

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Jail inmate died Monday

*Police are investigating death of Muncie man*

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

A Jay County Jail inmate's death is under investigation.

Kevin T. Whitted, 33, Muncie, collapsed in his cell at the jail on Monday morning. He later died at IU Health Jay.

According to a press release from Indiana State Police, Whitted was being held alone in a padded cell at the jail and monitored with surveillance video. Jail staff noticed him fall forward about 7:22 a.m. Monday and called Jay Emergency Medical Service and performed CPR on Whitted.

Whitted was then transported to the hospital, where he was later pronounced dead.

The press release says it is suspected to have had a medical condition related to drug addiction withdrawal symptoms, though that detail has not been confirmed.

Jay County Sheriff Ray Newton said Whitted had been getting treatment for his symptoms.

An autopsy was scheduled for late Tuesday morning, although Jay County coroner Michael Brewster noted it will likely take between four to six weeks to get toxicology results back.

Newton called Indiana State Police in Fort Wayne to investigate the death.

Whitted's criminal history includes several charges related to drug possession, specifically narcotic drugs, and driving offenses. He recently pleaded guilty to possession of a narcotic drug, a Level 6 felony, in Jay Circuit Court, and was sentenced Nov. 13 to 16 months in Indiana Department of Correction. He was being held at the jail until he could be transported to prison to serve his sentence.

## On recovery



Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition Peer Addiction Support Team (PAST) director Ally Raines (right) talks with Kimbra Reynolds, executive director of the coalition. Raines, who celebrated five years drug-free in October, took over as PAST director in July. "I think being in recovery, you're constantly working on yourself," she said. "Today, five years into it, I still work on things in my life ... But I also have a healthy support system now."

The Commercial Review/Louise Ronald

## 'You just have to find your people'

By LOUISE RONALD

The Commercial Review

In June, Ally Raines became director of the Peer Addiction Support Team (PAST) recovery program under the umbrella of the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition.

PAST offers free support from trained peer recovery coaches in Jay,

Blackford, Delaware, Randolph, Huntington, Wells and Adams counties (including programs in the Blackford and Delaware County jails). It also makes available medicated-assisted treatment, over-dose-reversal medication and counseling to overcome the shame and stigma of addiction.

It's a big job. But Raines is familiar with the territory of addiction.

A decade ago, she was in a downward spiral of pills, heroin and meth, that landed her in jail twice in 2018.

She's also familiar with the territory of recovery.

On Oct. 20, Raines cel-

ebrated five years of being drug free.

She's decided it's time to tell her story.

"I just think it's important to know how you can go from the depths of hell to ... where I'm at now," she said recently in her Portland office.

.....

Raines was a junior at

Jay County High School when her family moved south of Bloomington and she transferred to Bedford North Lawrence High.

"I moved to a place I didn't know," she said. "I connected with the wrong crowd of people there. ... They were the ones that welcomed me."

See **People** page 2A

## Coalition seeks to develop facility

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Addiction can be a never-ending cycle.

Ally Raines, who is director of PAST (Peer Addiction Support Team) Recovery Services for Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition and in October celebrated five years of being drug-free (see related story), explained how those suffering with addiction

can get stuck in a loop because of their surroundings.

"Sometimes people will go to treatment, or they get out of jail and have nowhere else to go besides the place that they got sick at, and so they start using again," she said.

A key factor in recovery is providing those struggling with addiction a safe, positively charged space to thrive.

Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition and local officials are working toward establishing a recovery residence, also known as a sober living facility, for those living with addiction.

Indiana is receiving about \$507 million over an 18-year period as the result of the National Opioid Settlement with distributors McKesson, Cardinal Health and

AmerisourceBergen and manufacturer Janssen Pharmaceuticals, and parent company Johnson and Johnson. House Enrolled Act 1193, which was passed by Indiana General Assembly and signed by Gov. Eric Holcomb in March 2022, splits the funds between the state and local entities and defines how much each entity will receive.

See **Facility** page 4A



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Winterfest wave

Rosalie Chambers waves while riding on a float during Saturday evening's Parade of Lights in downtown Portland as part of Jay County Chamber of Commerce's Winterfest activities. Winterfest continues with holiday home tours from noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 3. Tickets are available at the chamber office, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.

## Council OKs bidding on land

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — The village may be pursuing real estate.

It's also looking at legislation to prevent the establishment of marijuana dispensaries within village limits.

Fort Recovery Village Council authorized Mayor Dave Kaup and village administrator Randy Diller to bid and purchase up to 89 acres of land located along the east edge of Fort Recovery. If acquired, hopes are to use the area for potential residential growth for the village with availability for some commercial businesses.

Council originally approved up to 52 acres during the regular meeting, but after an executive session it decided to allow for bidding on up to 89 acres. Diller explained this would give the village an option to bid on the entire property on sale in an auction, noting it could depend on the price per acre.

