

Opportunity to connect

Bridge dinner planned to bring the community together

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

Picture it — swapping stories with locals and sharing a meal over the Salamonie River during golden hour.

That's the concept behind the first community dinner on the bridge in Jay County. It's slated for 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday on the green bridge that connects Hudson Family Park and Weiler-Wilson Park in Portland.

Michele Goldman, a Portland resident, has been cooking up the idea since January. She took inspiration from a similar event offered along the Washington Street bridge in Muncie.

"I've always wanted to bring one here and just, I said, 'We could do that in Jay County,'" she said. "I just felt like there's been a lot of divisiveness all across the U.S., and, you know, there's something to be said when people share a meal and get to know each other, and kind of share stories — you find out about people's lives, what they have experienced, and it just builds a deeper connection."

Plans are to set up tables and chairs along the bridge. Attendees may take a seat, meander along the river or grab a bite to eat from Ryzone's Food Truck, Tayo's Taqueria and Two Mama's On Tap in the area between the bridge and Portland Junior League diamonds.

See **Connect** page 5



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

The inaugural community dinner on the green bridge connecting Hudson Family and Weiler-Wilson parks in Portland is scheduled for 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday. Anyone in the community is invited to bring a picnic dinner or visit food trucks that will be on hand for the event, share a meal together and join in conversation.

County OKs radio lease

Agreement for equipment comes in at \$4.64 million

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

Local emergency responders should see a vast improvement in radio performance soon.

Jay County Commissioners approved a resolution Monday agreeing to a \$4.64 million lease with Motorola for new radio equipment.

Those receiving new equipment will include Jay County Sheriff's Office, Jay Emergency Medical Service, Jay County Emergency Management Agency, Jay County Health Department, Jay County Highway Department, Portland fire and police departments, Dunkirk fire and police departments, Pennington fire and police departments, Redkey fire and police departments, Salamonie Fire Department, Bryant Fire Department and IU Health Jay security and emergency room staff.

County officials have been discussing the need to upgrade local responders' radio equipment for nearly five years. Ritter Strategic Services facilitated a study on Jay County's radio equipment in 2024, showing a majority of the county's coverage is available only if users take their radios outdoors, with significant coverage gaps in the northeast and south areas of the county. Ritter Strategic Services recommended joining the Integrated Public Safety Commission radio system and upgrading the county's equipment.

The new system will offer 95% coverage across the county, which Sheriff Ray Newton has said will be a vast improvement.

Upgrade costs for Jay County departments, including installation of a new radio tower at the sheriff's office, come to \$2.68 million. The remaining \$1.96 million accounts for municipal and hospital radio equipment.

See **Radio** page 5

Dunkirk 2026 budget approved

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — The 2026 budget is in place.

Dunkirk City Council approved the city's \$2.64 million budget for next year during its meeting Monday.

The \$2.64 million budget is down slightly from \$2.7 million in 2025. (The

budgets in 2024 and 2025 both involved spending of federal coronavirus relief funds from the American Rescue Plan Act.)

The bulk of the budget — \$1.76 million — is in the general fund, which went up by about \$50,000 from the previous year. Other major funds

include \$362,400 in motor vehicle highway, \$168,000 in trash and garbage pick-up and \$150,000 in economic development income tax.

It factors in 2% raises for all city employees.

Council members Jesse Bivens, Dan Watson, Christy Curts, Randy Murphy and Donna

Revolt unanimously approved the budget.

The council also approved two contracts with Brooks Construction of Fort Wayne for paving work. Brooks will pave the north-south and east-west alleys in the block south-east of the intersection of Main and Commerce streets. It will also handle

some repairs after streets were cut for utility work.

Mayor Jack Robbins and Murphy also reported that paving of Pleasant Street on the west side of the city, Fourth Street, D Street and Lincoln Avenue between Main and Angle streets is planned for mid-October.

See **Dunkirk** page 5

Expansion is complete

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

Put another expansion in the books.

Joyce/Dayton Corporation celebrated the completion of its nearly \$9 million expansion project — its 11th in 30 years in Portland — with a ribbon cutting, tours and lunch on Thursday.

"In the nearly three decades that I've been part of this company, we've expanded this facility six times — each time asking, 'Is this where we belong?' and ultimately determining that, yes, this is the community we want to be a part of," said president and CEO Brad Weiss during the ceremony on the west side of the facility at 1621 N. Meridian St. "This commu-

Joyce/Dayton project leads to bringing company's EDrive production to Portland

nity has helped propel us to become the largest industrial jack manufacturer in North America."

The project, which started in April 2024, added 26,000 square feet to the facility, expanding its footprint by more than 30%. The parking lot was also expanded. H.A. Dorsten of Minster, Ohio, was the contrac-

tor for the project, designed by Arcturus Architecture of St. Louis.

A need for greater production capacity started when Joyce/Dayton purchased a business line from Enerpac of Milwaukee in 2019 and was pushed further by growth from 2020 through '22.

See **Expansion** page 2



Photo provided

Joyce/Dayton Corporation celebrated the completion of its nearly \$9 million expansion project in Portland last week. With the expansion, the firm has moved the production of its EDrive high-performance electric actuator from Connecticut to the Portland facility.

Deaths

Martin Stump, 69, Portland  
Fran Crouch, 84, Dunkirk  
James Shepherd, 86, Dunkirk  
Margaret Snow, 83, Decatur  
Details on page 2.

Weather

The high temperature was 73 degrees Monday in Jay County. The low was 62. There was about 0.2 inches of rain.  
Rain is expected tonight with a chance of thunderstorms and a low in the upper 50s. More rain is possible Thursday with a high in the lower 70s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Public Library will host Junk Journaling 101 for children and teenagers from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25. Junk journaling is a collection of new and recycled materials assembled to make a creative journal. The program is for those in third grade and older. Registration is required by calling (260) 726-7890.

Coming up

Thursday — Results from the JCHS girls soccer game at undefeated Delta.  
Friday — Coverage of Wednesday's Jay County Council meeting.  
Saturday — Results from the Jay County High School football game at Woodlan.

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Obituaries

**Martin Stump**  
*March 12, 1956-Sept. 18, 2025*  
Martin “Marty” Stump, age 69, a resident of Portland, passed away on Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025, at his home in Portland. Marty was born on March 12, 1956, the son of Cleo and Catherine Marie (Kembel) Stump. Marty graduated from Portland High School in 1974 and worked for Walmart in Portland for several years. Marty married Carol Arnold on March 12, 1978, and she passed away on Nov. 13, 2023. Survivors include: Two stepsons — Jon Hollopeter Jr., Union City, Indiana, and Jeremy Hollopeter, Portland, Indiana Two brothers — Walter Stump (wife: Barbara), Portland, Indiana, and Claude Stump (wife: Lisa), Arrow-smith, Illinois Grandchildren — Jade Hollopeter, Ashley Twigg (husband: Garick), Alyssa Grayson (husband: Kyle), Megan McGraw and Jacob McGraw Several great-grandchildren Visitation will be held on Friday, Sept. 26, 2025, from noon to 2



Stump

p.m. at the Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will follow at 2 p.m. at the funeral home and burial will follow at Gravel Hill Cemetery, west of Bryant, Indiana. Condolences may be made to williamsonspencer.com

**Fran Crouch**  
*May 20, 1941-Sept. 22, 2025*  
Fran Crouch, age 84, Dunkirk, passed away Monday, Sept. 22, 2025 at Albany Health Care & Rehabilitation Center following an extended illness. Born in Harman, Virginia, on May 20, 1941, she grew up in Virginia and lived in California before moving to Indiana in the early 1970s. Fran worked at Indiana Glass Co., Dunkirk, for several years until its closure. She was an active member of Union Chapel Ministries and enjoyed quilting, visiting with friends, making pies and doing craft projects. Survivors include her husband of nearly 38 years, Ron “Ronnie” Crouch; sons Greg Ross (April), Dennis Nowels (Nikki), Roger Nowels (Vicky),



Crouch

Kirk Nowels (Julie), Jimmie Cunha (Mark) and Michael Crouch (Lorie); brothers Jim Brown, Danny Brown (Debbie) and Jimmy Brown; sisters Peggy Miller, Cathy Smith and Millie Cantrell; grandchildren Amelia Nowels, Abigail Nowels, Sarah Nowels, Nathaniel Nowels, Anthony Nowels, Samantha Nowels, Chase Cunha, Hailee Cunha, Melissa Blakely, Madison Crouch, Libby Crouch, Caitlyn Crouch, Alan Crouch, Eric Nowels, Benjamin Ross and Shelby Ross; great-grandchildren Faith Bisel, Clark Nowels, Calvin Nowels, and Gwen Cunha; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents Louie and Josephine Brown; stepdaughter Amy Morrical; and step-grandson Amos Morrical. Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025, at Meacham Funeral Service with burial following at Dunkirk I.O.O.F. Cemetery. Visiting hours are Saturday from noon until 2 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorials may be sent to Union Chapel Ministries in Muncie, Indiana. The funeral will be streamed online from MeachamFuneralService.com where condo-

lences and other expressions of sympathy can also be given.

