

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Upgrade needed

Current radio system leaves coverage gaps

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Jay County public safety agencies need new radios.

County officials heard more about how to go about that process during an informational meeting Tuesday.

Ritter Strategic Services conducted a study for the county regarding radio needs for local emergency responders. Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council approved a \$76,400 contract with the company in December for the service, which was recently completed. Commissioners and council heard about the study's results from Barry Ritter and Dylan Griffith of Ritter Strategic Services on Monday.

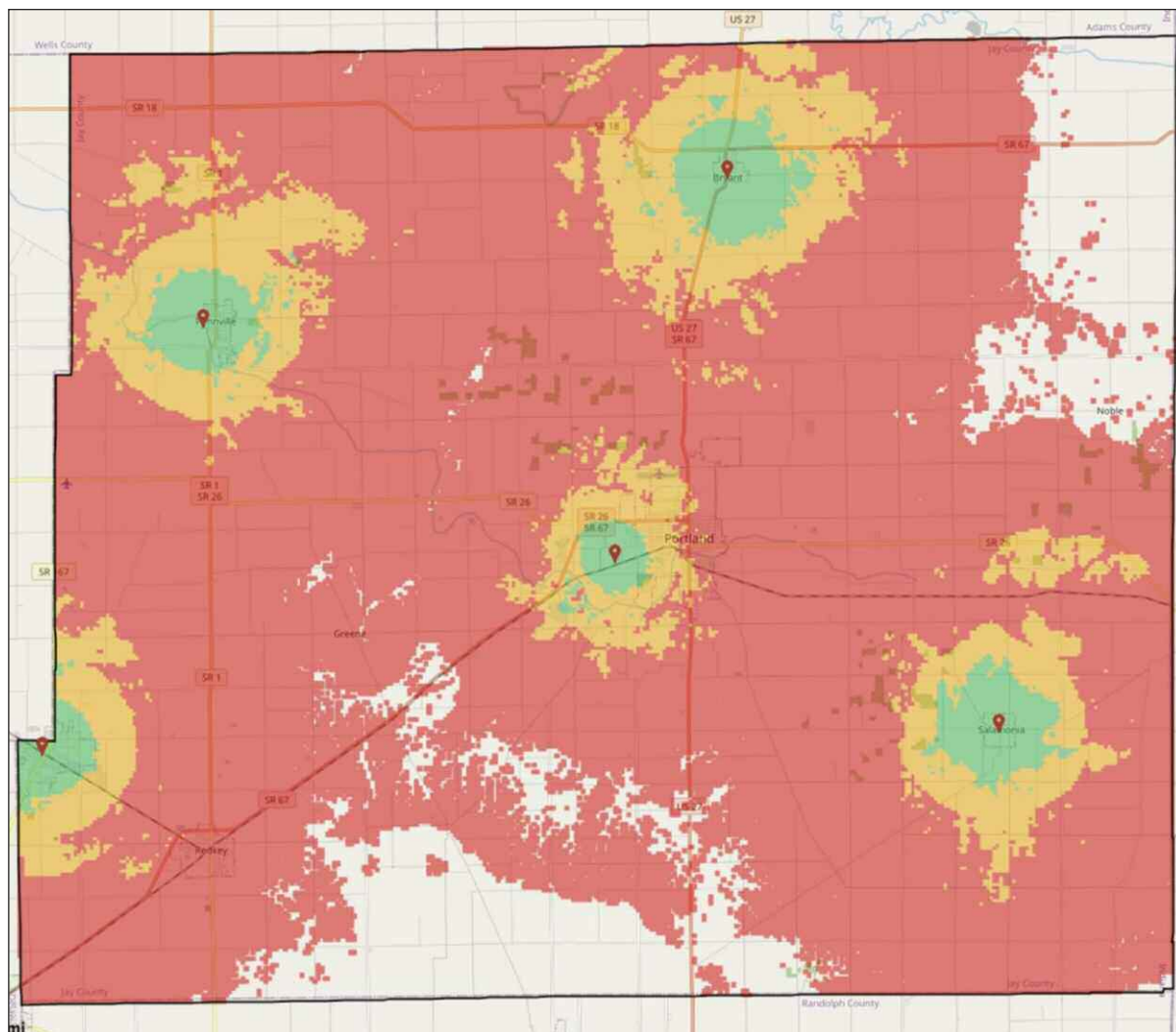
Ritter Strategic Services evaluated the Ultra High Frequency (UHF) 900 megahertz system used by Jay County Sheriff's Office, the standalone Very High Frequency (VHF) system used by Portland Police Department and the VHF system used by Jay Emergency Medical Service, Jay County Emergency Management Agency and fire departments throughout Jay County. It also considered the Integrated Public Safety Commission's 800 megahertz statewide system, which has been around for more than two decades for Indiana communities.

Dylan Griffith of Ritter Strategic Services explained the company approached the assessment in two stages, first speaking with radio users about their experiences with the radio systems. Next, its team created high-fidelity maps with propagation software to demonstrate coverage across the county.

For all three systems, the majority of their coverage is available only if users take their radios outdoors to use them.

"If a firefighter has to go inside of a building to fight a fire, especially in a basement, it is unlikely that they will be able to communicate, outside of the talk-around frequency," noted Griffith, explaining that frequency is not always available while responders are communicating with dispatch.

The VHF system used by JEMS, Jay County EMA and local fire departments isn't likely to be reachable via portable radio in portions of southern Jay County and northeastern Jay County. Areas near Pennington, Bryant, Salamonina, Portland and Dunkirk are capable



Ritter Strategic Services

The graphic at left shared with Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council on Tuesday shows areas of radio communications coverage for first responders in the county. Green areas indicate coverage accessible in heavy buildings, with yellow showing accessibility in light buildings and red outdoors. Other areas, which cover 13.8% of the county, have no coverage.

of radio transmissions inside light or heavy buildings, depending on proximity to nearby towers.

The UHF 900 megahertz system used by Jay County Sheriff's Office has a larger radius of radio coverage inside light or heavy buildings, but its overall reach stops short, leaving a ring of uncovered areas around most of the perimeter of the county. Because it's on a higher frequency and produces a smaller wavelength, explained Griffith, it travels less distance but penetrates through structures easier.

The VHF system used by Portland Police Department should be able to send radio transmissions inside light or heavy buildings throughout most of city limits. However, Griffith noted because it's a separate system from Jay Emergency Medical Service, Jay County EMA and local fire departments, it can create "tremendous interference" when using radios in its coverage area.

Moving forward, Griffith shared a few potential paths the county could take.

The county could reassess its

systems configurations, such as replacing antennas, reorienting antennas or other specifics. He said doing so wouldn't mitigate interference or allow for a sole system for public safety agencies to operate.

Jay County could add towers to its current VHF systems to improve coverage. He pointed out that wouldn't solve the larger issue of getting a clear signal within buildings throughout a majority of the county, and it may be costly to procure land and build the towers.

The county could do a simulcast upgrade, meaning the county could take existing systems and replace them within the same frequency band. Although it would make more use of existing towers, said Griffith, it would likely be one of the more expensive options. He later estimated it could cost around \$8.5 million for a stand-alone system.

Griffith recommended Jay County migrate to the Indiana Public Safety Commission's statewide 800 megahertz system, which would make use of the existing coverage within the county. He said it would minimize tower maintenance

costs — he suggested bringing towers in Salamonina and Bryant onto the statewide system — solve coverage problems and put agencies on a similar frequency band, increasing interoperability within the county and state. However, it would require replacing all radios to be compatible. Later in the meeting, answering a question from officials, he estimated the switch could cost up to \$3 million total.

