keith and Doris Maxine (Schoeff) Frasher. He was an electrician for Spahrs and Abe Martin in Brown County.

He was a 1967 Portland High School graduate and member of Jay County Historical Society and Optimist Club.

Surviving are his sister Lana

Frasher of Portland; and several cousins.

Services will be held on Thursday, Sept. 4, at 3 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home. Burial will be in the Green Park Cemetery in Portland. Visitation will be Thursday from 1 to 3 p.m.

Memorials can be made to the Jay County Humane Society of Jay County Historical Society.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.



Frasher

**Larry J. Fenstermaker**, a former Geneva resident, March 5, 1937-Sept. 2, 2025. Services will be at 3 p.m. Saturday at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 N. Washington St., Geneva.

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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.*

## Contentious ...

Continued from page 1

He added that he is not comfortable with passing a budget that calls for more spending than revenue.

Westlake expressed his view that he should have had more input on the budget, with Phillips and council members responding that he has received the same documents as everyone else.

The discussion went back-and-forth regarding support for the police department and other issues, with Goldsworthy expressing frustration about an “us vs. them” mentality from the police department. He said that is not the case, and added that he feels the council has been supportive of police.

Council member Dave Golden concurred with Goldsworthy, including about a lack of comfort in approving a budget that projects being in the red. He also asked about insurance costs, with Phillips responding that some areas do not look good. She noted liability insurance issues because of the number of tort claims currently filed against the city.

Council member Ron May also raised questions about proposed increases in the budget for parks. Park board president Brian Ison explained that the parks require maintenance and that the department’s budget has remained mostly unchanged over the years.

Another question came from council member Ashley Hilfiker regarding the planned purchase of a paving truck. Department heads Matt Shauver and Doug Jackson said they have stepped back from that proposal, indicating that a demonstration of the equipment gave results that were not acceptable.

The council made no changes to the budget proposal. The public hearing on the budget is scheduled for Sept. 15, with a vote on adoption to follow on Oct. 6.

**Radios, dispatch**

There was also contentious discussion after May brought up the idea of creating a centralized dispatch for all emergency responders in the county. Currently, Jay County Sheriff’s Office, Portland Police Department and Dunkirk Police Department all have their own

dispatch units. He suggested that, if such a change were to be made, it would make sense to do it in conjunction with a radio replacement project.

In July, Jay County Commissioners agreed to move forward with a radio project to connect the county and its municipalities to the statewide public safety system. Estimated between \$6.6 million and \$7.1 million, it would provide radios for emergency responders and non-public safety employees such as Jay County Highway Department and municipal utility departments.

Westlake raised questions about the cost of the equipment and expressed concern that the city was not included in the process. Jay County Commissioners president Chad Aker responded that Westlake and the city’s department heads have been invited to be part of discussions throughout the process. Department heads confirmed that they were asked about their equipment needs.

May and Westlake both asked Mock about the need to upgrade radio equipment.

“The system needs to be changed so everybody functions the same in the county,” Mock said. “It has to happen at some point in time.”

As for a centralized dispatch, he expressed uncertainty but said it could be talked about.

Westlake, a former police dispatcher, said he is opposed to creating a centralized dispatch. He said there is a “stink” based on comments he has

heard about the city’s police department.

Aker suggested that the mayor meet with representatives from Ritter Strategic Services, which has been working with the county toward an upgrade of its radio system since December 2023. Portland Fire Chief Mike Weitzel noted that the current project bid from Motorola expires Sept. 18.

**Agenda items**

May also brought up agenda items, which have also been a contentious topic between council members and the mayor.

There was brief discussion about whether the mayor should be allowed to remove items from the agenda, with Westlake saying some items can become problematic when they have already been talked about multiple times.

Council president Kent McClung suggested a procedure be put in place for agenda items.

**Housing projects**

Consultant Ed Curtin of CWC Latitudes and Aker also presented information to the city council regarding two potential development projects on the city’s west side.

One would involve 68 acres currently owned by the county on the north side of Votaw Street west of Jay County Humane Society. County officials have been working on the project for several years, with plans to include commercial space along Votaw Street (Indiana 26/67), 210

multi-family housing units, 76 single-family homes and 53 townhomes/duplexes.

The county is also considering bidding on about 50 acres of land on the north side of Tyson Road between Rose Drive and Brigade Electronics. (The property will be up for bid at an auction on Saturday.) Initial plans call for 65 single-family homes and 45 townhomes/duplexes on that property.

Curtin shared projections that the 68-acre project would make a larger economic impact on the community.

Aker advocated for the 68-acre project, noting that \$1.28 million in federal coronavirus relief dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act have already been allocated to it and that the county expects to receive an additional \$1.21 million through the state’s Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) 2.0. He asked the city council for a contribution of \$400,000 to help cover the remaining gap for the first phase of the project. (He said the money would not be needed until the end of 2026.) He added that the county’s redevelopment commission would be asked for the remaining \$235,000 that would be needed.

Council took no action on the request.

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*For additional news from Tuesday’s meeting, visit thecr.com or pick up Friday’s edition of The Commercial Review.*

SERVICES

Today

**Frasher**, Lanny: 3 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Saturday

**Fenstermaker**, Larry: 3 p.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

Service listings provided by

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**www.eea2.org**





Hoosier Homestead

The family of Ezra Rines recently received the Hoosier Homestead Century award at a ceremony held at the Indiana State Fair. Ezra purchased the original farm in 1924.

Couple’s sex life has changed after surgery

DEAR ABBY: My wife is the love of my life. She is, and always has been, my dream girl. We used to have sex three or four times a week, but since her hysterectomy, she no longer desires sex. She’s OK with scheduling sex on a certain date, but most of the time she doesn’t follow through because she doesn’t think about it, and I feel unwanted and undesired. Other than this issue, she is the woman for me. She makes me happy. She is very supportive and makes sure I’m taken care of in every other way.

I am a sexual person. My past relationships were all passionate, and I feel more like a man after a good romp. Am I thinking too much about this? She’s perfect in every way except for her lack of sex drive. I have never cheated on her, and I am not considering divorce, so what can I do? — DEPRIVED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR DEPRIVED: Talk with your wife and tell her

Dear Abby



everything you have written to me. It may be time for the two of you to schedule a consultation with her gynecologist to discuss this. People’s sex drives are hormone driven, and there may be a medical remedy for this problem. However, if there isn’t, it might be helpful for your wife to put a RECURRING reminder on her calendar about scheduling sex with you.

