



2024 Jay County Fair

**A special section in The Commercial Review and The News and Sun
Wednesday, July 3, 2024**



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Molly Muhlenkamp Jay County Fair Queen

Molly, 18, is a 2024 Jay County High School graduate. She plans to attend Ball State University to major in health and exercise science: pre-physical therapy.

She was a member of the National Honor Society, student council, student athletic advisory council and HOSA business club at JCHS. She also competed for the Patriot girls soccer, basketball and track teams.

Molly is in her 10th year of 4-H and shows dairy beef steers and feeder calves. She attends Holy Trinity Catholic Church, where she volunteers as a lector and was a senior officer for the youth group.

She is working as a life-guard at Portland Water Park this summer.

Molly is the daughter of Kerry and Katie Muhlenkamp.

As the 2024 Jay County FFA Sweetheart, she is sponsored by Jay County FFA.



Molly Muhlenkamp grins after winning champion middle weight steer during the dairy beef show July 12, 2017, in the Show Arena at Jay County Fairgrounds during the Jay County Fair. She went on to win grand champion dairy beef steer.

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Flo Rida headlines the fair

By RAY COONEY
The Graphic Printing Company
Even with many similarities from year to year, no two fairs are ever the same.

Among the changes this year are a different genre of music for the headliner, some slight shifts to the grandstand schedule, new educational offerings for young-

sters from 4-H and changes to ride schedules and gate times.

The Jay County Fair kicks off Saturday with

those changes and some others while ultimately shooting for the usual goal of providing a week of entertainment, educa-

tion and, of course, food to the community.

"The Great Jay County Fair is once again upon us," said Jay County Fair Board president Aaron Loy. "I think things are going really well. A lot of people are excited about the grandstand events.

"A lot of traction toward the truck and tractor pull. It's been several years since we've had that ... so a lot of people are excited to see that come back."

The fair will continue the recent pattern of opening and closing with demolition derbies on the bookend Saturdays — 5 p.m. July 6 and 13. Figure 8 and straw races, which were part of a derby day last year, will have their own grandstand slot 5 p.m. Sunday, with autocross moving to Monday. 3 Bar

J Rodeo will be back on Tuesday followed by truck and tractor pulls at 7 p.m. Wednesday and the Cochran and Co. concert for faith night on Thursday.

With Country Concert also taking place next weekend in Fort Loramie, Ohio, the fair board decided to look at different genre options for the big show in Jay County.

They chose Flo Rida.

The native of Miami Gardens, Florida, is a rapper, singer and songwriter who has had hits in hip hop, pop and electronic music. He broke onto the scene with the single "Low" — "... Apple Bottom jeans, jeans. Boots with the fur, with the fur ..." — in 2007 and won Teen Choice Awards for breakout artist, rap artist and hook-up the following year. (The hook-

up award was for "Low," which featured T-Pain.) He also won the International Dance Music Award for best rap/hip-hop dance track for "Wild Ones" in 2013.

"We think it's just a great opportunity to mix things up," Loy said. "People always talk about wanting to try something different. ... The fair board kind of got out of their comfort zone to just try something new. People have been asking for something other than country, so we thought with Country Concert being the same weekend this is the year to try something different and see how it goes."

Each of the weeknight grandstand events will begin at 7 p.m., with the exception of Flo Rida at 8 p.m.

See **Headlines** page 9

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Grandstand schedule



Saturday, July 6

5 p.m. — Demolition derby

Sunday, July 7

5 p.m. — Figure 8 and straw races

Monday, July 8

7 p.m. — Autocross

Tuesday, July 9

7 p.m. — 3 Bar J Rodeo

Wednesday, July 10

7 p.m. — Truck and tractor pulls

Thursday, July 11

7 p.m. — Cochran and Company concert

Friday, July 12

8 p.m. — Flo Rida concert

Saturday, July 13

5 p.m. — Demolition derby



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Derby destruction

A car gets off the ground while being slammed by another during one of the 2023 demolition derbies at the Jay County Fair. This year's fair will feature demolition derbies at 5 p.m. on Saturdays July 6 and 13.

