



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Jay County Commissioner candidate Aaron Loy consults with Jay County clerk Missy Elliott on Wednesday morning while going through the process to file to run for office. Bryan Alexander and Loy, both Republicans, filed Wednesday to run for the middle district commissioner seat. Incumbent Republican Chad Aker announced last month that he will not seek re-election.

First hopefuls file

By BAILEY CLINE and RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Two familiar names will be on the ballot for sheriff again in the May primary.

Both rural Portland residents have served multiple terms.

Incumbent Jay County Sheriff Ray Newton joined incumbent Jay County recorder Angie Byrum and Jay County Commissioner candidate Aaron Loy as the first local candidates to file for election when Jay County Clerk's Office opened at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday. Fellow Republican Dwane Ford filed to challenge him for the party's nomination about a half hour later.

Election filings for the 2026 primaries started Wednesday. Offices up for election include sheriff, the middle district Jay County Commissioner seat, recorder, four Jay County Council seats, auditor and assessor.

The deadline to file is Feb. 6.

Also filing as of noon Wednesday were:

•Current Jay County Council member Bryan Alexander for the middle district commissioner seat.

•Jay County Council member Cindy Bracy for re-election.

•Angela Moeller of rural Portland and Cherrie Geesaman of Pennville for assessor.

•Emily Franks for re-election as auditor.

They are all Republicans.

In separate news releases, State Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle) announced that he will seek re-election and Democrat John Bartlett of Hartford City announced he is running again for state representative in District 33. Both filed at the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis.

See File page 2

County settles pair of disputes

Commissioners OK agreements with Coleman, Whitenacks

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

The county has agreed to two settlements.

Jay County Commissioners approved settlement agreements in lawsuits against Kristin Coleman and Donald and Christine Whitenack during a special session Tuesday.

Commissioners agreed to a \$19,754.88 settlement with Coleman in her case to seek wages and attorney fees and a \$17,500 settlement with Donald and Christine Whitenack for additional right-of-way access on their property for upcoming bridge construction.

Coleman, who formerly served as jail matron at Jay County Sheriff's Office, filed a civil tort case in Jay Superior Court nearly a year ago against the Jay County Sheriff, Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Auditor. She sought more than \$19,700 in wages and attorney fees from the county.

According to a formal complaint filed with the case, Coleman's lawyer alleged "the Sheriff, the Commissioners, and the Auditor intentionally, knowingly, willfully, and wantonly discriminated against her on the basis of her disability/perceived disability/record of impairment, denied (Coleman) wages she had earned, and retaliated against her for utilizing time off work pursuant to the (Family and Medical Leave Act), causing (her) to suffer the loss of her job and job-related benefits, including income and health insurance, and subjected her to emotional distress and other damages and injuries."

Coleman worked for the county for more than a decade, having served as jail matron at Jay County Sheriff's Office for five years.

See Settles page 2



The Commercial Review/Ethan Oskroba

Hallie hits 1,000

Jay County High School junior Hallie Schwieterman (12) scored her 1,000th career point Tuesday in the Patriot girls basketball team's victory over the Concordia Cadets. She became the eighth JCHS basketball player and fifth member of the girls program to reach the milestone. Flanking Hallie Schwieterman, from left, are Charlee Peters, Karsyn Schwieterman, Claudia Dirksen, Alivya Schwieterman and Raylah Newton. For more on the game, see page 8.

JCDC board expresses excitement

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

With a full staff for the first time in three and a half years, Jay County Development Corporation is excited about the year to come.

The organization's board started its first meeting of 2026 on Tuesday by welcoming new community development director Colby Cline and spent some time brainstorming about what success looks like moving forward.

Cline's first day on the job was Tuesday and he addressed the full board of directors for the first time.

"I'm very excited to be here," said Cline, who has a master's degree in urban design and most recently worked for architectural firm Fanning Howey of Celina, Ohio. "I'm really excited to bring my architectural background and urban design background ... and join all the

efforts. ... Jay County's a wonderful place to live."

He steps into a role that has been vacant since August 2022, as the county instead shifted to contracting services through East Central Indiana Regional Planning District.

Jay County Development Corporation executive director Ceann Bales noted that Cline will begin training for Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs certification in the spring. Bales said plans are also in the works for Cline to undergo training at Ball State University's Indiana Communities Institute.

New community developer welcomed, members share ideas for 2026 success

Bales later asked board members to jot down ideas answering the question: "What would success look like?" They then discussed those ideas with those sitting next to them before sharing them with the group.

A recurring theme in the ensuing discussion was to create a defined mission with measurable goals.

Bryan Alexander, who also serves on Jay County Council, pushed for a countywide strategic plan and advocated for a focus on quality-of-life issues.

Chad Towell, a Jay School Board member, advocated for

Jay County Development Corporation being the constant in a leadership role for the county. He said the organization can serve to bring local government leaders together and keep major projects on track as elected officials change.

Other ideas that came from the discussion included supporting young leaders in the community, developing a cohesive plan for housing development and considering merging JCDC, the chamber of commerce and the visitor and tourism bureau into a single entity.

See Excitement page 2

Deaths

Allyssah Hughes, 27, Bath, Ohio
Mary Gallagher, 90, Dunkirk
Details on page 2.

Weather

The high temperature was 52 degrees Tuesday in Jay County. The low was 37.

Rain is expected tonight with winds gusting to 30 mph and a low in the lower 50s. Expect mostly cloudy skies Friday with rain possible and a high in the lower 60s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Applications are open for the 2026 Indiana Senate Page Program. The program allows students in sixth through eighth grade to spend a day at the Indiana Statehouse. They will listen to debates, assist with tasks and meet their state senator. For more information, IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Page-Program.

Coming up

Friday — A look at bills that have been proposed by local legislators.

Saturday — Coverage of the JCHS girls basketball game against Bluffton.

Tuesday — Details from Monday's Jay County Commissioners meeting.



Obituaries

Allyssah Hughes
Feb. 27, 1998-Jan. 2, 2026

Allyssah Marie Hughes, also known as Ally or Alice, 27, of Bath, Illinois, passed away at 2:36 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 2, 2026.

She was born on Feb. 27, 1998 in Jacksonville, Illinois, to Jason Hughes and Jennifer Thresher.