Also Monday, council agreed to move forward with legislation to prohibit dispensaries from setting up shop in the village.

Ohio voters passed Issue 2 on Nov. 7, legalizing recreational marijuana for 21-year-old adults and older within 30 days.

See **Council** page 2

### Deaths

Dorothy Osborne, 88, Pennville

Gary Williams, 62, Muncie

Jerry Grabau, 81, Geneva

Paula Rains, 78, Hartford City

Lisa Parrett, 47, Huntington

Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 46 degrees Monday. The low was 37.

Expect a low in the lower 30s tonight with winds gusting to 20 miles per hour. The Thanksgiving forecast calls for a high in the upper 40s under sunny skies.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

A public meeting regarding Portland Redevelopment Commission's economic development plan is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Monday at John Jay Center for Learning. The public will have the opportunity to learn about the plan and offer feedback. A draft version of the plan is available at portlanddowntownplan.com.

### Coming up

There will be no newspaper Thursday in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. We will resume our regular publishing schedule Friday.





# Obituaries

## Dorothy Osborne

June 15, 1935-Nov. 18, 2023  
Dorothy Osborne, age 88, a former longtime resident of Pennville, passed away on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023, at Persimmon Ridge in Portland.

Dorothy was born on June 15, 1935, in Big Stone Gap, Virginia, the daughter of Dewey and Edith (Robinette) Wells. She graduated from East Stone Gap High School and earned a master's degree in education from Ball State University. She worked as a librarian and teacher for Jay School Corporation for 32 years.

She was a member of Corner-

stone of Pennville and Pennville Eastern Star, and enjoyed square dancing.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her husband of 64 years, William "Pat" Osborne, who passed away on Oct. 30, 2023.

Survivors include: Her children — Jenny Guinrich (husband: Cliff), Portland, Indiana, and Dewey Osborne (wife: Karla), Redkey, Indiana. Sister — Charlotte Granbery, Centre Hall, Pennsylvania



Osborne

Four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren

Visitation will be held on Monday, Nov. 27, 2023, from 3 to 7 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. The funeral will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023, at 11 a.m. at Cornerstone Church of Pennville, 190 W. Main St., Pennville, Indiana. Pastors Dave Davidson and Gary Newton will officiate and burial will follow at I.O.O.F. Twin Hill Cemetery in Pennville.

Memorials may be directed to Alzheimer's Association or Jay County Cancer Society.

Condolences may be

expressed at [williamson-spencer.com](http://williamson-spencer.com).

**Jerry D. Grabau**, Geneva, Jan. 28, 1942-Nov. 18, 2023. Services will be at 3 p.m. Saturday at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1217 Clark St., Berne.

**Gary Williams**, Muncie, the father of Jay County residents, Nov. 3, 1961-Nov. 18, 2023. Services were scheduled for noon today at I.O.O.F. Twin Hill Cemetery in Pennville.

**Paula June Rains**, Hartford City, the mother of a Dunkirk woman, died Saturday. Services will be at 11 a.m. Dec. 6 at Hillcrest Cemetery in Redkey.

**Lisa Jo Parrett**, Huntington, a relative of Geneva residents, Nov. 12, 1976-Nov. 16, 2023. Services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 N. Washington St., Geneva.

The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge.

They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

## CR almanac

Thursday 11/23	Friday 11/24	Saturday 11/25	Sunday 11/26	Monday 11/27
<b>48/27</b>	<b>40/23</b>	<b>40/24</b>	<b>40/27</b>	<b>40/27</b>
Skies will be sunny with a high of 48. The low will dip into the upper 20s.	The forecast calls for partly cloudy skies with a high of 40.	Skies will be partly cloudy with a high of 40.	Expect mostly cloudy skies with a slight chance of rain early and rain possible in the afternoon as well.	The high will be 40 again under mostly sunny skies.

## Lotteries

**Powerball**  
Monday  
19-26-30-39-63  
Power Ball: 13  
Power Play: 2  
Estimated jackpot: \$313 million

Daily Four: 2-7-7-0  
Quick Draw: 4-10-13-16-17-23-25-30-33-40-49-55-56-57-61-67-68-71-79-80  
Cash 5: 7-16-20-40-43  
Estimated jackpot: \$95,000

**Mega Millions**  
Estimated jackpot: \$289 million

**Hoosier**  
Monday  
Midday  
Daily Three: 4-5-5  
Daily Four: 2-6-2-6  
Quick Draw: 1-17-18-31-32-35-38-45-47-48-50-52-53-59-62-63-64-66-67-75  
Evening  
Daily Three: 7-9-4