**James Shepherd**  
*Oct. 13, 1938-Sept. 21, 2025*  
James E. Shepherd, age 86, Dunkirk, died Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025, following an illness. Born in Indianapolis on Oct. 13, 1938, he grew up in Edmon-ton, Kentucky, and attended school there before moving back to Indiana. He was a resident of Dunkirk for several years and worked at Indiana Glass Co. until its closure. Jim attended Gospel Light-house Tabernacle in Dunkirk. He, along with his wife and others, sang in a traveling gospel group known as The Singing Shepherds for 20 years. He belonged to the local glass union and was a big University of Kentucky fan. Jim enjoyed working on electronics — especially old stereos, going out for breakfast and socializing with friends; most importantly, he cherished spending time with family. Survivors include his sons Mike Shepherd (wife: Cindy), Redkey, and Brian Shepherd



Shepherd

(wife: Nicci), DeSoto; grandchildren Ashley Taylor, California, Casey Croyle (husband: Tim), Shreveport, Louisiana, Autumn Marcum (husband: Duane), Dunkirk, Elias Shepherd (wife: Anika), Tampa, Florida, and Garrett Shepherd (wife: LeAnna), Dunkirk; honorary grandson Jayden Watson, Dunkirk; great-grandchildren Blaze Shepherd, Kynleigh Shepherd, Layne Croyle, Khloe Croyle, Garriksyn Shepherd, Odin Croyle, Waylon Shepherd and Cassandra Shep-herd; and special friends Kelly and Dan Watson. He was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Rema J. Shepherd, who died in 2021; and James and Lillie Syra who raised him. Services will be 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26, 2025, at Meacham Funeral Service. Cremation will follow with future burial at Center Cemetery near Portland. Visiting hours are Friday from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the funeral home. Condolences and other expressions of sympathy may be given at MeachamFuneralService.com.

**Margaret L. Snow**, Decatur, Oct. 22, 1941-Sept. 22, 2025. Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Grace Bible Church, 6626 S. 150 West, Berne.

CR almanac

| Thursday<br>9/25   | Friday<br>9/26   | Saturday<br>9/27  | Sunday<br>9/28   | Monday<br>9/29   |
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|  |  |   |  |  |
| <b>74/49</b>   | <b>77/52</b>   | <b>79/53</b>  | <b>80/51</b>   | <b>81/52</b>   |
| Thursday's forecast shows a 50% chance of showers with a low around the mid 50s. | Mostly cloudy skies on Friday when there's a slight chance of showers. | Saturday's forecast shows sunny skies, with highs in the upper 70s. | Sunny skies on Sunday with highs in the upper 70s. Low at night around 50. | Mostly sunny skies are expected Monday when the high will be in the upper 70s. |

Lotteries

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| <b>Powerball</b><br>Monday<br>3-29-42-46-59<br>Power Ball: 15<br>Power Play: 3<br>Estimated jackpot: \$127 million   | Daily Four: 2-6-1-9<br>Quick Draw: 3-11-13-15-16-18-20-21-27-33-41-42-44-48-51-56-57-58-66-68<br>Cash 5: 7-11-12-27-39<br>Estimated jackpot: \$115,000  |
| <b>Mega Millions</b><br>Estimated jackpot: \$451 million   | <b>Ohio</b><br>Monday<br>Midday<br>Pick 3: 3-7-0<br>Pick 4: 4-8-0-7<br>Pick 5: 7-9-6-3-9<br>Evening<br>Pick 3: 1-3-3<br>Pick 4: 6-3-0-2<br>Pick 5: 8-6-4-0-5<br>Rolling Cash: 9-20-23-26-38<br>Estimated jackpot: \$110,000 |
| <b>Hoosier</b><br>Monday<br>Midday<br>Daily Three: 5-8-9<br>Daily Four: 7-8-1-5<br>Quick Draw: 4-5-9-10-17-21-38-42-44-47-52-53-54-56-61-73-76-77-79-80<br>Evening<br>Daily Three: 7-5-8 |   |

Markets

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| <b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b><br>Corn.....4.12<br>Oct. corn .....4.07<br>Dec. corn .....4.20     | Dec. beans .....10.06<br>Wheat ..... 4.63   |
| <b>POET Biorefining Portland</b><br>Corn.....4.15<br>Oct./Nov. corn .....4.05<br>Dec. corn .....4.25 | <b>ADM Montpelier</b><br>Corn.....3.92<br>Late Sept. corn .....3.92<br>Beans.....9.64<br>Oct. beans .....9.64<br>Wheat .....4.58  |
| <b>The Andersons Richland Township</b><br>Corn .....4.00<br>Oct. corn .....3.97<br>Beans.....9.61    | <b>Heartland St. Anthony</b><br>Corn.....4.05<br>Oct. corn .....4.00<br>Beans.....9.46<br>Dec. beans .....9.71<br>Wheat .....4.43 |

Today in history

|  |  |
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| <b>In 1934</b> , Babe Ruth played his final game for the New York Yankees.<br><b>In 2003</b> , the Jay County High School girls soccer team defeated the Burris Owls 4-0. Sarah Miller scored two goals for the Patriots and Abby Schmiesing and Jamie | Bruggeman each added one.<br><b>In 2020</b> , the Federal Aviation Administration announced it would fund 100% of the first phase of Portland Municipal Airport's runway extension project. The work was estimated at \$2.4 million. —The CR |
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Citizen's calendar

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Today</b><br>6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, cabin, Morgan Park, 50 Mooney St. | Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.<br>6 p.m. — Jay County Council public hearing, auditorium, court-house, 120 N. Court St., Portland. |
| <b>Wednesday</b><br>6 p.m. — Dunkirk  |  |

Expansion ...

Continued from page 1

The new space allows for an enlarged assembly area, and having inventory on the production line instead of in a separate warehouse space. Engineering and research space was also expanded.

As a result of the project, the company is moving its EDrive high-performance electric actuator production from its facility in Connecticut to the Portland location. (The facility also manufactures screw jacks.) The company previously said plans were to add about 40 employees to its workforce to reach a total of 110 by the end of 2026.

“The expansion of this facility is more than just an investment in machinery and floor space. It is an investment in America,” said Weiss. “But more importantly, it’s an investment in our people right here in Portland. It is a testament to our competitive advantage. Our ability to our competitive advantage — our ability to design, machine, assemble and ship world-class products from right here in the American heartland.”

“The future of Joyce/Dayton is bright. We’re so proud that this future is being built right here in Portland.” Chief operating officer Dianne Trentman thanked local and state officials for their support of the expansion. The City of Portland approved two tax abatements in October 2023 and Indiana Economic Development Corporation provided \$275,000 in incentive-based tax credits as well as up to \$200,000 from the Hoosier Business Investment tax credit program. Joyce/Dayton was honored as Industry of the Year during the 2024 Jay County Community Awards, and Indiana Chamber of Commerce named it one of the state’s best places to work in manufacturing last year. Company officials credited the community for what Joyce/Dayton has accomplished. “The strength is a reflection of the community we’re a part of,” said Portland plant manager Kyle Roe. “We choose to grow in Portland because the community has a proud manufacturing heritage and a workforce with an incredible work ethic. We are not just a company located in Portland, we are proud to be a part of the Portland community. Our success is your success.”