DEAR ABBY: I enjoy hosting small dinner parties and like to keep the size of the group to 12, which fits comfortably around our dining room table. If we move furniture, we can add extra tables and chairs, but as we get

older, hosting a bigger group has become more difficult.

During holidays, because we don’t have family in town, we like to invite others who are in a similar situation to join us, but we have more friends than will fit around our table. I have tried varying the group each year, but then people’s feelings are hurt if they’re not included the next year. Should we celebrate holidays on our own to avoid hurting anyone? — HAPPY HOSTESS IN OHIO

DEAR HOSTESS: You are fortunate to have so many friends. As hosts, you and your husband have the privilege of inviting anyone you wish to your holiday dinners. For someone to assume that, because they have been invited one year, they are entitled to celebrate with you in perpetuity is presumptuous.

If anyone indicates their feelings are hurt at not being invited annually, feel free to explain (as you have to me)

that you are glad they enjoy your hospitality, but you need to include other friends as well. It’s the truth. It’s not insulting.

P.S. If you would like to do something different during the holidays, feel free to do so. Some folks give themselves a vacation at that time by getting out of Dodge.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I just found out we are to become grandparents in seven months. We are very excited, and I can’t wait to spend time with my new grandchild. The plan is for me to spend two to three weeks with my daughter after the baby comes, to help them rest and settle into a daily routine.

The problem is, I am scared to death of one of her dogs. “Bruno” is large, unpredictable and not well-trained, and I believe he would bite me if given a chance. My daughter loves Bruno and is “sure” he would never hurt me. How do we deal

with this potentially disastrous situation?

I want everything to be special when meeting and bonding with our grandbaby, but I’m not sure how to approach my fear of her dog. Our daughter’s feelings get hurt easily, and I don’t want to jeopardize our relationship or one with the new baby. What should I do? — AFRAID IN COLORADO

DEAR AFRAID: Tell your daughter (again) how much you are looking forward to helping her at this special time and getting to know your grandchild. Then ask if it would be possible for her to confine Bruno during your visit. It would be terrible if her dog jumped on you and caused you to fall, and disastrous if it should happen while you are holding the baby. Then hope she sees the wisdom, or you will have to decline her request for help when they bring the baby home from the hospital.

Community Calendar

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

**Today**

SMART RECOVERY — A group for those struggling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feelings and behavior; and living a balanced life meets at 11 a.m. each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday 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.

JAY COUNTY CANCER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at Jay County Cancer Society’s office, 227 N. Meridian St., Portland. Open discussion for cancer patients, survivors, family members or anyone interested in helping with the group. For more information, contact Linda Metzger at (260) 726-1844.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet the first Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1.

**Friday**

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

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.

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will hold its next meeting at noon Friday, Sept. 5, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

**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 museumofthesoldier.com.

**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.

JAY COUNTY DRUG PREVENTION COALITION — Will meet at noon the second Monday of each month at Jay County Campus of Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday’s Solution

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

WINDOW NATION

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# Outbreak may be prelude to worse

**The Dallas Morning News**  
Tribune News Service

The West Texas measles outbreak has, thankfully, ended. Between late January and earlier this month, more than 760 Texans caught the preventable disease, 99 were hospitalized, and two children died. Measles cases linked to Gaines County cropped up in three other states.

It's a relief the outbreak is over, but it's hard to celebrate an event that signals the end of a remarkable public health triumph. The world was on a path to eradicating measles. Now we're going backward.

What makes the current situation so lamentable is that measles only infects humans. Many viruses, such as influenza or rabies,

## Guest Editorial

infect humans and other animals. These viruses are harder to eliminate because they have so many nonhuman "reservoirs" from which they can re-emerge.

Measles is different. If about 95% of the world's population were fully vaccinated, and that rate was sustained for multiple years, the measles virus would die out. Then no one would need to be immunized against it.

That happened with the variola virus, which causes smallpox. It once killed three out of every 10 people it infected. After a massive international immunization campaign, with a vaccine that used a related, but less harmful, virus to provoke an immune response, smallpox was eradicated worldwide in 1980. Americans stopped receiving routine smallpox vaccinations in 1972.

Before measles vaccines were developed, almost everyone in the world contracted the virus by age 15. That resulted in tens of millions of infections, and millions of deaths, each year.

The first measles vaccine was introduced around 1960. As vaccines improved and became wide-

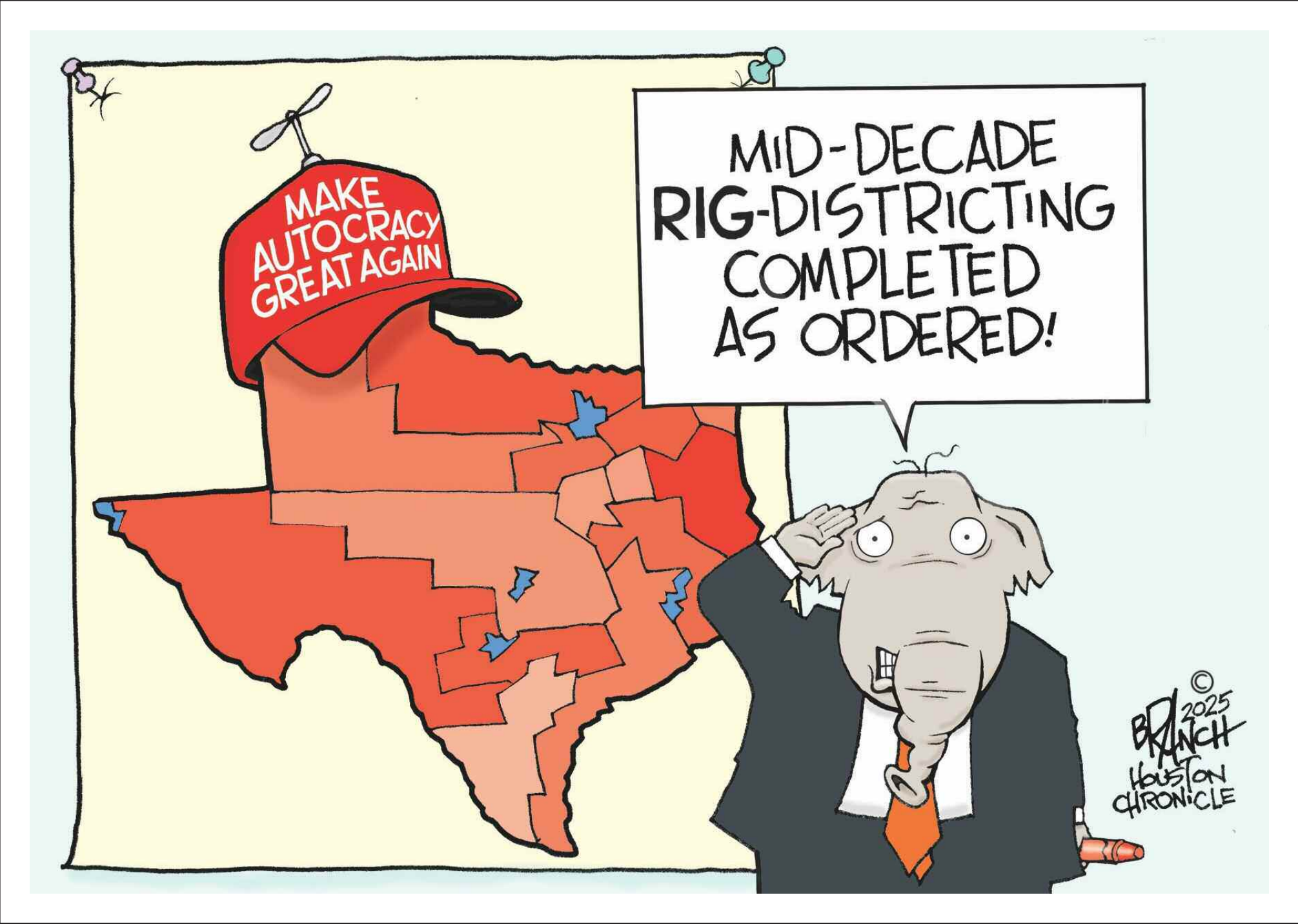
ly used, cases dropped. Between 2000-2018, annual reported measles cases declined 59% and measles-related deaths fell by 73%. The global case count hit a low of 132,490 in 2016, according to an article in The Journal of Infectious Diseases.