**Ohio**  
Monday  
Midday  
Pick 3: 0-6-1  
Pick 4: 4-0-2-7  
Pick 5: 8-5-5-3-7  
Evening  
Pick 3: 9-9-0  
Pick 4: 4-4-2-2  
Pick 5: 3-3-9-1-8  
Rolling Cash: 6-7-10-15-16  
Estimated jackpot: \$100,000

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b>	Dec. beans .....13.44 Wheat ..... 5.10
Corn.....4.29 Dec. corn .....4.39 Wheat .....4.98	<b>ADM Montpelier</b>
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b>	Corn.....4.15 Late Nov. corn .....4.54 Beans .....13.31 Dec. beans .....13.46 Wheat .....5.11
Corn.....4.29 Dec. corn .....4.59 Jan. corn .....4.78	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b>
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b>	Corn.....4.25 Dec. corn .....4.40 Beans .....13.08 Dec. beans .....13.13 Wheat .....4.71
Corn .....4.14 Dec. corn .....4.44 Beans .....13.19	

## Today in history

In 1972, Portland City Council agreed to move forward with the process of seeking a \$120,000 bond for the purchase of a new firetruck and other improvements, including \$30,000 in upgrades to the fire station to house the new truck.

In 1986, Mike Tyson, 20, knocked out Trevor Berbick to become the youngest heavyweight champion in boxing history. He had nine successful title defenses before losing the title to James "Buster" Douglas in Tokyo on Feb. 11, 1990.

In 1995, Pixar released "Toy Story," the first feature-length animated film that was

completely created by computer. It made \$365.3 million worldwide and spawned six sequels.

In 2021, Dunkirk City Council approved a contract with Kenna Consulting of Greenwood for assistance with seeking a \$600,000 Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs grant to create two detention basins on the east side of the city.

In 2022, a Safe Haven Baby Box was dedicated at Portland Fire Department. The installation of the box was made possible through donations from Tom Robbins of Portland and the IU Health Jay Foundation. —The CR

## Citizen's calendar

**Today**  
4 p.m. — Jay County Soil & Water Conservation District, USDA Service Center, 1331 W. Indiana 67, Portland.  
6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.

**Monday**  
9 a.m. — Jay County

Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St.  
3:30 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District Board, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland.  
6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St.  
7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.

## People ...

Continued from page 1A  
Like many students, Raines experimented with marijuana and alcohol.

"That was what you did in school, so I didn't think that I had a problem," she said.

Her schoolwork didn't suffer. Raines graduated with academic honors in 2012. After that, she moved back to Jay County, where her parents already had relocated.

Again, she "got in with the wrong crowd."

This time, it was people she had known for years.

"They were who I looked up to. I just wanted to hang out with them," Raines said.

"They were using pills, so Raines did too. But it didn't end there.

"In a matter of two years, I switched from the pills to heroin," she said. "It was a rough time."

Then came a big scare.

"I was like 21, and someone real-

*'In a matter of two years, I switched from the pills to heroin. It was a rough time.'*

—Ally Raines

ly close to me overdosed in front of me," said Raines.

Fortunately, the overdose wasn't fatal, but Raines was frightened enough to go to her parents.

"I told them what all I was doing," she said. "They had no idea at all. They were shocked. They didn't know how to deal with it."

That night, she said, her father didn't say a word to her.

The next morning, she discovered he had spent the night on the internet "reading about how to help, just getting more informa-

tion," she said. "It made me feel good."

Her parents let her stay with them while she got clean. They put her in contact with Randy Davis, founder of A Better Life - Brianna's Hope, which helped pay for Raines' rehabilitation at The Harbor Light Center in Indianapolis. Ally's mother, Gina Raines, was so impressed with Davis' organization that she got a job there and is now office manager and executive board treasurer.

See People page 4A

## Felony arrests

### Criminal trespassing

A Dunkirk man was arrested Saturday for criminal trespassing.

Dakota C. Nicklay, 30, 260 Mount Auburn St., is charged in Jay Superior Court with a Level 6 felony.

He's being held on a \$3,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

### Unlawful carry

A Winchester man was arrested Monday for unlawful carrying of a handgun and other charges.

Chad M. Sluder, 27, 418 N. Oak St., is charged in Jay Circuit Court with a Level 5 felony for unlawful carrying of a handgun —

he has a prior felony conviction within the last 15 years — a Class A misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for driving with a suspended license.

He's being held on a \$8,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

## Council ...

Continued from page 1  
Ohio residents will be able to cultivate, manufacture, test and sell marijuana.

They may also grow their own products at home, but there is a limit of six plants per person or 12 plants per residence.

It will take dispensaries about nine months to obtain licenses to sell recreational marijuana.

Similar to moves made when medical marijuana was introduced, Diller said the village could prohibit dispensaries from opening in the village.

