

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Victorious in openers

Jay County High School cheerleader Faith Faulkner chants in front of the crowd following the Patriots’ 50-20 victory over Woodlan’s girls basketball team on Tuesday evening. Both the boys and girls basketball teams beat Woodlan by 30 or more points to advance to Friday’s semifinal against Southern Wells. For full stories on the games, see page 8.

Police motion to dismiss was denied as moot

Updated complaint alleges some conduct was outside of official capacity

By **RAY COONEY**
The Commercial Review

A motion to dismiss a lawsuit against Portland’s police chief and investigator has been declared moot.

Judge Douglas Mawhorr handed down an order Tuesday granting Portland clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips’ motion to amend her complaint against Portland Police Chief Dustin Mock and investigator Jeff Hopkins. As a result of the amended complaint, he denied as moot a previous motion to dismiss the case against Mock and Hopkins.

He also vacated the hearing on the motion originally scheduled for Jan. 6 and later rescheduled for April 25.

The City of Portland is also named in Phillips’ lawsuit.

Attorney Katlyn M. Christman filed a motion to dismiss in September,

asserting that Mock and Hopkins cannot be sued in their individual capacities as chief and investigator.

In that motion, she also argued that the city’s police department is not a suable entity under Indiana law. The motion to dismiss the suit against the police department was granted.

The amended complaint from Phillips’ attorney Clayton J. Lengerich clarifies that she is suing the city for the actions of Mock and Hopkins that were within the scope of their employment and both men individually for actions taken outside of the scope of their employment.

It alleges harassment, denial of access to areas of city hall, surveillance and dissemination of recordings in their official capacity. It alleges deception and invasion of privacy, disseminating private recordings for a retaliatory purpose, personal threats and intimidation outside of their official capacity as well.

The complaint argues that the city is liable for the actions taken by Mock and Hopkins within the scope of their employment and that the individuals are personally liable for their “conduct that was malicious, willful, wanton, and clearly outside the scope of their employment.”

See **Denied** page 2

Variance for car business is OK’d

Approval includes stipulation that vehicles not be sold from rural property

By **RAY COONEY**
The Commercial Review

A sometimes contentious, sometimes confused meeting resulted in approval for a rural Portland couple to operate a car sales business from their residence.

Portland Board of Zon-

ing Appeals approved a use variance request Tuesday for Randy and Karla Hopkins to operate the business out of their property at 863 S. 100 East.

The board had jurisdiction over the decision because the property falls within the city’s 2-mile buffer for zoning.

Randy Hopkins explained that he has operated the business from 809 N. Franklin St., Portland, where he also had rentals. He no longer has the rentals there and would like to sell that property and instead run the business from his home.

See **Variance** page 2

Indiana to opt out of some of Trump’s cuts

By **TOM DAVIES**

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana legislators aren’t going along with all the federal tax cuts that President Donald Trump pushed through Congress last summer.

A hefty tax break for businesses included in what Republicans dubbed the “One Big Beautiful Bill” won’t be applied to state taxes under legislation advancing in the state Senate.

Republican fiscal leaders, however, haven’t said which of the dozens of other new federal tax cuts — including the temporary deductions for workers who receive tips and overtime wages — will be extended to state taxes.

An analysis from Gov. Mike Braun’s administration estimated that total state tax

Changes could have topped \$900 million over two years

breaks on businesses and individuals could top \$900 million over the next two years if the Legislature were to fully conform the state tax code with the federal changes.

The Senate Tax and Fiscal Committee last week endorsed Senate Bill 212 adopting a few of the federal tax breaks.

See **Opt** page 2



Indiana Capital Chronicle/Tom Davis

Members of the Indiana Senate Appropriations Committee discuss legislation. Committee chair Travis Holdman (R-Markle), who represents Jay County, said Senate Bill 212 will adopt a few of the federal tax breaks laid out in the “One Big Beautiful Bill” but will not include others.

In review

Jay County Public Library will offer Wintergreen Take & Makes for children on Monday. Children can visit the library at 315 N. Ship St., Portland, to pick up a bag of activities to take home. For more information, call (260) 726-7890 or visit jaycpl.lib.in.us.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 49 degrees Tuesday. The low was 36.

Tonight’s low will be 16. There is a 40% chance of snow with winds gusting to 25 mph. Light snow is possible Friday with continued windy conditions and a high in the mid 30s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Two new candidates have filed to run for election, including Republican Fona Masters of rural Portland for the District 2 seat on Jay County Council. Harold Towell currently holds that seat. He has not yet filed to run for re-election. Also filing Wednesday morning was Republican Tammy Horn for Pike Township Trustee.

Coming up

Friday — Details from this week’s Jay County Council meeting.

Saturday — Results from Katie Rowles at the IHSAA Girls Wrestling State Finals.

Tuesday — Coverage of the finals of the ACAC basketball tournaments.



Denied ...

Continued from page 1

The suit, in which Phillips says she has been the focus of “torment, harassment and defamation” by the police department, is one of two active against the city.

The other suit, filed by former Portland police officer Patrick Long, alleges Mock and Hopkins purposefully made working conditions so intolerable that Long had no option but to resign, intentionally inflicted

emotional distress, interfered with a business relationship, defamed Long and failed to pay wages.

A motion to dismiss the police department, Mock and Hopkins from that suit was filed early this month. The plaintiff and other defendants were given 30 days to file a response.