Portland Fire Chief Mike Weitzel noted some departments operate on limited budgets and it may not be feasible for them to purchase the equipment they would need. Commissioner Rex Journay added it would likely require grant funding or financial aid from the county.

"The news of the day is, you have to do something," said Ritter. "To continue operating with the systems that you have today is not sufficient for the first responders. Putting sheriff's deputies on the perimeter of the county with no radios is not safe. Sending firemen into buildings that have (no access to) communications is not safe."

He noted a decision will need to be made individually as a county as well as collaboratively with the City of Portland moving forward. Ritter also advised commissioners and council to have an independent consultant oversee the process to navigate vendors' offers.

Sheriff Ray Newton pointed out the county's Motorola radios are about 16 years old, and replacement parts for broken equipment aren't available anymore.

Officials have been looking into purchasing new radio equipment since 2021, he added, and they didn't accept a previous offer because it "wouldn't fix the problem."

"As far as the sheriff's standpoint, I need the equipment as soon as possible," he said.

Aker suggested county commissioners and council meet with officials from local municipalities and townships to come to an agreement on how to move forward. He discussed setting up a meeting within the next few weeks.

"I think it's blatantly obvious we've got to do something, we can't kick the can down the road any longer," he said.

Building lease approved

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Jay/Portland Building and Planning has approved an updated lease agreement for its rental space at Community Resource Center.

The department's inter-local joint board OK'd the agreement Tuesday.

Lease agreements for the building owned by the City of Portland have been in question since the fall because the terms were not the same for all tenants, who include Jay/Portland Building and Planning, Jay County community coordinator Nate Kimball, Jay County Chamber of Commerce, Jay County Development Corporation and Jay County Visitors and Tourism Bureau. Tenants

met with Portland Board of Works in May to discuss the issue.

The updated agreement is a one-year contract at no less than \$350 per month. (Rent will be divided and charged evenly among the tenants.) It requires Portland to cover maintenance for permanent structures, such as the parking lot, heating, cooling, plumbing and electrical fixtures. Tenants are responsible for utilities, small repairs and the cost of shared items such as cleaning supplies.

Portland Board of Works approved agreements for each tenant during its meeting June 12. Jay County Commissioners — they maintain the agreement for Kim-

ball — approved the contract June 10.

Inter-local board member Brian McGalliard noted that Jay/Portland Building and Planning was also granted permission to use a small office adjacent to its current space. Plans are for director John Hemmelgarn to install a doorway between the rooms and move his desk into the new space. The extra space in the original office will be used to store documents more securely. (Currently they are stored in another storage room shared with other tenants.)

Board members Mike Aker, Ron Laux, Jeanne Houchins and McGalliard approved the agreement.

See Lease page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Tinkering with robots

Bentley Brunswick, 12, Jake Arnold, 12, Owen Clemens, 10, and Gabe Lutz, 10, practice launching a ball with their robot Wednesday during the 2024 VEX Robotics morning camp at John Jay Center for Learning. Participants built robots to compete in VEX Robotics' latest game, Rapid Relay, at the end of the week.

Deaths

- Roberta Pogue, 98, Portland
 - Evelyn Dunmoyer, 97, Portland
 - Clarissa Clevenger, 82, Riverside
 - Sandra Drumm, 77, Portland
 - Joan Wendel, 89, Monroe
- Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 90 degrees Tuesday. The low was 75.

An excessive heat advisory is in effect through Friday evening. Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the lower 70s. Expect a high in the mid 90s Friday under mostly sunny skies.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

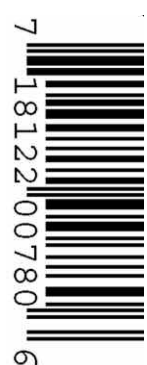
Applications are open for The Portland Foundation Women's Giving Circle Grants. The grants offer up to \$5,000 for Jay County not-for-profit organizations for programming in the Jay County Community. Applications are available at portlandfoundation.org. The deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday, July 11.

Coming up

Friday — Coverage of this week's Portland Board of Aviation meeting.

Saturday — Results from the Jay County summer swim meet against Union City.

Tuesday — Coverage of Monday's Jay County Commissioners meeting.



Capsule Reports

Turning accident

A Portland woman complained of back pain after a Portland man turned his vehicle in front of hers on U.S. 27 about 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Lonnie D. Mock, 59, was driving his 2019 Chevrolet Silverado north on the highway when he missed his turn onto county road 300 North. He began turning into a driveway as 55-year-old Barbara A. Laux was driving her 2015 Ford Escape south on the highway. Laux told the police Mock turned in front of her, causing her to crash into his truck.

Damage was estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000. Both vehicles were towed.

Hit concrete

Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000 after a Fort Wayne man struck a concrete slab in the Pak-A-Sak parking lot in Bryant about 9:34 p.m. Tuesday.

Jon G. Englehard, 43, was driving his 2013 Chevrolet Silverado in the parking lot at 893 Indiana 18 and attempting to turn onto the highway. His vehicle hit the concrete and had to be towed from the scene.

Obituaries

Roberta Pogue

March 26, 1926-June 16, 2024
Roberta Pogue, age 98, of Portland passed away on Sunday, June 16, 2024, in the Kingston at Dupont in Fort Wayne.

She was born in Jay County on March 26, 1926, the daughter of Russell and Gladys (Reid) Lare. She was married in 1973 to Ralph Pogue and he passed away in 2008. Roberta had worked for Jay Garment and then CTS for 25 years before retiring.

Surviving are two daughters, Shirley Mann (husband: Fred) of Portland and Jerri Jones of New Haven; four grandchildren, Randy Mann (wife: Tami), Tracy Winn, J.D. Jones (wife: Daphne) and Jambie Gaff; 12 great-grandchildren; and 14 great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband Ralph; grandson Kevin Mann; and several siblings.

Funeral services will be Friday, June 21, 2024, at 11 a.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Hugh Kelly presiding. Burial will be in the Green Park Cemetery. Visitation will one hour prior to the services.

Memorials can be made to the choice of the donor.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.



Pogue

Clarisa graduated from Ward Jackson High School and attended Ivy Tech Community College.

Clarisa worked for Community and Family Services for 21 years. She was a former member of Deerfield United Methodist Church and was a 4-H leader for 14 years for the Lucky Clovers in Randolph County. Clarisa was a Cub Scout and a Webelos leader for several years. She was also a Red Cross volunteer for the Car Seat Loan Program, and a 4-H Judge for several years. Clarisa was a member of the Saratoga Home Economics Club, Cancer Center of Randolph County, Fountain Park Cemetery Lot Owner Association, Wanna-Bee Quilt Club in Winchester, and the Steering Committee.

Clarisa loved her family, sewing, painting, cooking and working with her "best friend" Max in the wood shop. She loved to encourage anyone with her projects through 4-H or other activities.

Clarisa married Max Clevenger on June 15, 1959, he passed away on Oct. 10, 2008.

Survivors include Three sons — Patrick Clevenger (wife: Julie), Bradenton, Florida; Gregory Clevenger (wife: Suzanne), Ridgeville, Indiana, and Marc Clevenger (wife: Malynda), Richmond, Indiana

A daughter — Angela Bechtold, Wolcottville, Indiana
A sister — Melba Shilling, Knox, Indiana

Brother-in-law — Harold Long, Yardley, Pennsylvania
Twelve grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren

Visitation will be held Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will follow the visitation at 1 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial will be held at Fountain Park Cemetery in Winchester.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to 4-H Incorporation of Randolph County or Cancer Services of Randolph County.

Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

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Sandra Drumm

March 5, 1947-June 18, 2024
Sandra Drumm, age 77, of Portland passed away on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, in Persimmon Ridge Healthcare.

She was born in Portland on March 5, 1947, the daughter of Russell and Jeanette (Bennett) Haffner. She was retired from FCC in Portland.