Council also agreed Monday to pay \$360,485.42 to Capital Electric for purchase and installation

of a new traffic signal at the intersection of Elm and Butler Streets. The cost came in about \$16,000 less than the engineer's estimate.

Diller noted the company was the only bidder for the project and that it has regularly conducted maintenance work on the village's sole stoplight at the intersection of Butler and Wayne streets.

Delivery for the traffic signal is expected to take between six and nine months.

In other business, council members:

- Accepted 0.909 acres of annexed land, which will be used for the Sawyer Overman Ninja Park.
- Set pay schedules for village personnel on a first reading. Employees will be seeing at least 4% raises next year, with

police expected to get between 8% and 9% wage increases.

- Renewed a two-year contract with Erin Abels as the village's solicitor, setting her rate at \$965 monthly for the first year — that's a \$35 monthly increase from the current rate — and \$1,000 monthly for the second year.
- Authorized and established publication requirements as Fort Recovery's website and Facebook page on a first reading. The measure comes in response to the state's decision to no longer require local entities to publish notices in the newspaper.
- Heard reconstruction work along Gwendolyn and Wiggs streets is expected to begin in February, with the work wrapping up by the end of May.

### SERVICES

#### Wednesday

**Williams**, Gary: noon, I.O.O.F. Twin Hill Cemetery, Pennville.

**Lehman**, Marvin: 6 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

#### Friday

**Parrett**, Lisa: 1 p.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

#### Saturday

**Grabau**, Jerry: 3 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church, 1217 Clark St., Berne.

#### Tuesday

**Osborne**, Dorothy: 11 a.m., Cornerstone Church of Pennville, 190 W. Main St., Pennville.

#### December 6

**Rains**, Paula: 11 a.m., Hillcrest Cemetery, Redkey.

Service listings provided by

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**It's that Time Again!**

Our Christmas Greetings issue will appear in The Commercial Review, The News-Gazette, The News Times and The News and Sun the week of Dec. 18.

Ads 15 inches or larger may include a photo of your staff. For those who provide their own photo, the fee will be \$20. (The fee will be waived if you get your photo to us by Nov. 30.) If you'd like us to come take your picture, the fee will be \$50.

Deadline for all ads & photos is **December 8th!**

We try hard not to miss anyone who wants to be in this issue.

If you do not get contacted and would like to be in our Christmas Greetings special section, please email [ads@the-cr.com](mailto:ads@the-cr.com) or call (260) 726-8141.

**GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS**



# High jump

## Portland native set wingsuit world record



By **ANDREW BALKO**  
The Commercial Review

**WHITEVILLE, Tenn.** — Hoosier Hill, which is 11 miles north of Richmond, boasts the highest altitude in Indiana at 1,257 feet above sea level.

The Ohio River is the lowest point in the state at 320 feet above sea level in Posey County.

This means that there is only a 937 foot difference in altitude throughout Indiana, making it the seventh flattest state in the country.

A Portland native has been able to get a slightly different perspective of the world.

Aaron Smith, who lived in Portland until he was around 10 years old, set the world record for the highest wingsuit jump at 43,253.6 feet above Whiteville, Tennessee, on July 1.

“It’s unlike any other experience I’ve had,” Smith said. “The feeling of getting to the ground safely, is like accomplishing something that was hard. ... There’s so many ways it can go wrong. But you nailed it. You got it right. And it feels amazing.”

Before Smith could attempt a world record, he had to get started in the sport. It wasn’t that long ago, the first time Smith put on a parachute and hopped into a plane.

In 2020, during the coronavirus pandemic lockdowns, Smith found himself bored and looking for something to do to pass the time. He is an adjunct instructor at the University of Central Florida, and during that time, sports were considered essential by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, opening the door for him.

After trying wingsuit jumping for the first time, Smith was hooked.

“When we got to the ground safely, and we stopped, I instantly knew I wanted to do this for the rest of my life,” Smith said.

He started skydiving frequently during that time, to the

point where he wanted to make it more interesting. Once Smith skydived 200 times, he was eligible to put on a wingsuit which helps with horizontal flight while falling.

As it currently stands, Smith has been skydiving 816 times and used a wingsuit 600 times. Somewhere along the lines, he got good enough that he was looking for a way to make things more interesting. Smith described it like learning to ride a bicycle.

“What do you do when you’re a little boy learning to ride your bicycle?” Smith said. “You ride your bike, then you want to go fast. You start getting faster and faster. Then you start doing obstacle courses and you start doing wheelies and stuff like that.”

“It’s very much like the same thing. I started in the beginner suit, then I got to an intermediate suit, then an advanced suit. And then I’m starting to hit diminishing returns on my skill progression.”