The next scheduled court date in the Phillips suit is for a pre-trial conference on Oct. 19. A jury trial is scheduled for

November, and Mawhorr has ordered the parties to go through mediation with Richard McDevitt of McDevitt Mediation Center on or before July 15.

Phillips filed her lawsuit on July 16. Long filed his lawsuit on Nov. 5.






The lawsuits stem from two of the eight tort claims that were filed against the city in 2024 and 2025. Four others remain active while two have been resolved.

The other active claims are as follows:

- Two from former Portland wastewater department employee Brad Clayton alleging that his Family and Medical Leave Act information was illegally made public, he was berated by wastewater department superintendent Brad Dues and that city representatives, including Mayor Jeff Westlake, spread false information about him and his job
- One from former Portland

police officer Kyle Denney alleging that Westlake made statements that included allegations of misconduct against him

- One from Mock and Hopkins — it also names Phillips and her office, and council members Mike Aker, Ron May and Dave Golden — alleging retaliation by council members, an institutional failure to intervene, improperly deleting email accounts, violating the city handbook, harassment and other issues.

CR almanac				
Friday 1/16	Saturday 1/17	Sunday 1/18	Monday 1/19	Tuesday 1/20
 35/18 <small>There is a 50% chance of snow in the morning with a high in the mid 30s. Winds will gust up to 30 mph.</small>	 20/6 <small>The high will top out at 20 with a 30% chance of snow in the afternoon. The low will be in single digits.</small>	 18/12 <small>Expect a high of 18 under partly sunny skies.</small>	 20/4 <small>Skies will be mostly cloudy with a high of 20.</small>	 17/4 <small>Cold temperatures will stay with a high of 17 under mostly sunny skies.</small>

Lotteries	
Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$156 million	Daily Three: 0-7-4 Daily Four: 8-8-3-1 Quick Draw: 1-2-11-12-15-18-22-26-27-29-32-33-35-37-41-57-61-68-74-76
Mega Millions 16-40-56-64-66 Mega Ball: 4 Estimated jackpot: \$230 million	Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 9-1-1 Pick 4: 1-4-7-7 Pick 5: 3-2-9-5-6 Evening Pick 3: 2-1-2 Pick 4: 36-2-4-6 Pick 5: 9-9-3-3-8 Rolling Cash: 5-7-8-16-29 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 5-2-9 Daily Four: 1-3-2-0 Quick Draw: 5-8-9-19-21-22-35-36-38-41-58-59-60-62-69-70-71-75-79-80 Evening	

Markets	
Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.40 Feb. corn4.42 March corn4.42	Feb. beans10.39 Wheat 4.68
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.40 Feb. corn4.34 March corn4.34	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.23 Feb. corn4.25 Beans10.50 Feb. beans10.57 Wheat4.99
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.26 Feb. corn4.28 Beans10.35	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.37 Feb. corn4.32 Beans10.34 March beans10.39 Wheat4.95

Today in history	
<p>In 1759, the British Museum opened to the public. Established as an act of Parliament about five years prior, the museum was created to hold world-renowned antiquities and artifacts. Its belongings include the Elgin Marbles and Rosetta Stone.</p> <p>In 1967, the Green Bay Packers of the National Football League defeated the Kansas City Chiefs of the American Football League in the first Super Bowl game. The Packers took home the trophy for winning the game ending in 35-10.</p> <p>In 2001, Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger launched Wikipedia, a free, internet-based encyclopedia. The website works with an open-source management style, allowing users to edit documents at will.</p>	<p>In 2020, probable cause affidavits were filed in Jay Circuit Court in connection with formal charges against Shelby Hiestand of rural Portland and Esther J. “EJ” Stephen of Portland. Both women were charged and later found guilty of murdering Shea Briar, with both women drawing 55-year prison sentences for the crime. Hannah Knapke of Fort Recovery was arrested several days later in connection with the case and pleaded to voluntary manslaughter, receiving a 17.5-year sentence.</p> <p>In 2025, Portland Board of Aviation approved the purchase and installation of new runway end lights for Portland Municipal Airport.</p> <p>— The CR</p>

Citizen’s calendar	
Thursday, Jan. 15 6 p.m. — Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.	Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
Monday, Jan. 19 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 7:30 p.m. — Fort	Tuesday, Jan. 20 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 6 p.m. — Jackson Township Advisory Board, 5341 W. 400 North, Portland.

Variance ...

Continued from page 1

Susan and Morton Pugh, who own land at the southwest corner of county road 100 East and Indiana 26 near the Hopkins property but do not live there, attended the meeting in opposition to the variance request. Susan Pugh argued that Hopkins did not face an undue hardship to justify the variance. She also said it could increase traffic and noise, hurt property values, set a bad precedent and goes against the goals of the zoning ordinance.

Tim Bray, who lives in the area, spoke in support of granting the variance, saying the property has always been well-kept.

Through the course of discussion, the Hopkins couple clarified that they do not plan to sell vehicles

at the property. Instead, it will be used for detailing and repair work, with the vehicles then moved to a separate lot owned by Randy Hopkins’ cousin on Meridian Street in Portland to be sold. They would also handle office work for the business from their home.

“It’s not going to look any different than it does right now,” said Karla Hopkins.

Discussion revolved around how many vehicles would be kept at the property, whether the board should limit that number as part of the variance and if vehicles would be sold there.