Sandra was a 1965 Portland High School graduate, member of Moose Lodge and American Legion Auxiliary. She enjoyed golf cart rides, reading, hummingbirds, fishing and spending time with her family and friends.

Surviving are two daughters, Lisa Bonifas (husband: Dan) of Portland and Amy Stephenson (husband: Eric) of Rockford, Ohio; one brother, David Haffner (wife: Beth) of Clayton, Ohio; one sister, Nancy Kelly (husband: Howard) of Portland; three grandchildren, Jeffrey Belda, Adam Stephenson and Paige Stephenson; two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be Friday, June 21, 2024, at 2 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Hugh Kelly presiding. Burial will follow in the Green Park Cemetery. Visitation will be Thursday from 2 to 6 p.m.

Memorials can be made to the Fellowship Baptist Church.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.



Clevenger



Drumm

dren, Claire and Addy Belda; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Dick Haffner.

Graveside services will be held at a later date.

Memorials can be made to Midwest Pet Refuge.

Baird-Freeman Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Joan Wendel

Sept. 28, 1934-June 18, 2024
Joan J. (Ellsworth) Wendel, 89, of Monroe, Indiana, passed away at 6:38 a.m. on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at Christian Care Retirement Community in Bluffton, Indiana.

She was born on Friday, Sept. 28, 1934, in Portland, Indiana. Joan married Jack W. Wendel on Sunday, July 6, 1952, in Portland, Indiana; he preceded her in death on Dec. 19, 2022.

Joan was a 1952 graduate of Portland High School. She was a member of the Redeemer Lutheran Church, Bryant, Indiana. Joan had worked at CTS, Fort Recovery Industries and EP Graphics. She was an avid reader, enjoyed playing cards and loved attending family sporting events and spending time with her family.

Joan traveled to Taiwan with Jack while he was working for C.T.S. While living in Taiwan, she taught conversational English at the Taiwanese Naval Academy. Her students won many awards at competitions. She made many friends, some who continued to visit Indiana and many who stayed in contact.

She will be forever missed by her sons, Ronald A. (Joyce) Wendel, The Villages, Florida; Donald "Donnie" (Beth) Wendel, Monroe, Indiana; son-in-law Dan Mosier, Willshire, Ohio; grandchildren Quentin Berry, Sturgis, Michigan, Miranda Berry, Monroe, Indiana, Christopher Wendel, Delaware, Kimberlee Wendel, West Chester, Pennsylvania, and Shaun Wendel, Carmel, Indiana; nine great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her husband Jack W. Wendel; parents Robert "Bob" and Wilma (Roser) Ellsworth; daughter Sharyl Mosier; son Stevie J. Wendel; sister Linda Ellsworth; and brother Larry Ellsworth.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, located at 100 N. Washington St., Geneva, on Friday, June 21, 2024, from 3 to 7 p.m.

A service to celebrate Joan's life will follow at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 21, 2024, with the Rev. Dan Layden officiating.

Preferred memorials can be made to the Redeemer Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 156, Bryant, IN 47326

Arrangements are being handled by Downing & Glancy Funeral Home in Geneva.

Condolences may be expressed at glancyfuneralhomes.com.

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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

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

CR almanac

Friday 6/21	Saturday 6/22	Sunday 6/23	Monday 6/24	Tuesday 6/25
96/73	97/76	90/65	85/64	93/71
Sunny and hot on Friday when the high will be around 96 degrees. The low at night may hit 73.	Mostly sunny and hot on Saturday, when the high will be in the mid to upper 90s.	There's a chance of showers on Sunday. Otherwise, a high of 90 degrees is expected.	Monday's weather should cool a bit from the previous week, with a high of 85.	Tuesday's temperatures are expected to jump back to the 90s.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$56 million	Evening Daily Three: 7-3-4 Daily Four: 4-9-9-2 Quick Draw: 7-13-24-29-30-32-34-36-40-44-46-47-50-51-52-56-62-63-64-70
Mega Millions 21-22-50-55-67 Mega Ball: 20 Megaplier: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$80 million	Ohio Tuesday MIDDAY Pick 3: 4-0-4 Pick 4: 7-5-9-0 Pick 5: 8-6-6-6-7 Evening Pick 3: 0-6-1 Pick 4: 2-1-3-0 Pick 5: 4-3-7-8-3 Rolling Cash: 2-7-25-28-36 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
Hoosier Tuesday MIDDAY Daily Three: 0-8-5 Daily Four: 0-5-0-7 Quick Draw: 1-6-12-19-23-24-28-32-33-40-50-56-58-61-63-72-75-76-77-79	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.41 Oct. corn4.43 Wheat5.12	July beans11.62 Wheat 5.42
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.42 July corn.....4.45 Aug. corn4.46	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.33 July corn.....4.28 Beans11.69 July beans11.64 Wheat5.42
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.30 July corn.....4.30 Beans11.66	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.40 July corn.....4.40 Beans11.44 July beans11.44 Wheat5.22

Today in history

In 1819, the SS Savannah reached Ireland after a 29.5 hour trip, making it the first known steamship to cross an ocean.

In 1837, Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom took the throne, leading a 64-year reign in which her country became a world superpower.

In 1903, racer Barney Oldfield drove the first mile-a-minute performance in a car in Indianapolis.

In 1963, the United States and Soviet Union instituted the "red telephone" following the Cuban Missile Crisis. Despite its title, communication occurred via teletype or fax.

In 1975, Steven Spielberg's "Jaws" premiered in theaters. Regarded as a classic, the film follows a great white shark terrorizing a resort town.
— The CR

Citizen's calendar

Wednesday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.	Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
Thursday 5 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St.	3:30 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District Board, district office, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland.
6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council special meeting, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St.	6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St.
Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County	7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.

Evelyn Dunmoyer

Sept. 2, 1926-June 17, 2024
Evelyn D. Dunmoyer, age 97, of Portland passed away on Monday, June 17, 2024, at Swiss Village in Berne.

She was born in Winston, Kentucky, on Sept. 2, 1926, the daughter of John Walker and Ida Belle (Johnson) White. She was married on Aug. 9, 1944, to Ervil Dunmoyer and he passed away on Dec. 15, 2011.

Evelyn had worked for Ballastran, Naas Foods, CTS and Standard Brush and Broom. She was a member of Fellowship Baptist Church, Rebekkah Lodge, React, Home Ec Club and Prime Time.

Surviving are a daughter, Lynn Mayfield of Fort Wayne; and two step-granddaughters Marcia and Teresa.

She was preceded in death by two sons, Randall Dunmoyer and James Dunmoyer; daughter-in-law Susanne Dunmoyer; and her siblings.

Funeral services will be Friday, June 21, 2024, at 2 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Hugh Kelly presiding. Burial will follow in the Green Park Cemetery. Visitation will be Thursday from 2 to 6 p.m.

Memorials can be made to the Fellowship Baptist Church.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Clarisa Clevenger

Oct. 13, 1941-June 12, 2024
Clarisa Ellen Clevenger, age 82, a resident of Ridgeville, passed away Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at IU Health Ball Hospital in Muncie, Indiana.

Clarisa was born Oct. 13, 1941, in Randolph County, the daughter of Simon and Thelma (Swallow) Bur-



Dunmoyer

Lease ...

Continued from page 1
(Board member Jerry Leonhard abstained because he also serves on Portland Board of Works.)

Also Tuesday, the board approved the 2025 budget for Jay/Portland Building and Planning with the addition of raises for Hemmelgarn and assistant director Pati McLaughlin. The decision next moves to Jay County Council, which approves the overall county budget annually.

Before incorporating the raises — roughly 15% for Hemmelgarn and higher for McLaughlin — the department's budget came out to about \$183,858.15.

