

Village looks at measure for tax incentive

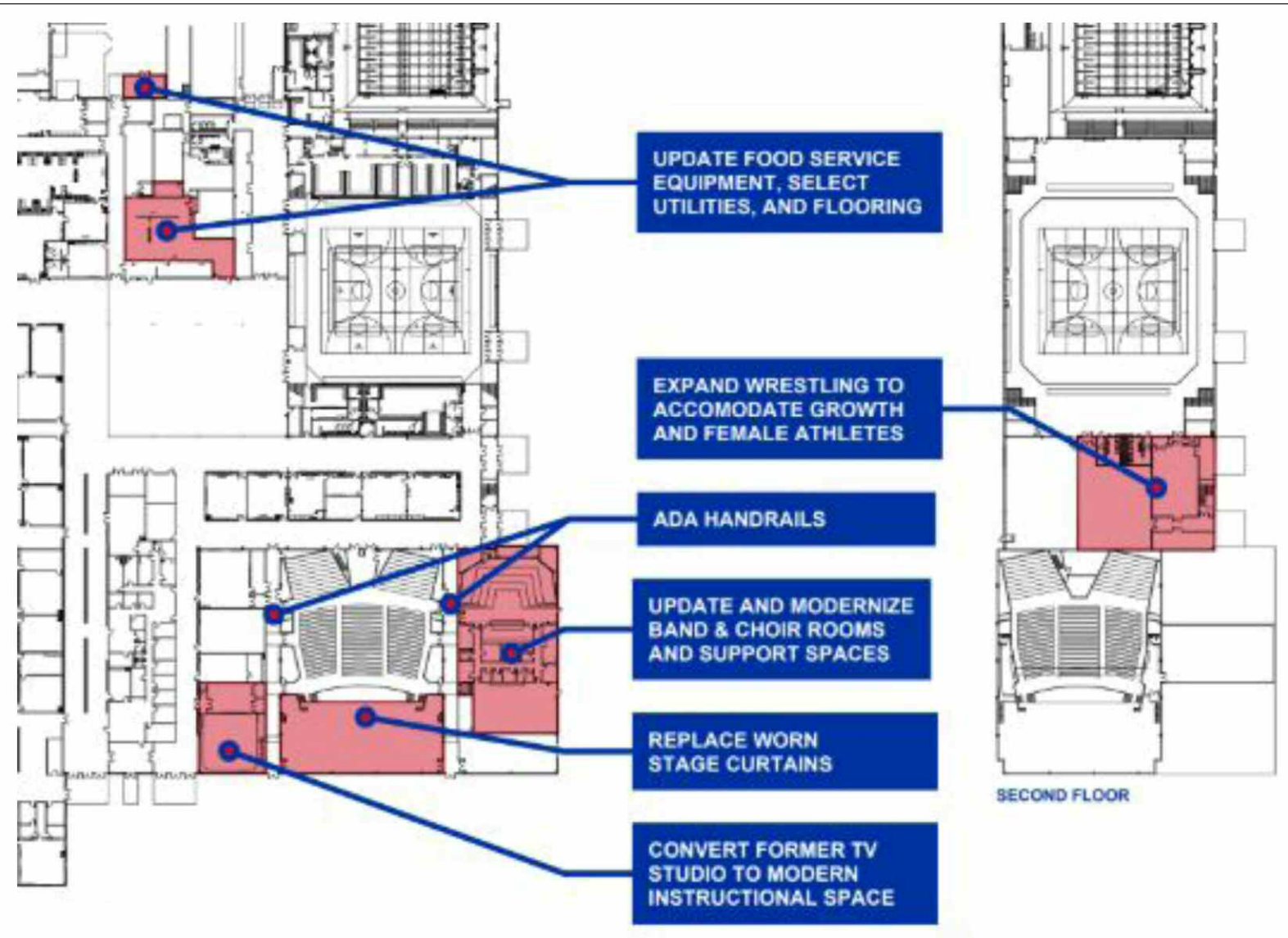
Council learns more about community reinvestment program

By BAILEY CLINE The Commercial Review FORT RECOVERY — The village may enact legislation to allow local property owners tax exemptions for renovating existing buildings or constructing new ones. Fort Recovery Village Council heard more about the benefits to enacting a Community Reinvestment Area program at its meeting Monday. Council also discussed drafting legislation for an income tax levy.

According to Ohio Department of Development's website, the Community Reinvestment Area program is "an economic development tool administered by municipal and county government that provides real property tax exemptions for property owners who renovate existing or construct new buildings."

Fort Recovery officials have discussed including the entire incorporated area of the village into the Community Reinvestment Area's reach. Tax exemptions from the program could be at 75% or 100% — the latter would require consent from Fort Recovery Local Schools — for different projects, including residential home remodels, new home construction, commercial and industrial facility remodels and new commercial and industrial facility construction. The length of the exemption could depend on the type of work completed. See Incentive page 2

Project advances



Barton Coe Vilamaa

Jay School Board voted Monday to move forward with a proposed capital improvement project at Jay County Junior-Senior High School. The above graphic from engineering and architecture firm Barton Coe Vilamaa shows several areas of focus for the building, including updating the band and choir rooms, expanding the wrestling practice area, converting the former TV studio into instructional space and upgrading food service equipment.

Jay School Board votes to move forward with \$17.44 million in work at junior-senior high school

By RAY COONEY The Commercial Review The planned capital improvement project for Jay County Junior-Senior High School has taken another step. Jay School Board passed a resolution Monday indicating its intent to move forward with the estimated \$17.44 million project that will include upgrades to HVAC and electrical systems, outdoor athletic facilities and a variety of other areas. The board held two public

hearings on the project, with no comments during either. Board members Ron Laux, Marcie Vormohr, Chip Phillips, Aaron Clark, Donna Geesaman and Chad Towell then unanimously approved a resolution indicating that there is a need for the project and that the school corporation will issue bonds to cover the cost of the work. The bonds are capped at \$18.285 million and will have a term not to exceed 20 years. Brian Bohlender of engineering and architecture firm Barton

Coe Vilamma provided an overview of the project, which is unchanged from the previous meeting. Its big-ticket items are upgrading the heating, ventilation and cooling system controls; replacing pool treatment equipment, the dehumidification unit and the roof; updating food service equipment, utilities and flooring; rehabilitating the grandstand at Harold E. Schutz Memorial Stadium; replacing the building's main electrical service; and constructing new tennis courts. Also included are recon-

structing the track at Harold E. Schutz Memorial Stadium; modernizing the band and choir areas; replacing water mains, making sidewalk repairs and paving parking lots (as funding allows); painting exterior steel, repairing cracks and replacing exterior wall panels; expanding the wrestling practice area; replacing stage curtains in auditorium; converting the TV studio into instructional space; making security and technology updates and replacing baseball dugouts. See Project page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Candy toss

A participant in Sunday's Fort Recovery Harvest Jubilee parade empties her bucket of candy while walking along Butler Street. The parade featured plenty of candy, classic cars, emergency responder vehicles and farm equipment as the annual festival came to a close.

