

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

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## Focused on finances

**Salary ordinance approved; budget hearing was held**

By **RAY COONEY**

The Commercial Review  
The salary ordinance passed.

The budget hearing saw no comment.

And a former mayor offered some advice on city finances.

Portland City Council focused mostly on financial issues during its meeting Monday.

There was no public comment on the 2025 budget, which is proposed at \$10.61 million. That's up by 10.6% over the 2024 budget of \$9.59 million.

The budget calls for \$4.77 million in the general fund, up from \$4.42 million; \$1.39 million in the motor vehicle highway fund, up from \$1.31 million; \$1.3 million in the insurance surplus non-reverting fund (unchanged); and \$569,420 in the park and recreation fund, up from \$509,000.

Council is scheduled to vote on adoption of the 2025 budget at its Oct. 7 meeting.

Also Monday, council approved the 2025 salary ordinance after a

few comments about the proposed increase for the mayor.

As he had at the previous meeting, council member Ron May said he does not believe Mayor Jeff Westlake deserves a raise.

"You knew what it paid coming in and I honestly don't think you're deserving of that raise right now," said May.

Council member Dave Golden responded that the raise under consideration is for the position and is not a refer-

endum on the mayor's job performance.

The ordinance — it includes 6% raises for all city employees, 8% raises for superintendents, the clerk-treasurer and the mayor, and \$100 per year longevity pay capped at 20 years — was then approved by a 6-1 vote with May dissenting. Kent McClung, Matt Goldsworthy, Mike Aker, Michele Brewster, Ashley Hilfiker and Golden voted in favor.

Former two-term mayor Randy Geesaman also spoke to council

Monday, saying he sees potential red flags in the financial report that was presented by accounting and consulting firm Baker Tilly of Indianapolis on Aug. 14. (Geesaman lost to Westlake in the 2023 general election.)

Geesaman referenced portions of the Baker Tilly report, including that nine of Portland's 12 major operating funds have disbursements that exceed receipts for 2024. He noted that without changes, cash reserves will decline.

He encouraged council members to stay informed about proposals that are expected to come up in the state legislature this year, including property tax relief and the elimination of income tax.

"What are they doing and how is that going to affect us?" he asked. He also noted that State Sen. Travis Holdman, who represents Jay County, is leading the General Assembly's State and Local Tax Review Task Force.

See **Finances** page 2

### Budget comparison

The chart below shows the City of Portland's proposed 2025 proposed budget compared to this year's budget. Listed are the major funds, as well as the budget totals. Amounts are expressed in millions.

	2024	2025	Increase
<b>General</b>	\$4.42	\$4.77	7.9%
<b>Highway</b>	\$1.13	\$1.39	23%
<b>Insurance surplus</b>	\$1.3	\$1.3	no change
<b>Park and recreation</b>	\$0.509	\$0.569	11.8%
<b>Total</b>	\$9.59	\$10.61	10.6%

There were no comments from the public during the city's public hearing on the budget Tuesday. Council is scheduled to consider the budget for adoption during its regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7.

The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Village to buy a new police vehicle

**Department's 2015 Charger has had mechanical problems**

By **BAILEY CLINE**

The Commercial Review  
Village police are getting a new cruiser.

Fort Recovery Village Council amended appropriations and approved transfers during a special meeting Tuesday, allowing for the purchase of a 2025 Dodge Durango Pursuit and a brush chipper.

Both purchases had already been budgeted for earlier this year.

Fort Recovery Police Chief Jared Laux explained Tuesday the village's 2015 Dodge Charger has had various mechanical issues recently and had to be towed.

"It's a matter of time until (the engine) probably just completely just shuts down," Laux said. "You guys have heard the ticking, the misfire, and I mean just everything under the sun with that vehicle unfortunately."

He shared plans to purchase the vehicle from Sarchione Automotive Group for \$45,029. It should be delivered within the next couple weeks.

Outfitting the vehicle with police equipment is estimated to take another \$15,000 or more. Laux is looking into utilizing KE Rose of Huber Heights or StateWide Ford of Van Wert for the service.

See **Village** page 2

## U.S. unseals charges against Hamas

By **CHRIS STROHM**

Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service

The U.S. Justice Department announced Tuesday that it had charged six senior leaders of Hamas with terrorism and conspiracy to kill Americans, days after six hostages including an Israeli-U.S. citizen were slain in the Gaza Strip.

The charges against Hamas leaders Yahya Sinwar and other top Hamas operatives were filed in February and include counts linked to Hamas' Oct. 7 assault on Israel as well as a string of other attacks over more than a decade. In a statement, Attorney General Merrick Garland said the Hamas leaders had financed and directed a decades-long campaign to murder Americans and endanger U.S. national security.

"The charges unsealed today are just one part of our effort to target every aspect of Hamas' operations," Garland said. "These actions will not be our last. The Justice Department has a long memory."

Garland cited the death of Hersh Goldberg-Polin, the 23-year-old Israeli-American who was captured in the Oct. 7 attack and who was killed with five other hostages over

**Counts filed in February were linked to Oct. 7 attack and others over decade-plus**

the weekend, in his statement. He said the department was investigating Goldberg-Polin's killing as an act of terrorism.

The Justice Department didn't say why it waited until Tuesday to unseal the charges. As the American presidential election campaign has heated up, Republicans have accused President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee, of not doing enough to secure the hostages' release or support Israeli forces' campaign against Hamas.

The Biden administration has worked for months to forge a cease-fire accord that would end the fighting in the Gaza Strip and lead to the release of the hostages. Israel and Hamas have so far failed to agree on a proposal put forward by

the U.S., Qatar and Egypt. On Tuesday, White House spokesman John Kirby said "the killing over the weekend just underscores the sense of urgency that we have to have."