Discussion began Tuesday about the duties Hemmelgarn and McLaughlin fulfill, which include issuing zoning permits, administering zoning ordinances, performing building and zoning inspections, supporting Portland and Jay County plan commissions and boards of zoning appeals, administering flood control ordinances and responding to citizens' questions and requests. Hemmelgarn has

served in his role for about a decade, and McLaughlin has worked for the department for about 18 years.

McLaughlin incorporated 3% raises into the budget as advised by county officials. Board members also discussed giving both Hemmelgarn and McLaughlin 10% raises, noting similar positions around the state make significantly more.

Houchins, who also serves on Jay County

Council, suggested bumping Hemmelgarn's annual pay to about \$72,000 and setting McLaughlin's pay at 75% of Hemmelgarn's pay, or about \$54,000 annually. (First deputies in county departments make 75% of their respective elected official or department head's pay.)

Board members agreed to proposing the 2025 budget with the higher raises to Jay County Council.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Ice Cream Social

homemade ice cream, pies, cakes, sandwiches - free will offering to benefit local charities

1614 St. Anthony Rd
Coldwater, Ohio

June 23, 2024 rain or shine
Sunday @ 4:30 PM

SERVICES

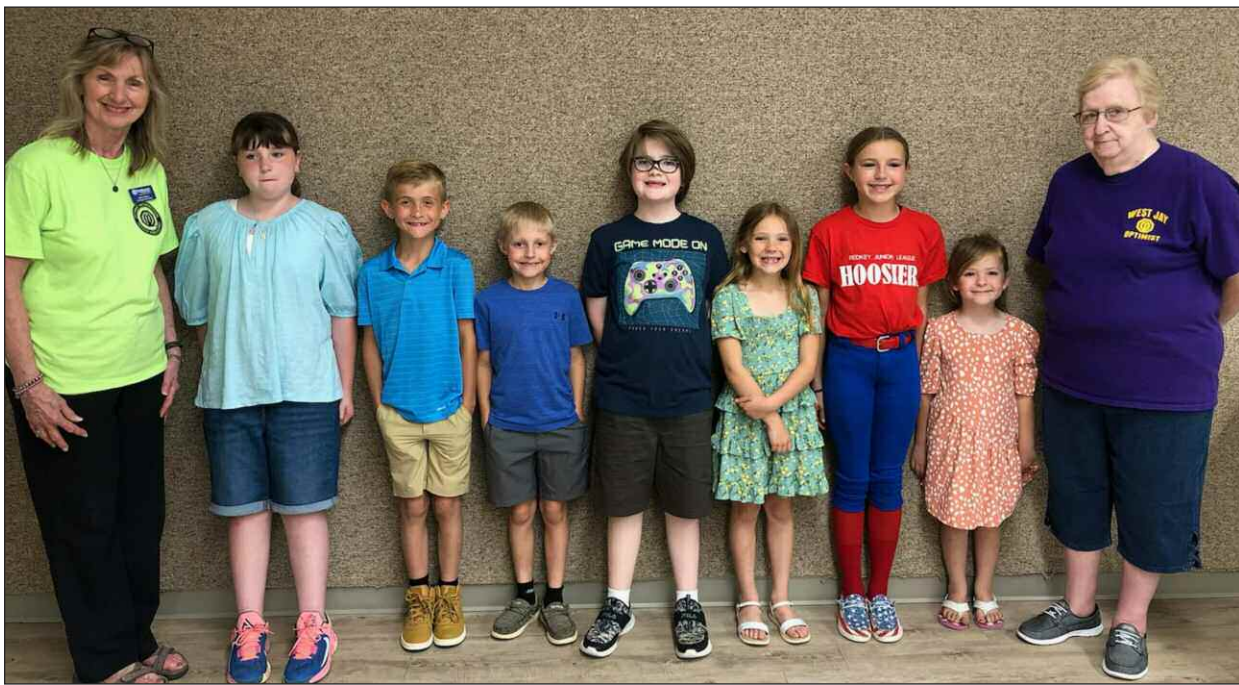
Thursday
Clevenger, Clarisa: 1 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Friday
Pogue, Roberta: 11 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.
Dunmoyer, Evelyn: 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.
Wendel, Joan: 7 p.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

Monday
Smitley, Jimmie: 11 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

June 28
Burnell, James: 7 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

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



Photos provided

Redkey Elementary honors

West Jay Optimist Club selected students from each classroom at Redkey Elementary and West Jay Elementary each semester as honor students for improving their classroom work or citizenship.

Pictured at top are first semester honor students (front row) Isaiah Timmerman, Kinley McLaughlin, Blaze Creachbaum, Cameron Timmerman, Oaklynn Johnson and Luke McLaughlin, and (back row) and Waylon Odom, Mason Collins, Milo Overmyer and sponsor Kathy Nelson. Not pictured are Jett Green and Raelynn Crabtree.

Above are Nelson, second semester honor students Lola Paro, Brody Green, Daxtin Zimmerman, Owen Vore, Saige Aker, Jordyn Champ and Brylee Reed, and West Jay Optimist president Kathy Jones. Not pictured are Henry Grady, Aria Shannon, Kimber Pryor and Alaina Jeffers.

Free Portland concert series begins tonight

Arts Place's first free concert of the summer is tonight.

"Phil Dirt & The Dozers" will perform at 8 p.m. today at Hudson Family Park Amphitheatre in Portland. The group's classic rock and roll music transports listeners to another time and place, reminiscing vocal harmonies of the Beach Boys, Four Seasons, The Eagles and more.

Payne's Food Truck and Mrs. P's Kitchen, as well as activities for children, will also be available at Hudson Family Park during the show, which is a part of the 2024 concert series at Hudson Family Park Amphitheatre. Other concerts slated for this summer include: Whoa, Man!

Band — it will celebrate women in rock and roll music — at 8 p.m. July 18, Liverpool Lads: A Beatles Tribute at 8 p.m. Aug. 8 and Sounds of Summer: Beach Boys Tribute at 7 p.m. Sept. 12.

All concerts are free. To learn more, contact Arts Place by calling (260) 726-4809 or emailing jcc@myartsplace.org.

In related news, requests for performance submission forms are live for the 2025 Hudson Family Park Amphitheatre concert series. Those interested may visit myartsplace.org/performance/jay-county-campus-performances to fill out a form. The deadline for consideration is July 1.

Friend feels guilt in wedding choice

DEAR ABBY: I was asked to be the maid of honor in a friend's wedding. I did not consider us to be close friends, but she has no sisters and few girlfriends. She seemed desperate and told me I was the only one who could fit this role, so I obliged.

Now it's my turn to be the bride. I have other girlfriends I am closer to that I would like to ask to be my bridesmaids. I feel guilty for not returning the favor. She's invited to the wedding, but I don't want her to be in my wedding party. I also feel awkward having to tell her she isn't as close to me as the other girlfriends I want. How do I let her down gently? — NOT CLOSE IN THE WEST

Dear Abby



DEAR NOT CLOSE: Why are you feeling guilty? Having served as this woman's maid of honor does not obligate you to have her be part of your own wedding. A way to "let her down gently" would be not to mention the subject at all. If she brings it up, explain that you invited her because you want her there to share in your happiness. Period.

Community Calendar

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

Today
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.
STITCH AND CHATTER QUILT CLUB — Meets from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Jay Com-

munity Center. Show and teal 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.
EN AVANT CLUB — Meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.
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.
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 parents, 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. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.
Friday
DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.
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. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.
CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will hold its next meeting at noon Friday, June 21, at Harmony Café in Portland.
Saturday
LOCAL'S MARKET — Will be held from 8 a.m. to noon each Saturday in June through October in the parking lot at Jay Community Center in Portland. For more information, contact Bill Cook.
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.