Schools get a roadmap

By CASEY SMITH Indiana Capital Chronicle indianacapitalchronicle.com A new academic year is still weeks away, but Indiana educators are already working to implement a slate of new laws passed during the 2025 legislative session — including changes to classroom instruction, attendance policies and teacher pay. More than two dozen K-12 education laws are set to take effect July 1, along with the state's next two-year budget. Although overall state spending was trimmed, K-12 schools avoided deeper cuts, securing a 2% increase over the biennium — equal to about \$640 million in new funding. And in the budget's second year, Indiana will drop remaining income limits and move to a universal taxpayer-funded "school choice" voucher system. It's still unclear, though, how budget shortfalls could affect

New guidance aims to help schools navigate K-12 laws, as well as funding changes

public school funding. Senate Enrolled Act 1, for example, altered property tax rules with the goal of giving two-thirds of Hoosier homeowners relief — potentially at the expense of local governments and school corporations. The law also limits school referenda to general election ballots only. Federal spending cuts, expiring COVID-19 aid and national changes to education policy have added to schools' budget uncertainties, too. To help local leaders navigate state-specific policy changes in the meantime, the Indiana Department of Educa-

tion (IDOE) released its annual legislative guidance last week. Secretary of Education Katie Jenner described the document — currently about 20 pages — as a "living" resource that will continue to evolve: "It will still require a bit more time and collaboration with stakeholders to finalize," she emphasized. The annual guidance is meant to answer common questions and serve as a "one-stop shop" for schools, Jenner said. IDOE plans to update it throughout the summer, ahead of the 2025-26 school year. See Schools page 5

Deaths

Donald DeWitt, 85, Muncie Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 81 degrees Monday. The low was 64. Showers and thunderstorms are expected tonight with winds gusting to 25 mph and a low in the mid 60s. Thursday's high will be in the upper 70s with a 50% chance of rain. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Arts Place will kick off its 2025 Hudson Family Park Amphitheatre Concert Series with a performance by First 2 Eleven at 8 p.m. Thursday. The band from Erie, Pennsylvania, plays a variety of music from the 1980s through today and is known for its heavy guitar riffs, hard hitting drums, fun melodies and mash-ups.

Coming up

Thursday — Results from the Fort Recovery ACME baseball game. Friday — Details from this week's Portland Board of Aviation meeting. Saturday — Results from the Jay County Summer Swim Team's meet against Catalina.



Project ...

Continued from page 1

The school corporation has the capacity to bond without increasing its total debt service tax levy because existing debt service payments roll off in 2027, 2028 and 2032.

While there were no public comments Monday, Jay Schools superintendent Jeremy Gulley noted that there were nearly 146 comments shared via an online survey. Vormohr said she is pleased that the board listened and made adjustments to the project based on that feedback.

“It’s very, very important that we have buy-in for this,” said Laux, the board president.

Another public hearing related to the project is scheduled for the board’s July 21 meeting. The timeline then calls for

eight months to design the project, followed by bidding and plans to award it to a contractor in May 2026.

Also Monday, junior-senior high principal Chad Dodd presented data regarding dual credit students for the 2024-25 school year.

A total of 290 students took at least one dual credit course — a course that counts for college credit — with a total of 1,979 college credits earned. Information from Ivy Tech Community College, which partners with Jay Schools on its dual credit program, estimates those classes saved students \$336,569 in tuition.

The dual credit total is the highest thus far for Jay School Corporation, surpassing the

1,742 credits achieved in 2023-24.

“It’s very much appreciated the extra effort the teachers give our students,” said Dodd. “We appreciate the families that are encouraging their students to challenge themselves academically. ... I couldn’t be more proud of the adults in our building and the students in this program.”

In other business, the board:

- Received the planned budget calendar for preparing the 2026 budget, beginning with seeking permission to advertise the budget during a meeting Aug. 4. A public hearing on the budget will be held Aug. 18, with planned adoption on Sept. 15.
- Approved the following: several hirings, including East Jay Elementary School fourth grade

teacher Chloe Lowe and junior-senior high Lifeskills teacher Heather Fugate; an adjunct teacher agreement with junior high art teacher Kim Anderson; a bus request from Jay Community Center for its summer day camp; contracts with Curtis & Livers Consulting for special education consulting services, Abby Muhlenkamp and Katie Southworth for occupational therapy services, Hillside Therapy Service for occupational therapy assistant services and Physical Therapy Service Rehabilitation for physical therapy services; writing off negative food service account balances; new expenses related to recovery from the September tornado; student fees for the 2025-26 school year.

- Accepted a \$1,000 donation

from Tyson Mexican Original for a soccer camp.

- Approved several fees for the 2025-26 school year. Meal prices will be \$3.25 for elementary school lunch and \$3.50 for junior-senior high lunch. Breakfast will be free to students. Adult meals will be \$2.85 for breakfast and \$4.75 for adults. The driver’s education fee was increased by \$20 to \$420. Increased the per-hour Latchkey fee to \$6 from the current \$5. The registration fee is \$20 for the first child in a family and \$10 for each additional child.
- Canceled the contract of junior-senior high social studies teacher Jeffery Mellott as a reduction in force (RIF).
- Accepted the resignations of East Jay third grade teachers Kiah Bruns and Abigail Bowers.