Hamas is designated a terrorist group by the U.S. and the European Union. The Oct. 7 attack killed some 1,200 people, including about 40 Americans.

Among those charged was Ismail Haniyeh, the Hamas leader who was killed in a bomb blast in Iran in July, an attack that Iran blamed on Israel. Israel has so far declined to take responsibility for Haniyeh's death, though the killing has sparked fears that Iran, and its allies Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas might retaliate and plunge the region into fresh conflict.



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Gil Cohen-Magen

Mourners gather by the grave of killed U.S.-Israeli hostage Hersh Goldberg-Polin, whose body was recovered with five other hostages in Gaza, during the funeral Monday at Givat Shaul cemetery in Jerusalem amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas. The six were among 251 hostages seized during Hamas's Oct. 7 attack that triggered the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas.

### Deaths

**Dorothy Burgess**, 87, Portland  
**Max Parr**, 59, Alexandria  
**Mary Schwartz**, 74, Berne  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 75 degrees Tuesday. The low was 46.

Tonight's low will be in the mid 60s. Expect partly cloudy skies Friday morning with rain showers expected in the afternoon and a high in the upper 70s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Jay County Public Library will host Friendly Fridays from 2 to 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 6. Anyone can visit to sign up to become a friend of the library and learn about upcoming events and how to get involved.

### Coming up

**Friday** — Coverage of this week's Jay County Council budget hearing.

**Saturday** — Results from the JCHS football game against Southern Wells.

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



# Obituaries

### Dorothy Burgess

Jan. 14, 1937-Sept. 3, 2024  
Dorothy J. Burgess, age 87, of Portland passed away on Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2024, at Persimmon Ridge Healthcare in Portland.



Burgess

She was born in Portland on Jan. 14, 1937, the daughter of David W. and Nettie Mildred (Ervin) Walker. She was married on June 16, 1954, to Willord "Bill" Burgess and he passed away on April 15, 1994. Dorothy retired from Franklin Electric, was a Portland High School graduate and enjoyed crocheting and embroidering.

Surviving is one son, Terry Burgess of Portland; two daughters, Carla Burgess (husband: Greg Guntle) of Brownsburg and Ginger Shawver (companion: Ed May) of Portland; one brother, Perry Walker (wife: Connie) of Portland; one sister, Doris Zimmerman (husband: Tom) of Portland; seven grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a brother, David Dale Walker. Funeral services will be Saturday, Sept. 7, at 11 a.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with burial to follow in the Stahl Cemetery. Visitation will be Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Jay County Cancer Society. Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

### Max Parr

Aug. 8, 1965-Sept. 1, 2024

Max A. Parr, 59, Alexandria, passed away on Sunday, Sept. 1, 2024, at Community Heart and Vascular Hospital in Indianapolis following a very brief illness.

Max was born on Aug. 8, 1965, in Bluffton, Indiana, to Gerald Max and Norma Jean (Stanley) Peterson. He was a graduate of Jay County High School, Class of 1983.

Max served in the United States Navy in the Seabees. He has owned and operated Parr's Enterprises in Alexandria since 1990.

Max enjoyed working in his garage, motorcycling, go-karting and four-wheeling. Basically, if it had an engine, Max was interested. A high point in Max's life was getting to race with his son in the ATV Motocross National racing circuit all across the country.

Alexandria has lost not only a skilled craftsman, but also a friend of the community. Max was a giver, and many friends



Parr

and family have been the benefactors of his caring, kindness and generosity. Max's genuine giving nature will continue to those who benefitted from his being an organ donor.

Survivors: Son — Thomas Max Parr and wife Michala Parr of Alexandria

Two granddaughters — Meredyth and Madilyn Parr  
His mother — Jean Peterson (John) of Dunkirk and Fort Myers, Florida

Three sisters — Chris Rodgers (Denny) and Donetta McIlwain, all of Dunkirk, and Susan Todd (Joe) of Fort Myers, Florida

Several nieces and nephews

He was preceded in death by his father in 1998.

Services honoring Max's life and legacy will take place at 3 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 6, 2024, in the Owens Funeral Home, 412 N. Harrison St., Alexandria. Mike Owens will officiate. Cremation

will follow the services. A public viewing will take place at the Owens Funeral Home on Friday from noon to 3 p.m. prior to the service.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Look Twice, Save a Life, c/o Bikersinc., 1761 N. Sherman Drive, Suite F, Indianapolis, IN 46218.

**Mary J. Schwartz**, rural Berne, a relative of Geneva residents, May 10, 1949-Sept. 3, 2024. Services will be at 9 a.m. Friday at the Schwartz residence, 5711 S. 600 East, Berne.

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 9/6	Saturday 9/7	Sunday 9/8	Monday 9/9	Tuesday 9/10
79/47	66/42	70/48	78/52	82/53
Friday's forecast shows a 60% chance of thunderstorms throughout the day and night.	There's a slight chance of showers Saturday. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a low temperature of 42.	Another day of sun is on the horizon Sunday. The low at night will be in the upper 40s.	Sunny skies are expected Monday, when the low may reach 52.	Tuesday's forecast shows sunny skies with a high in the low 80s.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$93 million	Evening Daily Three: 5-1-8 Daily Four: 9-5-2-1 Quick Draw: 7-13-15-19-22-25-28-29-37-39-53-57-63-66-67-70-72-73-78-80
<b>Mega Millions</b> 12-41-43-52-55 Mega Ball: 9 Megaplier: 4 Estimated jackpot: \$740 million	<b>Ohio</b> Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 8-4-6 Pick 4: 8-0-2-6 Pick 5: 8-2-2-6-7 Evening Pick 3: 8-3-4 Pick 4: 9-4-7-3 Pick 5: 6-1-2-1-8 Rolling Cash: 5-11-23-24-33 Estimated jackpot: \$230,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 4-8-9 Daily Four: 8-5-4-5 Quick Draw: 7-11-12-15-17-26-28-31-33-39-42-43-62-64-65-67-71-74-77-78	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....3.56 Sept. corn .....3.60 Wheat .....4.49	Sept. beans .....9.72 Wheat ..... 5.24
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....3.66 Sept. corn .....3.71 Oct. corn .....3.66	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....3.57 Sept. corn .....3.63 Beans .....9.77 Sept. beans .....9.77 Wheat .....5.67
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....3.63 Sept. corn .....3.63 Beans .....9.72	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....3.46 Sept. corn .....3.51 Beans .....9.62 Sept. beans .....9.47