DEADLINES ARE ONE WEEK PRIOR

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Newspaper Advertising Works! Start Here

Our Upcoming Special Sections

We have a busy schedule of special sections and pages coming up.

Mark your calendar NOW.

Senior Citizens
 Wednesday, June 19 - UNIV*

Jay County Fair
 Wednesday, July 3 - CR/NS*

Marching Patriots
 Wednesday, July 10 - CR/NS*

Blackford band
 Wednesday, July 10 - NT*

Blackford County Fair preview
 Wednesday, July 10 - NT*

*UNIV = appears in all Graphic Printing Newspapers, CR = The Commercial Review, NG = The News-Gazette, NT = The News Times, NS = The News and Sun

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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.

American Dream can be elusive

By MORTON J. MARCUS

George Carlin once said, "It's called the American dream because you have to be asleep to believe it."

But those voices in real estate tell us Home Ownership is the American Dream.

If you check out the American Dream in Wikipedia, you'll discover "home ownership has been a status symbol separating the middle classes from the poor."

Home owners are good. Renters are, at best, questionable. Legislators cloyingly protect home owners, but most often wait for a crisis (no water, a fire, disease and distress) before they rediscover the responsibilities of landlords.

Home owners enjoy, perhaps

Eye on the Pie



relish, lawn mowing their quarter-acre estates. Home owners gladly assume 30-year obligations to distant and fragmented mortgage holders. Some owners gamble with variable interest rate mortgages and are willing suffer the bureaucratic torture of refinancing.

Yet home owners can build real equity, if they survive their mortgages and if home prices advance faster than inflation. Home owners also are

"listened to" by dozing zoning officials.

Renters have no real standing. "Poor people have poor ways." The best of them are only transitory, climbing the ladder to respectability by becoming home owners themselves.

It's no surprise that the majority of Hoosiers (74%) live in owner-occupied dwellings. The nation can muster only 67% for ownership as opposed to renting.

Of Hoosier householders self-identifying as White alone (meaning no miscegenated blood with Asians, Blacks, Native Americans or other lines of ancestry), 78% live in owner-occupied housing. The figure is just 53% for those other bloodlines. That difference of 25%

might be called the racial gap of home ownership.

At the extremes, that gap is 47% in Shelby County and -19% in Owen County. A negative gap means there is a higher percent of All other persons living in owner-occupied housing compared to White alone persons.

Nine Indiana counties have these negative gaps, and, with the exception of Hancock, they are smaller, more rural counties where rental housing may be relatively unavailable.

Of our most populous counties, the largest gap (35%), between the percent of home ownership for White alone and All others, was recorded for Vanderburgh County. Lake's gap was 30%, Delaware 27%, Tippecanoe, Monroe, Allen and St. Joseph all at 26%. College students and fac-

ulty as well as medical workers may be factors here as they tend to have more diverse populations than less economically diverse communities.

A history of hostility to rental housing on NIMBY (not in my back yard) grounds is probably at work in suburban Boone, Hamilton, Hendricks and Warrick counties. We'll see what happens there as economic and demographic diversification progresses.

This racial gap is of consequence only if you buy into the American Dream as an aspiration for equality of opportunity. But that may be a minority value these days.

Marcus is an economist. Email him at mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com.

Court isn't above the other branches

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

Speaking freely at a glitzy Supreme Court Historical Society event earlier this month, Justice Samuel Alito pointed out that there are "fundamental things that really can't be compromised" in society, and speculated that "one side or the other is going to win." The comments were recorded by a documentarian who had surreptitiously recorded the justices as they increasingly find themselves under the microscope for tossing precedent overboard and embarking on ideologically rigid right-wing path.

At the same event, Chief Justice John Roberts showed how justices are supposed to approach these questions, telling the documentarian that the court should not be a moral compass for the country, nor trying to put us on the path towards being a Christian nation.

Alito is right about one thing — one side or the other indeed will win. He may think of this as a battle between the political right and left, with the latter characterized as an out-of-control force wrecking the country. But that's not really what's happening here; it's a contest between a conception of the court and the broader government as a tool to protect rights and small-l liberal commitments, or one to impose a reactionary agenda against all that.

We cannot have a society that simultaneously respects values like self-determination, protection of civil rights and access to health care and abortion, while being run by minority factions hell-bent on imposing their personal religious values on everyone. The vision of strict and strictly enforced social and economic hierarchy based on some imagined bygone conservative principles is fundamentally incompatible with the principles that this country holds as its high ideals.

The trouble is Alito, who holds an office that is meant to safeguard the latter, is fighting on the opposite side. Yet it's considered impolite to point this out, despite the fact that the justice has been all but explicit about it, with his public rhetoric

Hoosier Editorial

The Constitution created the three branches of government as co-equal, keeping one another in check.

and with Jan. 6 and Christian nationalist flags (dubiously blamed entirely on his wife). Now here he is, being even clearer in agreeing that the country must return to some sort of "godliness."

This is just one instance that happened to be recorded, but there's no doubt Alito and his fellow ultra-conservative justices are toeing this line elsewhere, like the privately-funded retreats put on by right-wing legal groups and the trips organized by Clarence Thomas' benefactor Harlan Crow. They're generally fine being so open about it because experience has shown they will face little accountability or consequences.

That should change. The Constitution created the three branches of government as co-equal, keeping one another in check. It did not put the Supreme Court above everything else, untouchable by either electoral will or scrutiny from other branches.

The Congress should force the justices to clarify some of their conflicts of interest and outside entanglements, under oath. No more polite invitations for justices to decline, no more justices reluctantly making disclosures only after reporters and oversight groups dig up million-dollar gifts they've received. Use the levers of government to rein the justices in, while we still have a liberal democracy to defend.



Protect customers in extreme heat

By DAVID KONISKY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Many states across the country protect utility customers from having their electricity shut-off during extreme heat. Indiana is not one of them.

With temperatures forecasted this summer to be well above normal, it is imperative that the General Assembly and Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission take immediate steps to protect Hoosiers from losing access to the energy they need to maintain safe and comfortable temperatures in their homes.

One in four Americans struggle to pay their energy bills or are forced to make tradeoffs to keep their lights and air conditioners on, such as going without food or medicine. This type of energy insecurity is an under-appreciated and under-reported form of material hardship, and research shows that it is disproportionately experienced by people with low-incomes, people of color, families with children, and those who are medically vulnerable.

For thousands of Hoosiers, the struggle to pay their utility bills may result in losing access to energy services altogether. Last summer alone (during the months of June, July and August), Indiana's five investor-owned electric utilities — AES Indiana, CenterPoint, Duke, Indiana Michigan Power, and NIPSCO — collectively disconnected the service of more than 50,000 customers because of nonpayment. These data come from the Energy Justice Lab's Utility Disconnections Dashboard, and they are based on monthly reports from the utilities themselves.

During the summer, losing access to electricity can mean living in unsafe temperatures, and, in some cases, it can be deadly. According to data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,

David Konisky



about 1,200 people are killed by extreme heat each year. Often, heat-induced death comes from outdoor heat exposure, but people also experience it in their homes, especially during periods of extended hot temperatures that persist through nighttime hours.

Customers who fall behind on their bills have many options to avoid shut-offs. For example, most utilities offer payment plans and the federal government offers some financial assistance to eligible customers through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Many people also find other ways to cope, such as asking family and friends, faith-based organizations, or others for help, or by seeking a loan from a bank or a payday lender.

For their part, utilities often assert that disconnecting people from service is a last resort, but an option that they must use to compel delinquent customers with adequate resources to pay what they owe.

Regardless, states have long regulated utility disconnection practices to be sure that customers have adequate notification and that people do not lose access to critical energy services during extreme weather. Historically, most states have focused their attention on limiting disconnections during the cold, winter months.