—Kyle Roe, Joyce/Dayton plant manager

SERVICES

Friday

Hart, Mark: 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 506 E. Walnut St., Portland.

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

Shepherd, James: 2 p.m., Meacham Funeral Service, 648 W. State St., Albany.

Saturday

Lopez, Nancy: 1 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Crouch, Fran: 2 p.m., Meacham Funeral Service, 648 W. State St., Albany..

Snow, Margaret: 10 a.m., Grace Bible Church, 6626 S. 150 West, Berne.

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# Sibling to host vengeful party

DEAR ABBY: My father was a terrible person. He was physically abusive to his wife and kids, and he sexually abused both of my sisters. He was a vicious bully who took every opportunity to humiliate his children and took pleasure in destroying things we worked hard for. No one in the family is sad that he's no longer with us; most of us are happy to move on.

One of my sisters, however, wants to have a big party to celebrate the 10th anniversary of his death. She envisions a celebratory dinner at a fancy restaurant followed by a party at her house, complete with a contest for throwing darts at his picture.

I don't miss our father any more than she does, and I understand her raw hatred of him. But I also don't have any interest in going to that kind of an event, nor do any of our other siblings. We think it's past time to move on, and celebrating his death is not moving on.

My sister has made clear that if we don't attend, she will view it as not being supportive of her and won't ever speak to us again. What do you think about all of this? Must the rest of us go to her event, or should we take a pass, knowing she most likely will cut us out of her life? — BEYOND THAT IN FLORIDA

DEAR BEYOND THAT: You and your siblings are fortunate to have been able to move forward from the trauma you suffered at the hands of your father. Your sister obviously hasn't been so fortunate. She's wrong to threaten you with excommunication if you refuse her invitation to a "death day" party for the abuser. I hope none of you knuckle under. As a victim of abuse, she could use intensive counseling, and I hope at some point she'll reach

out for it. The way she's headed now, she will soon isolate herself completely from the family.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 36-year-old mother of four dating a 28-year-old man. He is the youngest guy I've ever dated. I usually date men my age or older. After my kids' father left me for another woman after 12 years of being together, I was broken. I didn't date for two years as I tried to heal. Then comes along this younger guy whom I've grown to love.

This man has no children and doesn't seem like a guy I should be with according to society, but I love him, and he loves me very much. I keep quiet about him when it comes to my mother and family out of fear of judgment. Should I tell them about him, or just keep him "hidden," as he would say? — IN LOVE IN THE SOUTH

DEAR IN LOVE: Keeping him hidden is insulting to the man you have been seeing. At 36 years old, you should be mature enough to live your life openly. The age difference is not so great that it should be a cause for concern. If the issue is that he comes from a different culture or racial background, you may have to stand up and defend your choice. Because you love each other, you should not be keeping him hidden. You have nothing to be ashamed about.



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My sons are married and live quite a distance from me. I try to visit several times a year because I want to see my grandchildren as often as I can. Sometimes I stay with them; other times I rent an Airbnb. The problem is that I am a neat-nut. When I'm at their house, I empty full sinks of dishes, clean bathrooms, sweep floors, polish mirrors/windows, dust furniture, etc. I'll even do laundry if they want.

I do ask if they mind if I clean up a bit, as they all work and have little time for this. They usually say "Sure!" But lately I'm feeling they regard this like I think they're dirty, and they say that cleanliness is not a priority in their lives. OK, I get it. I have decided to stop this activity when I'm there. Am I wrong to want to help out? Just wondering if I'm out of line here. Does anyone else do this? — NEAT IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR NEAT: Because you are being told that cleanliness is not a priority in their lives, it seems your efforts may not be appreciated. Yes, some other people do what you have been doing. (These folks have also been known to rearrange the furniture in other people's homes without being asked to do so.) Is being helpful under these circumstances the right thing to do? I don't think so. In fact, it could be considered obsessive-compulsive.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

# Health screenings coming to Portland

Health screenings will be available next month in Portland.

Local residents can learn about their risks for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes and other chronic conditions with health screenings Oct. 6 at Lions Club Civic Center, 307 E. 100 North, Portland.

Screenings check for plaque buildup in arteries, cholesterol levels, kidney and thyroid functions and more.

Call (877) 237-1287 or visit [lifelinescreening.com](http://lifelinescreening.com) to set up an appointment. Pre-registration is required.

## National Merit

A Jay County Junior-Senior High School student recently earned national recognition.

Brennan Chrisman was named a semifinalist in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program.

The recognition places Chrisman among the top academic achievers in the nation, a result of his outstanding performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Out of more than 1.3 million students who entered the program, Chrisman is one

## Taking Note

of 16,000 semifinalists who will compete for more than \$30 million in scholarships in the spring.

## President's List

A Portland resident was recently named to the president's list at an Alabama college.

Sharon Villas earned the honor at the University of Alabama for the summer semester. To make the president's list, students must have a 4.0 GPA.

## Baby showers

Another community baby shower kicks off Tuesday.

Jay County Family Resource Center, 827 W. High St., Portland, has been celebrating families with infants up to 1 year old every Tuesday in September from 1 to 5 p.m. Community members are invited to walk in to join the celebration.

# Births

## Gibson

Jason Leroy, a son, was born Sept. 19 at St. Vincent Randolph in Winchester to Shelby Mills and Jimmy Gibson of Union City.

He weighed 9 pounds, 3 ounces.

Grandparents are Brandy and Terry Mills of Union City and Jason Gibson and Carla Weiser of Greenville, Ohio.

# Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email [news@thecr.com](mailto:news@thecr.com).

## Today

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.

EUCHRE CLUB — Will meet at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at Chalet Village Health and Rehabilitation in the North Lounge.

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAM-

ILY 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.

PORTLAND EAGLES — Will meet at 6 p.m., on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Eagles' lodge, 320 N. Meridian 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.

## Thursday

LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES — Free and confidential consultations with a lawyer are available from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics including divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant-landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating should sign up in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

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.

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.

MISSISSINEWA CHAPTER OF DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION — Will meet at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25, at Jay County Historical Museum. Cindy Mulkey of Life Center of Jay County will speak. Call regent Kathy Selman at (260) 251-1694 or Sue Sommers at (260) 726-2678 for questions.

DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 5:30 p.m. at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Centre, 200 N. Park St., Portland.

## 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.

## 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.

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# Sudoku

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|   |   | 2 |   |   | 1 |   |   |   |
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Level: Intermediate

## Tuesday's Solution

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| 1 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| 8 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 1 |
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| 6 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
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| 3 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
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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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# Fan of house shows was content

*Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Sept. 22, 2005. Jack was a regular watcher of home improvement, house hunting and other similar shows. He liked to putter around the house working on various projects. He was sure, though, that his choices would not have met with the liking of the TV "experts."*

By JACK RONALD  
The Commercial Review

Clive and Roger would not approve.

Those of us who wander through the upper reaches of the cable channels while surfing with the remote control know, of course, who Clive and Roger are. They're "personalities" on a couple of nearly identical programs about selling real estate. Clive, a foppish guy with a British accent, is the host of a thing called "Designed to Sell" on HGTV. Roger, an astoundingly muscled guy who may be compensating for his interest in inte-

## Back in the Saddle



rrior design by spending too much time in the gym, works miracles on a show called "Sell This House" on A&E.

(It's a sad and embarrassing commentary on my TV watching habits that I was able to write the preceding paragraph.)

At any rate, the premise of both shows is the same: A house on the market that's tough to sell gets an investment of anywhere from a few hundred to a couple of thousand dollars and — voila — it's sold and everyone goes home happy.

Two or three things happen when we watch the shows.

First, we're staggered by the prices they're asking. Both shows tend to focus on go-go real estate markets like California or Florida. So, routinely, houses that would sell for under \$100,000 here are fetching prices of \$400,000 and up.

Second, we're often impressed by the common sense suggestions that the "experts" make. Roger, for instance, seems capable of working wonders.

And, third, we inevitably find ourselves wondering what the TV house experts would say about our place.

As I said, Clive and Roger would not be pleased.

Let's take a tour of the place through their eyes.

Right away, the damage from last January's ice storm would attract attention. Though we've removed several trees and trimmed more, the ugliness is still a factor.