## Today in history

In 2017, Portland City Council approved \$77,000 for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study to learn solutions to the city's chronic flooding problems. It planned to draw back on its portion if Jay County Commissioners made a financial contribution. (Commissioners committed \$30,000 in economic development income tax funds the next morning toward the study.) Also, at the same meeting, council accepted streets and parks department superintendent Ryan Myers' resignation. — The CR

## Citizen's calendar

<b>Today</b> 4 p.m. — Jay School Corporation and Jay Classroom Teachers' Association public hearing, General Shanks, 414 Floral Ave., Portland. 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Plan Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. <b>Monday</b> 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. 5 p.m. — Portland City Council special meeting, Fifer Properties, 510 S. Bridge St., 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.
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## Village ...

Continued from page 1  
To decommission the Charger — essentially to remove all police equipment so that it is able to be used for non-police purposes — is estimated to cost \$880. Laux talked about the potential to recycle some equipment by moving it from the Charger to the Durango.  
"Well, from my standpoint, I think that Chief Laux has done a lot of homework on this, so I trust that he has gotten us to the best buy that he can, and it sounds like we need to retire that other (vehicle) sooner than later," said council member Cliff Wendel.  
Council members made a \$65,000 appropriation for the vehicle purchase.

## Finances ...

Continued from page 1  
Geesaman asked council members to look at the city's finances through a long-term lens and consider revenue options such as increasing the local option income tax (LOIT).  
Clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips later noted that while the city has dipped into reserves in some funds this year, many of those funds had shown growth in the previous years.  
"Some of those are in the red (this year), but it's really not as grim as what I thought it sounded like," she said.  
She noted various one-time projects, including the Blaine Pike paving and multi-use path, Meridian Street sewer and downtown building demolitions.  
"But yes, we do need to be very mindful on what we're spending," Phillips added.

Hilfiker and Westlake also sparred again over city ordinances, with Hilfiker saying he's hopeful that with the payroll ordinance passed council and the mayor can work together. She asked the mayor, "Why do you keep directing city employees to not follow the ordinance?"  
Specifically regarding trash, she questioned how the city can justify charging some residents, who are following the rules, a fee to pick up large items while others have their items picked up without paying. She also mentioned a situation regarding city workers mowing a property without having followed proper procedure to notify the owner. She cautioned against possible lawsuits.  
Westlake, as he has at previous meetings, said he

just wants trash picked up and properties cleaned up.  
There was also a back-and-forth regarding the planned hiring of a code enforcement officer. Golden said it would be nice to find common ground, asking if the officer would follow procedure that is in place or be subject to the mayor's orders.  
In other business, council:  
• Heard updates on several projects after questions from Golden:  
— The Blaine Pike multi-use path project still needs a few curb ramps to be adjusted and the process to work through the system for a change order regarding specifications that were not correct.  
— Westlake said paving on the Meridian Street (U.S. 27) project is expected to start on the south side of

the city on Monday, Sept. 23. He added that the project may go beyond its originally scheduled end date of Oct. 11.  
— The installation of livestreaming equipment has been delayed as Dynamic Business Solutions is waiting for microphones to be delivered.  
— Fiberoptic lines being installed by Utilities One are for Brightspeed, which is expanding service in the area.  
• Approved a \$9,000 contribution to the Children's Advocacy Center, which responds to child sex abuse cases. It works with child welfare and the law enforcement system in a united response.  
• Heard McClung thanked all those involved in the Tri-State Antique Tractor and Engine Show held last month.

## Capsule Reports

**Lost control**  
Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000 after a Portland man drove off the side of county road 500 South to avoid an accident about 4:44 p.m. Friday.  
Tyler D. Manor, 19, was driving a 2011 GMC Sierra east on the road near county road 200 West. He told police he was forced off the road by a westbound semi passing another vehicle. Manor drove off the south side of the road and hit a parked dump truck.  
**Turning crash**  
A Dunkirk woman crashed her car into the back of a vehicle a Red-

key woman was driving at the intersection of county roads 400 South and 700 West about 9:37 a.m. Sunday.  
Brittany C. Franklin, 33, was driving her 2017 Dodge Durango west on county road 400 South behind a 1994 Chevrolet S-10 Blazer driven by 41-year-old Lisa M. Terry of Redkey. Terry told police she slowed down to turn north onto county road 700 West and Franklin crashed into her. Franklin told police Terry stopped in the road before turning. Franklin tried to stop but couldn't avoid the collision.  
Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000. The vehicle Terry

was driving is registered to Manager VMF of Indianapolis.  
**Passing accident**  
Two Dunkirk men had their trailers collide along county road 600 South about 9:02 p.m. Friday.  
Christopher J. Hudson, 31, was driving his 2003 Chevrolet Silverado west on the road. Stevie L. Garrett, 70, was driving his 2003 Chevrolet Trailblazer east on the road. As they passed each other, the wheels on their trailers collided, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report.  
Garrett's trailer was towed. Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

## Felony arrests

**Domestic battery**  
A Portland man was arrested Monday for domestic battery.  
Gregory A. Cash, 58, 7461 W. Division Road, was preliminarily charged with a Level 5 felony.  
He was being held in Jay County Jail on a \$10,000 bond.  
**Drug possession**  
A Portland man was arrested Monday for possession of methamphetamine.  
Robert J. Balle, 51, 623 1/2 E. Votaw St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony.  
He was being held in Jay County Jail.  
**Probation violation**  
A Geneva man was arrested Tuesday for violating his probation.  
Nicholas J. Gerber, 24,

425 N. Railroad St., pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to child solicitation, a Level 5 felony. He was sentenced to four years in Indiana Department of Correction with all but 16 months suspended. A petition alleging he violated the conditions of his probation was filed in court Aug. 13.  
Gerber was released on a \$10,000 from Jay County Jail.