At one point, Susan Pugh said she was OK with the variance before pulling back on that statement

because of concerns about vehicles at the property. Later, Hopkins said he would withdraw the request for the variance but ultimately did not.

The board went through a motion to approve the variance and multiple efforts to amend that motion before rescinding everything and starting over. It ultimately voted to approve the variance with the stipulation that vehicles not be sold from the residence. Larry Petro, Aaron Loy, Kyle Cook and Emily Goodrich voted in favor. Ron Laux was absent from the meeting.

Jay/Portland Building and Planning director John Hemmelgarn also made clear that the variance applies only to the Hopkins couple. The prop-

erty would revert to regular zoning rules if it is sold or otherwise passed on to another owner.

Following the approval, Susan Pugh asked about the limit for vehicles on the property. Goodrich responded that there was no limit, after which the Pughs walked out of the meeting.

In other business, the board:

- Re-elected Petro as chair, Loy as vice-chair and Cook as secretary.
- Appointed Jay/Portland Building and Planning assistant director Patti McLaughlin as recording secretary.
- Learned that Goodrich has been appointed to fill the final year of Virginia Burkey’s term on the board following her resignation.

Opt ...

Continued from page 1

Committee Chair Sen. Travis Holdman, however, specified that the bill would not include a federal tax cut on some production property because of its cost.

“It’s just got a hefty price tag. It was \$60-some million the first year, and it grew to like \$300 million over four or five years,” Holdman, R-Markle, told the Indiana Capital Chronicle. “So it’s just too hefty for us to do that.”

Sam Charron, a vice president of the Indiana Manufacturers Association, argued for adoption of that tax break, saying it “incentivizes manufacturers to increase their production capacity in the U.S. and, therefore, here in the state of Indiana.”

Holdman, who represents Jay County, said his committee would take up a separate bill next week addressing whether to conform state tax law with 37 other provisions in the federal legislation.

He said the first bill focused on federal tax changes that would take effect for the 2025 tax year, with the aim of getting that bill to Braun’s

‘It’s just got a hefty price tag. It was \$60-some million the first year, and it grew to like \$300 million over four or five years. So it’s just too hefty for us to do that.’
—State Sen. Travis Holdman

desk by the end of January. It is set for a full Senate vote on Thursday.

Holdman hasn’t specified what will be adopted from the longer list, which includes the temporary federal deductions for workers who receive tips and overtime wages along with the interest on loans for vehicles built in the U.S.

The state analysis projects that taxpayers would save nearly \$275 million over the next two years with the deduction for overtime wages.

The tax break on tips would total

about \$80 million during that time, while the vehicle loan deduction was estimated at \$70 million.

The state tax code generally conforms with federal law for the simplicity of determining taxable income.

Indiana’s last major conformity update came in 2023, when Indiana adopted the Internal Revenue Code as of Jan. 1, 2023, bringing the state into line with pandemic-era relief measures such as the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan.

SERVICES
Friday, Jan. 16 Rockwell , Wendell: 6 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland. Shirk , Richard: 7 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.
Saturday, Jan. 17 Finch , Glen: 11 a.m., West Walnut Street Church of Christ, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland. Stafford , Donald: 2 p.m., Cornerstone Church, 190 W. Main St., Pennville. Vance , Robert: 3 p.m., Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St., Portland.
Monday, Jan. 19 Arnold , Rick: 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.
Saturday, Feb. 28 Hughes , Allyssah: noon, 205 E. 1st St., Bath, Illinois.

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The Commercial Review

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Saturday, January 17
Sunday, January 18

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Arts Place hosting piano, guitar labs

There are more opportunities upcoming to learn how to play a musical instrument.

Registration is also open for Arts Place's piano and guitar labs at its Jay County Campus. The labs are group lessons. They are open to second through fourth graders for piano and fourth through 12th graders for guitar. The cost is \$30 and \$40, respectively.

Guitar labs will begin Feb. 23, while piano labs will start March 12.

Taking Note

Also, the art exhibit Come Back Patricia Whack by Jolynn Reigeluth is on display at the Jay County Campus of Arts Place through Feb. 16.

For more information, visit

myartsplace.org or call (260) 726-4809.

Contest is open

The Indiana Association of School Principals' 2026 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest for sixth through eighth graders is now open.

Students are asked to write essays based on the following King quote:

“There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor

popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right.”

Additional contest information is available at iasp.org/students/mlk-jr-essay. The deadline to submit essays is Friday, Feb. 27.

Ag meeting scheduled

Purdue Extension will host its east region 2026 Agriculture Outlook Meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, at Randolph County Fairgrounds.

The event will feature speakers sharing information about agriculture, policy, markets and farm well-being. They include:

- Don Lamb, director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, on his perspective on current and emerging agriculture issues in the state
- Zoe Robinson of the Purdue Farm Stress Team, on information and resources for farmers

To register, email aalka@purdue.edu or call (765) 584-2271. The deadline is Jan. 20.

Divorce doesn't have to mean disappearance

By JANN BLACKSTONE
Tribune News Service

Q: I think continuing to interact with an ex after a breakup is unnatural. My parents divorced when I was 7 and I rarely saw my dad after that, and I turned out just fine. My kids will be fine too. So why is everyone making such a big deal about getting along after a breakup? It's over. End of story. Anything else just seems like pouring salt in a wound and asking your kids to watch it. That can't be good for them.