Allyssah is survived by her father, Jason (Sarah Campbell) Hughes; mother, Jennifer (Adam) Marshall; siblings, Madison Marshall of Bath, Mercedes Marshall and Mason Marshall of Belleview, Florida, and James Hughes and Sierra Hughes of Lebanon, Indiana; grandparents, Faye Hughes



of Bath, Frances “Finn” Thresher of Chandlerville, and Jane Crouch of Dunkirk, Indiana; and her precious fur babies, her dog, Link, and cats, Desmond and Ramona. Also surviving are her uncles, Terry (Melissa) Thresher, Mike (Amanda) Hughes, and David Pierce; aunts, Karen (Rick) Showalter, and Kelly Bailey; and several great-aunts, great-uncles and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, James Floyd Bailey, Dencil Thresher and Phil Crouch; great-grandparents, Lloyd “Poogy” and Bertha Hughes and Leo T. and Helen Finn; aunts, Sharon Hughes, Carol Bailey and Merry Gay Pierce; and uncles, Russell Hughes, Sarge Bailey and Jon Bailey.

Allyssah was a 2016 graduate of Jay County High School in

Portland, Indiana, and then got her CNA certification through Miller’s Merry Manor in Dunkirk, Indiana. Most recently, she was working at Sunny Acres Nursing Home in Petersburg, Illinois.

Allyssah was very active in the National Center for Great Lakes Native American Culture, Inc. and was a member of the West Jay Optimist Club in Dunkirk, Indiana.

She loved the “Supernatural” TV series and was an avid collector of “Supernatural” merchandise, patches and pins of her favorite bands for her battle jacket, and Briar Horse Collections. She loved animals and listening to music.

Allyssah was a sincere, honest, compassionate, empathetic and caring person. It would do

the world a lot of good if more people were like her. She never met a stranger and would help anyone who came to her for help. She was an excellent and loyal friend and a force to be reckoned with.

Cremation rites have been accorded and a Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026, at noon at the Bath Village Hall. Food will be provided, but anyone wanting to contribute a dish or dessert is more than welcome. The village hall basement will be open at 10:30 a.m. for drop offs.

Memorial donations may be made in Allyssah’s name to Sunny Acres Nursing Home in Petersburg, Tows and Tails in Fernandina, Florida, or Juniper Wildlife Refuge in Tallahassee, Florida.

Condolences can be left for her family at hurleyfh.com.

Hurley Funeral Home in Havana is in charge of arrangements.

Mary R. Gallagher, Dunkirk, Sept. 28, 1935-Jan. 5, 2026. Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12, at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

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

Friday 1/9	Saturday 1/10	Sunday 1/11	Monday 1/12	Tuesday 1/13
61/40	47/23	29/23	40/33	47/36
Friday's weather looks to be rainy in the morning with a low in the 40s at night.	Saturday's forecast shows an 85% chance of rain with temperatures during the day in the upper 40s.	Sunday's weather looks like cloudy skies with a low around 23 degrees.	Mostly sunny on Monday when the low will be around 33 degrees.	Mostly sunny skies are expected Tuesday when the high will be around 47.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$105 million	Daily Three: 9-6-1 Daily Four: 8-0-9-9 Quick Draw: 2-7-15-22-34-38-40-46-47-49-55-56-58-60-62-63-64-65-71-76
Mega Millions 9-39-47-58-68 Mega Ball: 24 Estimated jackpot: \$199 million	Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 2-6-0 Pick 4: 4-8-5-4 Pick 5: 3-5-5-5-2 Evening Pick 3: 0-6-4 Pick 4: 3-0-7-7 Pick 5: 8-4-9-6-8 Rolling Cash: 15-20-22-25-32 Estimated jackpot: \$140,000
Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 0-4-3 Daily Four: 4-4-0-9 Quick Draw: 1-8-14-21-26-28-32-40-43-45-46-49-53-54-57-60-63-65-66-80 Evening	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.65 Feb. corn.....4.67 March corn.....4.67	Feb. beans10.64 Wheat 4.75
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.65 Feb. corn.....4.59 March corn.....4.59	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.47 Feb. corn.....4.49 Beans10.50 Feb. beans10.57 Wheat4.99
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.52 Feb. corn4.54 Beans10.55	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.62 Feb. corn4.57 Beans10.22 March beans10.37 Wheat4.74

Today in history

<p>In 1935, Elvis Presley was born in Tupelo, Mississippi. The rock-and-roll legend left a longstanding cultural impact with his music, scoring three Grammy awards and 14 Grammy nominations, the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. Some of his hits include “Burn- ing Love,” “Suspicious Minds,” “(You’re The) Devil in Disguise” and “Jailhouse Rock.” He has sold more than one billion records.</p> <p>In 1964, United States</p>	<p>president Lyndon B. Johnson declared in his State of the Union Address a “war on poverty in America.” It laid the groundwork for legislation including the Economic Opportunity Act, which created various social programs.</p> <p>In 1972, the Fort Recovery High School boys basketball team clobbered the host Anso- nia Tigers 69-45. Fred Aisenbrey led a bal- anced scoring effort with 15 points.</p> <p>—The CR</p>
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Citizen’s calendar

Thursday 5:15 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, fire station, 1616 N. Meridi- an St.	4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, communi- ty room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland.
Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, audi- torium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St.
3:45 p.m. — Jay Coun- ty Election Board, vot- ing room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Port- land.	6 p.m. — Fort Recov- ery School Board, com- munity room, high school, 400 E. Butler St.
	7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.

File ...

Continued from page 1

Ford, a former conser- vation officer, spent two terms as Jay County sher- iff from 2015 through 2022, defeating Newton for the Republican nomination in the May 2018 primary. Ford was unable to seek re-election in 2022 because of term limits.

While he has enjoyed the last four years spend- ing time with his grand- children in retirement, he said Wednesday he would like to return to the job.

“I just like the job as law enforcement, and I enjoyed the time when I was in there,” he said, pointing to term limits. “I sat out my term, so I’m ready to jump back in there if I get a chance.”

Newton, who started at the sheriff’s office as a deputy in 1991, has spent nearly three terms as sheriff. He served from 2007 to 2014 and wasn’t able to run again because of term limits. In 2021, he was elected as sheriff after defeating Democrat “Watermellon” Jim Phillips in the general election.

Newton shared hopes to

continue ongoing and upcoming projects, such as updates to Jay County Jail. He talked about improving department training and updating policies, and he refer- enced grants the depart- ment pursued and new equipment including body cameras, in-car cameras and new firearms.

“I want to do positive things for Jay County — I think we have been doing them,” he said. “(I want to) just continue to pro- vide a better service for the community, and that starts at the top ...”

Radio upgrades are a main focus for both New- ton and Ford. The depart- ment has been looking into new radios for emer- gency responders across the county for years. County officials in Sep- tember signed a \$4.64 mil- lion lease agreement with Motorola for the new equipment, with various Jay County departments slated to receive new devices by the end of the year.