Infections began climbing as vaccination rates stagnated or fell. In countries that had eliminated the virus, such as Venezuela and Brazil, measles again became endemic. Misinformation and disinformation also began eroding trust in a vaccine that had been proven, repeatedly, to be safe and effective.

That disinformation often downplays the dangers of measles. There is nothing benign

about the rubeola virus. It is not the deadliest pathogen, but it is among the most contagious. And while most patients suffer only a rash and fever, a significant percentage develop complications such as encephalitis, pneumonia and secondary bacterial infections that can cause permanent disabilities, such as hearing loss.

Measles vaccinations and measles infections both confer immunity, but the "natural" infection carries far more risk for individuals and their communities. It's too soon to know how many Texas measles patients have suffered lasting harm from this outbreak. We just know that almost all of the infections could have been prevented.



# Trump moves the U.S. toward socialism

**By MICHAEL J. HICKS**

In the past few weeks, President Trump has moved the U.S. closer to socialism than any president in history. By forcing three companies to yield partial ownership or profit sharing, Trump has started down a dangerous path. As I write this column, he and his cabinet secretaries are promising to do more of the same with technology and defense firms.

Socialism is a political movement that advocates for government ownership of the means of production and distribution of goods and services. For as long as I remember, Republican candidates have loudly criticized any Democrat advocating even a hint of government ownership of private firms.

I, too, have pushed back against democratic socialists and frequently criticized policies where government controls, owns or over-regulates private sector activity. That shouldn't be very hard to do. But, so far, only one GOP senator and member of Congress has mustered the trivial amount of courage necessary to repudiate Trump's step towards socialism.

By contrast, every last one of

*Michael J. Hicks*



them has maligned Democrats as socialists.

Socialism is rightfully a dirty epithet for a political campaign. Most of the violent death and destruction of the 20th century came under the banner of some flavor of socialism. This movement in its various forms extinguished the lives of some 150 million to 200 million souls in the last century.

Trump's moves toward socialism seem clownish and petty. They are, just like every other tyrant before him. First, Trump demanded NVIDIA and AMD pay the government 15% of their revenue from sales to China. Then he coerced Intel to give the U.S. Treasury a 10% ownership stake.

These companies are subject to coercion because Congress has ceded tariff authority, along with virtually all other power, to Trump. He can personally

make or break almost any large company. Worse still, Trump has threatened the ability of firms to export at will, a clear violation of the Constitution. No company can afford to push back against this administration. This is a classic move of petty dictators everywhere.

To be sure, the U.S. has bailed out auto companies in crises, prevented runs on banks and forced carmakers to make tanks in times of war. Many of these decisions were clumsily executed or ill considered, but all were temporary acts done in crisis.

The U.S. entered 2025 with robust economic growth, low unemployment and a booming stock market. All of that could come to a halt. Trump isn't reacting to a crisis, he is the crisis. It is only going to worsen.

Just as Trump forces companies to hand over ownership to the Treasury — giving him untold power to choose clients, partners, set prices and swing federal contracts — he is gutting oversight where it matters most.

Trump has fired the head of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the agency that measures jobs, joblessness and inflation. It may be that no future economic data

can be trusted. Trump hates bad news, and his tariff obsession will lead to job losses and higher prices.

This might seem like inside baseball. Who, after all, worries much about government statistics other than pointy-headed economists? Anyone hoping for a Social Security cost-of-living increase this October should care. Do you think Trump will fake inflation data to mask the ill effects of tariffs? The answer is obvious — yes, if he can get away with it.

He hasn't stopped there. Just this week, Trump attempted to fire a member of the Federal Reserve, Lisa Cook. It is a silly effort, just like those of tyrants before him. To be clear, Trump is doing so based on unproven allegations of mortgage fraud. Alleged financial and moral misconduct is hardly a disqualification for high office in his administration.

Trump wants to fire and replace the entire Federal Reserve board for one reason only. He wants a Federal Reserve that will slash interest rates to mask the damage of tariffs. With approval ratings at the lowest point of his second term, Trump is rightfully afraid

of voters in the 2026 election. Trump is happy to spike inflation to limit midterm losses. That's all there is to it.

This moment in history offers an important moral lesson of the highest order. Every GOP candidate, from township trustee to the White House, called former President Joe Biden and former Vice President Kamala Harris socialists, or worse. Today, faced with a textbook definition of actual socialism from a GOP president, the silence is overwhelming. Many I know are wrestling hard with what this all leads to.