A: Your reaction is more common than you think. For many adults, divorce meant disappearance. One parent faded out; holidays were split cleanly down

Ex-etiquette



the middle, and emotional distance became the new normal. It didn't feel cruel — it simply felt finished. You adapted. You survived. You grew up.

But here is the quiet truth: Surviving is not the same as thriving.

When adults say, “I turned out fine,” what they often mean is, “I learned how to carry loss without talking about it.” Children are extraordi-

narily resilient, but they are also extraordinarily observant. When a parent vanishes from daily life, children don't just lose contact. They lose continuity. They lose access to half of their history, half of their story and sometimes half of their sense of safety.

Good ex-etiquette is not about forcing friendship. It is not about pretending the relationship didn't end or rewriting the past. It is about something much simpler and much harder: refusing to make your child pay the emotional bill for a relationship that didn't work.

Children do not need parents who like each other. They need parents

who can coexist without placing the kids in the middle. They need parents who make their transitions from house to house stress-free. They need parents who put them first.

When parents disengage entirely, children become the bridge. They carry information, tension, guilt and sometimes responsibility far beyond their years. They learn to filter stories, manage moods and soften realities. You may never have named it — but chances are you did some of that yourself.

Practicing good ex-etiquette changes that pattern.

It says:

My child should not be the messenger.

My child should not have to choose sides.

My child should not have to pretend everything is fine when it isn't.

Getting along after a breakup isn't about being “unnatural” — it's about being intentional. You are building a parenting system, not a marriage. That system requires communication, predictability and restraint. It requires you to speak to the other parent with enough respect that your child never feels the need to defend, hide or apologize for loving both of you.

Your children will adapt to whatever environment you offer them. The question isn't whether they will survive, because they

will. The real question is whether your children will grow up thinking people just vanish from their lives or that relationships can change shape and still be dependable, continuing to offer safety, love, continuity and respect, even when the family looks different. That's “good behavior after divorce or separation,” and that's good etiquette.

.....

Blackstone is a child custody mediator and the author of “The Bonus Family Handbook: The Definitive Guide to Co-parenting and Creating Stronger Families. She can be reached at bonusfamilies.com or jann@bonusfamilies.com.

Brother-in-law's new main squeeze is a familiar face

DEAR ABBY: Please help me move forward. My brother-in-law is dating a woman my husband was intimate with once before we were married. It makes family functions very awkward for me, but most of the family sees it as the past. It was the past, but it is now in our faces. My husband feels the same way.

Do we just keep the peace and stay away from functions as she seems to be more accepted than I am? We have been married 37 years. Are we being unreasonable?? — CONFUSED IN THE EAST

DEAR CONFUSED: Oh, my. It seems like “who goes around comes around.” It's a shame that you can't leave the past — a one-night stand more than 37 years ago — in the

Dear Abby



past and find the humor in this. I suspect it happens more often than you think. Please quit regarding this as a competition between you and your brother-in-law's girlfriend. Your husband chose YOU. End of contest. If there is cause for embarrassment, it should be hers, not yours.

.....

DEAR ABBY: My wife, “Muriel,” and I have been together for 10 years and mar-

ried for seven. She has worked in animal rescue for much of her life. Muriel thinks she has to save them all. No amount of explaining the financial and other consequences gets through to her.

We currently have 21 pets living in our house. I have tried searching for support groups that might help, but to no avail. Even if I found such a group, my wife won't admit there is a problem. Can you help? — STUMPED IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR STUMPED: I'll try. I will also venture to say that 21 animals living in a house may not be healthy for all concerned. Because your wife is unable to listen to reason, contact animal control services in your city or county and explain what's going on. (I'm

surprised one of your neighbors hasn't already tipped them off.) Your wife may have a heart of gold, but those creatures deserve a better standard of care than what your wife can give them.

.....

DEAR ABBY: I delivered mail for 36 years. For 25 of those years, my route was in a retirement community. I'm retired now, and it upsets me when I am not contacted when someone I was friendly with for 25 years passes away. This is happening more and more.

Yes, I was their mail lady, but I was also their friend. I got to know and love all my customers. Their children knew who I was. The ones I was closest to are the ones whose deaths upset me the most because I wasn't notified. I

know I'm not a relative, but still it hurts. If they read this, they will know who they are. I'm not angry. I'm just hurt. Do you understand? — RETIRED MAIL LADY IN ARIZONA

DEAR MAIL LADY: Yes, I understand, and I also empathize with you. However, the “children” you describe may not have notified you about their parents' deaths because, unless they had your contact information, they didn't know how to reach you.

.....

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.

Today

STITCH AND CHATTER QUILT CLUB — Meets from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center. Show and tell is at 1 p.m. The club is open to all ages and is for anyone who

wants to sew. Bring unfinished projects and a sewing machine. For more information, call Nan Weesner (260) 766-9334.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-

9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

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

EN AVANT CLUB — Meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SUICIDE GRIEF — Meets from 1 to 2:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month. The support group serves to help individuals who have lost a loved one to suicide. To register, contact Stephanie Patterson at (260) 251-3259.

ORGAN TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the IU Health Blackford main conference room.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY HEALTH JAY HOSPITAL OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 6 p.m. the third Thursday of each month in Indiana University Health Jay Hospital Conference Room B. The group is for ostomy and intestinal diversion patients and their friends and family to offer mutual support and learn about the latest products and information.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for par-

ents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1.