Along those lines, Ford said he’s also expecting to handle discussions about

a centralized dispatch center. Portland City Council voted in Decem- ber to explore consolidat- ing emergency responder dispatching.

Newton advocated for continuing to raise wages for sheriff’s office employ- ees to make their salaries comparable to other agen- cies. He shared plans to approach Jay County Council again during the budgeting process this fall.

Holdman represents District 19, which includes Jay, Blackford, Adams and Wells counties and part of Allen County. He has served in the Indi- ana Senate since 2008, is the majority caucus chair and chairs its tax and fis- cal policy committee.

“Indiana works best when government lives within its means, and families keep more of what they earn,” Hold- man said in the release. “I’m running for re-elec- tion to continue fighting for low taxes, affordable health care, and the con- servative values that make our communities strong.”

Bartlett was among more than 25 Indiana Rural Summit Coalition members to file to run for state house and senate seats Wednesday morn- ing. A Democrat, he is making his third run for the House District 33 seat, which represents two- thirds of Jay County, all of Blackford and Ran- dolph counties, and part of Delaware and Henry counties.

Republican J.D. Prescott of Union City is the incumbent.

Prescott defeated Bartlett for the District 33 seat in the 2022 and 2024 general elections, receiv- ing 70% or more of the vote each time.

Both Alexander and Loy announced their candida- cies for commissioner late last year. Incumbent com- missioner Chad Aker has decided to step away from the seat at the end of his term.

Filing to run for Repub- lican Party Convention delegate Wednesday were Jay County Republican Party chair Jenae Blasdel, Jon Eads of Portland and Alexander.

Settles ...

Continued from page 1

Despite accruing about 200 hours of compensatory time — she said in her complaint she had been initially told she would be paid for those hours in two disbursements — she was informed Dec. 16, 2022, “she was not eligible to be paid for her earned comp time or overtime, citing policy, even though she had been accruing comp time, had previously been able to cash in comp time, and had also been paid overtime as recently as November 2022.”

She submitted Family and Medical Leave Act paperwork on Dec. 21, 2022, for time off related to her cancer diag- nosis.

Pointing to the personnel policy handbook, Jay County Commis- sioners decided not to pay Coleman for her compensatory time at their meet- ing Dec. 27, 2022, with Newton sup- porting the denial, the complaint says.

Three days later, Coleman informed the sheriff’s office she would be returning when she was released by her doctor to return to work.

She received a certified letter from Newton on Jan. 21, 2023, indicating her employment had been terminat- ed on Jan. 1 while on Family and Medical Leave Act leave. The letter

states the matron job is a political appointive position of the sheriff and may be terminated by the sheriff at any time.

A wage claim application approved by Indiana Department of Labor in March 2023 established Coleman’s claim at \$19,754.88 — the same amount approved by commissioners Tuesday.

County attorney Wes Schemenaur noted the decision should conclude the lawsuit.

Commissioners filed a lawsuit against Donald and Christine White- nack in November.

Plans are to make improvements to the bridge on county road 350 West between Indiana 26 and county road 200 North. According to a complaint for appropriation of real estate filed with the case, the county would need permanent and temporary right-of- way appropriated by the Whitenacks “for improved public access and pub- lic safety.”

Commissioners offered \$4,600 including damages to Donald and Christine Whitenack, the complaint says, and they have been unable to negotiate the acquisition of about 0.337 acres of property.

Schemenaur said the Whitenacks have agreed to an initial counteroffer of \$17,500, and he said he thinks that’s

a fair resolution based on discussion at commissioners’ executive session earlier Tuesday. Commissioner Chad Aker agreed.

“I think it’s a small price to pay for the benefits that we get out of this, the new bridges and stuff we get out of this for a minimum cost,” he said.

Commissioners also agreed Tues- day to sign a letter stating Minnich Poultry doesn’t need a road use agree- ment for its upcoming construction of a new feed mill and biochar manu- facturing and distribution plant in Noble Township.

Aker said he spoke earlier Tuesday with John Hemmelgarn, director of Jay/Portland Building and Planning Department. Hemmelgarn recom- mended the county implement a road use agreement with the company for Minnich Poultry’s prospective project.

“The discussions we’ve had, I feel that it would not be beneficial for us to push for a road use agreement, I think we all are leaning that way. I think this opens up a can of worms that we really don’t want to open up,” he said.

Commissioners Duane Monroe and Doug Horn agreed. Aker added Jay County Highway Department con- curred a road use agreement would- n’t be required for the work.

Excitement ...

Continued from page 1

Bales also updated the board about the state’s Regional Economic Acceleration and Devel- opment Initiative (READI) 2.0 following a regional steering commit- tee meeting earlier in the day. She reported that READI funds that have been designated for proj- ects can be reallocated to other projects within the county. The process to do so involves making a presentation to the regional steering commit- tee for approval, followed by permission from Indi- ana Economic Develop- ment Corporation.

The discussion involved the proposed housing development on 68 county-owned acres on the west side of Portland. It was preliminarily slat-

ed to receive \$1.2 million in READI grant funding, but county officials have been moving to pull the plug on the project.

Bales noted that three other counties — Black- ford, Randolph and Henry — in the region have already made suc- cessful proposals to real- locate funding slated for their communities.

In other business, the board:

- Elected Angela Paxson as president, Ron Laux as vice president, Barb Street as secretary and Trent Paxson as treasur- er. Also elected were Mike Medler, Faron Parr, Christina Schemenaur, Aaron Clark and Bryan Alexander to three-year terms on the board.
- Heard from visitor and tourism director Mary

Adair that 2026 festival guides are available at her office in Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.

- Discussed funds that had been allocated to the Make My Move initiative that was an effort to attract new residents to Jay County. JCDC returned \$17,700 in fund- ing to the state, leaving about \$12,000 in local matching funds that had been allocated to the proj- ect. Bales said she plans to put together a proposal for Jay County Com- missioners that those funds stay with JCDC and be used for marketing the community.
- Heard from Bales that she is continuing to pur- sue infill housing proj- ects in several Jay Coun- ty municipalities.

SERVICES

Today

Bennett, Vivian: 4 p.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

Friday, Jan. 9

Cook, Carl: 2 p.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

Monday, Jan. 12

Gallagher, Mary: 2 p.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

Saturday, Feb. 28

Hughes, Allyssah: noon, 205 E. 1st St., Bath, Illinois.

