

The Commercial Review

Harmony agreement approved

Loan will be used to expand kitchen capacity

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

A local business will get some help as it looks to expand its services.

Portland City Council approved an economic development agreement Monday with Harmony Cafe and Studio.

Jay County Development Corporation executive director Ceann Bales presented the details of the agreement, which includes an \$18,000 loan for the business owned by David Fennig.

The loan would have a 10-year term with no interest for the first five years. Interest would then kick in at 1% over prime.

Bales said Fennig plans to expand the capacity of the kitchen in order to expand his wedding catering branch of the business and possibly reopen as a restaurant.

The planned upgrades include installing a new exhaust hood and fire suppression system over a new gas oven and grill. The kitchen will also get two new sinks and an ice machine.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Harmony Cafe and Studio owner David Fennig hopes to expand the kitchen capacity at his downtown Portland site to allow the business to take on larger catering jobs. Portland City Council approved an economic development agreement Monday that includes an \$18,000 loan to help make those improvements.

Council members Kent McClung, Michele Brewster, Matt Goldsworthy, Mike Aker, Dave Golden, Ashley Hilfiker and Ron May unanimously approved the agreement.

Later in the meeting, Golden thanked Fennig for his investment.

“That’s what we hope for,” he said.

Bales also reported to the council that she has discussed infill housing with Mayor Jeff Westlake — he was absent from the meeting — and is working with the city to acquire four properties from Jay County Commissioners. The properties have already gone through the tax sale process twice without being purchased.

She said the goal is to get the properties to Portland Economic Development Corporation, remove any structures and then offer them as an incentive to developers to build new homes.

See **Agreement** page 2

Fort Recovery to seek funds for pool

BY BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — The village is going after another grant to help pay for pool renovations.

Fort Recovery Village Council authorized village administration Monday to apply for grant dollars through the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Hopes are to secure \$500,000 from the grant program to help pay for renovations to Ambassador Pool.

According to Ohio

Plans call for new liner, deck and gutter system

Department of Natural Resources’ website, the Land and Water Conservation Fund “provides up to 50% reimbursement assistance for state and local government subdivisions ... for the acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of recreational areas.” The program is offered through the National Park Service.

Ohio has received more than \$165 million from the federal grant program,

with more than half of that amount allocated for local parks projects. Funding is issued to the state, and from there it’s up to the state’s discretion on how to allocate those dollars.

Applicants may receive up to \$500,000 in 50% matching funds for their projects.

Assistant village administrator Aaron Rengers shared hopes to replace the deck and stainless steel gutter system, filters, pumps and heater, and install a new pool liner.

Pool contractor Buddenbaum & Moore of Noblesville has estimated the project will cost around \$1.2 million. The new liner would last for another 15 years, while the new gutter system would last for 30 years before village officials need to look at another replacement.

With the new upgrades, the village would likely need to shut down its kiddie pool area.

“You can’t circulate through your current system. They don’t allow that

any more,” Rengers said. “Hopefully, relatively short in the future, we’d be able to go after some money for a splash pad to make up for that.”

Rengers said estimates for a splash pad in Fort Recovery come to around \$400,000.

Buddenbaum & Moore’s quote includes pricing for a new ramp. If the village were to instead add a zero-entry sloping entrance, explained Rengers, there would be an additional \$226,000 cost.

See **Pool** page 5

Trump administration says food stamps will be partially funded

Only about 50% of eligible households will receive their normal amount

By ZOE TILLMAN
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration told a federal judge Monday that it will comply with a court order to fund U.S. food aid benefits for November during the government shutdown, but only at 50% of the amount that eligible households normally receive.

A U.S. Department of Agriculture official also warned the court that it could take some states “anywhere from a few weeks to up to several months”

to recalculate household benefit amounts and implement the partial payment.

The Justice Department said in its latest court filing that officials are working “diligently” to comply with a ruling last week from a judge in Rhode Island requiring officials to at least partially fund Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, benefits for November.

But the document also includes a notice that while the Agriculture Department intends to “deplete” a SNAP contingency fund per the order, officials had decided that they would not tap into other federal sources to fully fund benefits this month.

The latest update from the administration follows back-to-back rulings from federal judges in Boston and Rhode Island who found that officials likely violated U.S. law in suspending SNAP during the government shutdown that began Oct. 1.

See **Food stamps** page 5

Red grin

Jaylee Franks, 5, grins Friday night at one of the stops during the Jay County Chamber of Commerce Trick-or-Treat in downtown Portland. Franks dressed up as Princess Red of Wonderland from Disney’s Descendants franchise.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Deaths John Loper , 79, Portland Details on page 2.	Weather Jay County had a high temperature of 60 degrees Monday. The low was 39. Tonight’s low will be in the lower 30s with winds gusting to 30 mph. Skies will be mostly sunny Thursday with a high in the upper 50s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.	Correction Information published in stories Saturday and Tuesday was incorrect because of an error on the Second Harvest Food Bank website. The Trinity ArchBridge Church Food Pantry, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland, is open from 4:30 to 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month.	Coming up Thursday — Details from this week’s Jay County Development Corporation meeting. Friday — A look at the history of the Delta Theta Tau craft show. Saturday — Coverage of the FRHS football team’s regional quarterfinal.
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Agreement ...

Continued from page 1

Dunkirk recently began the same process, with Dunkirk Industrial Development Corporation acquiring 19 properties.

City attorney Wes Schemenaur cautioned that there will be costs involved for the city and that there is still a waiting period — it is 120 days by Indiana Code — before modifications could be made to the properties.

Council members, following a comment from Golden, also again discussed the possibility of a single police and emergency responder dispatch unit in the county. Currently, both the city and county have dispatch units, and Dunkirk also has an employee who dispatches during limited hours. Golden said he is interested in exploring the option because of potential cost savings.

The council agreed to work on

setting up a meeting with Jay County Commissioners and consultant Barry Ritter, who is working with the county on the implementation of its new radio system.

The remainder of the meeting was taken up by council members commenting on various items:

- Goldsworthy said he'd like to see the city's police department look into cameras from Flock Safety. The devices can be placed at intersections to read license plates in order to locate suspects or missing persons. (Winchester is already using the devices and Randolph County recently approved purchasing them.)
- Hilfiker thanked Jay County Chamber of Commerce for hosting Friday's Merchant Trick-or-Treat and the police officers who were on patrol that evening.