Friday

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL MUSEUM — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the third Friday and Saturday of each month at Webster Depot, 132 W. Railroad St.

PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. To learn

more information, please call (260) 251-3259.

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL MUSEUM — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the third Friday and Saturday of each month at Webster Depot, 132 W. Railroad St.

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is museumofthesoldier.com.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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Big business card (5x3.5)	— \$110
Business card (2x2)	— \$52

Space for color ads is limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.
Deadline for ads is Tuesday, Jan. 20.

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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, south-west 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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Redemption ...

Continued from page 8

Newton's ability to shoot and space the floor paid dividends for the entire Jay County offense as the Patriots (11-5, 3-1 ACAC) picked up their fifth win of the season by 30 points or more.

"It was huge, because when she's shooting the ball like that, then they can't focus on Hallie (Schwieterman) or Karsyn (Schwieterman) or Liz (Brunswick)," McIntire said. "That's a fourth person then that they have to guard ... Very proud of Raylah, shot the ball

with a lot of confidence tonight and we need her to do that and she's capable of doing that."

Aided by the slight reduction in defensive attention, Hallie Schwieterman was also pivotal in the Patriot victory. The junior willed her team to victory with a 24-point, 14-rebound double-double.

"That's just huge leadership," McIntire said. "That's where she's decided we were winning this game tonight as a team, and she was doing everything that she could to get us there ... I feel like she's on a mission (to) cut

nets down on Saturday."

While Hallie Schwieterman was able to shine as Jay County's offensive engine on Tuesday, the Patriots were able to curtail the production of Woodlan's leading scorer Alyssa Anderson.

When the Warriors upended the Patriots earlier in the season, Anderson's 15 second-half points were at the heart of the Woodlan triumph. This time, Jay County held her scoreless after the intermission as she mustered just 11 points during the contest.

"It was amazing to get revenge," Newton said. "And the shift in the game plan was to shut (Anderson) down, get her to as (few) points as possible."

Anderson wasn't the only Warrior to struggle against the staunch Patriot defense. Woodlan shot just 14% from the field and turned the ball over 23 times. The going got even rougher for the Warriors after the intermission, as Woodlan managed just four points in the second half.

The stifling defense helped secure the Patriots' 11th win of

the campaign, already more victories than they accumulated throughout the entirety of last season.

"To be able to come in and just see the growth of our team and how much that we've improved and matured, we had a lot of freshmen last year, and so a year's time, they've matured and gotten better," McIntire said. "... And so that's huge for our program, and to beat teams that beat us by double digits last year, hats off to our kids because that's how much growth they've shown."

Swamped ...

Continued from page 8

"I challenged them. 'Are we satisfied with where we're at? Because in my opinion, we've got a long way to go and could be better.' And they answered that challenge today."

The Patriots jumped on top of Woodlan (5-9) early. They had a pair of 6-0 runs in the first quarter to develop a 20-7 advantage. Jay County also had an 11-0 stretch over three minutes in the second quarter to build a 37-11 lead at the half.

While the Warriors struggled to contain the Patriots, it was Jay County's defense that really shined in the first 16 minutes.

Woodlan's top five scorers on the season, Keaton Delagrang (9.1 points per game), Camden Brooks (9.1), Nate Peters (7.0), C.J. Bullock (4.2) and Alex Art (3.6), were held scoreless in the first half on 0-of-8 from the field.

"Coach does a great job scouting the other team and knowing their players," said forward Aiden Phillips. "So we're just already prepared throughout the week, just going throughout the week and going through the scouting report."

Phillips guarded Delagrang, who had a team-high 12 points during the Dec. 5 matchup with Woodlan. The JCHS senior held Delagrang to just three points on Friday on 1-of-7 (14.3%) shooting. His sole bucket came on a baseline-out-of-bounds play that got ran too early before the official blew the play live, resulting in Delagrang rejecting the play entirely and relocating to the weak-side wing for a triple.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Alex Miller of Jay County drives past one of Woodlan's starters, Camden Brooks, in the closing minutes of the Patriots' 65-29 victory on Tuesday. The win advanced Jay County to Friday's ACAC semifinal against Southern Wells, which holds a 1-7 record.

"It was the same thing with the scouting," said Phillips. "I got to see what he does every day and I just watched him constantly and that's how I stopped him."

Peters and Art remained scoreless the entire game,

while Brooks made a layup in transition and Bullock finished with five points on two manufactured fast breaks in the third quarter and a free throw in the fourth.

Colin Keppler was Woodlan's leading scorer with 10

points, but still only had a 25% shooting percentage (3-for-12).

While WHS only had one player reach double figures, both Jayden Comer and Gradin Swoveland had 18 points apiece to lead Jay County. Phillips added nine