Indiana has a limited policy to this effect. Utilities in Indiana, including municipal utilities and rural electric cooperatives, may not disconnect customers from service from Decem-

ber 1 to March 15 if they are receiving or are eligible and have applied for an energy assistance program such as LIHEAP. Policies in other states vary, but most include similar seasonal shut-off moratoria, though typically with broader eligibility.

Indiana does not have a similar policy in place for the summer. In twenty states and the District of Columbia, regulated utilities are limited in some way during hot weather from shutting off service to electricity customers. In Illinois, for example, when temperatures are forecasted to rise about 95 degrees in the next 24 hours, utilities are prohibited from disconnecting their customers.

The lack of summer protections in Indiana has not gone un-noticed. State Sen. David Vinzant, who represents Gary and other communities in Lake County, introduced Senate Bill 278 during the 2024 session of the General Assembly. This legislation would have extended Indiana's current protections to June 21 through September 23 to protect Hoosiers from shut-offs during the hot summer months. Unfortunately, the bill did not advance.

The bill would have provided a straightforward extension of current protections, and guaranteed Hoosiers at least some protections from shutoffs during periods of dangerous hot temperatures. A more comprehensive approach would broaden the eligibility criteria. The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission should also consider ways to use its authorities to provide similar protections. All Hoosiers, regardless of their income or any other factor, should be protected from losing access to the energy they need to stay safe during extreme weather.

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

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"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."
—Thomas Jefferson

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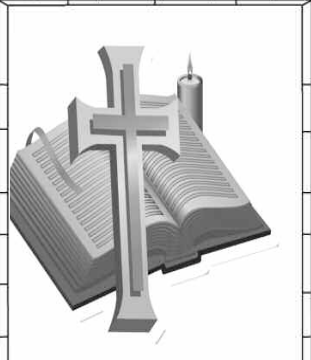
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Area churches are listed
with location, pastor and
phone number, services and
website or email address.
All services are Sunday,
unless otherwise indicated.

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

Bellefontain 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.umc.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., Por-
tland
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., Red-
key
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
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., Port-
land
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Fr. Martin Sandhage
(260) 726-7055
Services: 5:30 p.m. Satur-
day, 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. Satur-
day, 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., Port-
land
Bob Graham
(260) 726-7777
Bible class: 9:15 a.m.
Services: 10:20 a.m.
Bible School: 6 p.m. Wed-
nesday
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
Father Dan Layden
(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.
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., Port-
land
Matt Ransom
(260) 726-7474
Services: 10 a.m.
matt@therockkjc.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., Port-
land
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. Sun-
day

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. Wed-
nesday

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. (contem-
porary service, fourth Sun-
day)
pastorrobino@gmail.com

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

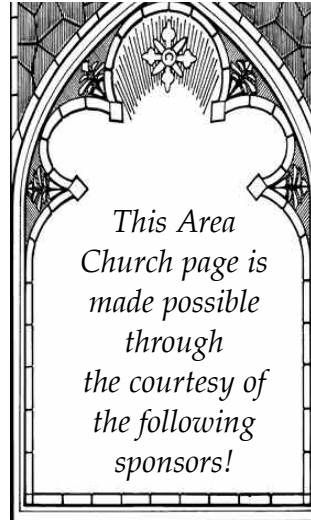
Union Chapel
6200 N. 375 West, Bryant
Interim Pastor Chris
Kruchkow
(260) 849-0687
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6
p.m.

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., Port-
land
Gil Alicea
(260) 726-4691
Services: 10 a.m.
westwalnutchurchof-christ.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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"They're not dandetIGERS, Jeffy. They're dandelIONS. Dandetigers have stripes."

Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Keep your eye on the ball

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH A Q 9 4 4 2 A 8 4 3 Q 8 5 WEST 8 K 9 8 6 3 K Q 10 7 A J 2 EAST Q 10 7 J 9 6 5 2 10 9 6 4 3 SOUTH K J 10 7 6 5 3 2 A J 5 K 7

heart, certainly a distinct possibility on the bidding. But this isn't the time to be grieving about what might have been. Instead, you should be thinking about how to make the slam.

And if you think hard enough, you realize that the slam can almost surely be made. West could hardly have opened the bidding without the ace of clubs, and if he has that card, you can't be stopped from fulfilling your assignment.

Accordingly, you ruff the king of diamonds at trick one rather than take dummy's ace (if you played the ace, you'd go down one). Then, after cashing the king of spades, you lead the seven of clubs toward dummy.

This places West in an impossible position. If he goes up with the ace, you can later discard the J-5 of hearts on dummy's queen of clubs and ace of diamonds.

And if instead West plays low on the club lead, you win with dummy's queen, discard the king of clubs on the ace of diamonds and later lose only a heart trick. Provided you keep your wits about you at the outset, there's no escape for West.

Tomorrow: Test your play. ©2024 King Features Syndicate Inc.

6-20

CRYPTOQUIP

ZBSV KGTNP UGT KSNN F-OSU WQSIRY VBSV LRGLNR IRV ZBRD

TDPROIGWDI PRDVSN RFSQY?

VGGVB LWKY.

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Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals X

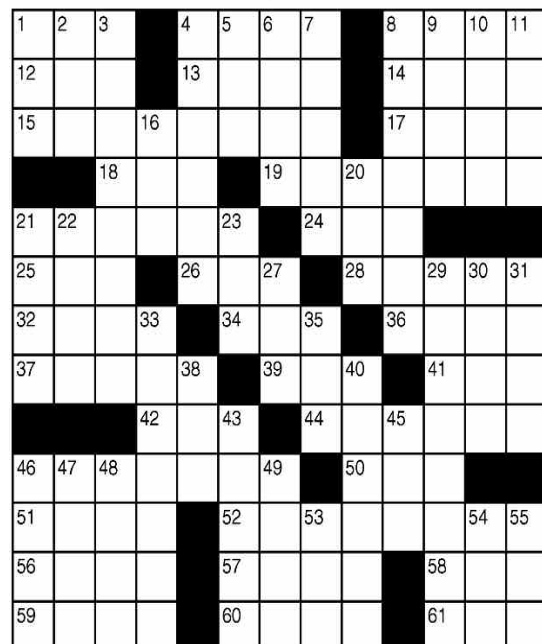
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Poke 4 Seize 8 Not many 12 Yoko from Tokyo 13 Dalai — 14 Paper towel brand 15 Library user 17 Done with 18 Fix a sound-track 19 Wizard's study 21 Tarzan type 24 PBS funder 25 Actress Farrow 26 Cover 28 Maxim 32 Grad 34 Highland hat 36 Scott Turow book 37 El Paso native 39 Cranberry territory

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 6-20



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Willie Mays dies at 93 years old

By EVAN WEBECK

The Mercury News
Tribune News Service

CHICAGO — The man deemed by many to be the greatest baseball player to have ever lived, a player more deeply ingrained in San Francisco Giants history than any other, died Tuesday at the age 93, days before his formative club was set to honor him in his hometown.

Willie Mays is dead. He passed away peacefully, according to the Giants, who announced the news in the fifth inning of their game against the Chicago Cubs at Wrigley Field, where Mays played more games than any setting besides Candlestick Park and the Polo Grounds.

“My father has passed away peacefully and among loved ones,” said his son, Michael Mays, in a release from the club. “I want to thank you all from the bottom of my broken heart for the unwavering love you have shown him over the years. You have been his life’s blood.”

Mays, who followed the Giants from New York to San Francisco and played 21 of his 23 major-league seasons for the organization, was inducted into the Hall of Fame the first time he appeared on the ballot in 1979 and has since kept strong ties to the organization, making frequent visits to spring training, Candlestick Park and Oracle Park.