CR almanac

| Thursday 6/19 | Friday 6/20 | Saturday 6/21 | Sunday 6/22 | Monday 6/23 |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| | | | | |
| 79/64 | 85/69 | 89/73 | 92/74 | 93/74 |
| There's a 50% chance of showers Thursday under mostly sunny skies. | Mostly sunny on Friday, when the high will be in the low 80s. | Mostly sunny on Saturday when the low will hit the mid 70s. | Sunday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a high of a blistering 92 degrees. | Monday's weather looks to be sunny with heat index values reaching triple digits. |

Lotteries

| | |
|--|---|
| Powerball Monday 17-21-23-27-52 Power Ball: 19 Power Play: 5 Estimated jackpot: \$101 million | Daily Four: 6-7-8-4 Quick Draw: 1-8-16-18-22-37-41-42-46-50-52-56-58-59-63-66-68-69-71-75 Cash 5: 10-11-13-30-42 Estimated jackpot: \$286,500 |
| Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$280 million | Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 3-8-2 Pick 4: 1-9-8-6 Pick 5: 7-9-4-8-2 Evening Pick 3: 0-3-1 Pick 4: 7-4-8-9 Pick 5: 2-3-6-6-4 Rolling Cash: 4-12-30-32-35 Estimated jackpot: \$130,000 |
| Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 2-3-7 Daily Four: 4-1-8-2 Quick Draw: 2-16-18-20-21-23-24-29-33-36-40-41-42-50-55-58-64-65-66-77 Evening Daily Three: 5-5-0 | |

Markets

| | |
|--|--|
| Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.77 July corn.....4.80 Aug. corn4.82 | July beans10.67 Wheat 5.07 |
| POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.77 July corn.....4.74 Oct. corn4.25 | ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.51 July corn4.53 Beans10.48 July beans10.43 Wheat5.02 |
| The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.70 July corn.....4.70 Beans10.67 | Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.77 July corn4.77 Beans10.42 July beans10.03 Wheat4.92 |

Today in history

| | |
|--|--|
| In 1429 , Joan of Arc led the French Army against the English at Patay, France. | Charles “Lucky” Luciana was found guilty on 62 counts of compulsory prostitution. |
| In 1812 , the War of 1812 began when President James Madison signed a declaration of war against Great Britain in response to frustration of British maritime practices and support for Native American resistance to U.S. western expansion. | In 1942 , musician Paul McCartney was born in Liverpool, England. McCartney gained fame as a member of “The Beatles.” |
| In 1815 , Napoleon Bonaparte lost at the Battle of Waterloo, which ended 23 years of warring between France and other European powers. | In 2021 , a tornado ripped through northeast Jay and southwest Mercer counties, leaving a swath of destruction in its wake. No injuries were reported, but about two dozen homes and many more outbuildings were damaged. |
| In 1936 , mobster | —The CR |

Citizen’s calendar

| | |
|---|---|
| Today 3 p.m. — Portland Police Pension Board, meeting room, police department, 319 N. Meridian St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North. 5:30 p.m. — Redkey Town Council executive session, park cabin, 50 Mooney St., Redkey. | Monday 4 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St. Tuesday 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 Mooney St. |
|---|---|

Obituaries

Donald DeWitt
March 22, 1940-June 12, 2025

Donald E. DeWitt, 85, passed away on Thursday, June 12, 2025, at Indiana University Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie, Indiana.

He was born on March 22, 1940, in Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania, to the late Clarence and Mary DeWitt.

Donald graduated from Muncie Central High School and married the love of his life, Shirley, in 1958. He worked as a metallurgist and was also a devoted farmer. Donald had a passion for classic cars — especially his 1964 Comet — and enjoyed fishing, bingo and playing cards. Above all, he cherished spending time with

his family and friends.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Shirley; sons Don (Lisa) DeWitt, Robert (Brenda) DeWitt, Dan (Teresa) DeWitt, Scott (Becky) DeWitt and Brian (Laura) DeWitt; 10 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; his brother, James DeWitt; and sisters Sue Rinker, Betty Neudecker and Ruth Ann Locke.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, from 3 to 7 p.m. at Garden View Funeral Home, 10501 N. Indiana 3, Muncie, Indiana. A funeral service will take place on Wednesday,



DeWitt

day, June 18, 2025, at 11 a.m. at the funeral home, with burial to follow at Gardens of Memory Cemetery in Muncie.

Memorial contributions may be made in Donald’s name to the American Cancer Society.

Condolences may be shared at gardenofmemory-muncie.com.

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.

Felony arrests

Resisting police
A Portland man was arrested Monday for resisting police and various other charges.

Jose S. Jimenez-Jimenez, 18, 70900 W. Walnut St., was preliminarily charged with two Level 6 felonies for

resisting law enforcement and possession of cocaine, a Class A misdemeanor for operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class B misdemeanor for leaving the scene of an accident and three Class C misdemeanors for consuming

alcohol as a minor, possession of paraphernalia and driving without a license.

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

Methamphetamine
A Bryant man was

arrested Monday for possession of methamphetamine.

Ernest M. Fifer, 51, 203 E. Main St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony. He was being held on a \$4,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

Incentive ...

Continued from page 1

Fort Recovery assistant village administrator Aaron Rengers said the research committee has suggested 15-year abatements for home remodels, 10-year abatements for new dwellings and eight-year abatements for commercial and industrial remodels and new construction.

He noted the village could set the limits on how much the minimum investment from the property owner would need to be in order to qualify. The process also involves creating a housing council.

“It has to be adding square footage to the residence in order to

really affect your taxes, so the abatement’s only on the new money coming in,” said Rengers.

“The way the abatements work, if you remodel your house, and it’s an add-on, the new assessed addition can be abated up to 75%. It’s not going to affect the school’s money that they’re currently collecting.”

Rengers explained he and village administrator Randy Diller met with Fort Recovery Local Schools superintendent Tony Stahl recently to discuss the potential for such a program. He noted Stahl planned to discuss the program with school board members Tuesday.

He said the village could annu-

ally review its Community Reinvestment Area program and decide whether to continue.

Mayor Dave Kaup asked how long it would take in order to enact the program. Rengers noted it’ll involve publishing a notice in the newspaper before council approves an ordinance, which will require three readings. It’ll take effect as soon as required paperwork is submitted to Ohio Department of Development. He suggested launching the program Jan. 1.

“It’d be a nice, clean start date that way,” he said. “You know, people start construction in the spring typically.”

See Incentive page 5

SERVICES

Today

DeWitt, Donald: 11 a.m., Garden View Funeral Home, 10501 N. Indiana 3, Muncie.

Saturday

Smiley, Franklin: 1 p.m., Tribute Funeral Home, 1000 N. Broadway St., Greenville, Ohio.

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Fort Recovery students make honor roll

Fort Recovery High School released its fourth quarter honor roll.

Making honor roll with all A's were sophomores Kenna Dues, Tyler Dues, Cadence Eber, Carter Fortkamp, Alexis Grisez, Russell Hart, Makenna Huelskamp, Breaker Jutte, Grace Lochtefeld, Ian McCain, Cameron Muhlenkamp, Isaac Roessner, Madelyn Schoenlein, Kiera Stump, Amber Timmerman, Jennifer Wendel, Brynn Willmann and Jase Wuebker.