Box score				
Woodlan Warriors at Jay County Patriots				
Boys varsity summary				
Woodlan (5-9)				
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA		PTS
Jacquay	2-6	0-0		5
Brooks	1-9	0-0		2
Klepper	3-12	3-4		10
Bullock	2-2	1-2		5
Peters	0-3	0-0		0
Smith	1-3	0-0		2
Friend	0-0	0-0		0
Art	0-1	0-0		0
Delagrang	1-7	0-0		3
Haertig	0-0	0-0		0
Clear	1-1	0-2		2
Totals	9-44	4-8		29
	.205	.500		
Def. Rebound percentage: .458				
Jay County (8-2)				
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA		PTS
Overton	2-5	1-2		5
Comer	6-10	2-2		18
Monroe	2-2	0-0		6
Barnett	0-0	0-0		0
Wasson	0-2	0-0		0
Wiggins	0-0	0-0		0
Miller	0-1	0-0		0
Forthofer	2-3	0-0		4
Phillips	4-5	1-2		9
Snow	1-1	1-1		3
Swoveland	6-16	6-6		18
Sommers	1-3	0-0		2
Totals	24-48	11-15		65
	.500	.733		
Def. Rebound percentage: .606				
Score by quarters:				
Woodlan	7	4	13	5 — 29
Jay Co.	20	17	15	13 — 65
3-point shooting: Woodlan 3-18 (Jacquay 1-3, Delagrang 1-3, Klepper 1-4, Smith 0-1, Art 0-1, Peters 0-2, Brooks 0-4). Jay County 6-19 (Comer 4-8, Monroe 2-2, Wasson 0-2, Overton 0-3, Swoveland 0-4).				
Rebounds: Woodlan 24 (Bullock 5, Jacquay 3, Brooks 3, Smith 3, Delagrang 3, Team 3, Clear 2, Klepper, Peters). Jay County 33 (Swoveland 7, Comer 6, Sommers 4, Phillips 3, Team 3, Overton 2, Barnett 2, Wasson 2, Forthofer 2, Wiggins, Snow).				
Assists: Woodlan 3 (Jacquay, Klepper, Peters). Jay County 9 (Swoveland 3, Forthofer 2, Overton, Barnett, Wiggins, Phillips).				
Blocks: Woodlan 0. Jay County 6 (Swoveland 3, Overton, Forthofer, Sommers).				
Personal fouls: Woodlan 16 (Brooks 3, Jacquay 2, Peters 2, Delagrang 2, Clear 2, Klepper, Smith, Friend, Art). Jay County 13 (Wasson 2, Forthofer 2, Phillips 2, Swoveland 2, Sommers 2, Comer, Barnett, Snow).				
Turnovers: Woodlan 15. Jay County 10.				

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Boys wrestling at Homestead — 6:30 p.m.; Junior high boys basketball vs. Heritage — 6 p.m.; Junior high girls basketball at Heritage — 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys bowling vs. Newton at McBo's Lanes — 4 p.m.; Girls bowling vs. Newton at McBo's Lanes — 4 p.m.; Girls basketball vs. Minster — 6 p.m.; Middle school girls basketball at South Adams — 5 p.m.
Friday
Jay County — Girls wrestling state tournament at

Corteva Coliseum — 10:30 a.m.; Girls basketball in Allen County Athletic Conference tournament vs. Southern Wells — 6 p.m.; Boys basketball in Allen County Athletic Conference tournament vs. Southern Wells — 7:30 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys bowling vs. Memorial — 4 p.m.; Girls bowling vs. Memorial — 4 p.m.; Boys basketball at Minster — 6 p.m.

TV schedule

Today
2 p.m. — USA golf: Latin America Amateur Championship (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Villanova at UConn (FS1); Texas at South Carolina (ESPN2);

Nebraska at Michigan State (BTN)
7 p.m. — NHL: Philadelphia Flyers at Pittsburgh Penguins (ESPN)
8 p.m. — NHL: Seattle Kraken at Boston Bruins (ABC)
9 p.m. — College basketball: Wichita State at Florida Atlantic (ESPN2)
9 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Oregon at Iowa (FS1)
9:30 p.m. — NHL: Toronto Maple Leafs at Vegas Golden Knights (ESPN)

Friday
2 p.m. — USA golf: Latin America Amateur

Championship (ESPN2)
6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Creighton at Providence (FS1)
7 p.m. — NBA: Cleveland Cavaliers at Philadelphia 76ers (ESPN); New Orleans Pelicans at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)
7 p.m. — College wrestling: Iowa at Penn State (BTN)
7 p.m. — College gymnastics: Alabama at Florida (BTN)
7:30 p.m. — Unrivaled basketball: Phantom BC at Laces BC (TNT)
8 p.m. — College basketball: Baylor at Kansas (FOX)

8:30 p.m. — College basketball: Loyola Chicago at Dayton (ESPN2); Marquette at DePaul (FS1)
8:45 p.m. — Unrivaled basketball: Hive BC at Rose BC (TNT)
9 p.m. — College wrestling: Minnesota at Nebraska (BTN)
9:30 p.m. — NBA: Minnesota Timberwolves at Houston Rockets (ESPN)
10:30 p.m. — College basketball: Colorado State at Boise State (FS1)
.....
To have an event listed in "Sports on tap", email details to sports@thecr.com

90 SALE CALENDAR

49TH ANNUAL COLDWATER YOUNG FARMERS CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

Saturday February 14, 2026

The Coldwater Young Farmer Association will be conducting their annual farm machinery consignment auction at the Coldwater football stadium parking lot in Coldwater, Ohio. For more information on consigning your farm machinery please call: Dusty Uhlenhake 419-733-3096 Rick Uhlenhake 419-852-0800

Machinery consigned by January 17, 2026 can be advertised

PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY JANUARY 31ST, 2026 TIME 10:00 A.M. LOCATED: 6278 W. 300 N. PENNVILLE, IN BACKHOE TRACTOR-CAMPER-TRAILER Allis Chalmers I-400 Loader Backhoe. Allis Chalmers WD45 Tractor. 1997 Prowler Fifth Wheel Camper. 2010 Single Axel Utility Trailer w/ Ramp. 2001 Dodge Dakota 4x4 (rough). Small Portable Chicken

90 SALE CALENDAR

House. Charcoal Hog Roaster on Transport. Troybilt Pony Rototiller. Cushman Scooter. Mini Bikes. Bicycles. Gas Powered Wood Chipper. Push Mowers. 1 1/2i Pacer Trash Pump. Apartment Sized Chest Freezer. 5 Drawer Dresser. Portable Dish Washer. Other Items Not Mentioned.