Then there's the lawn. It's

okay as far as I'm concerned, but I fear it wouldn't rate too highly with the TV experts when it came to things like dandelions or the occasional thistle.

Inside, I can hear them now, there's too much clutter.

Roger, Clive, and company are big on eliminating clutter.

In our case, and I suspect in yours as well, that means getting rid of dust-catchers.

One of our vices is art, and I'm guessing Clive and Roger would tell us we have far too much on the walls. Take those pictures down, they'd say. Put them into storage.

In the kitchen, which we remodeled just a couple of years ago, they'd have a field day.

Sure the cabinets look beautiful, but take down those dozens of family photographs, pull out the nails, spackle the holes, and repaint to cover it all up.

The family room? We love it.

But we painted it a dark, hunter green.

That's a non-starter where these guys are concerned. Neutral colors rule, it seems.

They'd have us repainting in no time.

And then there's the matter of pets. None of these experts like pets when it comes to selling real estate.

Sorry, but the dog goes with the territory. So no matter how often we vacuum, you're going to find evidence of our black Labrador somewhere.

In other words, it's way too much work.

We'll just sit tight, thanks, content with our house as it is, with its own personality, its own quirks, and some very special memories.

As for Clive and Roger, they're welcome to visit, of course. But we're going to have to have a talk with Roger about cutting back on the bodybuilding.

# It was a lousy bit; reaction is overreach

Chicago Tribune  
Tribune News Service

We were not fans of Jimmy Kimmel's riff on the shooting of Charlie Kirk and the implication that President Donald Trump cared more about the new ballroom at the White House than the death of a close ally.

The late-night host's monologue on "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" was tasteless, unfair and, frankly, cruel, given that all the evidence points to Trump's genuine affection for Kirk and his family; a family and broader community that, needless to say, is in deep pain at present.

More significantly, any reasonable person well knows that it is utterly inconceivable Kimmel and his writers would have used such material if Kirk had been a figure beloved by progressives and there was a Democratic president in the White House dealing with his loss. There would have been hell to pay from the show's viewers if they had. That so many on the left do not see this as a problem is a problem with so many on the left. This unwillingness to see both sides is, well, getting worse on both sides.

We suspect Kimmel already knows all this, even as he knows which side is watching his show. Indeed, if you analyze the clip, and those forming an opinion should watch the full clip with its associated video, you can see his voice wavering as if he was going down a road he didn't really want to go but had committed to the journey and could not change direction.

All that said, of course Kimmel had the right to speak that monologue, just as his bosses had the right to preempt his show or take him off the air.

All are forms of speech. Kimmel works for a private company, and any employee of a private company knows that when you take a risk, when you put yourself out there, you had better be sure that the bosses have your back, that the juice will be worth the squeeze, so to speak.

In this case, they did not. They likely made a judgment call that Kimmel offended many viewers, which is correct. They also likely had other corporate considerations, which, hard as it is for some to swallow, also is their right. We all can have and voice

## Guest Editorial

our opinions on that action, but our view is that's between them. If Kimmel wants to quit, he will have many other options. We all know this. He won't be silenced. His lively voice has too many fans.

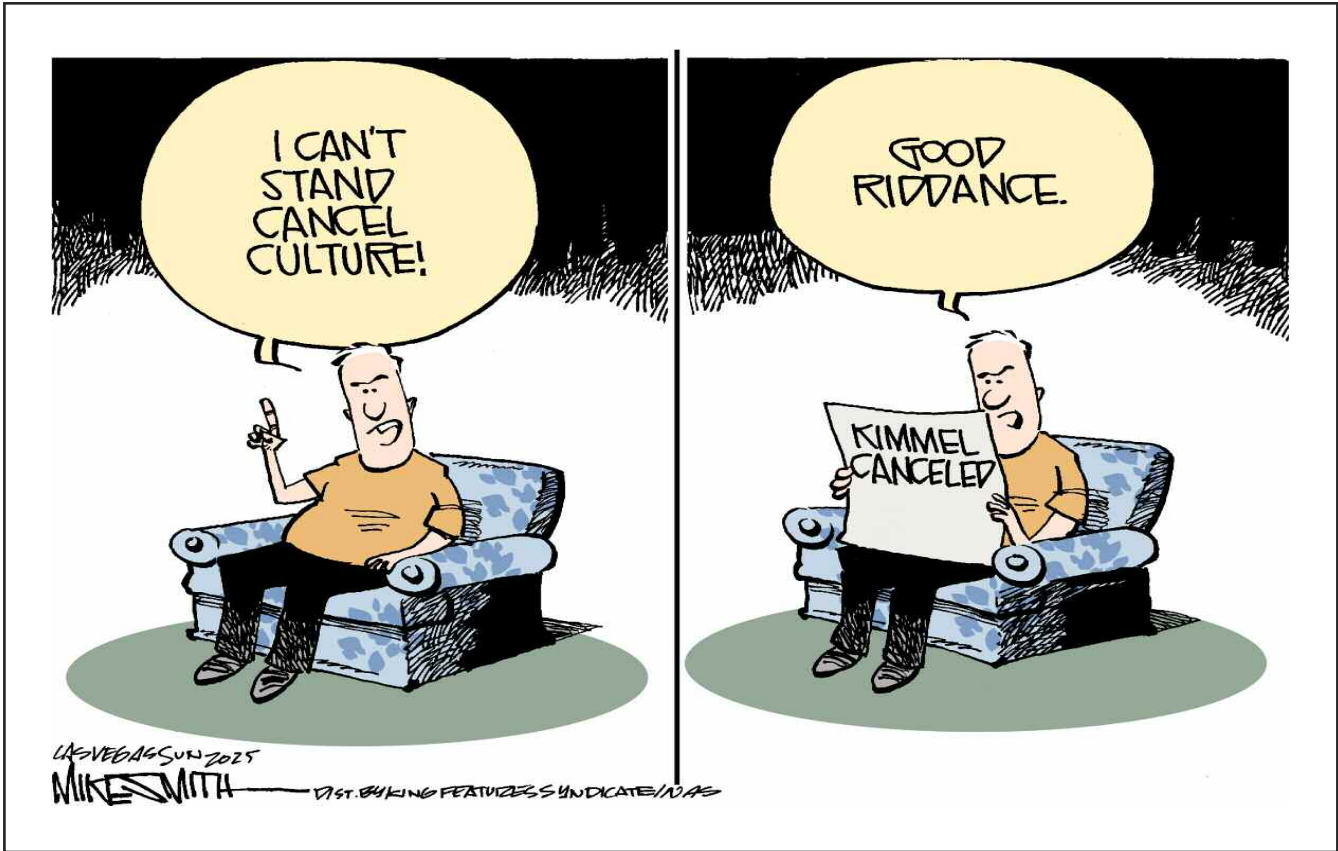
The problem arrives when the government gets involved.

And in this troubling case, there is evidence that Federal Communications Commission Chairman Brendan Carr did indeed get involved and pressured Kimmel's ABC bosses to take action. That's un-American.

Early reporting indicates that the FCC's argument appears to be that Kimmel delivered "misinformation" by implying in his monologue that Kirk's assassin was a MAGA-adjacent character, which is untrue. But it's worth remembering that this was a satiric monologue and is broadly understood as such. If Kimmel and his writers wanted to make that argument for comedic purposes, a free country allows them to make it without some government goon making official threats or otherwise clamping down on them. They can say the Earth is flat if they wish. This is not a totalitarian nation. There was no role for the FCC in this situation whatsoever.

We've said this before, but we'll still say it again: History teaches us that criminal assassins of famous Americans such as Kirk are typically alienated, disturbed individuals who are far more like each other than the adherents of one or the other side in this silent but deeply disturbing civil war going on in America at present. Their motivations, if that is even the right word, should not be framed in those binary terms. It's not only inaccurate but also profoundly dangerous, and it should cease, for the good of the republic.

Bad jokes fade. Bad government overreach endures. What matters most in this case is not whether Kimmel offended millions, but whether federal regulators used their power to chill speech.



# Understanding, examining help us grow

By NEDRA RHONE  
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution  
Tribune News Service

A "splendid failure" is the phrase historian W.E.B. DuBois used in 1935 to describe the post-Civil War Reconstruction era. Almost a century later, fellow historians consider the 12 years spanning 1865-1877 to be the most misunderstood period of American history.