The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

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Inara Sanderson First runner-up

Inara is the 17-year-old daughter of Joel Sanderson and Amanda and Bryan McIver. She will be a senior at Jay County High School in the fall. After high school, she hopes to pursue a degree in elementary education with a minor in theatre.

She has been involved in the Patriot Edition and Just Treble show choirs and is also a member of the JCHS Spanish Club.

Inara has been involved with Jay County Civic Theatre for 13 years, including playing the role of Evie in Disney's "Descendants." She is also a junior ambassador for Jay County Civic Theatre.

She is working this summer as an intern for Arts Place's Arts in the Parks program. She is sponsored by Jay County Civic Theatre.



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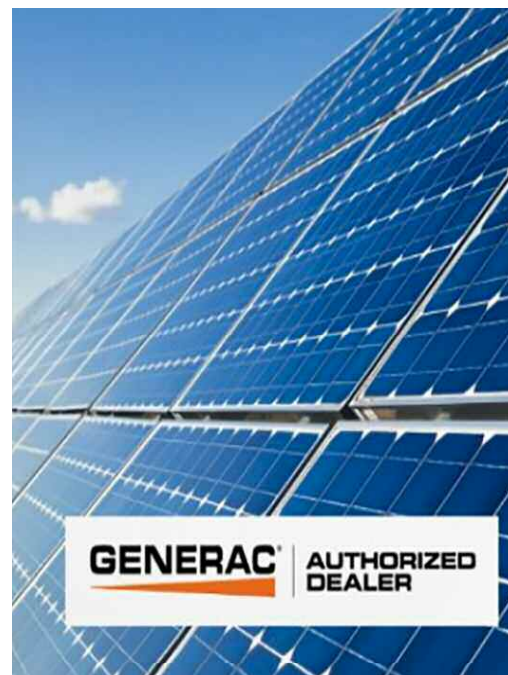
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Wednesday, July 24 - CR*

State Line Heritage Days

Tuesday, July 30 - NG*

Randolph County Fair results

Tuesday, Aug. 7 - NG*

DATE IS APPROXIMATE BASED ON RECEIVING 4-H RESULTS

Blackford County Fair results

NT*Wednesday, Aug. 8

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*UNIV = appears in all Graphic Printing Newspapers, CR = The Commercial Review,
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Farmer's Building schedule

Saturday, July 6

- 9 a.m. — Baby contest (6 to 12 months)
- 11 a.m. — Baby contest (12 to 18 months)
- 1 p.m. — Little Miss and Mister Jay County Fair Contest
- 3 p.m. — Honorary queen court program
- 4 p.m. — Husband calling contest

Sunday, July 7

- 10 a.m. — Portland Church of Christ service
- 2 p.m. — Dalton & Delaney concert
- 5:30 p.m. — Cigar Box Scott concert
- 7:30 p.m. — Todd Berry Elvis Presley tribute

Monday, July 8

- 4 p.m. — Pie auction and Jay County Farm Bureau cook-off

Tuesday, July 9

- 10:30 a.m. — Pet Parade
- 11 a.m. — McDonald's Kids' Day
- 2:30 p.m. — Silly Safaris Live Animal Show
- 8 p.m. — Gary Phelps a Tribute to Johnny Cash

Wednesday, July 10

- 3 p.m. — Cincinnatus League senior citizen recognition
- 5 p.m. — Veteran's Day program with Greg Rhodes

Thursday, July 11

- 5 p.m. — Hunter Riggins concert

Friday, July 12

- 5 p.m. — Ron Crites "White Lightning George Jones Tribute"

Saturday, July 13

- 1 p.m. — Jay County Civic Theatre concert
- 5 p.m. — A Touch of Mexico

Headlines ...

Continued from page 4
 Tickets, which are available at jaycountyfair.com, are \$40 for general admission. Reserved grandstand seating, which has been expanded this year, and track are \$45, with pit at \$65 and box seats are \$75.

Cochren & Co. — its debut album “Don’t Lose Hope” was released in 2021 and it was nominated for the Gospel Music Association’s Dove Award for new artist of the year — will highlight Faith Night at the fair.
 Tickets are \$20 for grand-

stand, \$25 for box and track and \$30 for pit.