Normally, we'd want some courage from elected officials, and it would be good to offer words of encouragement to speak up. We're past that. As Cormac McCarthy wrote in "All the Pretty Horses," "It was always himself that the coward abandoned first. After this all other betrayals came easily."

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

# The Commercial Review

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"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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Area churches are listed with location, pastor and phone number, services and website or email address. All services are Sunday, unless otherwise indicated.

**Asbury United Methodist**  
204 E. Arch St., Portland  
Josh Arthur  
(260) 726-8464  
Services: 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.  
[asburyministries.org](http://asburyministries.org)

**Bellefountain United Methodist**  
440 S. 600 East  
Pamela Freeman  
Services: 9 a.m.

**Bluff Point Friends**  
80 E. 650 South  
Services: 10 a.m.  
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

**Boundary St. Paul**  
Corner of Treaty Line Road and county road 300 East  
Ava Gannon  
(260) 726-2373  
Services: 9:30 a.m.

**Bryant Wesleyan**  
209 S. Hendricks St.  
Paul VanCise  
(260) 997-6231  
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.  
[bryantwesleyanchurch.com](http://bryantwesleyanchurch.com)

**Calvary United Methodist**  
301 N. Main St., Dunkirk  
Susan Durovey-Antrim  
(765) 499-0368  
Services: 10:30 a.m.  
[susan.duroveyantrim@in.unc.org](mailto:susan.duroveyantrim@in.unc.org)

**Christ Chapel**  
2535 Wabash Road, Fort Recovery  
(419) 733-1469  
[christchapelfr.com](http://christchapelfr.com)

**Church of the Living God (Miracle Missions)**  
8472 S. 800 East, Union City  
Services: 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

**Church of God of Prophecy**  
797 N. Creagor Ave., Portland  
Nanette Weesner  
(260) 766-9334  
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.  
[nanybell@yahoo.com](mailto:nanybell@yahoo.com)

**Church of the Brethren**  
Floral and Chicago avenues, Portland  
Kevin McClung  
(260) 729-7295  
Services: 10 a.m.

**Church of the Living God**  
South Broad Street, Dunkirk  
Services: 7 p.m., 7 p.m. Friday

**Collett Nazarene**  
450 South, 1 mile west of U.S. 27  
Billy Stanton  
(260) 251-2403  
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

**Cornerstone Baptist**  
211 E. Main St., Portland  
Wayne Ward  
(260) 726-7714  
Services: 10 a.m.

**Cornerstone Church of Pennville**  
190 W. Main St., Pennville  
David Davidson  
(260) 202-9718  
Services: 10:30 a.m.

**Dunkirk Nazarene**  
226 E. Center St., Dunkirk  
Tom Fett  
(765) 768-6199  
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

**Evangelical Methodist**  
930 W. Main St., Portland  
Steve Arnold  
(260) 251-0970  
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

**Fairview United Methodist/Jay County**  
2875 E. 200 South  
Pamela Freeman  
Lay leader: Beth Stephen  
(260) 726-9184  
Services: 10:15 a.m.

**Faith Community**  
9560 W. 200 South, Dunkirk  
Mark Acree  
(260) 251-0987  
Services: 10 a.m.

**Family Worship Center**  
200 E. Elder St., Portland  
Ronald Willis  
(260) 726-4844  
Services: 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday  
[thefamilyworshipcenter.org](http://thefamilyworshipcenter.org)

**Fellowship Baptist**  
289 S. 200 West  
Hugh Kelly  
(260) 726-8873  
Services: 9 a.m., 11 a.m.  
Sunday school: 10 a.m.  
[pastorkelly@fbc-portland.com](mailto:pastorkelly@fbc-portland.com)

**First American Baptist**  
427 S. Main St., Dunkirk  
Dan Coffman  
(765) 768-7157  
Services: 10:40 a.m., 5 p.m.

**First Church of Christ**  
1049 Union City Road, Fort Recovery  
David J. Nicholson  
(419) 375-2860  
Services: 10:30 a.m.  
[fccfrecovery.org](http://fccfrecovery.org)

**First Community Baptist**  
341 S. Meridian St., Redkey  
Everett Bilbrey Jr.  
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.  
Services: 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; 7 p.m. Wednesday

**First Free Will Baptist**  
12369 W. 600 South, Dunkirk  
Sunday school: 10 a.m.  
Services: 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m., 6 p.m. Wednesday

**First Presbyterian**  
402 N. Ship St., Portland  
Rev. M. Rex Espiritu  
(260) 726-8462  
Services: 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday school: 10:15 a.m.  
[firstpcportland.org](http://firstpcportland.org)

**Fort Recovery Church of the Nazarene**  
401 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery  
(419) 375-4680  
Services: 10:30 a.m.  
Kids vision and teen ministries: 6 p.m. Wednesday  
[frnaz@frontier.com](mailto:frnaz@frontier.com)

**Fort Recovery United Methodist**  
309 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery  
Rev. Carol McKay  
(304) 617-0101  
Services: 9 a.m.

**Full Gospel Lighthouse Tabernacle**  
468 E. Washington St., Dunkirk  
Robert Thomas  
(765) 348-4620  
Services: 6:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Thursday

**Geneva First United Methodist**  
100 W. Line St., Geneva  
Barry McCune  
(260) 368-7655  
Services: 9:30 a.m.

**Geneva Nazarene**  
225 Decatur St., Geneva  
(260) 525-8609  
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.  
Sunday school: 9 a.m.  
Prayer meeting: 6 p.m. Wednesday

**Gilead Church**  
County road 650 North, one-quarter mile east of Balbec  
Services: 10:30 a.m.

**Hickory Grove Church of the Brethren**  
Indiana 1 and Indiana 26  
Earl Doll  
(260) 731-4477  
Services: 10:30 a.m.

**High Street United Methodist**  
435 High St., Geneva  
Rev. Joseph Hampton  
(260) 368-7233  
Services: 9 a.m.

**Holy Trinity Catholic**  
7321 E. Indiana 67, Bryant  
Fr. Peter Logsdon  
Fr. Martin Sandhage  
Services: 8 a.m., 4:30 p.m. Saturday

**Hopewell of Life Ministries**  
County road 200 South, 2 miles east of Indiana 1  
Rev. Ruth Funk  
(260) 251-8581  
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

**Immaculate Conception Catholic**  
506 E. Walnut St., Portland  
Fr. Peter Logsdon  
Fr. Martin Sandhage  
(260) 726-7055  
Services: 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Sunday

**Kingsley Full Gospel**  
4030 S. 700 East, Dunkirk  
Stuart Phillips  
Services: 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday

**Mary Help of Christians**  
403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery  
Rev. Alexander Witt  
(419) 375-4153  
Services: 4:30 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.