When Atlanta's National Center for Civil and Human Rights reopens after a 10-month, \$57 million expansion, a new exhibition will tell the story of our attempt to create a true democracy and the pattern of progress and backlash that has existed ever since.

"Broken Promises: The Legacy of Reconstruction" opens in December, several weeks after the center's Nov. 8 grand reopening, and it is an important piece of the larger story being told at the center, said Kama Pierce, chief program officer.

"I think anyone who really understands history knows that we didn't just get to the 1950s. Jim Crow didn't just come out of nowhere," Pierce said.

History, as they say, really does repeat itself. And you can't truly understand the foundations of this country without understanding Reconstruction.

That period of time wasn't widely examined or studied by historians until the 1960s. Teachings on Reconstruction at cultural institutions and in school curricula haven't always kept pace with the latest scholarship.

Pierce worked closely with human rights strategist Ejim Dike, historian Kidada Williams of Wayne State University in Detroit, and Nicole Moore, the center's senior director of education, to curate the exhibition.

"This is so pivotal to our American history," Pierce said. "These 12 years of Reconstruction were a time of hope. Racism still existed, but we had this hope that finally we would be part of this nation, finally we would be a full person and be protected, and

it was taken away with the Compromise of 1877."

Many Americans have a limited understanding of the time period when formerly enslaved people made political, social and economic progress. Those gains were almost immediately met with backlash from white supremacists in the form of violence, denial of civil rights and human rights, and the erasure or rewriting of history.

"For decades, people were taught this racist version of Reconstruction, which blamed the so-called faults of the Reconstruction government on Black people and the power they had acquired in the South during this period," said Adam Sanchez, a spokesperson for Zinn Education Project, in our 2022 interview.

That year, the educational nonprofit issued a report on the 45 out of 50 states that had no standards or minimal standards for teaching Reconstruction in grades K-12.

Georgia's role in Reconstruction has also been largely misunderstood, including the moment in January 1865, weeks after Sherman's March to the Sea, when 20 Black men — all but three who lived in or were born in Georgia — met with Secretary of War Edwin Stanton to answer 12 questions about the sentiments and desires of formerly enslaved people.

The result of that conversation, Gen. William T. Sherman's Field Order 15, redistributed 400,000 acres of land in 40-acre parcels to free Black people and southern white people who had been loyal to the United States.

A few months later, after Presi-



## Nedra Rhone

dent Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, the order was nullified by Lincoln's successor, Andrew Jackson, and the path to Black equality and advancement was irrevocably disrupted.

"Broken Promises" begins in the 2020s and takes visitors back to the 1800s using immersive Alice in Wonderland-style newspapers and books to tell the story of Black communities in Atlanta; Wilmington, North Carolina; and Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The voices of Black journalists such as Ida B. Wells, Alexander Manly and Mary Jones Parrish narrate the violence that tore through these once thriving communities.

The exhibition invites visitors to consider how headlines can shape our perspective and how the pattern of the 1860s — a period of promise followed by a period of collapse — has continued well into the 2020s.

Tackling Reconstruction is part of a larger mission at the expanded center, which also features more classrooms and event space, a redesigned King Center with access to the King Papers, additional seats at the Lunch Counter Sit-in simulation, and a children's gallery with activities and tasks that will appeal to younger visitors when it opens in spring 2026.

During a recent media tour, President and CEO Jill Savitt pointed out each of these new additions, noting that they have taken a hope-based approach to communications with a vision for the center to become a national cultural institution.

Pierce said she believes "Broken Promises" will invite visitors to embrace all parts of our nation's history.

"I hope that people entertain the idea that there might be some patterns in our country that exist and that we have power to stop those patterns," she said.

Acknowledging, understanding, and examining the good and the ugly parts of our splendid failure is key to helping us move forward.

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# Radio ...

Continued from page 1

The 10-year lease OK'd by commissioners Monday — it was also approved by Jay County Council on Sept. 10 — comes at a 3.72% annual interest rate.

It allows the county to pay the lease off early with no penalties, and payments aren't required until February 2027. It doesn't include system upgrades and maintenance costs for the next 15 years, estimated at just under \$1.6 million total.

Commissioners president Chad Aker pointed out the annual lease payment is set at \$571,654. He added the county could always refinance the loan through Indiana Bond Bank or another entity with a lower rate in the future if needed.

Commissioners Duane Monroe, Doug Horn and Aker approved the resolution.

Also Monday, commissioners heard from East Central Indiana Regional Planning District assistant regional director Darlesia Lee about a regional housing partnership opportunity.

Lee explained she recently visited Terre Haute to look into housing developments. She

shared an information sheet with commissioners about regional housing programs, which could draw down payment assistance and private sector investments into housing projects. Two potential partners could include Thrive West Central of Terre Haute or Club 720.

Adams and Randolph counties are currently participating in the down payment assistance program through Club 720. Clay, Montgomery, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan, Vermillion and Vigo counties participate in Thrive West Central.

She said \$4.5 million in public funding was invested in Thrive West Central's program, returning \$132 million in private investments. Nearly 500 homes have been built or are in development as a result.

Pointing to success in Terre Haute, Lee said if Jay County were to add 10 new homes at \$175,000 each, it could add \$1.75 million to its tax base. That's roughly a \$17,500 annual property tax increase, she said.

Lee encouraged commissioners to look into regional opportunities for housing, saying, if pur-

sued, it needs to be done at a regional level. Aker pointed to a push from Indiana Gov. Mike Braun's office to work in regional capacities on projects. Jay County Development Corporation executive director Ceann Bales said she would need to look into the programs.

Also, Lee noted her last day with East Central Indiana Regional Planning District is the end of this month. She previously served as the county's community coordinator before commissioners decided in July not to renew a two-year contract with the regional planning district.

Lee explained some final inspections with Jay County's owner-occupied rehabilitation program may spill into October, with that work to be handed over to Bales.

In other business, commissioners:

- Heard no bids were submitted for constructing infrastructure on the county's 68 acres along Indiana 67 on the western side of Portland. Aker noted the county must wait 30 days until it can begin negotiating with vendors directly.

- Approved the following: a four-year, \$70,850 contract for cyclical reassessment services at Jay County Assessor's Office; an annual bioterrorism contract — it's paid for through a state grant — for Jay County Health Department; spending \$10,600.58 on new computer equipment for the health department to combat firewall, connectivity and speed issues; upgrading seven computers to Windows 11 in Jay County Courthouse for \$6,300 through Cleaver Cabling & Consulting; and a right-of-way agreement with Frontier to complete utilities excavation work in rural parts of Dunkirk, including along county road 400 South between Industrial Park Road and county road 1100 West and also on county road 1100 West.
- Agreed to raise the assessment on the Darst watershed, located along Indiana 26 near the state line, to \$1 an acre or a minimum of \$10 a plot.
- Retroactively signed a burn ban in place for Jay County through Sept. 30 or until otherwise lifted. (As of press time Tuesday morning, the ban was still in effect.)

- Agreed to send a letter to Jason Huntsman in regard to alleged damage on county road 500 South from ditch work and OK'd Jay County Highway Department to coordinate repairs. "I think it definitely needs to be repaired, and I feel that the person who caused the damage should hold some responsibility for paying for that," said Aker. "Like we mentioned before, if it happened once, that's one thing, but when it happens three times, that's a totally different thing."
- Heard a monthly financial breakdown from Jay Emergency Medical Service director Gary Barnett. JEMS had \$122,127.33 in expenses and \$81,603.84 in income in August. It also made 122 ambulance runs to hospitals, approximately 61 of which were to IU Health Jay.
- Were informed by county surveyor Brad Daniels that a complaint from a local resident about a neighbor's driveway along U.S. 27 was determined not to be a county responsibility. County attorney Wes Schemenaur added the county has no jurisdiction over private drains or waterways.

# Dunkirk ...

Continued from page 1

The city received a \$143,126.25 Community Crossings grant through Indiana Department of Transportation for the work.