On the list with all A's were also freshmen Joscie Bihn, Alivia Brunswick, Riley DeRoo, Haley Easton, Claire Gaerke, Paisley Hart, Henry Jutte, Courtney Klenke, Cora Pearson, Kendall Ranly, Madilyn Reinhard, Ally Roessner, Hoyt Schmitz and Charlie Stammen.

Making the list with A's and B's were sophomores Brody Barga, Deanna Brown, Kendall Buckland, Alex Carreto, Reese Diller, Brady Evers, Ava Fulenkamp, Aubree Heitkamp, Maddie Heitkamp, Meredith Jones, Jake Meyer, Catarina Moura, Emma Schmitz, Angel Serio, Cara Shoemaker, Ava Timmerman, Ivy Tobe, Kaylor Wendel and James Westgerdes.

On the honor roll with A's and B's were also freshmen Layla Armstrong, Brooke Bihn, Emily Boeckman, Addison Brunswick, Kyra Brunswick, Braylon Dilworth, Jackson Dues, Makenzie Evers, Will Fall-er, Malia Grisez, Madeline Hardwick, Lizzie Heitkamp, Elizabeth Kahlig, Liza Knapke, Shelby Knapke, Kinlee Kremer, Mason Laux, Andy Niekamp, Charity Pohlman, Liana Schlarman, Ali Siegrist, Eliza Smith, Lilah Thien, Livy Timmerman, Madelyn Weigel and Jadyr Wyer-ick.


Ex-wife has held secret for three decades

DEAR ABBY: My ex-husband was found dead in his home three months ago. He was a bitter man who never forgave me for leaving him. We were divorced for 30 years before his death and have two children and four beautiful grandchildren. For years, he bitterly complained to our children and refused to attend special events because I left him. When there were issues, he refused to help, insisting it was my fault because I had left.

The truth is, I left after I walked in on him having sex with my older sister. Neither of them saw me, and I never told him. Now he's gone. My sister, who recently lost her husband, keeps talking to me about my ex-husband, saying how good-looking he was. It makes me sick.

I loved my husband when I

Dear Abby



left him, but I could never forgive him. I wish I had said something to him when he was alive, but it's too late. Every time my sister speaks of him, I get so upset. I want to confront her about it but fear it would do more harm than good. His death has turned my world upside down. I am so confused.

— HURT IN THE EAST

DEAR HURT: You SHOULD have told your ex the reason you left before you did it. I can't imagine why you stayed silent. While some couples manage to move beyond infi-

delity, many do not, and you had a valid reason for divorcing him. The next time your sister starts talking about how good-looking your ex was, do something you should have done decades ago. Tell her you have known for 30 years how attractive she found him because you walked in on them in flagrante, which is why you walked OUT. I see nothing to be gained by not speaking up at this point, except more pain and turmoil for yourself.

.....

DEAR ABBY: Three decades ago, my husband and I were a military couple stationed overseas to a remote assignment. I was raped by a fellow officer, but I was too frightened to report it. I became pregnant, and to this day, I cannot truth-

fully say whether my child is my husband's or a consequence of the rape.

I greatly love my precious son, but I have looked at him for 33 years praying he is the son of my wonderful husband. I finally shared the stress of my secret with a military doctor 10 years ago and was greatly helped by his response. Until now.

My son is interested in DNA tests, and I am terrified my secret will be exposed. I am unwilling to share this with my husband or my son. I don't want my life to fall apart as I enter my 70th year and 37th year of marriage. Please advise. — ANONYMOUS WIFE AND MOTHER

DEAR ANONYMOUS: Ask your current physician for a confidential referral to a doctor with a specialty in DNA paternity. Consult the per-

son, explain the circumstances and ask if it would be possible to submit samples of your husband's and your son's DNA for examination. Getting DNA can be as simple as collecting a toothbrush or an eating utensil the person has used.

If it turns out that your son is not your husband's, I'm advising that you tell them both about what happened to you so they won't wrongly conclude that you were unfaithful. What happened to you was not your fault.

.....

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

WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

PING PONG — Will be played from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays at West Jay Community Center.

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran

Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

Thursday

STITCH AND CHATTER QUILT CLUB — Meets from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center. Show and tell is at 1 p.m. The club is open to all ages and is for anyone who wants to sew. Bring unfinished projects and a sewing machine. For more information, call Nan Weesner (260) 766-9334.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

SMART RECOVERY — A group for those strug-

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

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

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

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

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.

noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is museumofthesoldier.com.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Friday

PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. To learn more information, please call (260) 251-3259.

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

Saturday

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

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

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Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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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Keep renewable energy momentum

To the editor:
Even though the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 was far from perfect, it provided significant tax credits that have spurred billions in clean energy investment across the country — including right here in Portland and Jay County, Indiana. These investments are helping drive us toward energy independence while strengthening our local economy. Our energy system is not currently equipped to meet the rising demand driven by expanded

Letters to the Editor

manufacturing, data centers, AI infrastructure and residential growth. That's why an "all of the above" energy approach is crucial — and why clean energy, which can be deployed quickly and at scale, plays such a vital

role. These technologies, backed by tax incentives, are filling immediate gaps in energy supply and creating long-term infrastructure. Since 2022, Indiana has seen nearly \$9 billion invested in 52 clean energy projects. These developments mean thousands of construction and permanent jobs. In Jay County, local farmers and developers have made major commitments based on existing incentives, using them to build long-term business plans. Undoing or changing

these incentives midstream would undercut private investment and halt development already underway. Clean energy has also become a lifeline for local governments. Revenue from wind and solar projects is one of the only sustainable ways we have to fund essential services like roads and public safety without relying solely on grants. In Jay County, this is a practical solution with real results. Nationally, solar manufacturing is booming, with over \$40 bil-

lion in new investment since 2022. These benefits are reaching rural and red districts across the country — not just urban centers. Yes, fiscal responsibility is important, but it shouldn't come at the cost of strategic investments that support American workers, businesses and communities like ours. Let's not lose ground on this momentum. Bryan Alexander
Portland
Editor's note: Alexander is a member of Jay County Council.

Hats represent various ethnicities

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from June 16, 2010. Jack was well-traveled and collected many hats along the way. The thoughts in this piece seem especially relevant with the tensions high both at home and overseas. It's important to remember that hats are a poor excuse for animosity.