Service listings provided by

PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS
120 N. Meridian St.
Portland, Indiana 47371
(260) 726-9201
progressiveofficeproducts.com



Photo provided

Winning tree

Fort Recovery VFW Post 6515 scored the People's Choice Award in the Fort Festival of Trees this year at Fort Recovery Public Library. Pictured above, the tree celebrates the United States of America's semiquincentennial anniversary.

Relative doesn't get message

DEAR ABBY: My husband is battling cancer. He has good days and bad days. He is not at the end, but he can no longer do a lot of things for himself. At this point, we are very busy with doctors and treatments. We have 14 medical treatments this month alone.

His children want to visit from out of town frequently. Of course they want to see their dad, and I understand. However, how can I moderate the visits graciously without discouraging them so the additional responsibilities don't wear me out?

I have tried setting some limits, and some of them pay attention to what I say. However, one "child" (age 50) doesn't listen. They come to town and want to spend all day with Dad. I have to provide meals, snacks, beverages and attempt to monitor my husband's rest time as well as my own.

I have tried limiting the number of days, but I am ignored. The last time, my husband and I suggested four days instead of seven, but we were ignored. Now, this child wants to come for a month. Help, please. — CARETAKER IN UTAH

DEAR CARETAKER: That this "child" would ignore not only your wishes but also their father's is terrible. I'm sorry you didn't mention where this person stays when they visit, but it should not be in your home. They should stay at a hotel or motel and they, not you, should be responsible for their meals.

Your husband can help with this to some degree. When he's tired and needs to rest, he should be willing to tell his child it's time to go. This child should also be willing to lend a hand wherever it's needed, including shopping for groceries, doing laundry and taking Dad to medical appointments so you can rest.

Dear Abby



Drawing the line isn't easy, but once it's done, you will both be glad you did.

DEAR ABBY: My mother loves exchanging gifts and spends a lot of time and energy choosing and elaborately wrapping items for all the members of our family. She's also retired and living on a limited, fixed income. She showers me and my kids with expensive things at holidays, but then almost immediately hits me up for cash because she's broke.

I've gotten into the habit of returning as many of her gifts as I can and banking the money for when she needs it back. She found me out and gets really angry when I do this. At the same time, she's unwilling to scale back her spending. She sees these as completely separate issues. I can't refuse her the money because she wouldn't be able to pay for rent or groceries.

How do I get her to understand that the most precious gift she could give would be to stay within her means, and I'd rather not have to pay her back for things she buys us? — NO MORE GIFTS

DEAR NO MORE: If telling your mother to stop giving you gifts has been unsuccessful, you are not going to change her. This is who she IS. Accept that. My recommendation would be to continue dealing with this issue as you have, regardless of the inconvenience, and suggest to your mother that, if she is able, she should look for a part-time job so she

will have more disposable income.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I (we're both male) have been together since 2007. We moved to Arizona in 2010. Most of our family lives in the Midwest. We have been visiting our families as often as possible, at least every other year. Our son-in-law refuses to let us stay the night in his home when we visit. His excuse is, he doesn't want to have to explain to his two daughters why we sleep in the same bed. (The daughters are 6 and 8.)

My husband and I no longer feel comfortable around our son-in-law, and we told our daughter we feel it would be best to skip this year's visit. She offered to put us up in a hotel. We declined the offer and said we have other friends we can visit. Our daughter then offered to come and visit us with our granddaughters. We also declined that offer.

Are we doing the right thing? We feel the son-in-law is using his daughters as an excuse for his own homophobic feelings toward us. — UNWELCOME IN THE WEST

DEAR UNWELCOME: I see nothing positive to be gained by punishing your daughter and your 6- and 8-year-old grandchildren, who have offered viable alternatives, because their father is uncomfortable with your sexual orientation. Let your daughter visit and bring the children. Foster a strong relationship with all of them. If you succeed, your narrow-minded son-in-law may find himself increasingly marginalized.

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.

Community Calendar

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

Thursday

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.

JAY COUNTY TRAILS CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center.

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.

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.

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will hold its next meeting at noon Friday, Jan. 9, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E.

High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

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

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United

Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

THE LIFE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during 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. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.

REDISCOVERING JOY — The support group of widows and widowers meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at R & R Fabrications, 601 E. Washington St., St. Henry, Ohio.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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.

Two Sided Quality Mattresses... Affordably Priced!

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Law misapplied to support plants

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

The Trump administration is badly stretching the law to keep open coal-fired power plants throughout the Midwest that otherwise would have shuttered under well-thought-out, long-term strategies.

The latest examples are in neighboring Indiana, where the Department of Energy late last month ordered utilities not to close two aging power stations that otherwise would have been taken out of service by the end of last month. The orders mean that the Schahfer station in Wheatfield, Indiana, and the F.B. Culley station in Warrick County, Indiana, will remain open for 90 days.

If DOE's previous actions in Michigan are a guide, where DOE saved a coal-fired plant about 35 miles east of Grand

Guest Editorial

Rapids from closure beginning in May, those Indiana plants will likely get another 90-day reprieve after the current one expires and likely more such orders once the next 90 days pass by.

President Donald Trump long has supported the continued burning of coal to produce electricity despite risks to human health as well the emissions' well-established contributions to Earth's warming climate. At the same time, Trump recently acted to kill five large-scale wind farms already under construction in the Atlantic that are slated to

generate enough power to serve 2.5 million household and business customers. Trump seems to detest wind power as much as he professes to love coal power.

In the case of the Michigan and Indiana coal plants, the Energy Department is ordering them kept alive under provisions of the Federal Power Act that are meant for reliability crises, such as those caused by natural disasters.

The Schahfer plant, located about 75 miles southeast of Chicago, was slated for closure years ago under a comprehensive plan put together by Northern Indiana Public Service Co. (NIPSCO), which serves much of the northern third of the state. While there are legitimate concerns throughout the Midwest about future reliability due to new data centers and their substantial power consumption,

there is no looming emergency that justifies the administration's action here.

Regional power-grid managers, in concert with utilities, have the ability to order plants on the chopping block to continue running if there are threats to reliability, and they use that authority from time to time. The Energy Department doesn't get involved in those decisions ordinarily.