**Mount Tabor Community Church**  
216 W. Pleasant St., Dunkirk  
Scott McClain  
(765) 768-7273  
Services: 9:30 a.m.

**Mount Zion United Methodist**  
County roads 600 East and 200 North  
Rev. Darrell Borders  
(260) 726-4786  
Services: 9 a.m.

**New Beginnings Holiness Church of Blaine**  
4017 W. 200 South  
Randy Smith  
(260) 251-2406  
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.  
[nbholiness.com](http://nbholiness.com)

**New Covenant Fellowship**  
1238 W. 450 South  
Chuck Myers  
(260) 251-0063  
Services: 10:30 a.m.

**New Life Ministries**  
415 S. Helen St., Portland  
Dr. Kay Fairchild  
(260) 223-2961  
Services: 4 p.m.  
[drkayfairchild.com](http://drkayfairchild.com)

**New Mt. Pleasant United Methodist**  
5905 S. Como Road  
Neil Butcher  
(765) 499-7838  
Services: 9 a.m.

**Noble Congregational Christian**  
1964 N. 800 East  
Aaron Huey  
Services: 10:30 a.m.

**Oak Grove United Methodist**  
829 S. Indiana 1  
Neil Butcher  
(765) 760-9085  
Services: 10:45 a.m.

**Pleasant Hill**  
9945 N. 800 East, Union City  
Bruce Bryan  
(765) 964-3664  
Services: 9 a.m., 6 p.m.  
[mypleasanthillchurch.org](http://mypleasanthillchurch.org)

**Portland Church of Christ**  
1217 W. Votaw St., Portland  
Bob Graham  
(260) 726-7777  
Bible class: 9:15 a.m.  
Services: 10:20 a.m.  
Bible School: 6 p.m. Wednesday  
[portlandcoc.com](http://portlandcoc.com)

**Portland First Church of Nazarene**  
920 S. Shank St., Portland  
Steve Cecil  
(260) 726-8040  
Services: 10:45 a.m.

**Portland Friends**  
226 E. Main St., Portland  
Herb Hummel  
(260) 202-9732  
Services: 10 a.m.  
Sunday school: 9 a.m.

**Praise Chapel Church of God**  
4527 E. 1000 North (Jay-Randolph county line)  
Rev. Josh Canfield  
(765) 584-7045  
Services: 10:30 a.m.

**Redeemer Lutheran**  
Malin and Elm streets, Bryant  
Father Dan Layden  
(260) 997-6787  
Services: 9:30 a.m.

**Redkey Faith Ministries**  
9811 W. Indiana 67, southwest of Redkey  
Rev. Craig and Robin Cotherman  
(765) 369-2920  
Services: 10 a.m.  
[RedkeyFaith.org](http://RedkeyFaith.org)

**Redkey First Christian**  
Union and Malin streets  
Jeff Hammers  
(765) 468-6172  
Services: 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

**Redkey United Methodist**  
122 W. Main St.  
Lori McIntosh  
(765) 369-2085  
Services: 10:30 a.m.

**Redkey Church of the Nazarene**  
801 W. High St.  
Fred Stevens  
(765) 369-2676  
[redkeynaz.org](http://redkeynaz.org)  
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

**River of Life**  
722 W. Main St., Portland  
Susan Hathaway  
(260) 729-1095  
Services: 10:30 a.m.

**The ROCK**  
1605 N. Meridian St., Portland  
Matt Ransom  
(260) 726-7474  
Services: 10 a.m.  
[matt@therockjc.org](mailto:matt@therockjc.org)

**Salamonia Church of Christ**  
3900 S. 600 East  
Bruce Phillips  
(260) 335-2017  
Services: 9 a.m.

**Second Chance at Life Ministries**  
228 S. Meridian St., Portland  
Dave Keen (260) 251-8792  
Mike Eads (260) 703-0733  
Services: 10:30 a.m.

**St. Joseph Catholic**  
1689 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery  
Rev. Alexander Witt  
Services: 7:30 a.m. Sunday

**St. Mary's Catholic**  
346 S. Broad St., Dunkirk  
Rev. Kevin Hurley  
Services: 5 p.m. Saturday, 5:30 p.m. Thursday

**St. Paul Catholic**  
517 Meiring Road, Fort Recovery  
Rev. Alexander Witt  
Services: 11 a.m. Sunday

**St. Peter Catholic**  
1477 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery  
Rev. Alexander Witt  
Services: 9 a.m. Sunday

**Sugar Grove Nazarene**  
3984 N. 550 West, Portland  
Pastor Mike Heckman  
(615) 517-1017  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Services: 10:30 a.m.  
Bible study: 6 p.m. Wednesday

**Sugar Grove Church**  
County roads 600 South and 1150 West, Dunkirk  
Scott McClain  
Services: 9 a.m.

**Temple Baptist**  
17920 Indiana 167, Dunkirk  
John Elam  
(765) 768-7708  
Sunday school: 10 a.m.  
Services: 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday  
[7pillarsdirector@gmail.com](mailto:7pillarsdirector@gmail.com)  
[templebaptistin.com](http://templebaptistin.com)

**The Church at Westchester**  
4487 E. 400 North  
(260) 726-6311  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Services: 10:35 a.m.  
[churchatwestchester.org](http://churchatwestchester.org)

**Trinity Lutheran**  
301 N. Wayne St., Fort Recovery  
Robin Owen  
(419) 375-4498  
Services: 9 a.m. (contemporary service, fourth Sunday)  
[pastorrobino@gmail.com](mailto:pastorrobino@gmail.com)

**Trinity ArchBridge Church**  
323 S. Meridian St., Portland  
Dan Vore  
(260) 726-8391  
Sunday school: 9 a.m.  
Services: 10:15 a.m.  
[portlandtrinity.com](http://portlandtrinity.com)

**Union Chapel**  
6200 N. 375 West, Bryant  
Interim Pastor Chris Kruckow  
(260) 849-0687  
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

**Union Chapel Church of the Nazarene**  
County road 900 North (Jay-Wells county line)  
Fred Stevens  
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

**Walnut Corner**  
County roads 200 North and 500 West  
Steve Rogers  
(260) 251-1113  
Services: 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

**West Walnut Church of Christ**  
204 W. Walnut St., Portland  
Gil Alicea  
(260) 726-4691  
Services: 10 a.m.  
[westwalnutchurchof-christ.org](http://westwalnutchurchof-christ.org)

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
Robin Owen  
218 E. High St., Portland  
(260) 726-8832  
[zionlutheranportland@gm.ail.com](mailto:zionlutheranportland@gm.ail.com)  
Services: 10:30 a.m.