By JACK RONALD

The Commercial Review

It is Sunday afternoon. I'm worrying about violence half a world away. And I am looking at seven hats.

The hats are ones I brought back from Central Asia. Most of them were gifts from newspaper editors who took part in seminars I helped conduct for the International Center for Journalists in 2002 on my first trip to that region. Three more projects in Central Asia would follow in 2003 and 2004. Three of the hats are from Kyrgyzstan, and while all of the hats are unusual, these are the ones that would provoke the most stares if I wore them around Jay County. There is a whimsical quality to them, as if they had been designed by Dr. Seuss.

But they are practical in their own way. They are made of felt, the same material used to make a nomadic Kyrgyz yurt. Two of them have high peaks and curved brims as if intended to keep the rain and snow off. And, because Kyrgyzstan is a mountainous country, all three hats are warm. The brims could flap down in a mountain snowstorm to provide protection for the ears. All three are a creamy color, almost white, with designs embroidered on them in black or white.

In Tajikistan, the local version of the more formal Kyrgyz hats would have a brim that was black on the underside that folds up, as if to say, "I am similar, but I am different. And the differences are important."

Two of the hats are from Uzbekistan. They are striking in their difference from the Kyrgyz hats.

Compact, black skullcaps that are designed to fold-up for easy packing and storage, they are completely utilitarian. They are the hats of men from an agrarian culture, for while the Kyrgyz were traditionally nomads, the Uzbeks have traditionally been farmers. And because they were not nomadic, theirs is the Central Asian culture with the most highly refined artisans and craftsmen.

Still, the Uzbek hats have their own innate contradictions.

Though the skullcaps are Islamic in design, the

... the great complication of Central Asia is that ethnicity and nationality aren't always in sync.

embroidery has bird images that harken back to an earlier pagan era. Islam, it has been said by scholars of the region, rests lightly on Central Asia.

The last two hats are from Kazakhstan, and they are pretty flashy.

In construction, they are similar to the Uzbek hats. But in decoration, they are over the top, with bright colors and glittering threads.

In some ways, that's reflective of Kazakh culture, nomadic tribes that roamed the sea of grass of the steppes on horseback and appropriated bits and pieces from other tribes they conquered or came in contact with.

What's important to remember about these hats is that they do not represent countries.

They represent ethnicities.

And the great complication of Central Asia is that ethnicity and nationality aren't always in sync.

That's particularly true along the border between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, and the great city of Osh in the Ferghana Valley. The border wiggles back and forth with no rhyme or reason, with enclaves of Kyrgyz marooned in Uzbekistan and islands of Uzbeks within the borders of Kyrgyzstan.

Back in the bad old days of the former Soviet Union, none of that mattered, because — horrible as it was — the U.S.S.R. could provide over-arching national identity.

But nowadays, that's gone.

And when a political power struggle emerges — as it has in recent weeks in Kyrgyzstan — it's easy to stir up ethnic animosity against the guys who happen to be wearing a different type of hat.



Travel ban is pointless again

By PATRICIA LOPEZ
Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

President Donald Trump has resurrected the travel ban from his first term. This time, it's more expansive and better designed to withstand a judicial challenge. But it's still a solution in search of a problem — and likely to cause massive disruption for U.S. residents with friends and family overseas.

The ban went into effect at the nation's airports on Monday, affecting 19 countries. Aside from a few narrow exceptions, travel from a dozen nations will be blocked: Afghanistan, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Myanmar, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. Another seven face partial restrictions: Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan and Venezuela.

Although the first travel ban in 2017, aimed at Muslim-majority countries, sparked massive protests around the country, this broader ban has met with a far more muted response. That may indicate that Americans are becoming inured to Trump's xenophobic policies. Or they may be overwhelmed by the sheer ferocity on display as Trump takes the unprecedented step of sending the Marines in to quell protests unfolding in Los Angeles.

It's not clear what the administration hopes to achieve by banning visits from the poorest countries in the world. The executive order purports to "protect the United States from foreign terrorists and other national security and public safety threats," noting that travelers in a number of the countries overstay their visas and have governments incapable of adequate vetting.

But is blocking what are mostly business and tourist visas really the best solution to address such concerns? Only three countries on the list — Cuba, Iran and Syria — are considered by the U.S. to be

Patricia Lopez



state sponsors of terrorism. And most terrorists in the U.S. are home-grown. The biggest terrorist threat in the country, according to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, is domestic. That's true even if you look only at Islamic extremist attacks.

Trump specifically cited the recent Boulder, Colorado bombing by an Egyptian national here on an expired visa as an example of why the travel ban was needed. But Egypt isn't on the list.

The administration also ignores the fact that the U.S. conducts its own extensive vetting before admitting travelers on foreign visas. That includes thorough security screenings and the collection of biometric data that can be run through national databases maintained by the Department of Homeland Security and the National Vetting Center, among others.

As to the people who overstay their visas, that is a legitimate and serious problem that also has troubled previous administrations. The Center for Migration Studies estimates that 40% of unauthorized immigrants arrived not by illegally crossing borders, but on visas that have since expired. Blocking new travel from these countries, however, is an ineffective response.

The original "Muslim ban" was halted by lower court injunctions that rightfully ruled a ban targeting a particular religion was unacceptable. Trump fought back with two more versions, until a version focusing on nations was upheld by the Supreme Court in 2018. He continued to broaden that list until the last year of his presidency. When

President Joe Biden took office, he revoked the policy.

The new ban has been neatly constructed to avoid lawsuits — a triumph for an administration that has faced blue state challenges on nearly every major action.

It makes exceptions for existing visa holders and some special cases. But the special cases don't seem to have been thought through. For example, that category includes Afghan translators who worked with U.S. troops, but not their families. It also includes the athletes, coaches and support staff for two global events scheduled to take place in Los Angeles: the 2026 World Cup and the 2028 Olympics. But it makes no such exception for the thousands of fans who might be expected to pour in from those nations.

The ban will be disruptive and cruel for many immigrant families nationwide. For example, Minnesota has the largest Somali refugee population in the U.S., along with significant refugee resettlements from Sudan and Myanmar. Habon Abdulle, the head of Ayada Leads, a Minneapolis nonprofit serving women of the African diaspora, told the Sahan Journal, a local immigrant news outlet, that the impact would be immediate and dramatic.

"The previous travel bans left behind heartbreak — weddings missed, funerals unattended, futures put on hold," Abdulle said. "These are not political abstractions. These are human stories, interrupted."