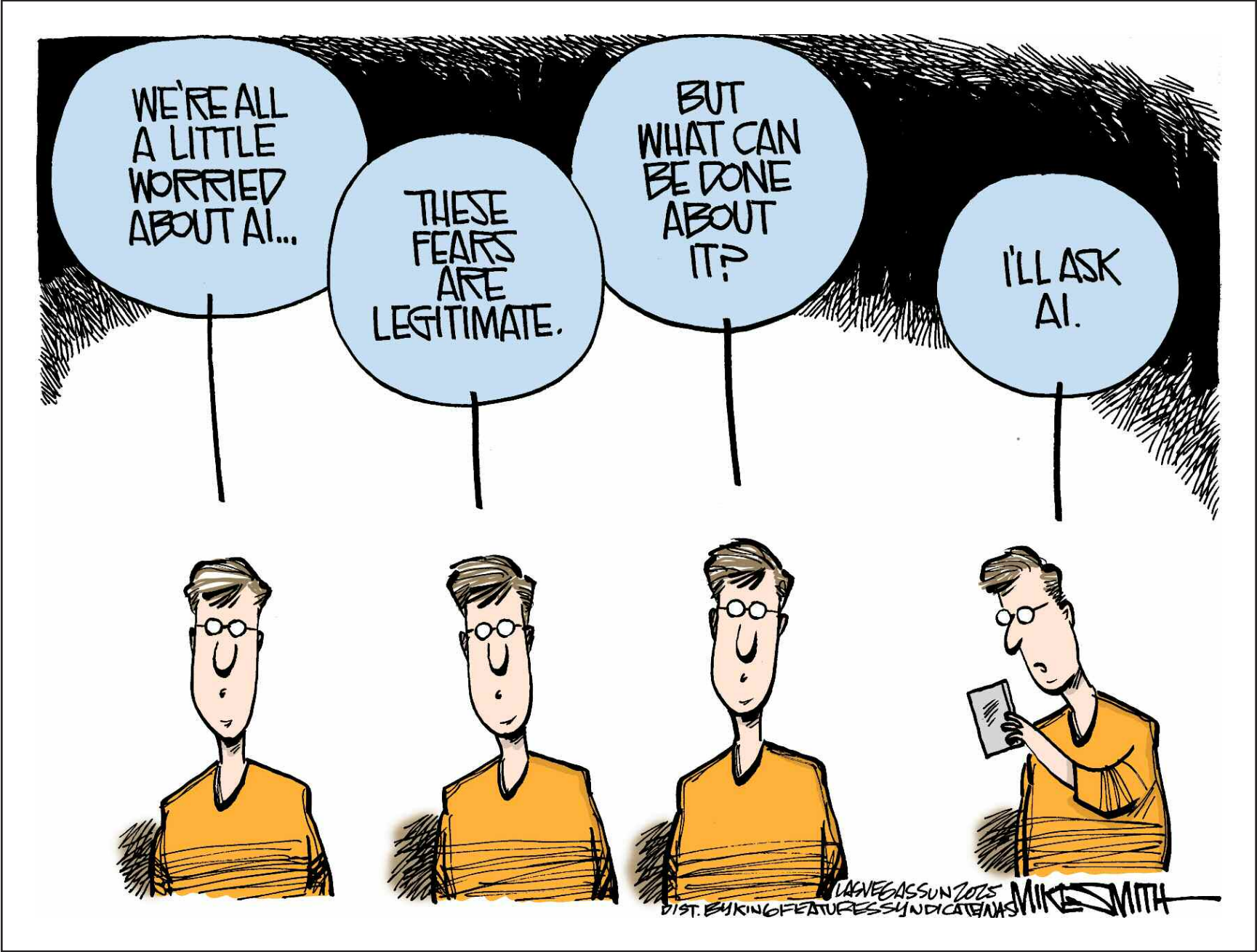
That's how such decisions should continue to be made.

Heavy-handed government involvement in energy markets is not unique to Washington. We've seen governments at the state level, including in Illinois, get overly involved in determining the proper mix of power generation — usually to the detriment of ratepayers. Trump's thumb on the scale to favor coal burners will have the same effect. After

all, these plants were closing in part because they're more expensive than other available energy sources. Ratepayers will shoulder that cost at a time when inflation and affordability are top public concerns.

Slowly but surely, the U.S. is moving in the direction of clean energy. With some exceptions, the market is doing a pretty good job of making that transition as cost effectively as possible. Government has a role to play — as a setter of environmental standards, for example — but shouldn't be picking winners and losers.

That's true in Illinois, where we've seen heavy-handed moves from those opposed to fossil fuels founder on realities of supply and demand. And it's true of the Trump administration's market interference in Indiana and Michigan.



Rural fortunes are in for a reversal

By MICHAEL J. HICKS

Small towns are in for a sobering stretch of economic challenges as elected officials reverse pandemic-era policies that had been reviving them.

COVID-19 was a huge, unexpected opportunity for rural America. The pandemic brought jobs and people to places that had been in decline.

One reason is the pandemic brought a sharp shift in household consumption toward goods and away from services. Rural America, the manufacturing heartland, benefited from job growth in 2022 and 2023. That growth slowed by 2024, but legislation like Sen. Todd Young's CHIPS Act offered at least a hint that we might be entering a period of more stable factory employment.

Unlike most of the world, the U.S. economy boomed after COVID.

The effects were particularly obvious in labor markets, pushing us down to the longest stretch of sub-4% unemployment since the 1960s. This attracted immigrants — legal and illegal — many of whom

Michael J. Hicks



came to rural America for economic opportunity.

This was a rare advantage for rural places with low quality of life. Economic migrants are driven more by good-paying jobs than luxuries such as walkable neighborhoods or nationally ranked schools. As was the case during the 19th and early-20th centuries, immigrants moved to places native-born Americans were fleeing.

Immigration became a once-in-a-century opportunity for rural places facing the deepest economic decline.

The pandemic also brought opportunities to rural places with high quality of life and small job markets. That's because COVID accelerated remote work, severing the geographic ties between homes and offices and permitting families to choose rural com-

munities while keeping their jobs.

New businesses also grew during the pandemic, bringing an excess supply of college-educated workers.

Meanwhile, rural America continued to benefit from tax policies, both federal and state. Rural Americans are older, poorer and face higher rates of disability. They pay less taxes and collect more benefits than their urban or suburban counterparts.

Indiana's poorest rural county receives about \$16,000 more per year in per-capita federal transfer payments than it pays. That same county receives \$1,500 more per resident in state taxes than it pays.

Along with this, place-based economic policies favored rural counties. For example, child care tax credits, a popular state policy, did more to allow rural families to work than almost any other policy in the past half-century.

Taken together, these policies and economic realities offered rural America a brighter future. Today, everything I've just mentioned is at risk, or gone entirely.

The Trump administration has ended remote work for federal workers. Many states, including Indiana, have followed suit for state workers. That directly hurts rural America.

Tariffs and the trade war have reversed manufacturing employment and production. They are also eviscerating agricultural exports. Job growth effectively stopped in April. The deepest job losses are just now settling into rural America, with losses clustered in manufacturing, logistics and agriculture.