OWNERS: Randy Morgan and Patricia Morgan

Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos. Online bidding available.

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Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587

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10:00am

OPEN HOUSE February 2nd, 4-6 PM

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BLACKFORD SCHOOLS

90 SALE CALENDAR

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TRACT 3: Tract 1 & 2 Combined

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110 HELP WANTED

TOWN OF REDKEY ACCEPTING applications for Deputy Marshall. Experience preferred but not mandatory. Apply at the Redkey Town Hall. Applications accepted from January 12-23.

130 MISC. FOR SALE

SCRATCH PADS ARE BACK various bundles sizes and XL pads. \$1.25 plus tax. Pick up at The Commercial Review Tuesday thru Friday 10am to 4pm.

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190 FARMERS COLUMN

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN USING soil and water conservation practices such as cover crops or grassed waterways on the ground you farm? Let us help you! Your land and the way you manage it can make a positive difference. The Upper Mississinewa River Watershed Cost-Share Program is now accepting applications, available at the following county Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) offices: Blackford, Delaware, Grant, Jay, Randolph, and Darke. Selected applicants will be reimbursed up to 75% of the cost of their chosen practice(s). This program supports newly implemented practices; pre-existing structures and practices do not qualify, outside of cover crops. The maximum amount paid out for vegetative practices is \$5,000, and for structural practices is \$15,000. There are approximately 40 eligible practices, from livestock fences to pollinator habitat and much more. Priority will be given to those within subwatersheds at Deer Creek, Upper Big Lick Creek,

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130 MISC. FOR SALE

Halfway Creek, Bush Creek, and Gray Branch. Others may be prioritized depending on the number of applications received. If you have questions about the program, please call Clair Burt at the Delaware County SWCD at 765-747-5531 ext. 3. The application deadline is January 31, 2026.

200 FOR RENT

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT COUNTY OF JAY, SS: 2026 TERM

In the Matter of the Unsupervised Administration of the Estate of: Suzanne Fields, Deceased No. 38CO1-2601-EU-00002

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that John Lyons was, on the 9th day of January, 2026, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Suzanne Fields deceased, who died on December 16, 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 9th day of January, 2026.

Melissa Elliott

Clerk of the Circuit Court, For Jay County, Indiana HINKLE, RACSTER, SCHEMENAUR & LANDERS

121 W. High Street Portland, IN 47371

Attorney

CR 1-15,22-2026-HSPAXLP

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Yorktown swim got the better of the JCHS tankers, see roundup below

FRHS girls basketball hosts Minster today, see Sports on tap

Patriots earn redemption

Jay County avenges regular-season loss to Warriors

By **ETHAN OSKROBA**
The Commercial Review

The last time Jay County and Woodlan squared off, the Patriots saw their seven-game winning streak snapped in an agonizing 56-54 defeat on Jan. 2.

Less than two weeks later, the Jay County High School girls basketball team didn't let history repeat itself, romping to a dominant 50-20 home victory over the Woodlan Warriors in the opening round of the Allen County Athletic Conference tournament on Tuesday.

Next up, the Patriots will host Southern Wells in a semifinal matchup at 6 p.m. on Friday.

"We felt like we didn't play up to our level last time, and so I felt like the kids came in and were on a mission and I felt like the mission was accomplished," said Jay County coach Sherri McIntire. "We just did the things that we needed to do defensively, and rebounding was a big key ... I'm very pleased with the kids' effort."

Jay County's effort and intensity were evident from the opening tip, as the Patriots rattled off a 14-0 run in the final four-and-a-half minutes of the first quarter to lead 17-2.

One key cog in the Patriots' early dominance was Raylah Newton. The senior drained four 3-pointers in the opening half to set the tone for Jay County.

Motivation from the prior defeat to Woodlan (9-7, 5-0 Allen County Athletic Conference) helped propel Newton to the career-best four 3-pointers and the fourth double-digit scoring game of her career.

"I just took last game, the last game that we got beat, as just energy to put back for my team to win it," Newton said.

See **Redemption** page 7



The Commercial Review/Ethan Oskroba

Raylah Newton of the Jay County High School girls basketball team fires a 3-pointer during the Patriots' 50-20 victory over the Woodlan Warriors in the opening round of the Allen County Athletic Conference tournament. Newton's career-best four 3-pointers helped power the Patriots to redemption after they had endured a 56-54 loss to Woodlan on Jan. 2.