Nations often must make tough decisions knowing the outcome will inflict pain. If the need is demonstrable and the strategy sound, that is the price of leadership. But this travel ban does not meet those tests.

Lopez is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering politics and policy. She is a former member of the editorial board at the Minneapolis Star Tribune, where she also worked as a senior political editor and reporter.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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Schools ...

Continued from page 1

House Enrolled Act 1499 will give students at least two chances to retake the state-mandated IREAD exam over the summer to avoid retention.

Current statute requires that — if after three attempts — a third grade student is unable to pass the IREAD assessment, they must be held back a year in school.

The new policy also exempts some English language learners from reading retention, depending on the school’s student population.

But Indiana lawmakers mostly shifted focus this year to math performance improvement.

Similar to the state’s literacy requirements, House Enrolled Act 1634 lays out a new effort to boost foundational math skills by requiring schools to annually screen students in kindergarten through second grade for math readiness, beginning in 2026-27.

IDOE officials said the goal is earlier identification of students at risk of falling behind in key numeracy and computation skills, while also ensuring students are prepared for high school coursework and postsecondary success.

The agency expects to provide a complete list of approved mathematics screeners by Spring 2026, along with guidance on both the frequency and timing of assessments, according to IDOE.

Students identified through the screener will receive support through a multi-tiered system of interventions spanning grades K-8. Per the state’s preliminary guidance,

schools will need to implement evidence-based instructional strategies, regularly monitor progress and ensure staff are trained to respond to a range of skill levels.

The law also requires automatic enrollment in advanced math courses for eligible middle school students. Starting in 2026-27, students who score “above proficient” on the ILEARN math assessment and earn a C or better in their previous math course must be placed in a more rigorous class the following year. Schools will be expected to identify qualifying students based on 2025-26 data and update academic planning accordingly, according to IDOE.

Starting in the 2025-26 school year, Indiana schools will additionally face stricter rules when teaching about human sexuality and sexually transmitted infections.

Although school boards already have the authority to review and approve curricular materials, Senate Enrolled Act 442 clarifies that boards must formally approve all human sexuality instructional materials used in grades four through 12 and to publicly post a list of those materials on the district’s website.

The new law also mandates that parents receive written notice at least 14 days before instruction begins. That notice must include the instructional dates, a summary of content and information on how to opt their child out.

The introduction of sex education usually starts in the fourth grade, according to state guidelines. But Indiana does not require

the course, and schools that do teach sex education are expected to focus on abstinence.

IDOE advised that participating schools must “incorporate in the instruction that (the) best way to avoid sexually transmitted infections and other associated health problems is to establish a mutually faithful monogamous relationship in the context of marriage.” It also has to include “age appropriate instruction concerning the importance of consent to sexual activity between two individuals.”

Students attending in-person classes are required to view a fetal ultrasound video “that is medically accurate and age appropriate” and includes:

- a high definition ultrasound video, at least three minutes in duration, showing the development of the brain, heart, sex organs, and other vital organs in early fetal development; and
- a high quality computer generated rendering or animation showing the process of fertilization and each stage of fetal development inside the uterus, noting significant markers in cell growth and organ development for every week of pregnancy from fertilization to birth.

If a school provides online human sexuality instruction, students will still need to view a virtual presentation on human growth and development that meets the same requirements, according to IDOE.

State officials said the changes are meant to increase transparency and parental involvement while

still allowing local control over curriculum details.

Indiana lawmakers approved a hard-lobbied teacher pay bump in Senate Enrolled Act 146, which raises the minimum teacher salary to \$45,000 starting in the 2025-26 school year and increases the share of state tuition support that districts must spend on teacher compensation from 62% to 65%.

If a school corporation does not meet the minimum salary or compensation thresholds, it must submit a justification form to the state and is required to adopt a compliance plan, according to IDOE guidance. Those submissions will be publicly posted on the agency’s website.

The General Assembly additionally revamped the state’s Teacher Appreciation Grant (TAG) program to focus on performance and impact in high-need areas. Updated state law specifically outlines three stipends that a teacher could be eligible for, beginning this year:

- a “recognition” stipend of \$3,500 for teachers who demonstrate high performance in improving student outcomes.
- an “exemplary” stipend of \$5,000 for teachers who demonstrate high performance in improving student outcomes and serve as a colleague mentor or teach in a high-need area.
- an “exemplary plus” stipend of \$7,500 for teachers who demonstrate high performance in improving student outcomes, serve as a mentor for their colleagues, and teach in a high-need area.

Schools can nominate up to 20% of their educators for TAG stipends. IDOE officials said more guidance — like a detailed scoring rubric, eligibility rules and deadlines — will be released by Sept. 1. Applications will then open in the fall, with funds distributed in early 2026.

Other workforce-related changes are impending in Senate Enrolled Act 255, which establishes new alternative licensure pathways for middle school and STEM teachers, and in Senate Enrolled Act 366, which drops the master’s degree requirement for superintendents, making it a preferred — but not mandatory — qualification.

Following years of concern over rising chronic absenteeism across the state — a trend that spiked during the pandemic and has been slow to recover — new efforts are on the way to ensure K-12 students show up to class.

Senate Enrolled Act 482 takes a more aggressive stance on student attendance by requiring IDOE to issue clearer statewide attendance definitions, guidance for monitoring student participation, and a new list of best practices for local districts to put in practice.

Under the law, “chronic absenteeism” is now clearly defined as missing at least 10% of instructional days in a school year for any reason, regardless of whether it is excused.

Absences now fall into three official categories:

- Excused absences include illness with a note, funerals, religious observances, college visits, court appearances, and other reasons permitted by district policy. Schools must document these absences with appropriate verification.
- Unexcused absences include skipping school, family vacations not approved in advance, or failing to provide documentation for otherwise excusable reasons. These absences count toward truancy thresholds and may trigger interventions.
- Exempt absences are those required or protected by state or federal law and do not count against a student’s attendance record. These include jury duty, election service, military obligations, foster care court proceedings, or serving as a legislative page.

House Enrolled Act 1660, passed during the 2025 session, further excuses student absences for participation in educational events organized by Future Farmers of America or 4-H.

IDOE recommends tracking student attendance monthly, with intervention triggers at five total absences, excused or unexcused. Suggested supports include attendance contracts, staff mentoring, family outreach, and referrals for addressing barriers like transportation or health care.

The new law allows local prosecuting attorneys to hold “intervention meetings” with parents to help improve a student’s attendance before any legal action is taken.