- May brought up several issues:
 - Pointing out that funding approved for the county's planned housing development on the west side of the city will come from the cumulative capital development fund, which falls outside of the regular operating budget.
 - Asking about extending sidewalks from the Seventh Street bridge over the Salamonina River. Clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips explained that the city is looking at options to do so and that the sidewalk along the bridge had to be completed during its reconstruction. (He also asked again about the multi-use path along Blaine Pike.) McClung suggested that the city look at what it can do to fill gaps between paths to make them more useful to residents.

- Complaining, again, that the city is not doing enough to deal with people who entered the county illegally.
- Expressing concern about the various tort claims against the city, specifically one from former police officer Patrick Long. He referred to the allegations against Portland Police Chief Dustin Mock and investigator Jeff Hopkins, which include attempts at coercion and threats regarding a state police investigation, as “disturbing.”
- Revisiting the issue of who is in charge of the council's agenda and whether the mayor can remove items. Schemenaur said the council sets the agenda.
- Lamenting the amount of hate in the world, saying he is no longer going to talk about national politics and noting that he cannot impact them at the local level.

Obituaries

John Loper Sr., Portland, April 29, 1946-Nov. 2, 2025. Services will be at 6 p.m. Friday at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

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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.

CR almanac

Thursday 11/6	Friday 11/7	Saturday 11/8	Sunday 11/9	Monday 11/10
				
58/44	60/39	59/39	43/25	36/21

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 3-32-40-43-57 Power Ball: 18 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$438 million	Daily Four: 3-9-9-2 Quick Draw: 1-5-6-7-19-26-27-28-29-35-48-52-55-56-61-64-65-68-69-80 Cash 5: 2-14-28-32-34 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$800 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 6-7-4 Pick 4: 1-4-8-7 Pick 5: 6-4-2-0-4 Evening Pick 3: 9-9-0 Pick 4: 8-3-6-3 Pick 5: 8-1-6-7-4 Rolling Cash: 11-26-31-33-39 Estimated jackpot: \$130,000
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 2-4-8 Daily Four: 7-9-1-7 Quick Draw: 6-9-12-15-16-17-18-22-30-43-46-47-48-56-60-61-63-64-67-80 Evening Daily Three: 8-4-3	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.30 Dec. corn.....4.38 Jan. corn.....4.46	Dec. beans11.07 Wheat 4.98
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.30 Nov./Dec. corn4.45 Jan. corn.....4.48	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.20 Dec. corn4.28 Beans10.84 Dec. beans10.89 Wheat4.98
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.25 Dec. corn4.29 Beans11.02	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.15 Dec. corn4.20 Beans10.62 Dec. beans10.72 Wheat4.88

Today in history

In 1605, what became known as the Gunpowder Plot occurred when Robert Catesby led a group of Roman Catholics in an attempt to blow up Parliament, the king and his family.

In 1914, Britain and France expanded World War I by declaring war on Turkey.

In 1940, Franklin D. Roosevelt was re-elected for his third term as President of the United States. Roosevelt ultimately served three

terms and part of a fourth term before his passing.

In 2007, Portland City Council approved the installation of new street lights for Penn Street and Williamson Drive.

In 2019, Democrat Jack Robbins defeated incumbent Republican Gene Ritter in the race for Dunkirk mayor. Robbins scored a 264-194, winning both of the city's precincts by 35 votes.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Thursday 5:15 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.	120 N. Court St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland.
Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse,	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.

Capsule Reports

Rear collision

A Geneva semi driver crashed into the back of a van driven by an Ohio woman at the intersection of Tyson Road and Indiana 67 about 3:21 p.m. Friday.

Pablo P. Palomo, 54, was driving a 2023 Freightliner Cascadia on county road 200 West when he turned onto Tyson Road. The semi struck a stopped 2018 Dodge Grand Caravan driven by 54-year-old Sharon M. Brown of Ottawa.

The van Brown was driving is registered to Jay Petroleum of Ottawa. The semi Palomo was driving is registered to RGT Equipment of Elwood.

Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Failed to stop

A Portland man failed to stop at the intersection of Morton Street and county road 100 North, causing him to crash into another vehicle about 11:42 a.m. Oct. 25.

Adrian Ramirez-Rovlero, 24, was driving a 2003 Honda Civic on Morton Street when he failed to stop at its intersection with county road 100 North, according to a Portland police report. He crashed into a 2020 Chevrolet Suburban driven by 39-year-old Amanda Schoenlein of Portland.

Ramirez-Rovlero was cited with an infraction for driving without a license, driving without financial responsibility and disobeying a traffic

control device. The vehicle he was driving — it's registered to Filiberto R. Velazquez of Celina, Ohio — was towed. Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Fairgrounds crash

Two Portland residents' vehicles collided at Jay County Fairgrounds about 10:20 a.m. Friday.

Teresa A. Bell, 62, was driving a 2013 Toyota Scion near the south side of the Floral Hall at the fairgrounds, 806 E. Votaw St. At the same time, 66-year-old Terry J. Cox of Portland was driving a 2008 Ford Taurus south on the lane west of Floral Hall. Their vehicles crashed into one another, causing between \$2,500 and \$5,000 in estimated damage.

Food tailgates set

Second Harvest Food Bank will host tailgate food distributions.

They are scheduled for:

- Wednesday, Nov. 5, at Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 E. Votaw St., Portland
- Thursday, Nov. 6, at Blackford County Fairgrounds, 310 E. Park Ave., Hartford City
- Thursday, Nov. 13, at Muncie Mall, 3401 N. Granville Ave., Muncie
- Friday, Nov. 14, at Goodrich Park, 701 N. Union St., Winchester, and First Baptist Church, 7-9 S. Memorial Drive, New Castle

All tailgates are scheduled to begin at 10 a.m.

Felony arrests

Drug possession

A Redkey woman was arrested Friday for drug possession.

Lisa E. Guffey, 37, 218 S. Meridian St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for possession of cocaine or a narcotic drug and a Class C misdemeanor for operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

She was being held on a \$4,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Domestic battery

A Dunkirk woman was arrested Friday for domestic battery.