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**SPEED BUMP** Dave Coverly

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**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** By Bil Keane

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**Contract Bridge** By Steve Becker

*The first step tells the tale*

East dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ J  
♥ 10 7 6 3  
♦ A K J 8 5  
♣ A 8 6

**WEST**  
♠ K 7  
♥ A  
♦ 9 7 4 3  
♣ K J 10 9 5 3

**EAST**  
♠ A Q 6 4 3 2  
♥ 9 2  
♦ 10  
♣ Q 7 4 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ 10 9 8 5  
♥ K Q J 8 5 4  
♦ Q 6 2  
♣ —

The bidding:  
East South West North  
Pass Pass 1 ♠ 1 ♦  
1 ♣ 4 ♥ Pass Pass  
4 ♣ Pass Pass 5 ♥

Opening lead — king of spades.

This deal occurred in a team-of-four contest. At both tables South wound up in five hearts, and at both tables West led the king of spades. But at one table the contract was made, while at the other it went down one.

At the first table, West's king of spades held the first trick, and West then shifted to the jack of clubs. Declarer won with dummy's ace, discarding a spade, and returned a trump to the king and West's ace.

There was nothing the defenders could now do to defeat the contract, and South easily took the rest of the tricks.

At the second table, East-West found a much better defense. Here, East alertly overtook the king of spades lead with the ace and shifted to his singleton diamond.

South could not recover from this blow. He won the diamond in dummy and led a trump to his king. West won with the ace and returned a diamond for East to ruff, and the contract went down one.

Not a difficult defense, you may say, but the fact is that most of the players in East's shoes at the other tables could not bring themselves to play the ace of spades on their partner's king at trick one. The thought might not even have occurred to them, which is one of the reasons why defense is generally regarded as the most difficult part of the game.

Of course, West could have shifted to a diamond at trick two at the other table and then led a second diamond later to defeat the contract. Nevertheless, East must bear the main responsibility for West's failure to find this defense. He should not have allowed West the opportunity to go wrong.

Tomorrow: Test your defensive play.  
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**CRYPTOQUIP**

B F J Q I Y Z W L Y H K I J W W J  
V K A N Y L Y X Q N O K B F K H  
C Y O K Y H K K H L Z A K C J W Y Q Y X

C Q A K C C ? J Q K H C N Y H C V J H .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU WRITE A LETTER THAT LEAVES OUT MANY IMPORTANT POINTS, IS THAT AN OMISIVE MISSIVE?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals C

**CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Retained  
5 Zero-star review  
8 June 6, 1944  
12 Director Mira  
13 Hosp. area  
14 Aesopian also-ran  
15 "Understood"  
16 Guided  
17 Initial chip  
18 Saint of Avila  
20 Asian desert  
22 Enough  
26 Priceless violin  
29 Hill dweller  
30 Felon's flight  
31 Denny's rival  
32 Glitch  
33 Thomas — Edison  
34 Science room  
35 Soon-to-be grads  
36 Dined at home

**DOWN**

1 Make mittens  
2 Lighten zone  
4 Sticky pine product  
5 Kebab accompaniment  
6 Perfect serve  
7 Prodding gently  
8 Abu —  
9 Writer Steel  
10 Curator's concern  
11 "— -haw!" (rodeo cry)  
19 South of France?  
21 Calendar abbr.  
23 Goethe play  
24 "Avatar" race  
25 Eliot Ness, e.g.  
26 Lingerie fabric  
27 Compared to  
28 Auto-dialed message  
32 French roll  
33 Initially  
35 Enjoy Vail  
36 Astern  
38 Steep rock face  
39 Orange variety  
42 Booty  
43 Ticklish Muppet  
44 Leak out slowly  
45 S.A. nation  
46 Bill's partner  
48 Place

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

Yesterday's answer 9-4

**CROSSWORD**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
12 13 14  
15 16 17  
18 19 20 21  
22 23 24 25  
26 27 28 29 30  
31 32 33  
34 35 36  
37 38 39  
40 41 42 43 44  
45 46 47 48 49  
50 51 52  
53 54 55

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# Roundup ...

Continued from page 8

The next three places went to Patriots. They were Grant Glentzer (19:59), Max Klopfenstein (20:37) and Caison Lloyd (20:59). Alex Rivers rounded out the scoring with an eighth-place finish in 22:10.

Russell Hart (22:10) broke up the back to finish seventh for FRHS. The remaining two scores came from Evan Diller (22:11) in ninth and Ben Vogel (22:47) in 10th.

Other runners who didn't score for Fort Recovery were Addie Heitkamp (29:29), Yoselyn Juarez (30:17), Henry Jutte (23:04), Charlie Stammen (23:05), and Mason Laux (23:12)

Other runners who didn't score for Jay County were Alyvia Muhlenkamp (31:38), Ethan Powers (23:20), John Cook (24:23) and Isaac Hawbaker (26:55).

**Lloyd leads**

Jay County's girls soccer team only needed one goal to take down Allen

County Athletic Conference foe South Adams 1-0 on Tuesday.

The Patriots (4-1, 3-0 ACAC) struck early against the Starfires (2-5, 0-2 ACAC) when Aixa Lopez found London Lloyd for the score with 31 minutes, 1 second remaining in the half.

The defensive efforts of Ariel Beiswanger, Emma Hatzell, Tessa Frazee and Raylah Newton on the back line and Maleah Parsons in the goal held South Adams scoreless. Parsons finished the match with 10 saves.

Jay County had nine players combine for 27 shots on the goal, but they couldn't manage to find the net.

JCHS will play a trio of non-conference games starting with today's match against Norwell before visiting Berne for a rematch with the Starfires. They also have ACAC games against Southern Wells, Heritage and Woodlan remaining as they sit atop the conference standings.

# Happy ...

Continued from page 8

Alexa Ridenour led Jay County as she tied her career best mark of 51 strokes. She shot four bogeys on the match, including the 290-yard, par-4 fourth hole.