Until July 1, 2026, K-8 students also can’t be expelled “solely because the student is chronically absent or habitually truant.” After that date, however, students could be removed from school once again if they miss too many days of class.

Incentive ...

Continued from page 2

Diller noted he and Rengers would start drafting legislation for the program, with hopes for council to have its first reading on the related ordinance by August.

Also Monday, council members talked about creating an income tax levy. (If the income tax levy is approved by voters in the November election, the village would cease to collect on the village’s existing four real estate tax levies until they expire.)

The village’s 2.5 mill — In Ohio, property taxes are charged as millage, with one mill equal to one-tenth of a cent — five-year general expense tax levy is up for renewal in the fall. Fort Recovery currently has four real estate tax levies, with three at 2.5 mill and one at 2.3 mill.

Current levies generate about \$286,000 annually for the village in different areas, including the

general, storm, wastewater and street funds.

Diller brought up earlier this month discussion about potentially rolling over to an increased income tax and doing away with real estate tax levies.

Fort Recovery has a 1% income tax currently. He provided additional information Monday, saying the only communities near Fort Recovery also at a 1% income tax are Ansonia, Ohio, and Rockford, Ohio. Most of the other surrounding areas, including St. Henry, Coldwater, Celina, Minster, New Bremen, New Knoxville, Versailles, have a 1.5% income tax.

He noted approximately 62% of Fort Recovery’s income taxes come from village residents, with the remaining percentage coming from non-residents.

Returning to a question posed earlier this month, Diller said the village wouldn’t be able to repeal the other levies. However,

er, it could choose not to collect on those levies and continue to do so until they expire.

“I think that’s important, if we’re going to look at a half percent, I think we want to be able to tell the people that we’re going to eliminate those four tax levies,” Diller said.

He noted the village’s annual budget must be submitted next month, meaning it wouldn’t be able to account for the levy decision in November. He noted he’s looking into whether the village can amend its budget at that time. If not, he suggested not starting to collect with the new levy until 2027.

Council member Cliff Wendel said he was in favor of moving forward with the new levy. He also talked about doing away with the real estate tax levies when they expire.

Diller suggested hosting a work session for the public to meet with officials and share their thoughts on the matter.

“We don’t want to spring it on anybody,” Diller said. “We’re not trying to surprise anybody. We’re not trying to get rich here. We’re just trying to collect what we need to collect and make sure we can keep on doing what we’re doing.”

In other business, council members Lucas Knapke, Scott Pearson, Greg Schmitz, Al Post and Wendel, absent Erik Fiely:

- Passed a resolution formally opposing Ohio House Bill 335, which Diller said would eliminate inside millage. The village receives approximately \$72,000 annually from inside millage. Diller said the bill would largely impact school districts.
- Approved an ordinance levying assessments on properties abutting the 100 west block of Butler Street and 100 to 200 east block of Butler Street — the portion of road recently reconstructed — for the installation of sidewalks and curbs.
- Agreed to pay a \$386.75 bill to

environmental consultant Eagon & Associates. Diller noted plans to begin test drilling July 7, a part of the process for determining where to put a third well in the village.

- Learned seeding work completed at the location of the new water tower will need to be redone. Plans are still in motion to disinfect the water tank June 24, allowing the village to take bacteria samples as per required for testing prior to putting the new tower in service by July.
- Were informed the village’s renewal policy for property and liability insurance came in at \$600 higher than previously, with the total amount at \$39,719. It now includes new vehicles and the second water tower, noted Diller.
- Heard Kaup praise community members involved in organizing Fort Recovery Harvest Jubilee, which ran from Thursday through Sunday.

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Dave Coverly

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Oops!

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K 9 6 2
♥ K Q 3 2
♦ Q 6
♣ K Q 9

EAST
♠ J 7 5 3
♥ A J 10 6 5
♦ A 6 5
♣ 4

WEST
♠ A Q 10 4
♥ 9 8 4
♦ 5 2
♣ 7 4 3 2

SOUTH
♠ 8
♥ 7
♦ A K J 10 9 8 7 3
♣ J 10 8

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 ♥ 3 ♦ Pass
3 NT Pass 4 NT Pass
5 ♠ Pass 5 NT Pass
6 ♠ Pass 6 ♦

Opening lead — nine of hearts.

The members of the famed Italian Blue Team were noted for their fine slam bidding, but even they occasionally fell from grace. Consider this deal from the 1968 Olympiad, on which Camillo Pabis Ticci and Massimo D'Alelio voluntarily bid a slam in diamonds missing three aces!

This extraordinary occurrence came about in perfectly logical fashion. Pabis Ticci's opening one-club bid showed 12 to 16 points and a balanced hand. D'Alelio's jump to three diamonds announced a solid or semi-solid suit requiring little or no support. Three notrump was a signoff, but D'Alelio, visualizing a slam if his partner had either two or three aces, bid four notrump.

The Italians were playing Roman Blackwood, and — in accordance with this convention — the five-club response showed either three aces or none. D'Alelio naturally assumed his partner had three and continued with five notrump, asking for kings.

Six clubs showed three kings or none, and D'Alelio concluded it indicated none, since North's opening bid limited him to at most 16 points.

So D'Alelio bid six diamonds and, for the first and only time in his career, discovered he had misgauged his partner's holding by three aces.

West led a heart, dummy's queen losing to the ace, and East cashed the club ace. But when East failed to return a spade, D'Alelio escaped for down one.

At the other table, a Chilean North-South pair got to five diamonds (instead of three notrump) and lost all three aces, so the deal turned out to be a tie!

Peanuts

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Agnes

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Hi and Lois

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Between Friends

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Blondie

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Snuffy Smith

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Beetle Bailey

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CRYPTOQUIP

IMYR TLCQK Y BDNELW TYQQ

Y EYZQQ FNLCB LJ JQLNXERE

IML YND EMYNXWF YW YOLKD?

OQLLZ-ZYRDE.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A SMART TURTLE IS SO POPULAR THAT IT HAS ACTUALLY BECOME FAMOUS, IS IT A SHELL-EBRITY?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals C

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Showbiz job

4 Clay-rich soil

8 Tennis barriers

12 Notre Dame coach

13 Pearl Harbor site

14 Shrek, for one

15 Luau bowlful

16 Extensive sight-seeing vacation

18 Boredom

20 Playwright Levin

21 Cicatrix

24 Antlered animals

28 Foodie with an appetite

32 Writer Wiesel

33 "Where — you?"