Kelsey L. Johnson, 30,

363 W. Commerce St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for domestic battery committed in the presence of a child younger than 16 years old.

She was being held in Jay County Jail without bond.

Theft

A Portland woman was arrested Monday for theft.

Lisa M. Nock, 54, 121 S. Wayne St., is charged in Jay Superior Court with a Level 6 felony for the alleged crime.

She was being held in Jay County Jail on a \$3,000 bond.



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

If you need a meal it will be delivered on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 27, 2025. There will be no charge - it is **Free!** Please fill out the form and mail to one of the addresses below or call so we will know how many to prepare.

() YES I need a meal delivered on Thanksgiving Day
() I am diabetic

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____



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Asbury U.M. Church 204 E. Arch Street Portland, IN 47371 260-726-8464	Zion Lutheran Church 218 E. High St., PO Box 602 Portland, IN 47371 260-726-8832 Mornings
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Portland Rotary Club recently inducted a new member. Sponsor Annette Alexander welcomed Ceann Bales, who previously was a member of Winchester Rotary Club for 26 years.

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

COMMUNITY REIN-
FORCEMENT AND FAMI-

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.

**A BETTER LIFE – BRI-
ANNA'S HOPE** — A faith-
based recovery group for
all kinds of addictions,
will meet from 5 to 6:30
p.m. each Sunday at Fel-
lowship Baptist Church.

THE LIFE CENTER —
Free pregnancy testing
with ongoing support dur-
ing and after pregnancy,
as well as help with the
needs of the family. The
center is located at 1209 S.
Shank St., Portland.
Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Mon-
day through Friday. For
more information or to
schedule an appointment,
call (260) 726-8636. Walk-
ins accepted.

Level: Intermediate

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.

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.



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Magic of Christmas doesn't fade

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Nov. 3, 2005. One of Jack's Christmas traditions was writing stories for his children and later his grandchildren. Those stories continue to be shared, even after his passing. As we approach the holidays this year, think about your own traditions and how to make them meaningful, both today and long after you are gone.

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

Every year, when November rolls around, newspaper columnists feel it's their duty to decry how much the Christmas season has been extended and how commercialized it's become. You know the pieces I'm talking about.

Back in the Saddle



"No sooner do the Halloween displays come down than the Christmas displays go up." Fine. No argument from me. They've got a valid point. But when November rolls around, I still find myself thinking about Christmas, commercialized or not. A wave of nostalgia hits me soon after the first really hard frost, and I start thinking about the Wish Book, the Sears

Christmas catalog which would be eagerly studied for hours and annotated with a complex series of hieroglyphics indicated who wanted what and how much they really wanted it. At our house, the Wish Book was a work in progress for weeks. I start thinking about the Art Craft in Portland, always a haunt every Saturday when a kid got his allowance but even more of an attraction when the back room was filled with toys for Christmas. Sure, it was stuff no one actually needed, but it was certainly stuff kids wanted. (Who on earth can explain the appeal of a Jerry Mahoney ventriloquist dummy to a kid who had trouble talking clear-

ly let alone throwing his voice?) I start thinking about the old G.C. Murphy Store in Portland and the Danner's 5 & 10 in Dunkirk, places that were part of the routine landscape most of the year but which took on special significance in kid-dom as Christmas approached. They even seemed to smell better in November and December. I start thinking — even dreaming, to this day — about the toy department at Wolf and Dessauer's department store in Fort Wayne. Seen in harsh, clear light 50 years later, it was probably a pretty humdrum place. But when you are six or seven years old, it was Valhalla. Sure, the newspaper columnists are right, the season has

been over-commercialized and stretched to the limit. Catalogs have been filling up our mailbox for weeks, and TV commercials have been pitching Christmas gifts since early October. But there's just enough kid in me that I fall for the season's allure every time. By mid-December, of course, I'll be weary of it. By then even the nostalgia will have worn thin. But for now, for a few weeks, it's all about anticipation, it's all about remembering that same sense of anticipation in the past, and it's all about believing this Christmas will be the best ever. That's part of the magic, and I'm still a sucker for it.