“(It’s) appearing to be the biggest one we’ve had yet,” said Loy. “Each year it’s gotten bigger and bigger. I think this one will be the best one yet, so we’re really excited to see that continue to grow.”

Tickets range from \$5 to \$20 for the other grandstand events.

Jay County 4-H will stick with the schedule of livestock shows that has become customary the last few years, with the dog and rabbit shows at noon Saturday immediately following opening

ceremonies at 11:45 a.m. Small animal supreme showmanship will be at 4 p.m. Tuesday, with large animal supreme showmanship at 5 p.m. Thursday. The awards ceremony and auction will be held at 10 a.m. Friday in the Show Arena.
 See **Headlines** page 14

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Makinsey Murphy Second runner-up

Makinsey, 18, is a 2024 Jay County High School graduate who also earned her associate's degree in general studies. She plans to attend Ball State University and pursue a degree in biology with a concentration in zoology.

She is involved in FFA and served on student council. She was also a three-year member of the Patriot girls track team.

Makinsey is a 10-year member of 4-H, showing cats, rabbits, goats, ducks and sheep and participating in photography and floriculture projects. She won the 2022 small animal supreme showmanship competition. She is also a Girl Scout working toward her gold award.

She volunteers during the summer at Fort Wayne Children's Zoo.

Makinsey is the daughter of Jason and Cindy Murphy.

She is sponsored by Lee Farms.



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Hannah Laux Third runner-up

Hannah, the daughter of Lewis and Emily Laux, is an 18-year-old who graduated from Jay County High School last month. She plans to attend Ball State University to study elementary education with a concentration on primary education.

She was a four-year member of the JCHS show choirs, serving as president for Patriot Edition as a senior. She was also a four-year member of the Patriot swim team, serving as a captain during her senior year. She was a member of student council and the National Honor Society.

Hannah attends Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, where she sings in the choir and served as president of the youth group. She has been involved in 4-H for four years, showing beef cattle.

She is working at Portland Water Park this summer and is a volunteer assistant coach for the Jay County Summer Swim Team.

Hannah is sponsored by Fisher Meats.

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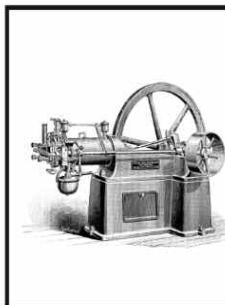
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Sheep showers

Jay County 4-Hers, including Madi Paxson (foreground) show sheep during the 2023 Jay County Fair. This year's sheep show is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 10, in the Show Arena.

The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

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and Sunday, July 7
\$5 per carload

Monday, July 8
through
Saturday, July 13
\$5 per person

5 and younger are
admitted for free

Rides

Tuesday, July 9
Noon to close

Wednesday, July 10
5 p.m. to close

Thursday, July 11
5 p.m. to close

Friday, July 12
5 p.m. to close

Saturday, July 13
Noon to close

Armbands are \$25
Tuesday, Wednesday
and Thursday
and \$30 Friday
and Saturday

Women's Building
Sugar cream
pie contest
1 p.m. Monday

IU Health kids activities
and diaper distribution
10 a.m. Tuesday

IU Health screenings
10 a.m. Wednesday

Crafts/Diamond Dots
10 a.m. Thursday



McKenna Vore Miss Congeniality

McKenna is a 19-year-old who will be a junior at Ball State University in the fall. She is majoring in theatre education with a minor in new works for the stage.

During her time at Jay County High School, she was involved in the drama club and international thespian society. She served as president for both. She was also a 10-year 4-H member.

McKenna is active at Ball State, where she will be vice president of the Philanthropy Education Council for 2024-25. She is also Jay County's ambassador for BSU.

She has been involved with Jay County Civic Theatre for seven years and also adjudicates plays for Indiana State Thespian regional and state competitions. She teaches theatre classes for Arts Place during the summer and has also been involved with a kindergarten readiness program for three years.