Immigration has also stopped, and with it the prospects of population growth for about two-thirds of rural counties. This loss of new families means employers won't consider these places — they need workers. Schools will shrink, churches will lose congregants and decline will accelerate.

Federal funding will slow under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. That's unsurprising and inevitable given our large federal debt. But, despite what many believe, the geography

of those cuts is dominated by rural places.

The deepest cuts come to Medicaid and other anti-poverty programs that see their heaviest use in rural places. This will lead to the closure of a number of rural hospitals across the country by 2030, as they rely so heavily on this support.

There's little disagreement on the magnitude of these effects in Washington, D.C., and statehouses across the country. But rural Americans voted so overwhelmingly for the GOP that neither party has much incentive to address these problems.

And so, they will come to pass until the 1 in 5 Americans who live in rural places decide the current policy environment is robbing them of a prosperous future.

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

The Commercial Review



US PS 125820

HUGH N. RONALD (1911-1983), Publisher Emeritus
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The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and six holidays (New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas — holidays are observed on Tuesday when they fall on a Monday) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

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VOLUME 152—NUMBER 175
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026

www.thecr.com


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—Thomas Jefferson

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Christ Chapel
2535 Wabash Road, Fort Recovery
(419) 733-1469
christchapelfr.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cornerstone Church of Pennville
190 W. Main St., Pennville
Jack Houck
(260) 729-2164
Services: 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Trinity Lutheran
301 N. Wayne St., Fort Recovery
Ron McCallum
(419) 375-4498
Services: 9 a.m. (contemporary service, fourth Sunday)

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

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

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

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

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

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Ron McCallum
218 E. High St., Portland
(260) 726-8832
zionlutheranportland@gmail.com
Services: 10:30 a.m.

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SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

He shoulda stood in bed

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A K J 8 4 3
♥ 6 3
♦ Q 9 8 5
♣ 2

WEST
♠ 10
♥ 7 5
♦ A
♣ Q J 10 9 8 6 5 4 3 2

EAST
♠ Q 9 7 6 5 2
♥ 9 8 4
♦ 7 6 3 2
♣ A K 7

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 10 2
♥ K J 10 4
♦ A K 7

The bidding:
South 2♥ West 5♣ North 6♥ East Dble
Opening lead — three of clubs.

This deal occurred years ago in a high-stakes rubber-bridge game. Looking at only the North-South cards, it is hard to believe the eventual outcome.

Certainly, North had a tough choice of responses after his partner opened with a game-forcing two-heart bid and West cramped the bidding by leaping to five clubs. It seemed likely, from North's viewpoint, that there was a slam somewhere, and he elected to go for it in his partner's suit. East interjected a jarring note by doubling, and West made the killing lead of a club, selecting the three rather than the queen to direct a diamond return if his partner won the first trick.

Ordinarily, declarer would have made six hearts easily, but in the actual case he suffered a catastrophe of cataclysmic proportions. East ruffed the club and returned a diamond to his partner's ace, whereupon West led another club, East ruffing again.

East would now have had a problem as to whether to return a spade or a diamond, except that West's second club lead had been the four, asking once again for a low-suit return. Had West been void of spades, he would have asked for that return by leading the queen of clubs instead of the four.

So East led a diamond at trick four, ruffed by West, who continued the onslaught by giving his partner a third club ruff. East returned the compliment by giving his partner another diamond ruff, after which the defense finally ran out of steam.

All told, South lost a diamond and five trump tricks to go down 1,400 points on a hand that offered nearly a 100% chance to make six hearts! Into each life some rain — in this case a monsoon — must fall!

Tomorrow: Test your play.
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Between Friends

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CRYPTOQUIP

ZXHS DVHYW JL SXW OLJWSA

GSHSWG JG TE NHM SXW TJUWGS

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WUUG? LWZ ERVP YJSE.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: POTENTIAL NEBRASKA STORE THAT OFFERS ONLY ONE BRAND OF PIANOS AND MOTORBIKES: "OMAHA YAMAHA."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals G

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Apple product

5 Future flower

8 Skilled

12 Notes after "do"

13 Genetic letters

14 Gift tag word

15 Florence's river

16 Peanut product

17 Yard fraction

18 Protein-rich grain

20 Ousts

22 The Big Apple, briefly

23 German cry

24 Earring site

27 Regulars

32 Uganda's cont.

33 Goof up

34 Rule, for short

35 Condescends

38 Ancient Brit

39 Speedometer stat

40 Scratch

42 Prized violins

45 Some potatoes

49 Hindu royal

50 Bankroll

52 Sacred Hindu text

53 2200, to Caesar

54 Sports drink suffix

55 Composer Satie

56 Beholds

57 Faux —

58 Zilch

DOWN

1 Neighbor of Kuwait

2 Andean land

3 Hotel chain

4 Singer Warwick

5 Brings up, as a topic

6 Half of bi-

7 Valley

8 Influence

9 Sales rep's handout

10 Booty

11 911 responders

19 Cry of dismay

21 — alai

24 "Viva — Vegas"

25 Frequently

26 Close male friendship

28 Louvre treasures

29 Trite comments

30 Snaky fish

31 Bootcamp VIP

36 Study of light

37 — Beta Kappa

38 Cowardly

41 Commercial

42 Weaponry

43 Jerry Herman musical

44 Trade

46 Protagonist

47 Norse god

48 Rice wine

51 Nabokov novel

Solution time: 24 mins.

PIUS LAP SLOG
TISSA ELL LIMA
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SYRIA ARTERY
NOAM HER
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OVI GENOA FED
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ESL CASE
RESIST CAREY
ODIN HIGHLIFE
DAZE IDA DASH
SMEW NOS ETTA

Yesterday's answer 1-8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18				19		20	21			
		22				23				
24	25	26		27	28	29		30	31	
32				33				34		
35			36	37				38		
		39				40	41			
42	43			44		45		46	47	48
49				50	51			52		
53				54				55		
56				57				58		

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1,000 ...

Continued from page 8
Despite the younger Schwieterman's big night, her focus remained on her sister's accomplishment.

"I'm so proud of her," Karsyn Schwieterman said. "I mean, I've been waiting for this ... She also wanted it to be a three, and then it was, and it was so awesome."

Even after punching her ticket to the 1,000-point club, Hallie Schwieterman made sure to recognize Karsyn's exploits.

"She's just amazing," Hallie Schwieterman said. "Having her on the court is, it's such a blessing, and I'm so thankful that I get to share these moments with her and get to share time on the court with her. She's so reliable all the time, and she has such a hard game and she's so competitive, which obviously, I think it kind of runs in our family."