Protect filibuster from petty politics

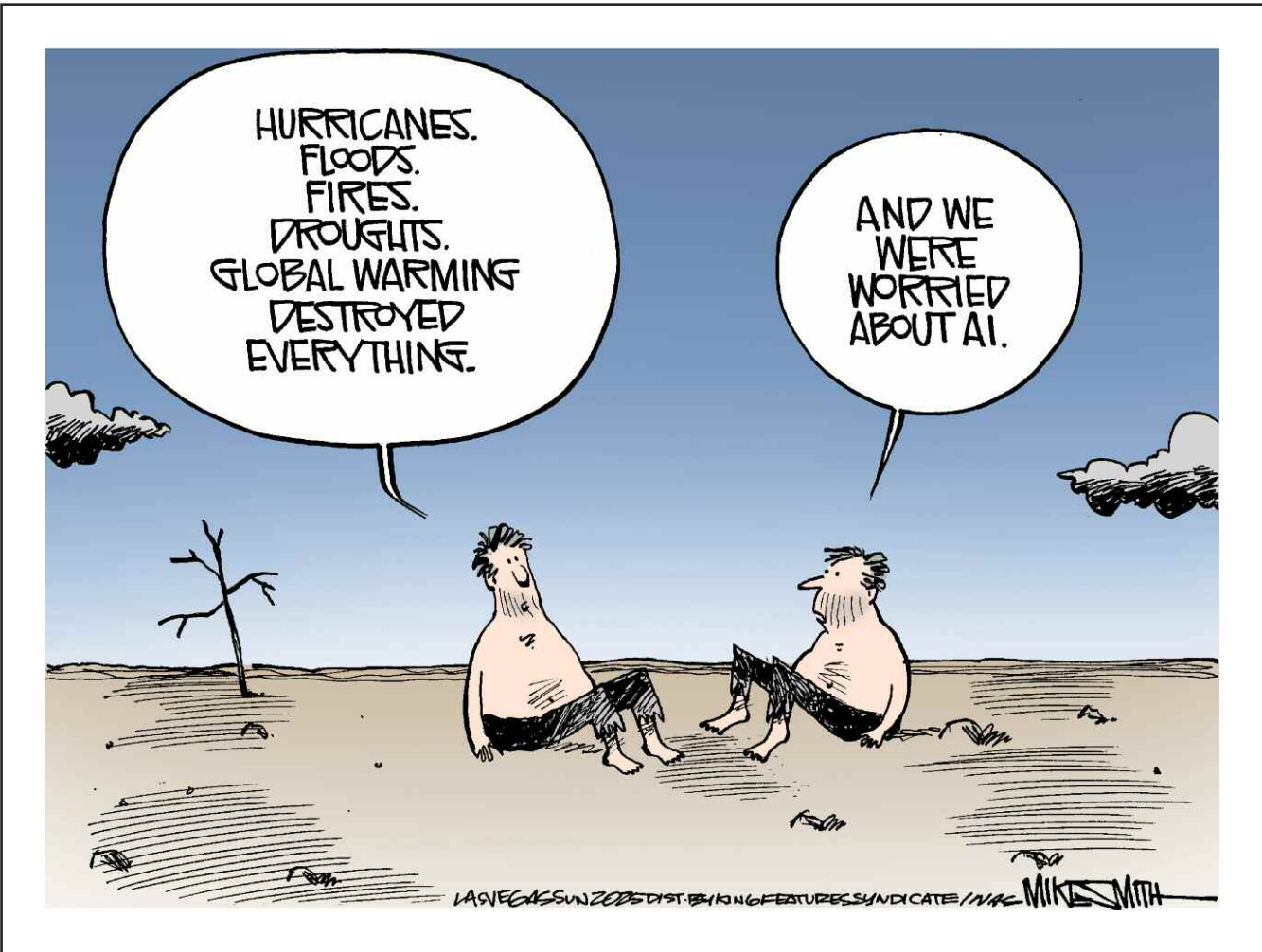
The Detroit News
Tribune News Service

President Donald Trump is urging Senate Republicans to end the filibuster to bring the month-long government shutdown to a close. That's a really bad idea, and the Republicans know it's a really bad idea. They told us so when Democrats threatened to end the cloture rule after President Joe Biden was elected, and they were frustrated that an equally divided U.S. Senate was blocking the implementation of his progressive agenda. The filibuster is one of the last remaining protections against the tyranny of the majority. Enacted in 1917, it is designed to ensure adequate deliberation in law-making. While the U.S. House is a straight-up majority rule institution, the filibuster has made the U.S. Senate a deliberative body somewhat shielded from the passions of the day. Had Democrats succeeded in ending the filibuster during the Biden administration, they most certainly would have nationalized healthcare, enacted extreme gun control measures, passed the Green New Deal, stacked the U.S. Supreme Court and added more Democratic-majority states to the union. Republicans now want to do what they said the Democrats shouldn't do back then to not only end the shutdown, but also to impose the changes they want to see to Obamacare and a variety of welfare programs, among other items on the Trump wish list. It's been said that the filibuster empowers the minority and frustrates the majority. The benefit is that it forces the Senate to engage in consensus-building to reach an agreement. While in reality that has gone off the rails in recent years, it's still the best protection against mob rule. Under the filibuster rule, the Senate must have 60 votes to end debate and take a vote on a bill. Getting to the 60-vote margin isn't easy, but lawmaking isn't supposed to be a breezy endeavor. Our system was built to encourage vigorous give-and-take and to move final decisions toward the middle. Critics say the filibuster has contributed to our broken political system

Guest Editorial

The benefit is that it forces the Senate to engage in consensus-building to reach an agreement.

and has held up or derailed too much legislation. The system is indeed broken, but getting rid of the filibuster won't fix it. We offer Republicans the same cautionary advice we gave Democrats when they were the ones hoping to axe the filibuster for partisan gain. They should remember they will not always be in power, and when Democrats again take over the Senate, it will be the GOP that is sitting without leverage in the lawmaking process. It's not the rules that are the problem in Washington — it's the people who find it so uncomfortable operating within those rules. Lawmakers should be able to end this shutdown through the normal process of "I'll give you this if you give me that." The all-or-nothing approach that has taken hold in Washington, which treats compromise as a dirty word, is the root cause of the dysfunction. If Republicans and Democrats can agree on nothing else, it should be that preserving the filibuster is in the interest of both parties, given the wide political pendulum swings the nation experiences. In the scope of things, this shutdown is nowhere near the biggest, nor the most divisive, issue that has faced the country. Congress has resolved bigger and more contentious matters without tearing up the rulebook. And they should do so this time.



Nuclear threat never went away

By JERRY BROWN
and ALEXANDRA BELL
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

"At the end of the Cold War, global powers reached the consensus that the world would be better off with fewer nuclear weapons. That era is now over." That is the chilling opening line of Kathryn Bigelow's new film, "A House of Dynamite." It sets the stage for what follows, and spoiler alert — there's no Hollywood ending. The cold, hard truth it illuminates is that after a half century of work to lower the threat of nuclear catastrophe, we are heading in the wrong direction. Unsettling and intense, this film envisions just one of the ways millions of people could be wiped off the face of the Earth in the span of a single morning. Military experts and nuclear insiders will no doubt quibble with some of the details and dialogue, but this film is not for them, it is for everyone else. And we hope it serves as a warning that we are speeding closer to the brink. Despite these dangers, the vast majority of political leaders, foreign policy and defense experts, and for-profit news organizations exited the nuclear conversation a few decades ago. Apart from Christopher Nolan's 2023 biopic "Oppenheimer," Hollywood did, as well. Yet, this lack of attention did nothing to reduce the nuclear threat, which, in many ways, is worse than it has ever been. Bigelow and writer Noah Oppenheim have done the world an incredible service by putting front and center the true and awful nature of nuclear weaponry, while raising key questions about presidential authority, chain of command, disaster planning, changes in technology and even the concept of deterrence itself. The film's treatment of missile defense is also timely, though estimates for the accuracy of our current