In other business, council:

- Approved a memorial service for Charlie Kirk to be held at Dunkirk City Park, provided that the organizers fill out the proper paperwork and provide proof of insurance as required by all entities holding events at the facility.
- OK'd making the alley on the north side of MJS Mortuaries in downtown Dunkirk one-way between the alley to the west and Main St. A stop sign will be placed at the alley's intersection with Main St. (Indiana 167).

- Heard from Mayor Jack Robbins that he planned to meet with Jay County Development Corporation and representatives from consulting firm Kleinpeter and Associates regarding plans to apply for a grant to demolish the Green Building, 303 S. Main St.

- Approved the following: a \$550 sponsorship for Secret Families Christmas Charity of Jay County; payment of a \$1,470 invoice from consulting firm Baker Tilly for work related to annexing land for a planned housing development; a \$27,656 contract with Indiana Pump Works to repair a pump at the wastewater treatment plant and \$9,392.70 from 4TC to repair additional equipment; payment of claims totaling \$199,255.75.

- Heard from Robbins that he is continuing to work on proposed updates to the city's zoning and golf cart ordinances.

- Learned from Curts that the Dunkirk Fire Department's Haunted Woods will be open Oct. 17, 18, 24, 25 and 31, and Nov. 1. It will be open from 7 to 11 p.m. each day except for Halloween, when it will open at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$7, with a \$1 discount available for those who donate a canned good.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

# Flying through

Wyatt Bihn of the Jay County JROTC squad launches himself through a tire as part of the cross country rescue drill on Saturday's JROTC Patriot Raider Challenge Competition. Bihn went directly from carrying a fake stretcher with weights to flying through the tire.

# Connect ...

Continued from page 1

Bringing food items for a picnic is also an option.

The tables will seat up to 80. Overflow space could be used with park benches and picnic tables, although Goldman noted the event will boast more of an open-house style for folks to come and go as they please.

East Central Indiana Regional Planning District and Barry and Elizabeth Hudson sponsored the event to help with table rentals and other fees. Homeschool Art Group, Lydia Rowles and Lindsay Edwards crafted and donated paper flow-

ers in small metal watering cans for table decor.

Event organizers are hosting a decorating contest, with participants asked to bring their own items and jazz up tables. Goldman plans to add craft paper runners across tables for coloring opportunities, as well as add icebreaker questions to the runners to get conversations started.

Musician Mark McKinley of rural Portland will also perform folk music with his guitar, adding an air of ambiance to the evening.

There will be giveaways with baskets and gift cards from different local entities, including Three

Chicks Farm and Pennville Custom Cabinetry, Goldman's business.

Formerly of Indianapolis, Goldman has lived in Jay County for more than 15 years and now calls it home. She talked about what it means to live in a small community, using the example of her children bumping into folks she knows while out and about.

"That's a good feeling, to know that you've got people watching out for you," she said.

Connections are the backbone of rural communities, she added. The community bridge dinner in Jay County aims to highlight that

small-town charm one meal at a time.

Goldman noted event plans have fallen into line over the course of the last few months.

"With an event like this, you never know how it's going to be received, but I feel like the universe has been winking at me along the way," said Goldman, who hopes to make the event an annual occurrence.

"(I) invite people to come, it's casual," she said. "Come as you are, come from work, it's just a time to celebrate Jay County and the people here and just be together."



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# Steamroll ...

Continued from page 8

That included allowing middle blockers Maria Hemmelgarn and Mya Kunkler rare opportunities to serve, while also giving back line mainstay Kayla Jetmore a shot to attack up front.

The role swaps didn't impede the Patriots, who bashed down 20 kills in the victory. The performance provided strong evidence of the squad's versatility and reliability.

"They're just a really steady group," Dillon said. "They've done a lot better the last few games, playing consistently no matter who's on the court, and that's kind of what I

tell them, 'We've got to be able to throw people out there and still play at that level.' And I think they did a pretty good job with that tonight."

While the Patriots (12-6) enjoyed the new-look line-ups on Monday night, they didn't abandon what has made them so dangerous all season. Jay County's potent pair of senior middles, Hemmelgarn and Kunkler, combined for 13 kills and eight blocks.

The duo posted those lofty totals in spite of a methodical Bruin (7-16) offense that forced Jay County to adapt.

"It is hard, because

we're used to blocking a lot of fast offense teams," Hemmelgarn said. "So when we get to a team that has a little bit of a slower offense, we have to kind of slow down and line up with the blocker, and just not jump too early ... and I think we did a really good job of that tonight."

Though Blackford's slow pace forced the Patriots to adapt, Jay County pummeled the Bruins with its own quick attack, with many of the finishes by Hemmelgarn and Kunkler coming on swift connections at the net.

"We tried to double block, but they run a fast offense, and our girls

weren't ready for that," said Blackford coach Angie Mendoza. "They just weren't quite fast enough to get there to cover that block."

Hemmelgarn and Kunkler weren't the only seniors to make their mark. All six members of the Class of 2026 featured prominently in the match. Elizabeth Barnett (five aces, four kills), Kayla Jetmore (two aces, one kill), Lani Muhlenkamp (four aces, 13 digs) and Paisley Fugiett (13 assists).

"It's good that we have a rotation where it's just seniors on the court," Hemmelgarn said. "That rotation was so special."

For the Patriot seniors, Monday was a full circle moment, as the crew has been playing together for over half a decade.

"The other five seniors, we've been together since seventh grade," Kunkler said. "And it really meant a lot."

After the Patriots sealed the dominant victory, all six of the seniors were honored in a post-match ceremony that included an emotional Dillon extolling each of her six soon-to-be graduates.

"Leaders. Every one of them," Dillon said. "My underclassmen don't have to question who to

go to. They can go to any (of the) six of those girls and they know that they're going to support them and talk to them. They're just such a great group. They portray everything I want in the culture of Jay County volleyball."

From the first serve to the final ball to the senior night ceremony and the post-match festivities as the Patriot faithful celebrated long into the evening, joy was a constant presence in Jay County's gym.

"I don't know," Hemmelgarn said. "It was just an ecstatic night, it was great. I loved it."

# Sports on tap

## Local schedule

| Today   |
|---|
| Fort Recovery — Girls golf at Sectional – 9 a.m.  |
| Thursday  |
| Jay County — Boys soccer at Southern Wells – 5 p.m.; Boys tennis at South Adams – 5 p.m.; Girls soccer vs. Yorktown – 7 p.m.; JV girls soccer vs. Yorktown – 5 p.m.; Junior high cross country vs. Monroe Central/Union City/Wes-Del – 5 p.m.; Junior high volleyball vs. Union City – 5:30 p.m.; Junior high football at Richmond – 6 p.m. |

## TV schedule

| Today   |
|---|
| 6:35 p.m. — MLB: Tampa Bay Rays at Baltimore Orioles (FS1)<br>6:40 p.m. — MLB: Pittsburgh Pirates at Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana)<br>7 p.m. — College volleyball: Michigan at Nebraska (BTN); Missouri at Texas A&M (ESPN2) |
| Thursday  |
| 12:40 p.m. — MLB: Pittsburgh Pirates at Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana)<br>6:30 p.m. — College volleyball: Washington at Purdue (BTN)<br>7:30 p.m. — College football: Army at East Carolina (ESPN)                            |

8:05 p.m. — MLB: New York Mets at Chicago Cubs (ESPN)  
9 p.m. — College volleyball: Indiana at Northwestern (BTN)  
9:45 p.m. — MLB: St. Louis Cardinals at San Francisco Giants (FDSN Indiana)

8:30 p.m. — College volleyball: Michigan State at Minnesota (BTN)

## Local notes

| Tryouts set  |
|--|
| The Jay County Winter Swim Club will host new swimmer tryouts at the high school swimming pool on Sept. 25 at 5:30 p.m.<br>A parent meeting for swimmers will also be held on Sept. 29 6:30 p.m. in the pool area. |
| Cooper to host   |
| Cooper Farms will host its 18th Annual Turkey Trot 5K benefitting EverHeart Hospice on Nov. 1.   |