Smith started doing night jumps, but even that started to get dull. To quench his skydiving thirst, he decided to try a high altitude, low oxygen (HALO) jump. HALO jumps include dives of 18,000 feet or higher and often require an oxygen tank during the ascension.

When Smith called Mike Mullins of West Tennessee Skydiving, setting a world record wasn’t even on his mind. Smith didn’t realize that a world record would even be obtainable, but rather assumed someone had already gone out of their way to set the record at an exorbitantly high altitude for the sake of not having it beat.

“If you just get out the door and survive the jump, you will set the world record,” Smith recalled Mullins saying.

“I want that. I want that a lot,” Smith responded.

See **Jump** page 7A

Photo provided

Portland native Aaron Smith (pictured) set the world record for the highest wingsuit jump this summer in Tennessee. He leapt from 43,253.6 feet.



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# People ...

Continued from page 2A  
After rehab, Raines was to participate in the recovery program in Redkey. She went, but she didn't participate.  
"I tried to do it by myself," she said. "I'd go to the recovery meetings and not connect with anybody. I wouldn't talk, put myself out there, anything. I did that for nine months to a year."  
Then she became involved with a man and started using drugs again.  
Not heroin, though.  
"I didn't want to die," said Raines. "I switched to meth."  
That continued until January 2018.  
"Then I went to jail," she said.  
The couple was living in Blackford County, where the man was on house arrest. Police came to do a compliance

check and Raines ended up in jail.  
"I was scared," she said.  
In March, Raines was out on probation.  
"I didn't do anything for my recovery," she said. "I didn't hit meetings or connect with people."  
Within months, she was using again.  
And on Oct. 20, 2018, she went back to the Blackford County Jail.  
That marked the first day of her recovery.  
.....  
Raines' probation officer, Mike Winegardner, jailed her after she repeatedly failed drug tests. Although angry at the time, she now appreciates Winegardner's help.  
"He saw the good in me when I couldn't see it in myself," she said. "Even though he sent me

back to jail ... he was just trying to keep me safe. I can see that now."  
After Winegardner testified on her behalf, Raines went on probation again. Moved by his confidence in her, she changed tactics.  
"I decided I was going to do stuff different this time," she said.  
"I started going to recovery meetings and I connected with a group of people," she added. "We started going to all the Brianna's Hope meetings around the area. There's one almost every night of the week. ... I think that's what kept me sober was that connection — becoming friends with people that were still clean — and feeling like I was a part of something, actually being a part of something that was good this time."  
Five months later, Gina

Raines told her daughter that the coalition had gotten a grant to train peer recovery coaches and suggested they go to the training together.  
That was where she met Kimbra Reynolds, executive director of the coalition, who was looking for a part-timer to clean the coalition office and organize paperwork.  
Raines got the job.  
She had worked during most of her years of addiction, only becoming unemployed a few months before her last stint in jail. Most of the jobs were entry level, and all of the earnings went to paying for her next high.  
This job was different.  
Reynolds began to give her more responsibility and more hours. Raines' self-esteem grew. She worked her way up to the position of special projects coordinator, which she described as

"whatever anybody needed, I would do."  
Then in June, Reynolds asked if Raines wanted the PAST directorship.  
"I knew this was what I wanted to do," said Raines.  
Five years of sobriety is just the beginning.  
"I think being in recovery, you're constantly working on yourself," she said. "Today, five years into it, I still work on things in my life ... But I also have a healthy support system now."  
Life has taught her that to recover, "you need that connection with people that are on the same mission as you or that are willing to be there for you. You just have to find your people."  
Her advice to anyone wanting to join her in recovery: "Get connected. I think connection is key. Come to the coalition. We can help."



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The Commercial Review/Louise Ronald

Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition is working in conjunction with local officials toward the goal of opening a recovery residence. Plans for the facility are still in the early stages. Some of the funding for the facility could come from opioid lawsuit settlement funds that will flow to the county over a 15-year period.

# Facility ...

Continued from page 1A  
So far, Jay County has about \$171,800 available from the settlement, with additional dollars expected before the end of the year. According to Next Level Recovery Indiana (in.gov/recovery), the county is expected to receive a total of \$1.33 million over a 15-year period. (Each of the county's municipalities will also receive funding from just over \$1,000 for Salamonie to about \$52,500 for Portland.) Those dollars are subject to change depending on pending lawsuits and other factors.

Approximately \$143,000 of that amount are restricted funds, meaning they must follow specific guidelines outlined in the settlement agreement. Establishing a recovery residence falls under those guidelines, specifically under the category to "support people in treatment and recovery." The remaining unrestricted dollars must be used in the same manner as dollars in the county's general fund, according to guidelines from Indiana State Board of Accounts. Indiana is also requiring entities to follow five guiding principles from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health:

- Spend the money to save lives
- Use evidence to guide spending
- Invest in youth prevention
- Focus on racial equity
- Develop a fair and transparent process for deciding where to spend the funds

Per Jay County Commissioners' request, Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition created an opioid task force in order to determine how to spend the allocated dollars.