Ridenour played it safe with her tee shot, driving the ball to the bend, leaving 125 yards to the green. Her approach shot flew a bit long into an overgrown bunker. She chipped out within five feet of the hole, but her first putt ran down the slope to stay the same distance away before she put in her second putt for par.

"My shots in the middle of the fairway was doing pretty well today," Ridenour said. "My chipping still needs a little work. ... But I feel pretty good."

Kelly Martin and Ava Lanter tied with 53s to lead the way for Winchester.

All three of the Tribe's other scorers managed to break 50 along with Evers.

Olivia Knapke and Evvie Briner both carded 47s. They combined for three pars and nine bogeys.

"When you have all of your top four girls in the 40s, you usually have some success," Vaughn said. "Tonight we had that and, knock on wood, the top four have been pretty consistent all year. They're all seniors and have a lot of experiences so that helps."

Also competing but not scoring for Fort Recovery were Layla Armstrong, whose 58 would have quali-



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Crystal Swartzentruber, who shot a 59 for the JCHS girls golf team, follows through on an approach shot on the sixth hole at Portland Golf Club Tuesday.

fied for both JCHS and the Golden Falcons, and Cora Pearson, who had 60.

Erin Aker provided the second-best score for the Patriots at 53. The junior made pars on the sixth and ninth holes, while putting up a bogey on the second.

Elizabeth Brunswick had a strong finish to her round, shooting back-to-back bogeys on holes No. 8 and 9 en route to a total of 57. Both Taven Bently, who made her varsity debut, and Crystal Swartzentruber finished with 59 strokes to round out the team score.

Reny Lingo's 64 didn't affect the final outcome.

Throughout the round, most of the Patriots found success off the tees and with their irons, but found some trouble with their wedges and on the greens.

"Two days a week we focus on what I call 'stations,'" Allred said. "The last couple of times, I've noticed more girls will tell me that they need chipping and putting. I see a lot less on the range, so I kinda knew coming out today that their drives and iron shots were going to be good."



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Hoppe Evers of Fort Recovery High School lines up a shot while Jay County's Brenna Schmiesing goes up in an attempt to block it during the opening set of the Patriots' victory Tuesday over the Indians. Evers finished with six kills for FRHS, which will play undefeated Parkway tonight.

# Patriots ...

Continued from page 8

Guggenbiller saw the match as one of many challenges on his team's schedule — it will visit undefeated Parkway (7-0) on Thursday — as it seeks to improve with a focus on the tournament after advancing to the regional semifinal last season.

"I love what we're doing," said Guggenbiller, who also got 35 assists from Ranly, 12 digs from Kayla Gaerke and two aces from Homan. "I love the growth we've made in a two-week period. ...

"If we keep making strides in these right directions, we're only going to get better as the year goes on."

**Junior varsity**

Fort Recovery came out on top, holding off the Patriots in the first set en route to a 25-23, 25-17 victory.

Ella Rigby totaled 11 assists, two kills and two digs for the Patriots. Kali Wendel notched seven digs and four kills, Lydia Johnson had five points and four kills, and Emery

Forthofer had four points and three kills.

**Freshmen**

The Indians rallied after dropping the first set in the first portion of the tripleheader, knocking off Jay County 26-28, 25-23, 15-9.

Kenady Lyons had a big match across the board for the Patriots with seven assists, seven digs, seven points and five aces. Kylee Timmerman added nine digs and five points, and Kali Wendel had three kills.

## 90 SALE CALENDAR

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Tract 2 - One acre bare lot located just west of the home on Tyson Road.  
Tract 3 - Forty-seven +/- acres of bare land located within the city limits of Portland.  
Tract 4 - Combination of Tracts 1 and 2.  
Tract 5 - Entire package which includes house, pole barn and 50 acres.  
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## 90 SALE CALENDAR

76.3 hours; Cub Cadet garden tractor; Toro snow thrower; Craftsman 2 pc. tool cabinet; cultivator; wood ladder; 2 wheel cart; vise; and many other items not listed.  
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**SEPTEMBER 20th, 2025**  
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**LOCATED: 2641 E 1100 S. Montpelier IN.**  
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1968 JD 4020 D. w/ Quad-shift, Front weights, 4900 hours.  
1967 JD 2510 w/ Front weights, 6800 hours.  
Case 1030 Tractor w/ 3600 hours. New Holland GT-122A Lawn Tractor w/ deck and blade.Wheelhorse 14HP Garden Tractor. JD 450-B Crawler Loader.  
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Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.  
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Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587  
**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
**SATURDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 13th, 2025**  
**10:00 A.M.**  
**LOCATED: 8584 Day Rd, Versailles OH.**  
**TRACTORS**  
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**TRUCK-TRAILERS-EQUIPMENT-MISC**  
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**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 4th, 2025**  
**TIME 4:30 P.M.**  
**LOCATED: 506 N George St. Ridgeville, IN**  
**GUN -GUN SUPPLIES-AMMO**  
Taurus 357 Mag 6 Shot Revolver (3 Screw). 45 Cal ACP Pistol. H & R Sportsman 22 Cal 9 Shot Revolver. Ammo Reloader. Tumbler. Reloading Supplies. Large Lot of Lead. Large Lot of Gun Supplies.

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Notice is hereby given that Kelly E. Herod and Sheldon Herod was, on the 24 day of June, 2025, appointed Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of Robert P. Mayo Jr., deceased, who died April 22, 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 decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.  
Dated this 24 day of June, 2025.  
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Clerk of the Circuit Court of Jay County  
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# Patriots fight off FR

## Strong finishes in first and fourth sets lift Jay County

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

Both teams had a set in which they started off snoozing. Those resulted in a split. It was strong finishes in the first and fourth that lifted the Patriots.

Jay County High School's volleyball team ran off the final four points to save the opening set and closed the match on a 7-1 run to fight off the visiting Fort Recovery Indians 25-23, 12-25, 25-15, 25-19.

"It was exciting and nerve-racking," said JCHS coach Amy Dillon. "It felt like in the second set, we kind of let our serve receive go down the drain and then that just killed us.

"I just keep telling them the same thing over and over, that you can't play defeated ... You've just got to go back there and take care of what you can take care of. And I felt like we started to do that in the middle of the game and the energy shifted. And once the energy shifted, then we were hyped up and ready to go."

Though his team ended up on the wrong end of the score, coach Travis Guggenbiller felt the match marked a positive step for the much younger Indians. With three freshmen in the starting lineup and no seniors on the roster, they were able to push a senior-laden JCHS squad that is now 4-1.