The race will begin at Cooper Farms Turkey Harvesting Plant at 1 Cooper Farms Drive, St. Henry, OH. Registration is at 9 a.m. with the race beginning at 10 a.m.  
There will be age groups from 9-and-younger to 60-and-older. Awards will be handed out to the top female and male from each age group.  
Refreshments and a to-go turkey meal will be provided for all runners.  
For more information on registering, visit speedyfeet.com and search "Cooper Farms Turkey Trot 5K" or email Tonya Huber at [tonyah@cooperfarms.com](mailto:tonyah@cooperfarms.com).  
.....  
To have an event listed in "Sports on tap", email details to [sports@theocr.com](mailto:sports@theocr.com)

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| word Includes Online.....FREE Classified Display \$6.95/ per column inch No borders or logos allowed on Classified Page<br>Card of Thanks Up to 100 words.... \$13.00 In Memory Up to 100 words.... \$13.00<br>Advertising Deadline is 12:00 p.m. the day prior to publication.<br>Pre-Payment required for: Rummage sales, business opportunities, jobs wanted, boats and sporting equipment, wanted to rent, motorized vehicles, real estate and mobile homes. |
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| 90 SALE CALENDAR   |
|--|
| <b>LAND AUCTION MONDAY OCTOBER 13TH, 2025</b><br>TIME 5:00 P.M.<br>LOCATED: 1 Mile North of New Mt Pleasant on Como Rd, Portland, IN<br>REAL ESTATE<br>95.67 Acres In Section 16, Jefferson Twp, Jay County Indiana. Practically all tillable with Frontage on Como Rd. Property does have a Windmill, Lease and Payment will stay with the Farm. Wooded area not Included. Taxes to be prorated day of Closing. Possession upon Harvest of 2025 Crops. Drive by's are Welcome or Phone Auctioneers for More Information. Auction Held On-Site.<br>OWNERS: Denney Family Properties, LLC |

| 90 SALE CALENDAR  |
|---|
| Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.<br><b>SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE</b><br>AC31800004<br>AUCTIONEERS<br>Zane Shawver<br>Lic. #AU10500168<br>260-729-2229<br>Pete D. Shawver<br>Lic. #AU19700040<br>260-726-5587 |

| LAND AUCTION MONDAY OCTOBER 20TH, 2025  |
|---|
| TIME 5:00 P.M.<br>LOCATED: CR 200 S AND CR 300 E. PORTLAND, IN<br>REAL ESTATE<br>74 +/- Acres in Section 35, Wayne Twp, Jay County Indiana with 67 Acres Tillable, balance being Wooded and Road Frontage. Farm has Frontage on CR's 200 S and 300 E.<br>Typography: Level. Possession: Upon Closing or Harvest of 2025 Crops. Taxes: To be Prorated the Day of Closing. Very Desirable Farm in a Great Location. Drive by's are Welcome or Phone Auctioneers for More Information. Auction Held On-Site.<br>OWNER: Gary D and Kimbra L Weesner |
| Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.<br><b>SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE</b><br>AC31800004<br>AUCTIONEERS<br>Zane Shawver<br>Lic. #AU10500168<br>260-729-2229<br>Pete D. Shawver<br>Lic. #AU19700040<br>260-726-5587   |

| PUBLIC AUCTION  |
|---|
| Located: 103 S Washington Street, Montpelier IN<br>Saturday Morning SEPTEMBER 27, 2025 10:00 A.M.<br>REAL ESTATE<br>1 story home built in 1950 with 3 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms and 1478 square feet of living area. Home has a gas forced air furnace, central air, gas fireplace, gas water heater, and a detached 1 car garage. For more information or a private showing contact Loy Real Estate, Kim Loy Broker 260-726-2700 or Gary Loy Auctioneer 260-726-5160<br><b>HOUSEHOLD GOODS - OLD &amp; COLLECTORS ITEMS - GUNS</b><br>3 pc. Queen size bedroom suit with Sleep Number mattress; Whirlpool refrigerator; Smith Bros. 3 cushion sofa; (2) leather recliners; Longaberger baskets; McCoy owl cookie jar; Diamond Arms 12ga single shot; Stevens 22 lever action single shot octagon barrel; baseball gloves; canning jars; Coke bottles; and many other items not listed.<br><b>TRAILER - TOOLS</b><br>2 wheel 5' x 6' trailer; Troy Bilt 24½ snowblower; Viper Earthquake |

| 90 SALE CALENDAR   |
|--|
| roto tiller; Craftsman router; McCulloch Power Mack 320 chain saw; ; buzz saw blade; 2 man saw; levels; oil cans; pry bars; pliers; screwdrivers; and other items not listed.<br><b>JEAN LANDIS</b><br>Loy Auction<br>AC#31600027 Auctioneers<br>Gary Loy AU01031608<br>Travis Theurer AU11200131<br>Aaron Loy AU11200112<br>Kaden Khayyata AU12400069   |
| PUBLIC AUCTION   |
| Located: Under cover in the Industrial Building at the Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 E Votaw St., Portland, IN<br>Wednesday Afternoon SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 5:00 P.M.<br><b>HOUSEHOLD GOODS- OLD &amp; COLLECTORS ITEMS</b><br>Oak table with 2 extra boards and 6 chairs, VERY NICE; Oak flat-door cupboard, VERY NICE; gun cabinet; vanity with bench; wood rocker; Oak coffee table; jewelry; jewelry boxes; hunting knives; pocket knives; swords; spurs; pickle jar; parlor lamp; belt buckles; large set of Gone With The Wind plates; over 5 large totes of Hot Wheels, accordion; Sears 8 track AM/FM vehicle player; FM radio converter; Cobra CB; and other items not listed.<br><b>SUV-BOAT &amp; TRAILER- TOOLS</b><br>2020 Chevrolet Equinox with 67,000 miles, VIN # 3GNAXEJEV1LS630513 ; 14' Starcraft boat with 19hp Evinrude motor, cover, fish finder and includes a 14' Texas Royal trailer; Brute 7000 watt generator; Snapper riding lawn mower with 28½ cut; Century battery charger; Craftsman sockets; Black & Decker circular saw; air impact; air ratchet; tarps; and other items not listed.<br><b>ELDON L. COST</b><br>ESTATE<br>By Elaine Stump and Beverly Paxson<br>Shelby County Probate Court<br>Case # 2025 EST 151<br>Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers<br>Gary Loy AU01031608<br>Travis Theurer AU11200131<br>Aaron Loy AU11200112<br>Kaden Khayyata AU12400069 |

| PUBLIC AUCTION   |
|--|
| Located: Jay County Fairgrounds Women's Building Monday evening<br>OCTOBER 6, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.<br>REAL ESTATE<br>Parcel is located on 50 E just south of 200 S. Property consists of 8.48 acres of woods and has a driveway that runs from 50E back to the woods. This would be a good recreational site.<br>20% nonrefundable deposit day of sale with balance due at closing. Owner will provide Owners Title Insurance and General Warranty Deed. Buyer will assume taxes due and payable in May 2026 and thereafter. Any statements made day of sale take precedence over previously written or oral matter. Owner confirmation day of sale.<br>For more information contact Loy Real Estate 260-726-2700 or Gary Loy Auctioneer 260-726-5160.<br><b>RON &amp; DELAYNE MYERS</b><br>Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers<br>Gary Loy AU01031608<br>Travis Theurer AU11200131 |
| PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY SEPT. 27TH, 2025   |
| TIME 10:00 A.M.<br>LOCATED: 1499 N 100 W. PORTLAND, IN<br>RTV-TRACTOR-MOWERS - MOTOR HOME- GOLF CART.<br>Kubota BX2680 4WD Tractor w/ LA 344 Loader 29.3 Hours. Ferris 611 27HP Zero Turn Commercial Mower w/ Suspension 2020 Hours.<br>2004 Condor Motor Home w/ 2 Slide Outs, Built-in Generator, Sleeps 4, 20,875 Miles.<br>2022 EZ-GO Gas Lifted Golf Cart w/ Rear Seat, Street Legal. Paddle Boat. Flat Bottom Boat   |

| 90 SALE CALENDAR   |
|--|
| 40ēwith a loft.<br>PARCEL #2: 20 Acres of tillable land that is in the set aside program. It is in this program until September 2032. The owner receives \$4,603.00 per year. If this parcel sells separately from parcel #1 there will be a deeded 60' easement given on the east side of parcel #1.<br>PARCEL #3<br>Combination of Parcel #1 and #2. House, barn, pond, and 26 acres.<br>For more information or private showing contact Loy Real Estate 260-726-2700 or Gary Loy Auctioneer 260-726-5160.<br><b>RITA LEGGETT, DECEASED</b><br>Loy Auction<br>AC#31600027 Auctioneers<br>Gary Loy AU01031608<br>Travis Theurer AU11200131<br>Aaron Loy AU11200112<br>Kaden Khayyata AU12400069 |