“Today we have lost a true legend,” Giants Chairman Greg Johnson said in a statement. “In the pantheon of baseball greats, Willie Mays’ combination of tremendous talent, keen intellect, showmanship, and boundless joy set him apart. A 24-time All-Star, the Say Hey Kid is the ultimate Forever Giant. He had a profound influence not only on the game of baseball, but on the fabric of America. He was an



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Ezra Shaw

Willie Mays, former San Francisco Giants great, waves to the crowd along the parade route during the San Francisco Giants World Series victory parade on Oct. 31, 2012, in San Francisco.

inspiration and a hero who will be forever remembered and deeply missed.”

Born in Westfield, Alabama, Mays made his professional debut at 16 years old in 1948 for the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro American League, where he played for three seasons before the Giants purchased his contract in 1950. He went on to win Rookie of the Year in 1951 and Most Valuable Player in 1954 and 1965.

Citing his health, Mays said earlier this week that he wasn’t going to be able to make it to

Birmingham for the Giants’ game at Rickwood Field but that “Rickwood’s been part of my life for all my life. Since I was a kid.

“It was just ‘around the corner there’ from Fairfield (where Mays grew up), and it felt like it had been there forever. Like a church. The first big thing I ever put my mind to was to play at Rickwood Field. It wasn’t a dream. It was something I was going to do. ...

“I’m glad that the Giants, Cardinals and MLB are doing this, letting everyone see pro ball at Rickwood Field. Good to remind

people of all the great ball that has been played there, and all the players. All these years and it is still here. So am I. How about that?”

His 660 home runs ranked third all-time until 2003 when his godson, Barry Bonds, passed him and inspired countless young fans with his power swing, his tremendous defense and his exuberance for the game, including Giants manager and Bay Area native Bob Melvin.

Perhaps no one play in the pantheon of baseball is as iconic as Mays’ over-the-shoulder buck-

et catch in Game 1 of the 1954 World Series.

“I fell in love with baseball because of Willie, plain and simple,” said Giants President and Chief Executive Officer Larry Baer. “My childhood was defined by going to Candlestick with my dad, watching Willie patrol centerfield with grace and the ultimate athleticism. Over the past 30 years, working with Willie and seeing firsthand his zest for life and unbridled passion for giving to young players and kids, has been one of the joys of my life.”

Roundup ...

Continued from page 8 Optimist shut out

PG14 dominated Optimist for a 14-0 win on Tuesday in Portland Junior League Willie Mays baseball.

Beckham Hough, Blake Jellison and Ashton Conn

put together a combined effort on the mound to shut out Optimist. Hough led the group with five strikeouts and no walks over two innings.

Hough was also one of the offensive leaders, going 4-for-4 from the plate and

driving in two runs.

Liam Ridenour led PG14 with three RBIs on a double and a single.

Bryce Vanskyhock and Oaklin Blunk had the only hits for Optimist, the former with a double and latter with a triple.

Vanskyhock also tossed the first three innings, striking out nine batters and issuing one walk.

Forge wins

Portland Forge took down Local 1620 15-4 in Portland Junior League

Sandy Koufax baseball on Tuesday.

Cooper Shimp and Logan Wendel opened the game up for Portland Forge with home runs in the first inning.

Cohen Shimp and Cooper Shimp led Portland Forge

with three runs scored each, while six different players drove in runs.

Most of Local 1620’s runs came early in the game as Alex Miller smacked a two-RBI double in the first and two more runs scored in the third inning.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County summer swim team vs. Union City – 6 p.m.
Fort Recovery ACME baseball at Parkway – 6 p.m.

Saturday
Portland Rockets vs. Fort Wayne Renegades – 1 p.m.

Sunday
Portland Rockets vs. Fort Wayne Jackers – 1 p.m.

TV sports

Today
9 a.m. — UEFA European Championship 2024: Serbia vs. Slovenia (FS1)
12 p.m. — UEFA European Championship 2024: England vs. Denmark (FS1)
3 p.m. — UEFA European Championship 2024: Italy vs. Spain (FOX)
7:15 p.m. — MLB: San Francisco Giants at St. Louis Cardinals (FOX)
8 p.m. — Olympic swimming (NBC)
8 p.m. — Copa America soccer: Canada at Argentina (FS1)

Friday

9 a.m. — UEFA European Championship 2024: Ukraine vs. Slovakia (FS1)
12 p.m. — UEFA European Championship 2024: Austria vs. Poland (FS1)
3 p.m. — UEFA European Championship 2024: France vs. Netherlands (FOX)
4 p.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Series: Sci Aps 200 (USA)
6:30 p.m. — Olympic track & field trials (NBC)
7:10 p.m. — MLB: Boston Red Sox at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)

8 p.m. — NHL Stanley Cup: Florida Panthers at Edmonton Oilers (ABC)
8 p.m. — PFL fighting (ESPN)
8 p.m. — Copa America soccer: Chile at Peru (FS1)
9 p.m. — Olympic track & field trials (NBC)

Local notes

Meet booked
The Jay County Chamber Classic golf outing is set for Friday, July 19, at Portland Golf Club.
The deadline to register is July 10,

and it’s limited to 20 teams. Awards of \$400, \$200 and \$100 will be given out to first, second and third place, respectively.
Golf will begin with a shotgun start at 10 a.m.
To register, email tabby@jaycountychamber.com.
For more information call (260) 726-4481.

Date set
The 42nd annual Cancer Association of Darke County/Annie Oakley Golf Tournament is set to take place on July 22 at Turtle Creek Golf Course in Greenville, Ohio.
Lunch will be served at 11:15 a.m., with a shotgun start to follow at 12:15 p.m.
All proceeds will go to the Cancer Association of Darke County.
For additional information or an entry form call (937) 548-9960 or email director@cadinfo.org.

To have an event listed in “Sports on tap,” email details to sports@thecr.com.