Kimbra Reynolds, executive director of Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition, explained the task force looked at two years' worth of overdose fatality statistics. In 2022 alone, there were a dozen deaths from overdoses in Jay County.

It also looked at the "paper trail" for each of those individuals, including information about whether they had spent time on probation or in community corrections or if they visited health clinics or hospitals.

"We put a timeline together of an individual's life to see where the

missed opportunities could have happened, what we can do system-wise to change things to make these (deaths happen) less and less," she explained.

Jay County Opioid Task Force made several recommendations. Ultimately, it landed on creating a recovery residence.

"Sober living, that's one of the things that we are missing in Jay County, so that's what we decided to do as a committee," explained Raines.

The closest recovery residence to Jay County is Fresh Start Recovery Center, a Winchester facility for women. (Reynolds noted the Randolph County group has been looking into opening a place for men.)

Jay County's first facility, conversely, would serve males. That's the primary need right now for individuals coming out of incarceration, said Reynolds. If the facility is successful, a long-term goal would be to open another house for females.

"When a person is in early recovery, you don't really want blended services," said Reynolds. "If you have some blended services, the person tends not to focus on themselves. So that's the goal, is to make sure we are focusing on ourselves and getting healthy."

So far, Jay County's recovery residence project is still in its early stages. Jay County Opioid Task Force has been meeting in recent months to review available dollars, learn about other funding opportunities, look into potential sites for the new facility, discuss estimated annual costs and other related topics.

Sustainability is a particular challenge. A regular influx of dollars stemming from the opioid settlements, grants or other revenue will be necessary to keep the facility up and running. Some of that funding would come from residents contributing toward the facility once they have returned to employment.

"The goal is to make sure that these individuals that are in need of this home are able to get out into the community and work, (are) able to contribute back," Reynolds said. "We

don't want it to be just a handout. We want it to be a hand-up."

In order to receive continued funding for long-term sustainability, Jay County's facility would need to be certified by the Division of Mental Health and Addiction, meaning it would need to follow certain structural guidelines, such as sleeping space allotments and amenity requirements for each resident. Raines noted she's been looking at Inspiration Ministries — it's a faith-based residential recovery program with five established facilities in northern Indiana — as a model.

According to Inspiration Ministries' website (inspiration-ministries.org), the program is intended to "see individuals experience a total renewing of their minds, knowing that lasting change can only happen with the willingness to let transformation happen on the inside." Inspiration Ministries focuses on addiction and life recovery, financial responsibility, career building, driving restoration, family reconciliation and spiritual transformation.

Jay County Opioid Task Force hasn't yet established formal policies or procedures, which will likely come after the group selects and purchases a building.

Experiences at the facility, such as how long their stay would be, would vary for each resident, explained Raines. Once it is established, those living with addiction will be able to apply to live at the residence and will go through a vetting process. They will need to be clean from all substances, meaning it would be open to those fresh out of addiction treatment or the detoxing process.

Raines expressed optimism for the project moving forward, saying individuals living with addiction need a safe space and positive environment. Raines also referenced the following phrase: "The opposite of addiction is not sobriety. The opposite of addiction is connection."

"Having that sober living (facility) would give them a positive connection to people on the same path," she said. "You are working towards a better life and working towards (your) recovery."



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204 E. Arch St., Portland  
Joe Boggs  
(260) 726-8464  
Services: 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.  
asburyministries.org

**Banner Christian Assembly of God**  
1217 W. Votaw St., Portland  
Michael Burk  
(260) 726-4282  
Services: 10:30 a.m.

**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**  
105 S. Elm St., Fort Recovery  
Quentin Elsea  
(419) 733-1469  
christchapelfr.com

**Church of Christ (Southside)**  
1209 S. Shank St., Portland  
Bob Graham  
(260) 726-7777  
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6:30 p.m.

**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  
David Davidson  
(260) 202-9718  
Services: 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

**Faith Community**  
9560 W. 200 South, Dunkirk  
Joe Schmit  
(260) 251-5254  
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 American Baptist**  
427 S. Main St., Dunkirk  
Dan Coffman  
(765) 768-7157  
Services: 10:40 a.m., 5 p.m.

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

**First Community Baptist**  
341 S. Meridian St., Redkey  
Everett Bilbrey Jr.  
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

**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  
Revs. Brad and Kate Ratliff  
(419) 375-4680  
Services: 10:30 a.m.  
frnaz@frontier.com

**Fort Recovery United Methodist**  
309 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery  
Rev. David Yinger  
(937) 337-5781  
Services: 9 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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) 755-6354  
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 First Church of Nazarene**  
920 S. Shank St., Portland  
Steve Cecil  
(260) 726-8040  
Services: 10:45 a.m.