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| 90 SALE CALENDARE   |
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| Trailer.<br>GUN -CROSSBOW<br>Savage 30.6 Model 110E Bolt Action. H&R Model 923 22 Cal 9 Shot Revolver. North Midlen Co. Black Powder Pistol. Ten Point XR-40 Crossbow w/ Scope and Crank. Gun Sight Stand. Small Combination and Gun Safe.<br>ANTIQUES-HOUSEHOLD -MISC<br>Authentic Signed Paintings Including West Point Painting. 6 pc Cherry California King Size Bedroom Suite Including Blanket Chest. 5 pc California King Walnut Bedroom Suite. Leather Power Love Seat and Chair. GE Washer and Dryer. Gaming Table. Golf Clubs. Pop-up Canopy. Cornhole Game. (8) 8' Poly Folding Tables. (34) Padded Folding Chairs. High Quality Auction with Large Selection of Modern Items<br>OWNER: Gary L Morgan<br>Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.<br><b>SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE</b><br>AC31800004<br>AUCTIONEERS<br>Zane Shawver<br>Lic. #AU10500168<br>260-729-2229<br>Pete D. Shawver<br>Lic. #AU19700040<br>260-726-5587 |
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## 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

## Public Notice

| NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS  |                                    |                 |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of Jay County, Indiana that the proper legal officers of Jay County Council at the Jay County Court House, at 6:00 o'clock p.m., on the 8th day of October, 2025 will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the budget for the current year.  |                                    |                 |
| COUNTY GENERAL   |                                    | Amount Approved |
| 1000.24000.00000.0380  | Jail- Medical & Hospital Supplies  | \$50,000.00     |
| LIT- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  |                                    | \$5,500.00      |
| 1112.31480.00000.0000  | Professional Services              | \$5,500.00      |
| HEALTH BIOTERRORISM  |                                    | \$19,976.00     |
| 8109.31560.00000.0000  | Contract- Preparedness Coordinator | \$15,600.00     |
| 8109.34600.00000.0000  | Misc. Expense                      | \$1,900.00      |
| 8109.31130.00000.0000  | Equipment                          |                 |
|  | Maintenance Contracts              | \$2,476.00      |
| Total  |                                    | \$75,476.00     |
| Taxpayers appearing at the meeting shall have a right to be heard. The additional appropriation as finally made will be referred to the Department of Local Government Finance. The DLGF will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a certified copy of the action time. |                                    |                 |
| Emily Franks<br>Jay County Auditor   |                                    |                 |
| CR 9-24*-2025-HSPAXLP  |                                    |                 |



FRHS spikers split their last two matches, see roundup below

The Tribe girls golf team takes on sectional today, see Sports on tap

# Patriots steamroll Blackford

Jay County earns victory, honors seniors on memorable night

By **ETHAN OSKROBA**  
The Commercial Review  
Players, family and friends lingered on the court long after the final ball hit the hardwood on Monday night.

The hugs, pictures and smiles closed the curtains on a jubilant evening from start to finish, highlighted by a resounding Patriot victory.

The Jay County High School volleyball team celebrated senior night in style, trouncing the Blackford Bruins, 25-12, 25-9, 25-10.

Not only did the Patriots honor their six seniors with a postgame ceremony, but they also deployed the group in unique ways in the win.

“It was a lot of fun that we got to let some of these seniors do some things they don’t normally get to do in a lineup,” said Jay County coach Amy Dillon. “I kind of had it planned, if it was going well ... so it was fun to get them to try some of that stuff tonight.”

See **Steamroll** page 7



The Commercial Review/Ethan Oskroba

Jay County High School’s Mya Kunkler (11) and Hallie Schwieterman (1) put a block on Blackford’s Elly Huffman during the 25-12, 25-9, 25-10 on Monday. Kunkler tied Maria Hemmelgarn with a team-high four blocks and added seven kills. Schwieterman had one block and two kills.

# Tribe volleyball snaps five match losing streak

FORT RECOVERY and WAPAKONETA, Ohio — The Tribe has had some ups and downs during the 2025 campaign. Recently, they’ve had both another down and another up.

Fort Recovery High School’s volleyball team dropped its Saturday match to the Russia Raiders 23-25, 25-13, 25-20, 27-25 before snapping a five-match losing streak on Monday against Wapakoneta 5-23, 25-18, 25-3.

Cameron Muhlenkamp led the Indians (4-9) in the loss to Russia (9-4) with 16 kills and five aces. Other leaders were Alexis Grisez with four blocks, Kayla Gaerke with 19 digs and Kayden Ranly with 32 assists.

Bridget Homan’s 11 kills powered FRHS against Wapakoneta (10-6), while Muhlenkamp put down nine balls.

Fort Recovery found the floor while serving 19 times. Ranly found a lot of success behind the service line with nine aces.

## Local Roundup

The same three girls led in blocks, digs and assists. Grisez sent three balls back, Gaerke saved 15 more from finding the floor and Ranly dished out 24 assists.

### Jay falls

MONROEVILLE — The Jay County boys soccer team dropped its final Allen County Athletic Conference match of the season on Monday 2-1 to the Heritage Patriots.

Neither team could find an advantage in the first half as neither team could find the back of the net.

Yet, JCHS (5-7-1, 1-3 ACAC) drew first blood as Raif Beiswanger sent a through ball to Emmitt Reynolds to score

with 21 minutes remaining in the half.

Things fell apart for Jay County from there as Heritage (5-5, 2-1 ACAC) responded quickly before finding one more score with five minutes remaining.

Peyton Yowell saved 10 balls during the game.

Jay County will finish third in the ACAC standings, while Heritage has one more match against Woodlan to decide the conference champion.

### May paces

YORKTOWN — The Jay County girls cross country team finished third at the Jim Leffler Invite hosted by the Yorktown Tigers on Saturday, while the boys didn’t have enough competitors to place.

The Patriots finished with 67 points, while Guerin Catholic claimed first with 19. Yorktown won the boys race with a 47, while JCHS only had four runners.

Ava May finished 26.92 seconds behind Taylor Tragesser to finish second in 20 minutes 54.4 seconds.

Brooklynn Byrum and Jessie Homan came in next at 15th and 17th with times of 22:00.09 and 22:12.2, respectively. Paityn Wendel leapt up to finish 20th with a 22:24.56, while Abby Fifer’s 22:47.01 had her crossing the line in 24th to round out the team score.

Alex Rivers paced the boys with a 19:31.25 to earn 38th place.

Grant Glentzer ended up in 48th with a 19:54.01. Ethan Powers (21:59.26) and Isaac Hawbaker (25:37.34) also competed, finishing in 76th and 102nd.

### Tribe is seventh

VERSAILLES, Ohio — Fort Recovery’s boys cross country team claimed seventh at the Tour De Sewer on Saturday, while all four girls ran season best times.

The Indians finished with 193 points to claim seventh in the 12-team field. Host Versailles won the meet with a 31. Versailles also won the girls race with a 37.

Alex Roessner paced the Tribe with a 17 minutes, 17.9 seconds, time that had him crossing the finish line in 10th place.

Reese Diller produced the Indians’ second-best time of 18:40.1 for 39th.

The remaining scores came from Gavin Heitkamp (52nd – 19:11.9), Andon Roessner (62nd – 19:36.2) and Russell Hart (84th – 20:31.6).

Makenna Huelskamp set a new career best time of 20:03.9 to finish as the runner-up. (Addy Abner of Valley View won the event with a 19:23.3.)

Riley Heitkamp also earned a ribbon as her 21:41.3 earned 14th.

Madison Heitkamp crossed the line in 30th with a 22:52.8 and Yoselin Juarez-Gomez ended up 75th with a 26:17.0.

# Harvest

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