Guest Opinion

system may be overly optimistic. As the Trump administration pushes forward with a potential "Golden Dome" missile defense system, we need a scientifically sound review of what the technology can and cannot do. Trying to "hit a bullet with a bullet" is a gamble, and the stakes could not be higher. The public also needs to understand that even if homeland missile defense became reliable, which is unlikely, our adversaries can just build more offensive missiles or missiles that can evade defenses, something in which the Russians have already invested. The only real way to protect this country — and the world — from nuclear war is through fearless diplomacy. "A House of Dynamite" shows that even after decades of theorizing, planning and spending billions on more accurate nuclear weaponry, the fate of the planet ultimately rests on trust between adversaries and the mutual recognition that nuclear war is suicidal. Building trust among leaders of nuclear-armed states today may seem naive, but sustained dialogue and political will, underpinned by vigorous monitoring, is the only way forward. It is what brought down the number of nuclear weapons worldwide from nearly 70,000 during the Cold War to the estimated 13,000 that remain today. We also need an honest and genuine debate on the concept of nuclear deterrence and what constitutes stable global security. Forever threatening nuclear attack with increasingly precise and capable weapons and

assuming nothing will ever go wrong is reckless. China is expanding its nuclear forces, upending the already shaky stability between the U.S. and Russia, two countries actively investing in modernizing their stockpiles. Observing this, some countries that don't possess nuclear weapons are actually considering whether they should acquire them now. Change is needed; complacency is not an option. But nuclear experts and political leaders alone cannot fix this mess. The public has to become engaged. People may watch Bigelow's new film and think they cannot help, which is understandable given the scope of the challenge. But as with most things, everyday citizens have more power than they think. Every serious reduction in nuclear threats to date was stimulated by public engagement — from mothers opposing atmospheric nuclear testing to millions of people taking to the streets to demand a freeze of nuclear weapons production during the last arms race. Today, the public needs to reenter the conversation and start asking leaders questions they have been able to avoid for too long. Former Secretary of Defense William Perry has warned that leaders are "sleepwalking" into a new nuclear arms race. This film is our wake-up call. If the world doesn't change course, the nightmare that unfolds in "A House of Dynamite" will become reality. ***** Brown was the 34th and 39th governor of California and the executive chair of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. Bell is the president and CEO of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists and recently served as the deputy assistant secretary for Nuclear Affairs at the U.S. Department of State.

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We welcome letters to the editor, which are accepted by email only to letters@thecr.com. They should be 700 words or fewer, signed, with city/town of residence and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit for content and clarity.

"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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Tribune News Service/cleveland.com/David Petkiewicz

At the polls

Voters turn in their ballots inside the Cleveland Community Center early Tuesday morning. Voters headed to the polls as a variety of mayors, council members and school board members were on the ballot in communities around northeast Ohio, as well as the rest of the state and U.S.

Pool ...

Continued from page 1
Hopes are to complete work on the pool building in the future as well, an anticipated \$300,000 project the village hopes to handle in-house.

Addressing the renovation costs, Rengers noted building a new pool would cost around \$4 million.

“Pools are money pits,” he said.

Fort Recovery received a \$450,000 contribution toward renovating Ambassador Pool from Ohio’s capital budget bill in 2024. Village administrator Randy Diller talked about the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant program, saying he believes if the village receives a \$500,000 match, it will be able to pay for the project. The remaining dollars could come from the village’s coffers.

The application for Ohio Department of Natural Resources’ annual round of funding is due Nov. 14. Diller said he expects the village to hear back on its application by the end of the year.

Ultimately, he reminded council members, the decision on whether to move forward with the project will be in their hands.

In other business, council members Lucas Knapke, Scott Pearson, Greg Schmitz, Al Post and Cliff Wendel, absent Erik Fiely:

- Approved the following: a \$148,539.61 pay request from Caldwell Tanks for finishing work on the second water tower in the village; an \$18,352.50 claim from PMG Consulting for work completed on the water plant study between May and September;

- Advanced \$43,625 from the water fund to the water tower fund.

- Were reminded the new income tax levy was on the ballot Tuesday. If passed, the village’s income tax would increase to 1.5% from the current 1%; the village would stop collecting on its four existing real-estate tax levies..

- Heard Diller is working on his 2026 capital plan. He listed several projects and maintenance work on the agenda for next year, including hopes to purchase and install new speed radar signs.

Food stamps ...

Continued from page 1
Skye Perryman, president of Democracy Forward, a left-leaning legal advocacy group representing the nonprofits and city governments that sued in Rhode Island, said in a statement that they are “reviewing the administration’s submission to the court and considering all legal options to secure payment of full funds.”

“It shouldn’t take a court order to force our president to provide essential nutrition that Congress has made clear needs to be provided,” Perryman said. “For now, we are pleased to have forced the administration to release money it had been withholding from 42 million people in America who rely on their benefits.”

U.S. District Chief Judge John McConnell in Rhode Island ordered the Agriculture

Department to resume at least partial funding for the program using the contingency fund.

In Monday’s report, the Agriculture Department official told McConnell that the government would use all of the \$4.65 billion that was left in the \$6 billion SNAP contingency fund to cover half of funding benefits for this month.

More than 42 million people in 22 million households nationwide receive SNAP benefits, according to government data. It would take between \$8 billion and \$9 billion to fully fund the payments for November.

The government had argued that revising the approved benefits amounts based on partial funding was an unworkable solution that could crash outdated computer systems.

McConnell wrote that given those representations, the

administration should, “within its discretion,” tap other sources of federal dollars to fully cover this month’s benefits — in particular, a fund for child nutrition programs that draws from U.S. customs receipts.

But the Agriculture official said in Monday’s filing that the administration had determined that pulling money from the tariff proceeds would “further stray from congressional intent” and create a shortfall in the money available for programs that provide meals at schools for children in low-income households.

States determine who is eligible for the program and then facilitate making the federal funds available each month on benefits cards that function like bank debit cards.

The Trump administration announced that it would pause

the program after Congress failed to reach a spending deal by the start of the new fiscal year. Democrats and Republicans remain at an impasse over reopening the government.

The Boston federal judge is presiding over a separate fight over the SNAP suspension brought by Democratic officials in more than two dozen states and the District of Columbia. The judge ruled against the administration’s legal stance, but stopped short of ordering the government to make the payments.

The Justice Department is also due to file a status report in that case on Monday.