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

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

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

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

**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.  
Chuck Hollandbeck  
(765) 369-2676  
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**  
County roads 400 North and 550 West  
Rev. Mike Heckman  
(260) 731-4733  
Services: 11 a.m.

**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  
Robin Owen  
(419) 375-4498  
Services: 9 a.m. (contemporary service, fourth Sunday)  
pastorrobino@gmail.com

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

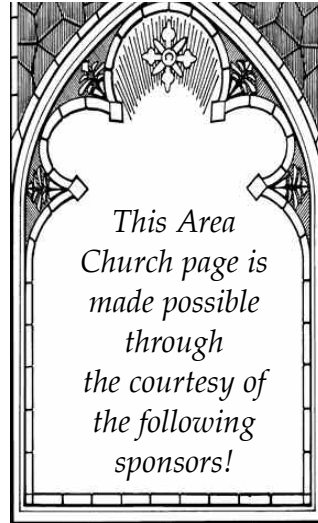
**Union Chapel**  
6200 N. 375 West, Bryant  
Interim Pastor Chris Kruckow  
(260) 849-0687  
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6 p.m.

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

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

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

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



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# Air Force pair

## Jay County High School graduates a generation apart came together at Joint Base Pearl Harbor – Hickam in Hawaii

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review  
OAHU, Hawaii  
— Chaise Lowe and Charlie Freel met in an otherwise normal way for Americans enlisted in the United States Air Force.

Chaise had been assigned to work as Charlie's executive assistant in June 2022 at the Headquarters Pacific Air Forces in the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Oahu, Hawaii.

Simple enough. But neither Chaise or Charlie realized until nearly a year later what made their situation unique — they're both Jay County High School graduates.

"I figured he was from Indiana because he went to Notre Dame," explained Chaise, a Redkey native. "But I never asked the question, until just one day, we were just chit-chatting."

"This is the first time I've actually ran into somebody from Jay County in the military," said Charlie, who has been in the service for about 25 years. "I ran into people, back at Portland, coming back for the fair or something, and they're in the service, but never actually in uniform. And for him to actually be lucky enough (to be stationed) with me, I'm like, this is crazy."

Charlie graduated Jay County High School in 1993, the same year as Chaise was born. The Portland native earned a bachelor's degree in government and international relations from the University of Notre Dame in



Photo provided

Charlie Freel, left, a 1993 Jay County High School graduate, and Chaise Lowe, right, who graduated from JCHS in 2012, found themselves working together at Headquarters Pacific Air Forces in the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Oahu, Hawaii. Lowe was assigned as Freel's executive assistant. It took them nearly a year to realize that they graduated from the same high school.

1997 and graduated officer training school in '98.

His assignments through the years have included tactical intelligence support for F-15C and F-16 fighter wings,

instructor and chief of academics at United States Air Force Weapons School, chief of wing intelligence for Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska and commander of the

691st intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR). He spent about three years in Japan and four years in Korea.

Prior to his director role, he served as chief of

intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations and analysis division from June 2019 to June 2020 at the Hawaii base before transitioning to a commander role in

Meade, Maryland, for two years. Charlie's uniforms and other memorabilia from the Iraq War are on display at Museum of the Soldier in Portland.

See Air page 7A



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# Air ...

Continued from page 6A

Chaise joined the Air Force after graduating from Jay County High School in 2012. He graduated from technical training as a knowledge operations apprentice the same year. Chaise served as a commander's support staff specialist for the 88th security forces squadron at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base of Greene County, Ohio, in 2016, the same year he was deployed to Afghanistan to fill in a senior non-commissioned officer role.

According to his United States Air Force biography, Chaise earned the Air Force's Commendation Medal with a Combat "C" device for a 27-hour complex attack in which he exposed himself to enemy fire in order to locate and escort 30 military and civilian contractors. A wounded warrior, he participates in archery, cycling, track and air pistol shooting in the Air Force's Department of Defense Warrior Games.

Chaise served as the non-commissioned officer in charge for the 324th intelligence squadron at the base in Oahu, Hawaii,

**'I didn't tell my parents that I met Chaise, and it only took like two days before my parents call me and said, Hey, we hear a kid from Jay County works for you.'**

—Charlie Freel

starting in September 2019. He took on the executive assistant position in June 2022 and started working for Charlie.

As the Pacific Air Forces director of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, Charlie facilitates the collection of intelligence in the Indo-Pacific area, ensuring leaders are up to speed with ongoing events. Chaise acts in a support role for Charlie and his staff of between 60 to 80 military personnel.

Having another Jay County local on staff at a base more than 4,000 miles away from home had its benefits.