McKenna is the daughter of Joseph and Amy Vore. She is sponsored by Wagner's Complete Property Care.

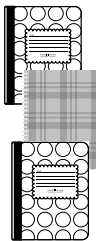
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Headlines ...

Continued from page 9

"I think things are running kind of like a well-oiled machine," said Jay County Purdue Extension 4-H youth development educator Alison Keen. "We've got a pretty good schedule in place.

"We would love to invite everybody to come out and see the livestock shows and come and watch the fashion review on Sunday ... and then join us for the livestock auction and Back a 4-Her on Friday the 12th."

New 4-H events include Books in the Barn in partnership with Farm Bureau and Jay County Public Library at 10 a.m.

Monday and Tuesday. Children approximately ages 3 to 6 are invited to the fairgrounds to hear a story — Monday's will involve chickens while Tuesday's will be about cows — see the animals, participate in some arts and crafts, learn and enjoy a snack. Those in attendance will receive a copy of the book.

Jay County 4-H will also host an event for Mini 4-Hers (kindergarten through second grade) to enjoy some ice cream, compete in a scavenger hunt and meet the Jay County Fair Queen and her court during Kids' Day on Tuesday.

See **Headlines** page 15



4-H livestock schedule



Saturday, July 6

11:45 a.m. — Opening ceremony
 Noon — Dog show in the Show Arena
 Noon — Rabbit show at the East Arena

Sunday, July 7

11 a.m. — Beef show in the Show Arena
 1:30 p.m. — Poultry show at the East Arena

Monday, July 8

8 a.m. — Swine show in the Show Arena
 2 p.m. — Cat show at Bob Schmit Memorial Exhibition Hall
 3 p.m. — Dairy beef and feeder show in the Show Arena

Tuesday, July 9

8:30 a.m. — Dairy goat show in the Show Arena
 11:30 a.m. — Pygmy and meat goat show in the Show Arena
 4 p.m. — Small animal supreme showmanship in the Show Arena

Wednesday, July 10

9 a.m. — Dairy show in the Show Arena
 4:30 p.m. — Sheep show in the Show Arena

Thursday, July 11

9 a.m. — Horse and pony show at the Horse and Pony Arena
 5 p.m. — Large animal supreme showmanship in the Show Arena

Friday, July 12

10 a.m. — Awards ceremony and auction in the Show Arena

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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Rachel Louck and Olivia Dues and their daughters Kennedy Lawhead and Lainey Dues interact during the 2023 baby contest at the Jay County Fair. This year's baby contest for 6 to 12 month olds will be at 9 a.m. Saturday with 12 to 18 month olds following at 11 a.m. The new Little Miss and Mister Jay County Fair Contest will be at 1 p.m.

Headlines ...

Continued from page 14
Free entertainment in the Farmer's Building starts with the baby contests Saturday morning and the new Little Miss and Mister Jay County Fair Contest at 1 p.m. Saturday. Other features in the building include an Elvis Presley tribute on Sunday night, Farm Bureau Cook-Off on Monday, a tribute to Johnny Cash on Tuesday, a Veteran's Day program Wednesday, Hunter Rig-gins in concert Thursday, a George Jones tribute Fri-

day and A Touch of Mexico on Saturday.

Ground entertainment, which is also free, will feature an interactive and educational dinosaur show as well as a barnyard show that features pig racing.

PrimeTime Carnival Company is returning to provide rides and other entertainment for the third consecutive year, though with a trimmed schedule. Rides will open at noon Tuesday for Kids' day and be available through close.

Rides will open at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. They will then be open from noon to close again Saturday, July 13, for the final day of the fair. (Armbands will be \$25 for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and \$30 for Friday and Saturday.)

Loy said the company will bring 20 to 22 rides as it has in each of the last two years.

"We're excited to have Primetime Amusements back," he said. "We've had a great two-year partner-

ship, going into the third year, so we're excited about that."

Admission to the fair will be free until 2 p.m. on the weekends and until 5 p.m. on weekdays.

The admission charges will be \$5 per carload on the opening weekend of the fair. From Monday on, admission is \$5 per person. (Children 5 and younger are admitted free.)

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