The case is Rhode Island State Council of Churches v. Rollins, 25-cv-569, US District Court, District of Rhode Island (Providence).



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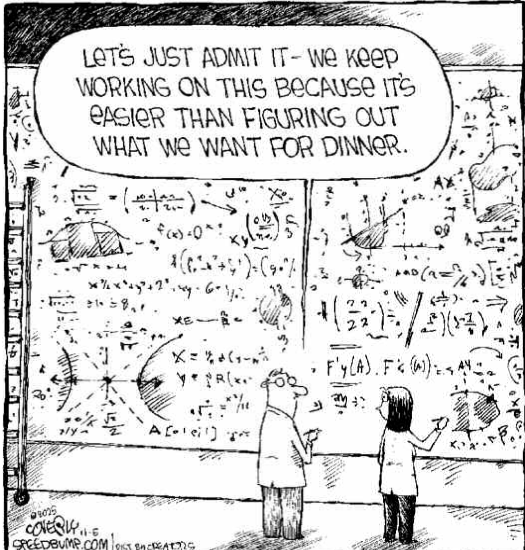
Rates do not apply to our Nov. 26 Thanksgiving edition.
Ads must run in November.

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The Commercial Review

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

The hidden power of a pass

East dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ A 5 2		♠ Q J 10 9 8 4 3	
♥ Q 8		♥ J 2	
♦ Q 9 4		♦ K J 10 6	
♣ 9 8 7 5 3		♣ —	
WEST		SOUTH	
♠ K 7 6		♠ A K J 9 3 2	
♥ 10 7 6 5 4		♥ A K 8 7 5 3	
♦ 10 6		♦ 4	
♠ A Q 2			

The bidding:
East 4♠ South 5♥ West 5♠ North Dble
Pass 6♦ Pass Dble
Pass Pass Dble
Opening lead — ace of clubs.

One of the hardest words in bridge to say, it seems, is "pass." There is no way of knowing how many thousands of points are lost, hand after hand, as a result of the injudicious use of bids other than pass when the latter action is called for.

Consider this deal, from a tournament, where West failed to utter the magic word. The bidding began when East, taking advantage of the favorable vulnerability, opened with four spades.

This posed a difficult problem for South. Certainly, he had to bid something with his fine hand, but the question of what to bid was not easy to answer. He didn't need much from his partner to make a slam, but he was afraid to jump to six hearts or six diamonds for fear he might choose the wrong suit.

So, he overcalled with five hearts, hoping he'd get a chance to name diamonds later. This turned out to be the case when West bid five spades, and South then properly overrode his partner's double to bid six diamonds. West passed, and North, seeking the maximum score, corrected to six hearts. When this rolled around to West, he chose to double instead of pass.

West led the ace of clubs and continued with the queen. Declarer ruffed and led a low heart. After West played low, South, mindful of the double, finessed the eight, correctly deciding that West had all five missing trumps. The rest was easy, and South made the slam after drawing West's remaining trumps.

It is possible that declarer would have finessed the eight anyway, but the double drew a diagram for South that could hardly be misread. West should have been satisfied with defending the six-heart contract and maintained a stoic silence.

Tomorrow: Taking the long view.
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11-5 CRYPTOQUIP

ZIYO YGR XPZPQGU ZCTQL UCT

OIEAM EF RCFO HEOOEAJ HCG

YVOGPFPPF XCAPF YAL MPQQU?

JGYVPQPOF.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF PEOPLE DISCUSS CALIFORNIA CULTURES VERY OPENLY AND HONESTLY, I'D SAY THAT'S CONDOR CANDOR.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals W

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS		DOWN	
1 Apr. check	43 Apprehends	1 Nile wader	23 "Encore!"
4 Actress Jessica	44 "Awesome, dude!"	2 Indian flatbread	25 Appear
8 Mafia boss	46 Pizzazz	3 Rating unit	26 Decorate
12 Automation, for short	50 It flows through Arizona	4 "Who cares?"	27 Electronics giant
13 "La — Bonita"	55 Rep.'s rival	5 "This — record-	28 Bearded beast
14 Paris airport	56 Bordeaux brain-storm	6 Shade provider	29 Foot part
15 Call — day	57 Ms. Moore	7 Genie's home	30 Appease
16 Radio-active emissions	58 Tic-tac-toe loser	8 Sea of —	31 Writer Buchanan
18 Fathered	59 Soccer score	9 Notre Dame coach	35 Rice in a risotto recipe
20 Deep hole	60 "Beetle Bailey" pooch	10 Layer of woe	38 Tel Aviv's land
21 Country great	61 Connections	11 Sounds of lack	40 GI-enter-taining gp.
24 Takes five		17 Vacuum's lack	42 Corn spike
28 Kitchen cooker		19 Mess up	45 Queen of Carthage
32 Goose egg			47 1511, to Brutus
33 "...man — mouse?"			48 Drudge
34 — double life			49 Med. plan options
36 Aachen article			50 Showbiz job
37 Play opener			51 Altar promise
39 Card game for two			52 Grazing land

Solution time: 23 mins.

L	A	M	A	S	A	L	T	B	O	B
A	V	I	D	O	D	I	E	O	D	E
T	A	C	O	S	H	E	L	L	M	E
N	E	O	N	L	I	B	R	A		
E	L	S	I	E	P	I	N	S		
R	A	H	S		B	L	A	N	C	H
I	L	E		O	R	A	N	G	E	M
C	O	L	T	R	A	N	E		B	L
				L	O	B	S		D	O
M	U	F	T		H	A	N			
A	L	I		S	H	E	L	L	G	A
I	N	S		O	I	L	S		O	W
N	A	H		N	E	M	O		S	E

Yesterday's answer 11-5

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
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	
56					57				58	
59				60					61	

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2025 girls soccer All-GPC team

Graphic Printing Company Player of the Year Grace Jarrells

Delta High School senior



Honorable mention
Evelyn Gulley, senior, Blackford
Adoree Smith, freshman, Delta
London Lloyd, sophomore, Jay County
Ellie Anderson, junior, Wapahani

Grace Jarrells was selected as the 2025 Graphic Printing Company Player of the Year for girls soccer.

"I honestly never expected it," Jarrells said. "It's a really great thing to hear and I just hope I (lived) up to the title."