The competitiveness in the Schwieterman bloodline has produced tangible results, and not just for Hallie. Her older sister, Renna Schwieterman, is the all-time scoring leader in Jay County history, having stacked up 1,754 points in her career. (Renna will be inducted to the Jay County High School Athletic Wall of Fame at halftime of Friday's game against Bluffton.)

Though Hallie Schwieterman likely has several more milestones within reach after solidifying her-

'I'm so glad that God blessed me with the talent that He did, and the family and the community. It's just, I'm so blessed, and I can't put into words how grateful I am for everything that I have.'

—Hallie Schwieterman

self as the eighth overall Patriot and fifth Jay County girl to reach 1,000 points, continuing to win remains the guard's priority.

"Points-wise, I don't really have a goal," Hallie Schwieterman said. "I mean, breaking records, I don't really care to do it. I just want to win as many games as we can as a team and stuff, and I just want to get as far as we can in the tournament because I think we have a very good team this year."



The Commercial Review/Ethan Oskroba

Hallie Schwieterman embraces coach Sherri McIntire after scoring her 1,000th career point. Schwieterman is now the fifth-highest scorer in the history of Jay County girls basketball, with Shelby Caldwell (1,071 points), Carissa Phillips (1,073) and Shannon Freeman (1,458) next up on the list. The Patriots' all-time leading scorer is Renna Schwieterman, Hallie's older sister, with 1,754 points.

Jay girls swim returns by beating Braves

DECATUR — The Patriot girls came out of the break looking as strong as ever.

The boys had a solid showing too, but didn't have the depth for the win.

The Jay County High School girls swim team demolished the Bellmont Braves 132-46, while the boys fell 92-87.

The Patriot girls (6-1) nearly swept the meet, as they won every event other than the 1-meter diving. The boys (3-4) claimed eight of the 12 events, but only had four runners-up and two third-place finishes.

Maria Laux and Elly Byrum led the girls side with two wins apiece, while Carson Westgerdes and Cooper Glentzer each claimed two events.

Laux topped the 200-yard individual medley in 2 minutes, 39.67 seconds and the 500 freestyle in 6:30.89. Elly Bryrum's wins came in the 50

Local Roundup

freestyle (27.01) and 100 breaststroke (1:21.10).

Westgerdes matched Laux with wins in the 200 IM (2:15.55) and 500 freestyle (5:41.75). Glentzer's time of 58.16 seconds won the 100 butterfly, while he claimed the 100 backstroke in 1:01.94.

Other individual wins for the girls came from Brooklynn Byrum (200 freestyle), Lauren Fisher (100 butterfly), Sophia Hoebel (100 freestyle) and Avery Wentz (100 backstroke). Grady Warvel claimed the 200 freestyle for the boys, while Peyton Yowell claimed the 50 freestyle.

The Patriot girls won all three relays. The JCHS

boys claimed the 200 medley relay and the 400 freestyle relay.

Three wins each

BERNE — Fort Recovery's swim teams battled with South Adams and Minster on Tuesday night. The girls and boys each had a trio of first-place finishes.

Theresa Hipple started the meet right for Tribe girls with a win in the 1-meter diving. Autumn Luethold had the other individual victory in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Luethold, Claire Wenning, Aubrey Shuttleworth and Liza Knapke combined to win the 200 freestyle relay as well.

The victories for the boys came from Carson Fullenkamp and Caleb Smith. Fullenkamp won both the 200 individual medley and 100 butterfly. Smith placed first in the 50 freestyle. While he only finished second in the 100

breaststroke, he broke his school record for the third time this season with a swim of 1 minute, 7.39 seconds.

Pats fall

COLDWATER, Ohio — The Jay County boys wrestling team dropped a close match to the Coldwater Cavaliers on Tuesday 30-25.

The Patriots (11-5) did well in the lower weight classes as they claimed wins in the 113, 120, 126 and 138-pound matches.

Jason Landers ran off 16 points to get a tech fall on Cameron Bradley 3 minutes, 6 seconds into the 138 contest. Corbin Lothridge and Alexander Rivers both earned major decisions with the former beating T.J. Gross 12-0 in the 113-pound match and the latter topping Brent Heuing 12-3 in the 126 contest.

The only other JCHS victory came from Bryan Fields in the 175 match. He

needed just 41 seconds to pin Coldwater's Landon Garcia.

Jay County lost the other four matches via fall to end up with the loss.

Eighth grade wins

YORKTOWN — Jay County Junior High School's boys basketball teams split with the Yorktown Tigers on Tuesday with the eighth graders winning 44-37 and the seventh graders losing 48-16.

Abram Lee and Bentley Comer led the eighth grade team with 16 and 15 points, respectively. Finn Hemmelgarn and Job Dirksen followed up with five points apiece. Jaylen Brown scored the final three for Jay County as it moved to 11-0 on the season.

Benson Collins had the team-high for the seventh graders with five points. Ethan Paxson, Cruz Darby and Nicholas Pin-tos-Penrod all had three

points and Maverick McGill found the hoop for two.

Jay splits

The Jay County Junior High School girls basketball teams picked up one win and one loss against the Yorktown Tigers on Tuesday.

The eighth grade team fell 31-29 with Arabella Link scoring 10 points. Following Link were Boo Towell, Kinze Homan and Brenna Weitzel with seven, six and five points, respectively. Emmi Clark also hit a free throw.

The seventh graders pulled out a 25-6 victory against the Tigers. Gretchen Petro led the way with eight points, while Haley Comer had seven. Kendall Farr and Alyssa Schwieterman both had three points, while Makenna Wellman and Brooklyn McGill each found the basket once for two apiece.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today

Jay County — Swim vs. Celina/Coldwater — 6 p.m.; Freshman basketball at Anderson — 6 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball vs. Selma — 6 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball at Fort Recovery — 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Girls basketball at New Bremen — 6 p.m.; Middle school boys basketball at Celina — 5:30 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball vs. Jay County — 6 p.m.

Friday

Jay County — Swim hosts JCHS Invitational — 6 p.m.; Girls basketball vs. Bluffton — 6 p.m.; JV boys wrestling at Centerville — 6 p.m. Fort Recovery — Boys basketball vs. New Bremen — 6 p.m.