Box score				
Woodlan Warriors at Jay County Patriots				
Girls varsity summary				
Woodlan (9-7, 5-0 ACAC)				
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
Anderson	4-12	3-6	11	
Scheumann	1-9	1-2	4	
McDaniel	1-6	0-0	3	
Thullner	1-3	0-0	2	
Hodson	0-7	0-0	0	
Peoples	0-4	0-0	0	
Gillingham	0-3	0-0	0	
Sterling	0-3	0-0	0	
Noble	0-1	0-0	0	
Crozier	0-1	0-0	0	
Smith	0-1	0-0	0	
Totals	7-50	4-8	20	
	.140	.500		
Def. Rebound percentage: .714				
Jay County (11-5, 3-1 ACAC)				
	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
HSchwrtmn	10-21	1-2	24	
Newton	4-5	0-0	12	
KSchwrtmn	4-13	0-2	8	
Brunswick	1-4	1-2	4	
Peters	1-2	0-0	2	
Lekue	0-1	0-2	0	
Schemenaur	0-1	0-2	0	
Dirksen	0-1	0-0	0	
May	0-1	0-0	0	
ASchwrtmn	0-0	0-0	0	
Kaigler	0-0	0-0	0	
Totals	20-49	2-10	50	
	.408	.200		
Def. Rebound percentage: .744				
Score by quarters:				
Woodlan	2	14	1	3 — 20
Jay Co.	17	14	8	11 — 50
3-point shooting: Woodlan 2-19 (McDaniel 1-6, Scheumann 1-4, Hodson 0-3, Gillingham 0-3, Noble 0-1, Sterling 0-1, Smith 0-1). Jay County 8-16 (Newton 4-5, HSchwieterman 3-5, Brunswick 1-1, KSchwierterman 0-1, Dirksen 0-1).				
Rebounds: Woodlan 30 (Anderson 8, Peoples 7, Hodson 5, Thullner 2, Sterling 2, McDaniel 2, Noble 1, Crozier 1, Scheumann 1, Gillingham 1). Jay County 37 (HSchwierterman 14, KSchwierterman 7, May 4, Peters 4, Dirksen 3, Newton 1, Brunswick 1, Lekue Magro 1, Schemenaur 1, ASchwierterman 1).				
Assists: Woodlan 6 (Hodson 3, Scheumann 1, Sterling 1, Peoples 1). Jay County 11 (HSchwierterman 4, KSchwierterman 3, Newton 3, Brunswick 1).				
Blocks: Woodlan 2 (Peoples 2). Jay County 2 (HSchwierterman 1, Brunswick 1).				
Personal fouls: Woodlan 9 (Hodson 2, Noble 2, Thullner 1, Sterling 1, Smith 1, Gillingham 1, Peoples 1). Jay County 12 (Schemenaur 3, May 2, Peters 2, KSchwierterman 1, HSchwieterman 1, Brunswick 1, Dirksen 1, Lukue Magro 1).				
Turnovers: Woodlan 23. Jay County 19.				

Swamped in first half

Jay's defense suffocated Woodlan over first 16 minutes to allow just 11 points

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

The first time the Warriors visited Portland, the Patriots defense gave up a total of 28 points, including 27 to the Warriors' top five scorers on the year.

In the second matchup, the Patriots only gave up 10 points to the top five threats, none of which came in the first half. As a result, the Patriots ran ahead by over 25 points and never looked back.

A strong first half led the Jay County High School boys basketball team to a 65-29 victory over the Woodlan Warriors on Tuesday in the first round of the Allen County Athletic Conference tournament.

The win earns the Patriots (8-2) a spot in the ACAC tournament semifinal against Southern Wells. The game will follow the conclusion of the Jay County girls ACAC semifinal against the Raiders.

"The first half was really good," said JCHS coach Tyler Rigby. "All week we talked about ourselves and how good we could be at things we do every day. You could tell by the look on their faces, they were locked in and mentally focused on those things and we executed them really well. Much better than we've done up to this point."

See **Swamped** page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School senior Jacob Monroe starts to shoot a triple from the wing during the Patriots' 65-29 beating of the Woodlan Warriors in the ACAC tournament opener on Tuesday. Monroe came into the game to knock down two threes while the Patriot bench players held Woodlan scoreless over the final four minutes of play.

Tankers fall at Yorktown

YORKTOWN — The girls ran into a buzzsaw, while the boys' effort wasn't quite enough.

The Jay County High School swim teams lost to the Yorktown Tigers in Tuesday's meet, which was moved to Yorktown due to issues with the JCHS pool. The boys fell 100-83, while the girls were defeated 106-64.

The boys (3-5) claimed eight out of the 12 events, but depth proved to be a problem for them. The girls (6-2) struggled as they won a season-low two events.

Maria Laux and Lauren Fisher secured the only victories for the JCHS girls. Laux won the 50-yard freestyle in 26.78 seconds. Fisher beat the field in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1 minute, 21.65 seconds.

Cooper Glentzer, Grady Warvel and Carson Westgerdes all won two events for Jay County.

Glentzer topped the 200 freestyle with a swim of 1:55.55 and a time of 5:17.33 earned him first in the 500 freestyle.

Warvel opened his day with a win in the 200 individual medley (2:14.37) before claiming the 100 butterfly in 57.02 seconds.

Westgerdes picked up his first win in the 100 freestyle with a time of 53.08. Four events later, Westgerdes claimed his second first-place finish with a time of 1:08.18 in the breaststroke.

The Patriot boys also won a pair of relay races. Warvel, Westgerdes and Glentzer were joined by Peyton Yowell to win the 200 freestyle relay in 1:38.12. The same group swam a 3:39.68 to take the 400 freestyle relay as well.

While the girls only won two events, they claimed the runner-up spot in seven, including all three relays.