Jarrells was a cornerstone on the most successful Delta girls soccer team in program history as it reached the final four for the first time, claimed its only Hoosier Heritage Conference title and built a 19-2 record. She credited the group of girls around her, which includes her cousins, Aubree and Avery Jarrells, and the inaugural GPC Player of the Year, Jordan Bunch, for the success of the team.

"Honestly, the people (made the season special)," Jarrells said. "If we didn't have the environment that we had and the peo-

ple that we had, this team wouldn't be the same. We wouldn't have the same drive to win if it wasn't for the people."

Through her first three seasons, Jarrells primarily played as Delta's center back on the defensive end, leading to 21 goals and 19 assists. In 2025 alone, the senior netted 19 goals, and assisted teammates 31 times.

"This year, we were able to push her up for the attack and use her offensive skillset," said DHS coach Mason Turner. "She has done phenomenal this year. She's nearly surpassed her offensive stats from the past three years. Not only has she been that anchor in the center defensive position and the anchor in the center attacking role now, but she's taken all of our corner kicks, all our free kicks. She's been that steady these past four years."

All-Graphic Printing Company first team Forwards

Mia Bollinger (Delta senior) — nine goals, five assists
Avery Jarrells (Delta freshman) — 59 goals, 28 assists
Izzi Mays (Blackford junior) — 10 goals

Midfielders

Jordan Bunch (Delta senior) — 23 goals, 34 assists
Shiloh Bunch (Delta sophomore) — seven goals, four assists
Aixa Lopez (Jay County senior) — 16 goals, seven assists

Defenders

Ariel Beiswanger (Jay County junior) — one goal
Aubree Jarrells (Delta senior) — eight goals, 13 assists
Brianna Jones (Delta senior) — three goals, two assists

Goalkeeper

Ruth Sherck (Delta senior) — 142 saves, nine goals allowed

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Friday
Fort Recovery — Football regional quarterfinal at Eastern — 7 p.m.

8 p.m. — College volleyball: Minnesota at Wisconsin (FS1)
8:30 p.m. — NBA: New Orleans Pelicans at Dallas Mavericks (ABC)
10 p.m. — NBA: San Antonio Spurs at Los Angeles Lakers (ESPN)

TV schedule

Today
11:30 a.m. — Horse racing: Melbourne Cup Carnival (FS1)
6 p.m. — College basketball: Rider at Rutgers (BTN)
7 p.m. — NBA: Philadelphia 76ers at Cleveland Cavaliers (FOX)
7 p.m. — College football: Northern Illinois at Toledo (ESPN2)
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Minnesota Timberwolves at New York Knicks (ESPN)
7:30 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Washington Capitals (TNT)
8 p.m. — College basketball: Alabama A&M at Indiana (BTN)

Thursday
4 p.m. — Women's college soccer: Washington at Wisconsin (BTN)
7 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Buffalo Sabres (FDSN Indiana)
7:30 p.m. — College football: Georgia Southern at Appalachian State (ESPN2); UTSA at South Florida (ESPN)
8 p.m. — College basketball: St. Francis at TCU (TNT)
8 p.m. — College volleyball: Illinois at Nebraska (FS1)
8 p.m. — NHL: Anaheim Ducks at Dallas Stars (FOX)
8:15 p.m. — NFL: Las Vegas Raiders at Denver Broncos (ABC)
10 p.m. — College basketball: Denver at Washington (BTN)
10 p.m. — College volleyball: UCLA at Oregon (FS1)

Steals ...

Continued from page 8

The stats were even more impressive considering the Gators boast perhaps the nation's top frontcourt, including first-team All-American Alex Con-

don. "It was a coming-out party for Koa," Arizona coach Tommy Lloyd

said. "'Everyone has known about him, but nobody has really studied and watched him. He's a special player. The way he came out in that atmosphere against a first-team All-American, who's a heck of a player, Koa obviously more than held his own."

Dybantsa also proved a tough cover in the second game, especially after Villanova took a 59-57 lead on Bryce Lindsay's 3-pointer with 6:28 to play.

The star freshman made three layups as part of a 10-0 run that put BYU in control down the stretch.

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COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER. Plan now to attend November 27, 2025, 1:00 pm. Asbury UM Church. All Jay County welcome. No charge for the meal.

PLEASE NOTE: Be sure to check your ad the first day it appears. We cannot be responsible for more than one days incorrect copy. We try hard not to make mistakes, but they do happen, and we may not know unless you call to tell us. Call before 12:00 pm for corrections. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland, Indiana 260-726-8141.

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REAL ESTATE
96.6 Acres in Section 16, Noble Twp. Jay County, Indiana.
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Tract 3: Combination of Tracts 1 and 2.
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Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
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ANTIQUES - OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS- MODERN HOUSEHOLD GOODS-TOOLS
Ashley large dining table with 5 chairs and 1

90 SALE CALENDAR

bench; L shaped sofa; leather chair with ottoman; GE Profile dryer; stove and double oven combo; oriental design floor rugs; fire dog statue; mantel clock; ; fire extinguisher lamp;
John Deere pedal tractor; pedal fire truck; several Longaberger baskets; Hartford City HS iRetro! yearbooks; large selection of Art pottery; candle molds; large tent; three shade awning; fireman collectibles and accessories; Brandon Holtz mens golf club set; patio heater; fishing lures; tackle boxes; pocket knives; hammers; wrenches; tool boxes; shepherd's hooks; and other items not listed.
AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Ricker was the Indiana State Fire Marshal for several years and he and his wife recently moved to Northern Indiana. Dan was a long-time attorney in Piqua Ohio and have sold their home and are moving. Please note that we will be running 2 rings a portion of the day. Visit auction zip for photos.
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STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JAY, SS:
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
2025 TERM

In the Matter of the
Unsupervised
Administration of
the Estate of:
William Thomas Smith,
Deceased
No. 38CO1-2510-EU-000030
NOTICE OF
ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that
Derek T. Smith was, on the 30th
day of October, 2025, appointed
Personal Representative of the
estate of William Thomas
Smith, deceased, who died on
September 11, 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 at Portland, Indiana, this
31st day of October, 2025.