90 SALE CALENDAR	90 SALE CALENDAR	90 SALE CALENDAR	110 HELP WANTED	130 MISC. FOR SALE	250 PUBLIC NOTICE	250 PUBLIC NOTICE
<p>PUBLIC AUCTION FRIDAY, JUNE 21ST, 2024 TIME 5:00 P.M. LOCATED: 2635 W. HWY 18 Bryant, IN REAL ESTATE 17.63 Acres in section 10, Jackson Twp. Jay County, Indiana with approximately 15 acres tillable. Frontage on highway 18. For more information phone auctioneers. OWNER: AMOS C GRABER NOTE: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos. SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE AC31800004 AUCTIONEERS Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229 Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587 www.auctionzip.com – Auctioneer ID #4243</p> <p>PUBLIC AUCTION Located: 1205 W McDonald Ave., Hartford City, IN. Friday Evening June 21, 2024 5:30 APM. REAL ESTATE Modular home built in 1998 w/ 3 br., 2 full baths & 1620 sq. ft. of living area. Gas fireplace and gas forced air furnace with central air. For more information contact Loy Real Estate 260-726-2700 or Gary Loy 260-726-5160. HOUSEHOLD GOODS-</p>	<p>OLD&COLLECTOR ITEMS Roper washer & dryer, hospital bed, curved sectional, metal shelf, oil lamps, COCA COLA glasses, bowls, tins. TOOLS Craftsman 12.5 hp mower, Skil 9”- 2 speed band saw, Hitachi belt sander, mantis tiller, furniture clamps, tool cabinets, Cress electric kiln, Ryobi 10” surface planer, and other items not listed. Wayne Craig Estate Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112</p> <p>PUBLIC AUCTION Located: 3295 E 450 S, Bluffton, IN Saturday Morning June 22nd, 2024 10:00 A. M. MODEL A CAR-CAR-TRUCK-MOWE-TOOLS 1931 Model a car with soft top, rumble seat, Parade ready title, 1962 Galaxy Car, 1986 Chevy flatbed truck, John Deer LT160 mower, metal wagon, small anvil, Craftsman tool box, Home Utility 1/2” drill press, Craftmans belt and vibrating sanders, car parts, and many other items not listed. HOUSEHOLD GOODS- OLD ITEMS Oak wall telephone (Chicago Supply Co., Elkhart, IN), 3 drawer marble top dresser with mirror,</p>	<p>1941 US Navy boat clock, Coca Coal Cooler, Aladdin green base lamp, Noritake Gold Stein china, old newspapers, organ stool with glass ball feet, Indy 500 mugs, Smith Bros. 3 cushion sofa, golf clubs, and many other items not listed. AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Vehicles will be sold at 12:30 P.M. The vehicles will be offered both live and on Hi Bid CHARLES UPTGRAFT, DECEASED & DEE UPTGRAFT Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112</p> <p>100 JOBS WANTED</p> <p>AMISH CREW LOOKING FOR any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489.</p> <p>110 HELP WANTED</p> <p>HELP WANTED: RED-KEY TOWN Hall is seeking a full-time or part-time dedicated and skilled Utility Worker responsible for the operation and maintenance of all water and wastewater facilities. 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Interested applicants should submit their resumes to: Gloria May, Redkey Town Hall 8922 IN-67 Redkey, IN 47373. For more information, please contact Brenda Beaty, Town Council President, at 419-203-9081.</p> <p>130 MISC. FOR SALE</p> <p>PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information.</p>	<p>ALUMINUM SHEETS 23”x30”,.007 thick. Clean and shiny on one side..35 cents each or four for \$1.40, plus tax. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland 260-726-8141.</p> <p>190 FARMERS COLUMN</p> <p>AG RENTAL Spreaders: BBI, Artsway Vertical. New Holland 228 skid loaders w/full cab, heat/ac. Fort Recovery 419-852-0309</p> <p>200 FOR RENT</p> <p>LEASE SPACE available, Coldwater, OH. Manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, distribution, offices, inside and outdoor storage. Easy access to major highways and railroad access with loading docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, www.sycamorespace.com</p> <p>230 AUTOS, TRUCKS</p> <p>WE PAY CASH for junk autos. We pick up at your location. 1-765-546-2642 or 1-765-857-1071. Slocum’s Salvage</p>	<p>BANNERS 40” x 13” BUY ONE FOR \$695 GET ONE FOR \$350 Graphic Printing, 309 West Main St., Portland.</p>	<p>STATE OF INDIANA IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT COUNTY OF JAY, SS: 2024 TERM In the Matter of the Unsupervised Administration of the Estate of: Mary Louise Evans, Deceased No. 38C01-2406-EU-000018 NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION Notice is hereby given that James D. Evans was, on the 14th day of June, 2024, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Mary Louise Evans deceased, who died on May 24, 2024 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 14th day of June, 2024. HINKLE, RACSTER & SCHEMENAUR 121 W. High Street Portland, IN 47371 Attorney Jon Eads Clerk of the Circuit Court, For Jay County, Indiana CR 6-20, 27, 2024-HSPAXLP</p>

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Indians pick up second ACME win

The Indians finally picked up their first win of the summer early this week.

That momentum kept them rolling against the Bulldogs.

The Fort Recovery ACME baseball team picked up back-to-back wins as it beat the Celina Bulldogs 10-3 on Tuesday.

Fort Recovery (2-3) was quiet offensively until the third inning. An error, a single and a walk loaded the bases before Caden Grisez scratched the first run across with a walk. Alex Gaerke cleared the bases with a three-RBI triple to push the Indians ahead 4-1.

The Indians continued to pile on runs in the fifth inning. Runs scored on a ground ball by Luke Fortkamp, an error, doubles by Dylan Klenke and Heiden Siefing and a single by Grisez.

Grisez earned the win after tossing three innings and only giving up one unearned run.

The Bulldogs got two more runs in the fourth inning off of Grant Fortkamp, but Klenke locked them down the rest of the way.

Girls power win

FORT RECOVERY —

Local roundup

The Fort Recovery Eels summer swim team took down Union City 493-441 on Tuesday at Ambassador Pool.

The girls claimed 32 victories in the match, including three swimmers that ended up as triple-event winners.

Rozlyn Diller and Kenzie Wendel dominated the 11-12-year-old age group with six combined victories. Diller won the 100-yard freestyle, 50 butterfly and the 100 individual medley, while Wendel claimed the 50 backstroke, 50 breaststroke and 50 freestyle.

Joelle Kaup put in work in the 15-and-older division, topping the 50 butterfly, 50 backstroke and 100 individual medley events.

Kendall Ranley finished first in the open 200 freestyle to go along with her victories in the 13-14-year-old 50 butterfly and 50 freestyle.

The girls also picked up wins in eight relays.

The boys totaled eight

wins, including two relays. Their best showing was in the 13-14-year-old age group, in which Kolson Bechtol won the 50 breaststroke and the 200 medley and 200 freestyle relays came out on top.

Offense abounds

William's Auto Parts edged out Pak-A-Sak for a 17-14 win in Portland Junior League Rookie baseball on Tuesday.

Both teams collected 23 hits in the offensive battle.

Brett Huntsman and Thobe Keller both went 4-for-4 from the plate for William's Auto Parts, while four more batters finished 3-for-4. All but one of those six batters scored three runs in the game.

Huntsman and Wyatt Fennig led the team with three RBIs. Four batters had a pair of extra-base hits, including Carson Dailey with a home run and a double.

Three players were perfect from the plate for Pak-A-Sak. Paxton Hudson and Cage Reynolds both went 4-for-4, while Max Whittington finished 3-for-3.

Ricky Heitkamp led all batters with six RBIs and tied Reynolds for a team-high three runs scored.

See **Roundup** page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Can of corn

Display Craft pitcher Benton Langenkamp catches a short pop up on Tuesday against Lions Club in Portland Junior League Willie Mays baseball.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Camp drills

Kyla Sims hits a backhand during a drill that focused on footwork and movement at the Jay County High School tennis camp on Monday morning.

Jake Paul finds new opponent

By JOEY HAYDEN

The Dallas Morning News
Tribune News Service

DALLAS — Jake Paul is still fighting on July 20, it just won't be against Mike Tyson.

It also won't be at AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

While the YouTuber-turned-prize fighter awaits his mega-fight with the boxing icon — which was delayed until November earlier this month — Most Valuable Promotions announced Tuesday that Paul (9-1, 6 KOs) will be facing former bare knuckle champion boxer and MMA star Mike Perry (5-0, 3 KOs BKFC) on the same date at Amalie Arena in Tampa.

"When Paul vs. Tyson was rescheduled, I knew immediately that I wanted to still fight on Saturday, July 20. Now, as I prepare for my fight against Iron Mike, there's no better opponent for me than Mike Perry," Paul said in a statement.

"He's a proven knockout artist who has shown to be a maniac in and out of the ring. This is the perfect experience for me to gain in advance of facing Mike Tyson."

The eight-round cruiserweight bout will stream live on DAZN pay-per-view, and will also feature a replacement fight for Amanda Serrano (46-2-1, 30 KOs) as she faces Stevie Morgan (14-1, 13 KOs) in the co-main event.

Serrano was initially scheduled to face undisputed super lightweight world champion Katie Taylor in one of the most anticipated women's boxing rematches in history on July 20 at AT&T Stadium.

"I've already been preparing for a fight ... even though I'll now be waiting a little longer for my rematch with Katie Taylor, this is an opportunity for me to face another tough boxer," Serrano said.

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