## Felony court news

**Obstruction**  
A Portland man was sentenced to prison for obstruction of justice.  
Nathan Ross, 42, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to the Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to six months in Indiana Department of Correction and assessed \$189 in court costs.

### SERVICES

<b>Today</b> <b>Affolder</b> , Ray: 5 p.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.
<b>Friday</b> <b>Schwartz</b> , Mary: 9 a.m., Schwartz residence, 5711 S. 600 East, Berne.
<b>Saturday</b> <b>Burgess</b> , Dorothy: 11 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

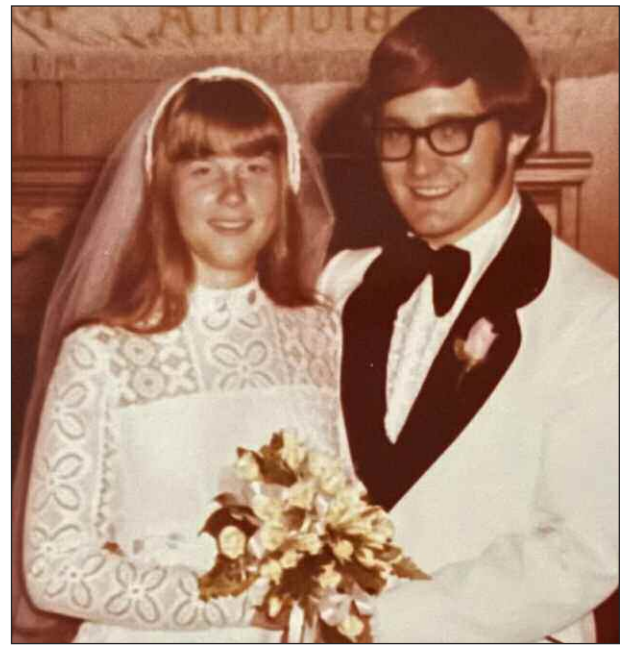
Service listings provided by  
**PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS**  
120 N. Meridian St.  
Portland, Indiana 47371  
(260) 726-9201  
progressiveofficeproducts.com

## 50th anniversary

### Richard and Claudia Jones



Claudia and Richard Jones - 2024



Claudia and Richard Jones - 1974

The Joneses recently celebrated 50 years of marriage.

Claudia Baughman and Richard Jones wed July 27, 1974, at Asbury United Methodist Church in Portland.

Richard Jones retired from Jay School Corporation, and Claudia Jones retired from Jay County Hospital.

The rural Portland couple have lived in Jay County for 70 years. Their children are John and Carla Tangeman of Upper Sandusky, Ohio, and Kevin and Dana McCabe of Huntersville, North Carolina. They also have five grandchildren.

Richard and Claudia Jones planned to celebrate with a 10-day cruise of northern Europe with friends and a week in Panama City Beach, Florida, with family.

# Mother-in-law's late apology gets no response

DEAR ABBY: My son-in-law and I had words five years ago. Two years ago, I wrote him a letter of apology and told him it was always "family first." My daughter confirmed he received the letter.

They recently had their fourth child. We haven't seen their first since he was 2 or the second since she was born, and we've seen the third only once. I don't know how to repair this situation. My daughter and I chat only when her husband is not around. She's a police officer, and I don't want to cause her any stress that could affect her on the job. He has blocked me on social media as well as my phone calls. What can I do? — SORRY MOTHER-IN-LAW IN THE EAST

DEAR SORRY: That must have been some argument you had with your son-in-law. What took you three years to apologize? If he no longer wants anything to do with you, no one can force him, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't be able to see

Dear Abby



the children when he's not around. If you haven't already suggested this to your daughter, give it a try.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 37-year-old woman with a very supportive husband. I love him dearly, but I have some concerns. We have no children although we tried for years. Then I found out I have PCOS (polycystic ovary syndrome). I can still have a child, but now, because of my age, a bad back and a bad knee, I have kind of given up. My husband and I are overweight, though I am trying to lose weight. It's hard. I also suffer from depression. Am I doing the right thing by giving up and putting myself first? — STRUGGLING IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR STRUGGLING: It is important to put yourself first. Before deciding whether to bring a child into this world, you need to get yourself back in shape physically and emotionally. Once that's done, you will be in a better position to decide whether you are equal to the responsibilities of motherhood.

DEAR ABBY: I have known "Mona" for 25 years and thought we were friends. She bought some patio furniture from me but still owes me \$100. When I tried to contact her about it, she blocked me. I wanted to post this on Facebook without saying her name, but I'm taking the high road.

We've never had arguments, and I don't understand her behavior. Mona is the one always saying, "I love you" and "I'm praying for you," and then she pulls this? She has lied to me in the past, but I never called her on it because it didn't matter to me. What are your

thoughts? — TURNING POINT IN MICHIGAN

DEAR TURNING POINT: When you first realized that Mona was lying to you, you SHOULD have called her on it and revised your opinion of her. Mona appears to be not only a hypocrite but also a user. Be glad the lesson you have learned has cost you only \$100 because it could have cost you more. As to my thoughts, I think you should stay far away from Mona and find friends who understand that friendship is reciprocal.