"I thought today we played the best we've played yet this year," Guggenbiller said. "I saw some great things on our defense. We started to do some things that we haven't done all year covering the ground.

"We're also just running some things that we haven't been able to do earlier. So I'm not upset with the loss when you've got three freshmen and five juniors against (six) seniors. They gave them a run for it, and that's a great Jay County team this year."

Three consecutive points from Fort Recovery gave the visitors a 23-21 lead late in the first set and led to a Patriot timeout. The Indians had a chance to earn a set point when Cameron Muhlenkamp got a swing on the ball, but Jay County was able to fight it off and end the point with a Hallie Schwieterman kill. A back-row attack error and an ace put the home team in control,



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Lani Muhlenkamp of the Jay County High School volleyball team passes a ball during the Patriots' 25-23, 12-25, 25-15, 25-19 win over Fort Recovery on Tuesday. Muhlenkamp led JCHS in the back row with 20 digs.

and the set ended when a scramble resulted in a ball off the arms of Kayden Ranly smacking the antenna.

The fourth set was tied at 18

when the Patriots went on the attack. A Maria Hemmelgarn kill put them ahead for good, and then Brenna Schmiesing rejected a quick tip attempt by FRHS

setter Kayden Ranly. A well-placed Paisley Fugiett tip to the back-right corner made it 21-18 and led Guggenbiller to call a timeout.

The break didn't help, as the Indians (2-3) made three consecutive attack errors before a Hope Evers kill kept them alive. The glimmer didn't last long, as another Fugiett tip to virtually the same spot on the court finished off the Jay County victory.

"She's so good at that," said Dillon. "One thing that I told Paisley is she's a great offensive setter. And if she has to go there, go there, that it was wide open.

"And she picks a great time to do it. She's good at knowing when and when not to."

Fugiett said she felt her team may have taken the Indians a bit lightly after they lost Kayla Heitkamp, Kennedy Muhlenkamp and Karlie Niekamp to graduation. But they've also had something to prove after coming up just short in a five-set loss to Delta in their second match of the season.

"We picked it up because we were like, we have to go," said Fugiett, who had 34 assists and 11 digs. "We really wanted this. This is a rivalry game."

"I think we've realized, especially us as seniors, this is our last season, and we all really want to win," she added. "We really wanted Delta and we felt like we deserved to win Delta. And so after that, I felt like we have a spark in us that we want to win every game. It doesn't matter what it takes. We just want to go out there and get the job done."

Both teams spread out their offense, with Schwieterman's 11 kills leading the Patriots, while Maria Hemmelgarn followed with 10.

Cameron Muhlenkamp was the top attacker on the night as she totaled a dozen kills for Fort Recovery. Fellow juniors Brynn Willmann and Bridget Homan added nine kills apiece.

After dropping the first set, the Indians scored the first six points of the second behind Kenna Dues' serve and never trailed. Fortunes reversed in the third, with Jay County running off the first seven points with Kayla Jetmore behind the service line.

Dillon felt her team struggled a bit in its blocking game. But, the front line was helped by 25 and 18 digs from Lani Muhlenkamp and Elizabeth Barnett, respectively.

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# Two happy teams

## Tribe shot season low, Jay picked up second win

By ANDREW BALKO  
The Commercial Review

The Indians and Patriots had two very different days.

But both teams left the links happy.

The Fort Recovery High School girls golf team shot a season best 185 at Portland Golf Club on Tuesday, while the Jay County Patriots totaled 220 to pick up their second win of the season over the Winchester Community Golden Falcons, which shot a 332.

"We shot our season low and broke 190," said FRHS coach Jeff Vaughn. "Mallory (Evers) had a heck of a round today and had two birdies and scored 43 for her own PR.

"This is when we want to start playing that well. I told them we need this the next couple Thursdays at (Midwest Athletic Conference) because right now we're tied for second and we've got St. Henry, who's undefeated coming up. So overall, I'm happy with how the girls responded today."

While the Tribe (7-1) shot its season low, which also happened to be the team's best score



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Fort Recovery High School senior Georgia Wenning follows through on her drive hole No. 5 at Portland Golf Club on Tuesday. Wenning shot a 48 to help lead the Tribe past Jay County and Winchester.

from the 2024 campaign, Jay County's 220 was the third-best mark of the season and earned the Patriots (2-7) their second win, matching their

total from a season ago. "If we tied our (wins) from the whole season last year, I'm excited," said JCHS coach Carrissa Allred. "I know the

girls are excited. I hope we can get one more, but in the end, we're just a young program so even seeing the scores decrease every match is

a huge win for me."

Mallory Evers led all golfers as she shot a career-best 43 strokes to earn match medalist honors.

The FRHS senior parred the first hole before trading bogeys and double-bogeys over the next four.

She found her stride after that as a pair of one-putts earned her two birdies.

The first came on the 401-yard, par-5 sixth hole. Evers started with a strong drive that allowed her to make the green in regulation. Sinking her first putt on the small green secured her the birdie.

The senior slipped up on the seventh hole, shooting a double-bogey, before getting back on track with hole No. 8, a 119-yard, par-3. She drove the short distance to the green and made her first putt to earn her second birdie.

"It's exciting because I never expected to break that 45," Evers said, referencing the round she shot at the Union City Classic. "It's very, very big. This definitely will boost my confidence."

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# Jay XC tops FR

The Indians had two of the top three runners in each race. But it wasn't enough to take down the hosts.

The Jay County High School cross country teams both picked up wins in a dual meet with the Fort Recovery Indians Tuesday at Hudson Park. The Patriots finished with 24 points in both races, while the Tribe boys trailed by five with a 31 and the girls finished with 34.

Makenna Huelskamp won the girls race with a time of 21 minutes, 18 seconds and Riley Heitkamp claimed third in 22:20.

Abby Fifer split the two Indians to claim second in 22:09 and five Patriots claimed fourth to eighth place. Scoring for Jay County were Ava May (22:46), Brooklynn Byrum (22:55), Jessie Homan (23:40) and Paityn Wendel (25:05).

The remaining scores for the Fort Recovery girls came from Kendall Rany (26:51), Claire Grube (28:44) and Addie Heitkamp (29:29).

JCHS junior Caleb Garringer won the boys race with a time of 18:26. Two Indians followed as Alex Roessner crossed the finish line in 18:58 and Reese Diller ran a 19:28.

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