HINKLE, RACSTER,
SCHEMENAUR & LANDER
121 W. High Street
Portland, IN 47371
Attorney
Melissa Elliott
Clerk of the Circuit Court,
For Jay County, Indiana
CR 11-5,12-2025-HSPAXLP

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2025-26 Jay County girls wrestling preview

- Projected lineup
- Katie Rowles – 100

Chloe Torres – 105

Alayna Willoughby – 110

Alexis Tipton – 115

Aubree Shannon – 120

Gracie Rowles – 125

Kaileigh Compton – 125/130

Laurel Miller – 130

Kaylee Bramlett – 135

Maleah Parsons – 135/140

Alison Lopez – 145

Kelly Jones – 145

Madison Gage – 155

Makynli Doss – 155/170

Amara Crawford – 170

Jolee White – 190

Kenady Lyons – 235



Pictured is the 2025-26 Jay County High School girls wrestling team. Pictured in the front row from left, are Chloe Torres, Alexis Tipton, Aubree Shannon, Kaylee Bramlett and Katie Rowles. Middle row are Alison Lopez, Makynli Doss, Maleah Parsons, Gracie Rowles, Kenady Lyons and Kelly Jones. Back row are Alayna Willoughby, Kaileigh Compton, Madison Gage, Amara Crawford and Jolee White. Not pictured is Laurel Miller.

2024-25 season

The IHSAA sponsored girls wrestling for the first time last season, and the Patriots ripped off a strong first year. They won the sectional by 85 points to punch the inaugural ticket to the team state duals. Jay County also had 10 girls compete at the regional, including five who advanced to the state finals. Mallory Winner won her fourth state title and the first with the IHSAA logo etched on the trophy with a perfect 32-0 season. Katie Rowles won a pair of matches as well to take fourth at state. Lina Lingo and Brenna Ruble both made the podium in eighth place, while Tatianna Willis bowed out in the opening match. The Patriots claimed third place at the team state tournament and barely missed out on a spot in the championship after falling to champion Merrillville 53-30 in the semifinal.

- Matches to watch
- Saturday, Nov. 8, at Monroe Central Invitational

With 13 girls new to the varsity level, this will provide an early measure for where each Patriot is at this season.

Thursday, Nov. 13, vs. Richmond and Muncie Central

The opening double dual will be one of the more impactful ones on the schedule as the Patriots will likely see some of these opponents in the sectional.

Friday-Saturday, Dec. 19-20, at Findlay

The meet in northwest Ohio provides one final tune up for the Patriots before they prepare for the tournament.

Friday, Jan. 2, Sectional at Muncie Central

Jay County won the sectional last year. Not only are they looking to take some more hardware home, but winning the sectional clinches a spot at the team state duals.

- Top returners
- Katie Rowles

31-5, fourth at state

Amara Crawford

34-4, regional finalist

Madison Gage

20-14, regional finalist

Maleah Parsons

26-8, state finalist (2022)
- Key departures
- Mallory Winner

32-0, state champion

Lina Lingo

30-8, eighth at state

Tatianna Willis

28-7, state appearance

Emily Manor

28-7, state finalist (2024)

Coach Troy Jacks says

"I'm really excited about this year, because we have a lot of new faces. So, we are sitting at 17 girls on our roster, filling all of the weight classes, which is a first for us. We've never had from 100 all the way to 235, a full lineup, up and down the board. That is super exciting. We have multiple-sport athletes coming in for the first time, some are seniors, some are juniors. Obviously, incoming freshmen are here that were a big surprise to us, which tells us that wrestling is growing. We realize it all over the state. We're seeing it in our room. So our ultimate goal is to win the sectional and be back at team state."

Girls wrestling		
Date	Opponent	Time
Saturday, Nov. 8	Monroe Central Invite	7:30 a.m.
Thursday, Nov. 13	Rich./Munc. Cen.	6 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 20	Columbia City	6 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 22	Mooreville duals	9 a.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 2	Centerville	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 4	Hamilton SE	6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 6	East Noble Invite	9 a.m.
Thursday, Dec. 11	New Haven	6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 13	Northwestern Invite	10 a.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 16	South Side	6 p.m.
Fri-Sat, Dec. 19-20	Findlay Invite	11 a.m.
Friday, Jan. 2	Sectional	9 a.m.
Friday, Jan. 9	Regional	5 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 16	State Finals	10:30 a.m.
Saturday, Jan. 24	Team State Duals	TBD
Home matches in bold		

- Fast facts
- Jay County is no stranger to postseason success as it won the first IHSAA sectional tournament in 2024, was the regional runner-up, placed sixth at state and finished third at team state.

•The Patriots have sent at least one girl to state since 2018 and made the inaugural team state late season.

•This will be Troy Jacks' first year at the helm of the Patriots after taking over for Eric Myers. Jacks was previously an assistant coach and is keeping Pat Rowles and Chad Chowning on his staff.

•JCHS graduated four wrestlers with state experience, including one of the most decorated Patriots of all time in Mallory Winner. She had four state titles and an overall record of 103-2.

•The Patriots' schedule will feature more dual matches than usual with seven compared to five invitationals, one of which includes dual matches.

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The Commercial Review

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L.Cochran@thecr.com

Peat steals show from BYU star

By ADAM HILL

Las Vegas Review-Journal Tribune News Service

The 16,704 fans who showed up at T-Mobile Arena on Monday night were treated to one of the greatest freshman debuts

in college basketball history. It just didn't necessarily come from the expected source in one of the premier opening-day events in the country. Koa Peat erupted for 30 points, seven rebounds and five assists in his collegiate debut to lead No. 13 Arizona to a 93-87 victory over No. 3 and defending national champion Florida in the first game of the Hall of Fame Series at T-Mobile Arena.

AJ Dybantsa, the nation's top prospect and projected No. 1 pick in next year's NBA draft, posted a relatively modest 21 points and six rebounds for No. 8 BYU as the Cougars completed a Big 12 sweep with a 71-66 win over Villanova in the nightcap.

But it was Peat who stole the show, becoming the first player since at least 2002-03, and possibly ever, to record at least 30 points, five rebounds, five assists and three steals in their collegiate debut, according to CBS Sports research.

See Steals page 7

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