DEAR ABBY: Recently, my best friend, "Stuart," found a new partner of the same gender. I'm happy he found someone with whom he has a deep connection and I admire his confidence in coming out. However, it has taken a toll on our friendship. When Stuart and I hang out, he brings his partner along. I usually wouldn't mind having more people along, but Stuart and his partner are often intimate around me in public. I

have expressed my discomfort and asked him to maintain some decorum and relationship boundaries, but he continues to act inappropriately.

I don't want to lose my friendship with him, but if he chooses his partner over me every single time, I see no other option. What should I do? — UNCOMFORTABLE IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR UNCOMFORTABLE: What do you mean by "intimate"? Are you describing handholding? Hugging? A quick peck on the cheek or lips? Or passionate embraces and expressions of affection usually confined to the bedroom? If it's the latter, express your discomfort to Stuart again, or see them only in a less public setting.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

## Community Calendar

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

**Today**  
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.  
CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Sec-

ond 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.

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.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet the first Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100

North. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

**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.

SOFT SHOULDERS — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place at Swiss Village in Berne. For more information, call (260) 589-3173.

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will hold its next meeting at noon Friday, Sept. 6, 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.

ROAD RIDERS FOR JESUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month in the West Walnut Church of Christ fellowship hall, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland. (Please enter from the door facing the alley on the north side of the building.)

## Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

### Wednesday's Solution

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

The objective is to fill a nine-by-nine grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine three-by-three boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

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# Navy veteran asks about character

To the editor:  
Honor. Commitment. Courage.  
Those three words were the core principles of the United States Navy, of which I served in for 21.5 years.

Honor is not only standing up for but doing the right thing always. It's not only telling the truth but living the truth, admitting when you have done wrong. You don't lie.

Commitment is about staying true to God, family and country,

## Letters to the Editor

completing the mission, saving your ship and shipmates. You don't quit when things get tough. You don't leave others high and dry. You don't leave

others holding the bag. Stay the course.

Courage is about having inner strength to face the enemy. It's that strength that is needed to share and live the truth, doing that which is not only required but that which is right. Following the bombing of my ship, the USS Cole (DDG-67), there have been incidences of individuals claiming to have been on board the Cole when it was bombed. We in the military call this

"stolen valor." Here in Jay County, we call it a plan ole lie, because that's what it is.

Now, for any individual in the military to claim they retired at a rank they did not attain is stolen valor.

For an individual in the military to claim they fired a weapon in combat and were never in combat, that is stolen valor.

For an individual in the military to claim they deployed to a

certain area of the world and were never deployed to that area, that is stolen valor.

Those three words — honor, commitment and courage — all add up to say one thing about a person, and that one thing is character.

I'm an American. I'm an American military veteran and I just have to ask, how's your character?

Cliff Moser  
Portland

## Debate will force candidates to answer

New York Daily News  
Tribune News Service

For a week now, Donald Trump has been facing heat over his appearance at Arlington National Cemetery — the final resting place of hundreds of thousands of service members, including from recent conflicts — during a wreath-laying for troops killed in an attack during the botched Afghanistan withdrawal three years ago, a low point of the Biden administration.

The crux of the issue comes down to reports that Trump's staff disregarded requests not to film political content at the solemn site and got into an altercation with an Arlington official. The campaign's response has been all over the place. There was no need for Trump to bring his own video cameras to the cemetery and now Vice President Kamala Harris has entered the debate, jabbing at Trump.

But the much bigger debate — about everything — is happening in Philadelphia, on ABC News on Sept. 10. The last presidential debate, on June 27, was hugely consequential as Joe Biden's halting performance forced him out of the race, replacing him as the Democratic nominee with Harris.

There's also no certainty that Harris and Trump will have a second face-off. Time is running short. The make and break state for both campaigns, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, commences early voting less than a week after the Philly debate.

This will be Trump's seventh such general election debate (three in 2016 against Hillary Clinton, two during 2020 against Biden and the Biden debate this June), and only Harris' first. She also failed to alter the agreed-to rules to only turn on the microphones during a candidate's allotted time. That didn't fly and the microphones being muted will stay unchanged. Harris thought that Trump would be unable to control his outbursts and it could aid her cause.

While Harris will not have the articulation problems Biden encountered, this debate stands to be the fulcrum of the election for her campaign. She did well with her convention and her running mate Tim Walz is working out fine. She even successfully fielded some questions from CNN last week. The debate (and a possible second debate) is the missing component.

Trump is by far more

## Guest Editorial

*It's important to hold both the cautious Harris and the bombastic Trump to account, to give them each the chance to respond to things they would rather not talk about like the Afghan withdrawal meltdown for her and the Arlington commotion for him.*

well known to the electorate than Harris, who like all VPs, has mostly been a background presence, while Trump has been in the spotlight constantly since he rode that escalator into the basement of Trump Tower nine years ago.

While Harris has to introduce herself to voters, it would be nice if ABC can get Trump to focus on the questions with actual precision or some grounding in reality, instead of his usual distractions and obfuscations. The debate might be an opportunity not to let him get away with it as he usually does in his raucous rallies. Last time out, his debate showing didn't really because Biden lost the night, big time.

It's important to hold both the cautious Harris and the bombastic Trump to account, to give them each the chance to respond to things they would rather not talk about, like the Afghan withdrawal meltdown for her and the Arlington commotion for him.

Unlike the last debate, there are going no more swapping out of candidates. One of these contenders will be the next president.



## Arlington politicking should disgust all

By ROBIN ABCARIAN  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

Former President Donald Trump did something breathtakingly cynical, certainly immoral and probably illegal the other day. In other words, it was Monday.