TV schedule

Today

11 a.m. — Euroleague basketball: Fenerbahce at Dubai (FDSN Indiana)

2 p.m. — Super Cup soccer: Atletico at Real Madrid (ESPN2)

6 p.m. — College basketball: Northwestern at Michigan State (BTN)

7 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Charlotte Hornets (FDSN Indiana)

7:30 p.m. — College Football Playoff: Ole Miss vs. Miami (ESPN)

8 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Creighton at Marquette (TRU)

8:30 p.m. — College basketball: Rutgers at Illinois (BTN)

10:30 p.m. — College basketball: Ohio State at Oregon (BTN)

11:30 p.m. — College basketball: Santa Clara at Gonzaga (ESPN2)

Friday

1 p.m. — Curling: Grand Slam of Curling (FDSN Indiana)

2:30 p.m. — Bundesliga soccer: Eintracht Frankfurt at Borussia Dortmund (ESPN2)

6 p.m. — College hockey: Minnesota at Penn State (BTN)

7:15 p.m. — Figure skating: U.S. Figure Skating Championships (NBC)

7:30 p.m. — College Football Playoff: Indiana vs. Oregon (ESPN)

7:30 p.m. — Unrivaled basketball: Rose BC at Vinyl BC (TNT)

8:30 p.m. — College basketball: USC at Minnesota (BTN)

8:45 p.m. — Unrivaled basketball: Hive BC at Breeze BC (TNT)

9 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Utah Mammoth (FDSN Indiana)

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Schwieterman hits 1,000 career points

Junior becomes 8th Patriot to reach milestone mark

By ETHAN OSKROBA
The Commercial Review

As Hallie Schwieterman generated space just to the left of the top of the key and fired up a 3-pointer, it looked like so many previous baskets in her Jay County career.

Though the junior has made nailing long-range shots a regular occurrence, this one was special. It cemented her presence in the 1,000-point club as the Jay County High School girls basketball team rollicked to a 74-45 home victory over the Concordia Cadets on Tuesday.

“I was really excited about it,” Hallie Schwieterman said. “I mean, just actually doing it, it’s like, wow. You realize that you’ve been playing for three years and stuff, and it’s very surreal, and it’s like, ‘Oh my gosh, I hit a thousand points,’ and none of that could have happened if I didn’t have the coaches and the teammates that I had that lift me up every day, and I wouldn’t have the confidence that I do without them.”

Hallie Schwieterman entered the game needing just six points to etch her name into Jay County lore. She recorded a pair of layups in the first quarter before drilling the historic 3-pointer 12 seconds into the second period.

The junior raised her arms in celebration and was mobbed by her teammates as the game was briefly paused to recognize the achievement.

“Hallie Schwieterman is a special, special person on and off the basketball court,” said Jay County coach Sherri McIntire. “Just so proud of her to get to that 1,000 points. You don’t know how many hours that young lady spends in the gym, and with a basketball in her hand and playing basketball, and it has paid off.”

While hard work was a key ingredient in Hallie Schwieterman’s scoring proficiency, the guard also made sure to remain thankful for the other factors that helped her along the way.



The Commercial Review/Ethan Oskroba

Hallie Schwieterman of the Jay County High School girls basketball team shoots the 3-pointer that pushed her past 1,000 career points during Tuesday’s 74-45 win over the Concordia Cadets. Schwieterman’s shot came with 7:48 remaining in the second quarter and made her the eighth Jay County player and fifth Patriot girl to join the 1,000-point club.

“I’m so glad that God blessed me with the talent that He did, and the family and the community,” she said. “It’s just,

I’m so blessed, and I can’t put into words how grateful I am for everything that I have.”

Hallie Schwieterman

went on to finish the night with 24 points while adding three more 3-pointers, but she wasn’t the only Patriot to deliver

a memorable performance.

Her freshman sister Karsyn Schwieterman notched the first 30-point

game of her young career, amassing 31. She also snared seven offensive rebounds as the Patriots (9-4) claimed 20 offensive boards to the 12 defensive rebounds captured by the Cadets (2-13).
See 1,000 page 7

Box score

Concordia Cadets at Jay County Patriots

Girls varsity summary

	Concordia (2-13)		
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
Bolinger	7-16	5-9	25
Vanderford	4-7	0-0	9
Spreen	2-5	1-1	6
Desta	1-2	0-0	2
Metz	1-2	0-0	2
Linnemeier	0-3	1-2	1
JHedtke	0-3	0-0	0
GHedtke	0-2	0-2	0
Hendrickson	0-0	0-0	0
Dressler	0-0	0-0	0
Leighty	0-0	0-0	0
Totals	15-40	7-15	45
	.375	.467	
Def. Rebound percentage:	.375		

	Jay County (9-4)		
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS
KSchwitm	11-15	7-9	31
HSchwitm	9-20	2-2	24
Brunswick	3-10	2-2	8
Schemenr	1-2	2-2	4
Newton	1-4	0-0	3
Peters	1-3	1-3	3
Dirksen	0-3	1-2	1
May	0-2	0-0	0
Lekue	0-0	0-0	0
Schwitm	0-0	0-0	0
Kaigler	0-0	0-0	0
Totals	26-59	15-22	74
	.441	.682	
Def. Rebound percentage:	.800		

Score by quarters:					
Concordia	12	10	11	12	— 45
Jay Co.	17	22	21	14	— 74

3-point shooting: Concordia 8-16 (Bolinger 6-8, Spreen 1-2, Vanderford 1-1, J. Hedtke 0-2, Linnemeier 0-1, Metz 0-1, G. Hedtke 0-1). Jay County 7-14 (H. Schwieterman 4-7, K. Schwieterman 2-2, Newton 1-4, Dirksen 0-2, Brunswick 0-1, Schemenaur 0-1).

Rebounds: Concordia 17 (Bolinger 7, Spreen 2, Desta 2, Hendrickson 2, Linnemeier, Vanderford, JHedtke, GHedtke). Jay County 40 (KSchwieterman 7, Dirksen 6, Brunswick 5, Peters 5, H. Schwieterman 4, Schemenaur 4, May 4, Lekue Magro 3, Newton 2).

Assists: Concordia 7 (Bolinger 2, Dressler 2, Vanderford, Hendrickson, GHedtke). Jay County 11 (HSchwieterman 4, Brunswick 3, Dirksen 3, KSchwieterman).

Blocks: Concordia 2 (Bolinger 2). Jay County 2 (H. Schwieterman, Brunswick).

Personal fouls: Concordia 19 (Bolinger 3, JHedtke 3, Dressler 3, Linnemeier 2, Vanderford 2, Hendrickson 2, Metz 2, Desta, GHedtke). Jay County 15 (KSchwieterman 4, HSchwieterman 3, Brunswick 2, Schemenaur 2, Kaigler 2, Lekue Magro, Peters).

Turnovers: Concordia 18. Jay County 12.

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