"In passing, we'll just kind of like making some inside jokes about things that are normal for,

not just for Hoosiers but people from Jay County," said Chaise, noting local staples such as the annual Tri-State Antique Engine and Tractor Show.

They discussed relatives, discovering Chaise's stepfather graduated in the same class as Charlie's sister.

"It proves that it's a small, small town," Charlie said. "I didn't tell my parents that I met Chaise, and it only took like two days before my parents call me and said, 'Hey, we hear a kid from Jay County works for you.'"

They also shared other similarities. Both men play video games and tabletop games in their spare time, although

Chaise has been staying busy in his off-duty hours with his children. One dissimilarity between the two — Chaise's children are 3 and 6 years old while Charlie's children are 15 and 17.

"We're opposite ends of the spectrum as far as the kids go," Chaise said.

But like most military personnel, both Chaise and Charlie are onto new places soon. Chaise will be relocating to Scott Air Force Base in St. Clair County, Illinois, in late March, and Charlie has been selected to be the next Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps detachment commander at the University of Notre Dame starting in July or August.

Although they bonded over their shared heritage and hobbies, Chaise and Charlie ultimately earned a mutual respect for one another.

Chaise will miss his boss' attitude and outlook on Air Force operations as a whole.

"(He's) a very, very sound decision-maker," Chaise said. "If there's something wrong, he will call people out on the spot. It's that kind of stuff I appreciate in a leader."

Charlie said he wasn't looking forward to replacing Chaise. He complimented his assistant's skills on the job.

"I am going to miss him severely," Charlie said. "He is highly competent. He knows his job and fixes things that a lot of people say can't be fixed. He understands how the system works ... his ability to do that is impressive, and it's rare to find somebody with that talent. And when you do, you tend not to want to let them go. The Air Force, like all military, is just one giant bureaucracy, and having someone that helps cut through the red tape is invaluable."

# Jump ...

Continued from page 3A

Along with Smith were three other individuals who were setting records for other countries. The group had to sit on the plane for an hour just breathing warm oxygen before the plane could begin to ascend.

After the long wait, the plane rose up to where the air was a biting minus-55 degrees. Smith was forced to layer up with long johns, heated socks, heated gloves and a heated vest that made him almost uncomfortably hot.

When the door opened, the moisture inside the plane started to freeze, creating a crystalized surface. While Smith was mostly protected from the cold, the skin on his face around

the oxygen mask started to develop frostbite.

Smith had to wait for the other three jumpers to go before he got his chance to get out of the plane. When it was his turn, just walking to the door was an ordeal.

Previously, Tom Newton died from his heart giving out while trying to make the trip from his seat to the door at that altitude when attempting the world's highest tandem jump.

"Just getting to the door was an exertion," Smith said. "I've got all this equipment on, at that point I had a hose connected to the oxygen system in the plane so just moving forward it took some work."

Once he finally got to the

door and his oxygen switched over, he sat down to take a controlled exit out of the plane.

Yet still, things didn't go quite right.

Rather than a smooth exit, Smith ended up with his back to the ground looking up at the plane. Not the best start.

He was able to quickly roll over and regain control.

Normally, a wingsuit flight lasts about two minutes before the parachute is deployed. At the elevated altitude, Smith was flying for nearly four minutes before he had to think about it. During that time, he was attempting to navigate to the drop zone, but was simply too high up to find it.

Realizing that he wasn't going to be able to find the drop zone, he just tried to steer clear of any corn fields because his heated equipment could be a fire risk.

Once it was time for Smith to deploy his parachute, rather than controlling his body, he just let it hang.

"I've done the Dopey challenge at Disney where you do a 5k, 10k, half marathon and then marathon in four days," Smith said. "And that is less tiring than my wingsuit flight."

"(After pulling the parachute), I'm just sitting there. I should be unzipping, I should be checking my gear. I should be looking for a

place to land, but I just sat there."

Once he regained some strength, he pulled his mask off to breath fresh air and started looking for a place to land. Without many options, he decided to land in someone's backyard and hoped they wouldn't have a dog or come out to him hostile.

With no one coming out to confront him, he began his journey to the intended landing site, which included hitchhiking for a distance before he had cell service in order to call to be picked up.

Upon arrival, he was greeted with cheers for a safe landing.

Also at the drop zone were other skydivers who had more conventional

experiences that day that wanted to talk to him about what he had accomplished, which he described as a unique experience for a sport that typically doesn't have recognition outside the internal feeling of satisfaction.

While Smith realizes that not everyone would be interested in what he attempted that day he would encourage everyone to try skydiving at least once.

"I feel like everybody should skydive," Smith said. "With tandem skydiving, it is very accessible. ... If you can't, if you can't throw a ball, that's fine. If you've got terrible balance, that's fine. You can get into this sport."

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