Trump used an appearance on the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery, a resting place for many who honorably served their country, to make a campaign video.

Trump was ostensibly at Arlington to commemorate the third anniversary of the killing of 13 American service members by a suicide bomber during the chaotic American withdrawal from Afghanistan. He said the soldiers' family members, some of whom disparaged President Joe Biden at the Republican National Convention, invited him.

I have no doubt that's true. But even the grieving families of fallen soldiers do not have a right to trash Arlington's protocols.

The Army, which oversees the cemetery, forbids any sort of political activities on the grounds. It is, as the Trump campaign was informed, against federal law and Defense Department policy. The Washington Post reported that Pentagon officials were "deeply concerned" that Trump would turn the visit into a campaign stop but also wanted to accommodate him.

During the visit, a cemetery official tried to enforce the rules against outside cameras in Section 60, the area devoted chiefly to soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Two Trump staffers physically pushed her out of the way, according to news reports.

The official declined to press charges because she feared retaliation from Trump supporters, according to an Army statement. Trump spokesman Steven Cheung promptly slamed her as "clearly suffering from a mental health episode."

Trump had smiled broadly and

Robin  
Abcarian



given a jarring thumbs-up as he stood at the grave of Marine Staff Sgt. Darin Taylor Hoover, one of those killed in the bombing. He wasn't there just to pay his respects; he was there to exploit the tragedy that occurred at Kabul airport's Abbey Gate in 2021 by blaming it on Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, who has soared in recent polls.

The frenzied withdrawal and terrible loss of life occurred on Biden's watch — as did the abandonment of at least 78,000 Afghans who worked for the U.S. government and continue to live there precariously.

Nonetheless, Trump crassly ignores his own role in the debacle. A deal he himself struck with the Taliban locked the United States into a withdrawal timeline. Military intelligence was profoundly mistaken about the Afghan government's ability to defend Kabul, which fell to the Taliban with lightning speed. There is enough blame to go around.

I called a dear friend whose parents are buried at Arlington. Her father was a Marine colonel and a veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam. At his funeral, he was given a 21-gun salute, and his procession included a riderless horse, empty boots in the stirrups facing backward to symbolize a final look back at his troops and his loved ones.

"My father was a conservative guy, but he would have thought Trump was a pig," my friend told me. "He believed in honor, and if you are buried in Arlington, it is an honor. It is not something that should be ... (messed) with."

Trump has a history of demean-

ing military sacrifices and messing with honorable traditions. As president, he turned the White House into his personal political prop, using it as a backdrop for the launch of his failed 2020 reelection campaign.

Poor Ohio Sen. JD Vance, whose awkwardness on the campaign trail has turned him into a meme-worthy punch line. He has once again been put in the sorry position of trying to mop up after his running mate.

At a campaign rally in Wisconsin on Wednesday, an indignant Vance excoriated the media.

"You're acting like Donald Trump filmed a TV commercial at a grave site," said Vance, a Marine veteran. "He was there providing emotional support to a lot of brave Americans who lost loved ones they never should have lost, and there happened to be a camera there, and someone gave them permission to have that camera there."

As they say on social media, who's gonna tell him?

That very day, the Trump campaign released a video showing the former president at Arlington, laying flowers at a grave and posing for photos with the Gold Star families.

In a voice-over, Trump says, "We didn't lose one person in 18 months," a self-regarding and entirely bogus claim he's been making for the last few years. As Reuters reported in May 2022, if Trump was referring to the time period in which he negotiated the withdrawal agreement, 15 American troops suffered what the Defense Department called "hostile deaths" in Afghanistan. If he was referring to the last 18 months of his presidency, 12 members of the military died in Afghanistan.

None of this is likely to dissuade Trump's passionate supporters. But let's hope his creepy stunt will persuade the last undecided voters that he is truly, deeply unfit to be this country's commander in chief.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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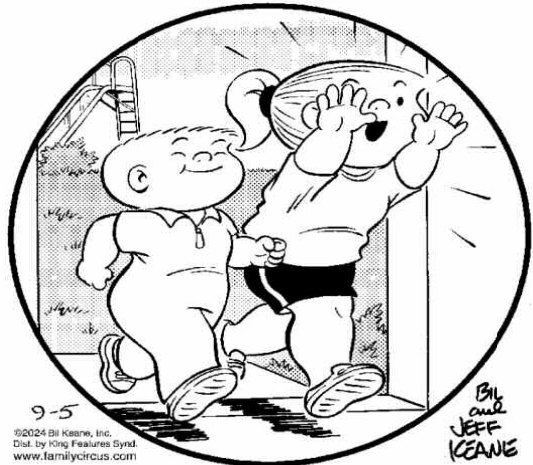
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SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Experts are here too
South dealer. Neither side vulnerable. NORTH: ♠ Q J 10 5, ♥ A 10, ♦ A 6 5 4, ♣ Q J 8. WEST: ♠ 9 6 2, ♥ Q 8 5 2, ♦ K 3, ♣ A 7 5 2. EAST: ♠ —, ♥ J 9 7 6 3, ♦ Q J 10 9, ♣ K 10 6 3. SOUTH: ♠ A K 8 7 4 3, ♥ K 4, ♦ 8 7 2, ♣ 9 4.

Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



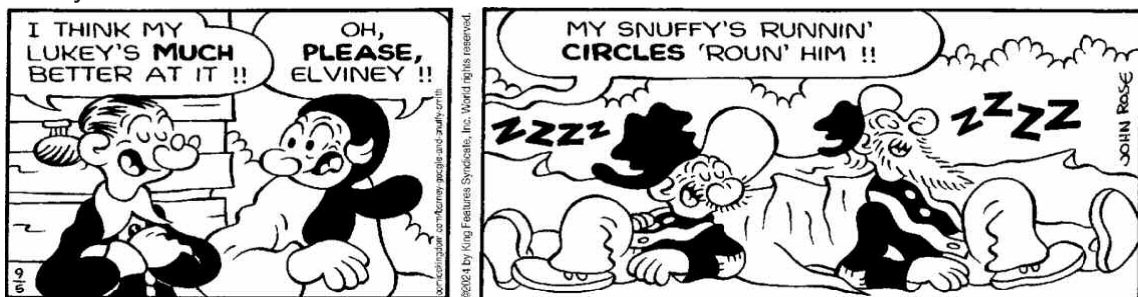
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



The bidding: South West North East 2♠ Pass 4♠. Opening lead — two of hearts. You might think that when the best players in the world gather each year to participate in the world championship, they might perform miracles that would dazzle and astound the average bridge player. But alas, this is not always the case. It turns out that experts are human too, and they make mistakes like anyone else. For an example of how they sometimes miss the mark, consider this deal from the 1979 world championship match between Italy and the United States. At both tables, South opened with a weak two-spade bid that North raised to game. When a U.S. pair was North-South, the Italian West led a heart. Declarer won with dummy's ace, drew three rounds of trump ending in his hand, then led the four of clubs, West following low as East took dummy's jack with the king. East returned the queen of diamonds, overtaken by West with the king, which South allowed to hold. West continued with a diamond, but by now the bird had flown the coop. Declarer won with dummy's ace, crossed to the king of hearts and led a second club. West won with the ace, but that was the last trick for the defense. Since West had no more diamonds, South was able to discard his second diamond loser on the queen of clubs to make his game. At the second table, the play followed similar lines, and the Italian South also made four spades. Both Wests botched the defense when declarer first led a club toward dummy. To defeat the contract, West had to rise with the ace and shift to the king of diamonds. A difficult play, no doubt, but far from impossible. Furthermore, not only was there a defensive slip at both tables, but the bidding also left something to be desired: Three notrump was ice-cold against any lie of the cards!

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz. ©2024 King Features Syndicate Inc.

9-5 CRYPTOQUIP

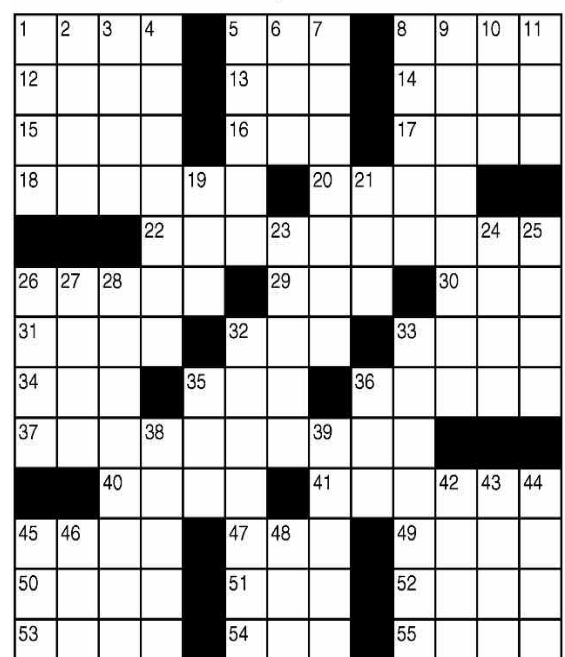
KE CZSETG ZE QNM FV FTWBSNP WNNQOWKCSVM MQTWKI SBV GSCIV UNCP. GEOVFEMP GSENV

SBV GUESNWIBS.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER THAT MAN COATED HIMSELF IN SHELLAC FROM HEAD TO TOE, HE DECLARED "I'M FINISHED!" Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals G

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Kitten's sound, 5 Frenzied, 8 Cellar, in a real estate ad, 12 Duel tool, 13 "— you awake?", 14 Women's links org., 15 Massage deeply, 16 L x VI, 17 Charitable donation, 18 "Stop already!", 20 Video-streaming brand, 22 Fruit used in jams, 26 Receded, 29 Architect I.M. —, 30 Logical leader?, 31 Old Italian money, 32 Bankroll, 33 Toucan feature, 34 Meadow, 35 Always, in verse. DOWN: 1 Father (Fr.), 2 Atop, 3 Move, in Realtor lingo, 4 Asylum seeker, 5 Virile, 6 Curved line, 7 Com-manded star, 8 Country, 9 Spent lavishly, 10 "Ben-Hur" studio, 11 Prof's helpers, 19 Deity, 21 Sapporo sash, 23 Extra, 24 Bring up, 25 Oxen's burden, 26 Fashion magazine, 27 Actress Jessica, 28 "Troy" actor, 32 Dictionary name, 33 Soup flavorer, 35 Historical period, 36 Doubtful or Dalloway, 38 Haunting, 39 Ceremonies, 42 Actress Jessica, 43 Shaving mishap, 44 Miami — County, 45 NBC weekend show, 46 Ode title starter, 48 Possess.



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**FRHS volleyball hosts Parkway today in MAC match, see Sports on tap**

**Jay's girls soccer team earned its third ACAC win, see story page 7**

# Sports

## Tribe tops JCHS, WCHS

A Patriot freshman and an Indian senior put up the best scores of their careers.

Neither effort was enough to claim match medalist honors. However, the Indians found a way to walk away with a pair of victories.

Fort Recovery High School's girls golf team won a three-team clash against the Jay County Patriots and Winchester Golden Falcons on Tuesday at Portland Golf Club.

The Indians got three scores in the 40s to power a score of 190, beating Winchester (198) by eight strokes. Despite shooting their best score of the year, the Patriots lagged behind with 216 for a pair of losses.

Emma Will of Fort Recovery (9-2) and Bailey Towell each shot their career bests in the match.

Will's round was highlighted by a birdie on the 113-yard, par-3 second hole. She supplemented the birdie with four pars to finish with a 42.

Towell broke the 50 mark for the first time in her career, putting up a 49. A par on hole No. 3 and four bogeys fueled the freshman's best score.

Winchester's Alyssa Cole earned match medalist honors with a 5-over-par

40. Will had the Indians' top score, while Maddy Snow's 46 ended as the best for Jay County (1-5). Snow had two pars and three bogeys.

Mallory Evers also had a career day for FRHS, topping her previous best by one stroke to finish with a 45. The No. 4 golfer made par twice, and bogey five times, while only having two holes that slipped away from her.

Olivia Knapke tied Towell and Winchester's Becca Overleese with 49 strokes for the fourth-best score of the match.

The final score for the Indians came from Georgia Wenning with a 54.

Ella Schoen returned to the links for the first time this season after being an All-Midwest Athletic Conference honorable mention last year and suffering a finger injury in the offseason. Her score of 58, along with a 56 from Eva Kahlig, did not impact the Indians' final.

For the first time this season, Erin Aker provided the third-best score for Jay County, shooting a 59, one stroke off of her career best. The final score came from Brooklynn Bright with a 62.

Rounds of 66 from Jaycee Rowels and Jenna Bricker did not affect the team's final.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School freshman Bailey Towell places her ball while reading her line at Portland Golf Club on Tuesday. Towell shot a career best 49, but JCHS couldn't manage a win against Fort Recovery or Winchester.

## Serving up a loss



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Kennedy Muhlenkamp (left) and Kenna Dues dig out a ball during the Indians' 25-14, 28-26, 25-20 win over Jay County on Tuesday. Dues dominated the match with seven aces and 21 digs, while Muhlenkamp supported with five kills and two blocks.

## Indians dominate service line in sweep of Patriots

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — The Patriots got the drop on the Indians, forcing an early timeout.

Despite a pair of spaced out kills by Brynn Willmann the Patriots kept control, but once Kenna Dues stepped up to the service line the Indians found their groove.

An 11-point run not only gave the Indians the lead, but also the confidence and momentum they needed to take the rest of the match as well.

The Fort Recovery High School volleyball team dominated the service line and had a balanced attack to take down the Jay County Patriots 25-14, 28-26, 25-20 on Tuesday.

The Indians' defense of home

court also snapped a two-match skid.

"We've had two tough five-set losses and I was actually a little nervous coming into today because I watched some film on Jay County and knew they were tall, lengthy and young like us," said FRHS coach Travis Guggenbiller. "I knew it was going to be a battle, so I'm very proud of the way our team adjusted and adapted to handle that pressure."

While the Patriots didn't pull out the win, there were some positives to build on, especially considering the level of their opponent.

"It's coming," said JCHS coach Amy Dillon. "(We need to) keep

playing teams like that. I think that's part of it. We haven't really seen a team of this caliber — Delta was pretty close.

"We almost need to play a set to see it and figure that out. I think we figured that out in the third set and then in the third set, I decided to play with where I thought everyone was playing the best."

Jay County will get another big test today as it hosts Class 2A No. 1 Wapahani. Dillon noted keys for that match include getting setter Paisley Fugiett to the net and squared up, being in defensive position and eliminating tipping the ball.

See Serving page 7



*Review  
preview*

Friday - 7 p.m.



### Jay County Patriots

Portland, 1-1 (0-0)

**Coach:** Grant Zgunda, 4th year (27th overall)

**Conference:** Allen County

**Last week at Huntington North:** The Patriots ended up taking a 20-0 loss after lightning suspended the game late in the third quarter. An interception and a pair of big plays from Carson Bell and Neil McMartin fueled the Trojans, while mistakes stymied the Patriots offense.

**Season leaders:** Passing — Sean Bailey — 10-of-23 passing for 176 yards and two touchdowns. Rushing — A.J. Myers — 16 carries for 71 yards and one TD. Receiving — Benson Ward — two receptions for 55 yards and one touchdown. Defense — Lucas Strait — 18 tackles, one blocked punt and recovery.

VS.

### Southern Wells Raiders

Poneto, 0-2 (0-0)

**Coach:** Blake Barker, 1st year

**Conference:** Allen County

**Last week at Madison-Grant:** The Raiders got dominated in a 56-point shut out against the Argylles on Aug. 30. Southern Wells ended with -15 yards of offense as Robby Freimuth passed for eight yards, but the four players with rushing attempts combined for -23 yards.

**Season leaders:** Passing — Robby Freimuth — 2-of-10 passing for 79 yards and three interceptions. Rushing — Robby Freimuth — 27 carries for 28 yards and one touchdown. Receiving — Joshua Albach — three receptions for 41 yards. Defense — Levi Blake — 7 tackles.

**Last meeting:** The Patriots exploded for 23 points in the third quarter after its 43-12 beating of the Raiders to earn the first 3-0 start since 1985. JCHS found success in the passing game as Sean Bailey threw for 242 yards and three touchdowns. Justin DeHoff led the receiving core with 141 yards, a TD and a pick-six. Both of the SWHS scores came on the ground, including a 90-yard rush by Tucker Worster.

**Game notes:** This is the 11th meeting all time between Jay County and Southern Wells. Jay County has a 7-3 edge in the series ... The Patriots have built a three-game winning streak against Southern Wells, with the last loss coming in 2019 ... Jay County has a 50.58 Sagarin rating, which is 185th overall and 40th in Class 3A. Southern Wells' 19.86 rating is 303rd overall and 56th in Class 1A ... John Harrell predicts Jay County to win, 42-7, while Calpreps.com lists the Patriots as 42-point favorites.

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