34 Recluse

36 — la-la

37 Check

39 Lottery game number

DOWN

1 Be slack-jawed

2 Laundry appliance

3 Profit

4 Sane

5 Rowing need

6 "Caught ya!"

7 City bond, for short

8 Write down, as music

9 Conceit

10 Capote nickname

11 Sun. talk

17 Hosp. workers

19 Exploit

22 Fermi's bit

23 Actress

Zellweger

25 Utah ski resort

26 Lass

27 Navy commando

28 Rum cake

29 Spring flower

30 Hair goops

31 Rules (Abbr.)

35 Intensifies

38 Window sills

40 Quilters' meetup

42 Foot part

45 GI dining hall

47 Experts tea

48 Spiced

49 In pain

50 Arced tennis shot

51 Year in Mexico

52 TV pioneer

53 Belly

54 Day — paint

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16 17

18 19 20

21 22 23 24 25 26 27

28 29 30 31 32

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STATEWIDE
CLASSIFIEDS

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40 NOTICES

PLEASE NOTE: Be sure to check your ad the first day it appears. We cannot be responsible for more than one days incorrect copy. We try hard not to make mistakes, but they do happen, and we may not know unless you call to tell us. Call before 12:00 pm for corrections. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland, Indiana 260-726-8141.

60 SERVICES

J. L. CONSTRUCTION & ROOFING LLC. Amish crew. Custom built homes, new garages, pole barns, interior/ exterior remodeling, drywall, windows, doors, siding, roofing, foundations. 260-726-5062, leave message.

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90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 3563 E 600 N, Bryant IN
Saturday Morning
JUNE 21st, 2025
9:30 A.M.
OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS
(2) wood 36 section bolt bin; 2 drawer work bench; wood 30 section bolt bin; Hover Round mobility cart; Gem Hot Blast 816 cast iron stove; hump back trunk; gun cabinet; several Tipp Mann paint ball guns; Red Ryder & other BB guns; duck decoys; **POCKET WATCHES: 20 PLUS TO INCLUDE ELGIN, WALTHER, AND CROWN;** Several pocket and hunting knives with names such as Old Timers and Buck; metal folding chairs; small windmill; hand corn sheller; Coleman butane

90 SALE CALENDAR

stove; and many other items not listed.
BOAT-TRACTOR S-VEHICLES-MOTOR BIKES-TOOLS
1956 Wagemaker Wolverine 12' Cedar Lined Boat with 3 hp Evinrude motor and trailer; Ford 8N wide front tractor with 3 point (non running); 1972 GT6 Triumph MK car, (non running); Indian Enduro 175 motorcycle (non running); Scorpion Whip 440TR snowmobile; Cub Cadet 101 garden tractor (non running); 1984 Pryer 3 wheeler ice cream scooter; Honda 13 hp - 60f gas trail type mower; Country Plow 60f front blade; Woods 60f - 3 pt. finish mower; Cub Cadet mower (non running); Test Rite tool cabinet; Dewalt drill; hay hooks; cleaver; fishing poles; cane poles; rod & reels; tackle boxes; log chains; hatchets; and many other items not listed.
AUCTIONEERS NOTE: This is the first of 2 auctions. We will be running 2 rings most of the day. Auction #2 will be held on June 28, 2025 and will offer a large selection of guns, ammo and Indian artifacts.
JON SMITH, DECEASED
Loy Auction
AC#31600027 Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112
Kaden Khayyata AU12400069
Eric Robbins AU2014000129

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 3563 E 600 N, Bryant IN
Saturday Morning
JUNE 28th, 2025
9:30 A.M.
GUNS AND AMMO
(4) Stack On gun safes; Ranger Model 34 - 22 cal bolt action rifle; Savage Model 220 - 410 single shot; ARMI JAGER Model 8P874 - 22 cal semi-auto rifle; ; Bowlan & Brenner muzzle loaded shotgun; Remington Model 788 - .308 cal bolt action rifle with scope; Remington 870 Wingmaster TB 12 ga pump shotgun; Auto Ordnance Model 1911 A1 US Army 45 acp semi-auto pistol; Barnett Crossbow with scope; Recruit Recurve crossbow with scope;

AMMO: 20 gauge & 16 gauge slugs; 20 gauge & 12 gauge shot gun shells; 410 shot gun shells; 243 Remington; Black Powder and other ammo not listed.
INDIAN ARTIFACTS
Over 100 lots of artifacts to include Arrowheads of various sizes, Birdstone, Megalodon Teeth, Pestle, Pendants, Horn Stone Blade, Deflowering Tool, Spearheads, Butterfly Banner Stone, Gorgets, Drillheads, Pipe Ends, Hafted Stone Blades, Axes, Scapers, and various Indian Stones. **ARTIFACTS WILL BE SOLD BOTH LIVE AND ON LINE USING HI BID.**
AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Artifacts will be sold beginning at 9:30 a.m. Guns will start selling at approximately 12:30 p.m. Guns will not be on site until day of auction. Hand guns will be registered thru local FFL dealer. For more information contact LOY REAL ESTATE & AUCTION at (260) 726-2700.
JON SMITH, DECEASED
Loy Auction
AC#31600027 Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112
Kaden Khayyata AU12400069
Eric Robbins AU2014000129

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 925 West Race Street, Portland IN
FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 11TH, 2025
5:30 P.M.
REAL ESTATE
Single story home with approximately 1036 square feet of living space situated on a 52' x 136' lot. Home features include 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom. A new water heater was installed recently. Property also offers a 12' x 14' deck and a detached garage with approximately 720 square feet. This property will make a great starter home or rental investment property. Terms of Sale: 10% nonrefundable deposit day of auction and balance at closing. Closing to be no later than 45 days from date of auction. Buyer to assume taxes due and

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

LEGAL NOTICE OF PLANNED IMPROVEMENT
DES NO 2200586
The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) Greenfield District is developing plans for a proposed bridge replacement at the State Road (SR) 26 Bridge (Bridge No. 026-38-03431, NBI 007050), located approximately 1.84 miles east of United States Highway (US) 27, in Jay County, Indiana.
The need for the project stems from the deteriorated condition of the existing structure. The existing structure exhibits cracking, transverse cracks, and heavy spalling/delaminations with exposed rebar. The overall bridge condition rating noted in the October 10, 2024, INDOT Bridge Inspection Report is a 4 (Poor) out of 9 (Excellent). The purpose of the project is to address the deficiencies and provide an overall bridge condition rating of at least 7 (Good) out of 9 (Excellent).
The project includes a full bridge replacement. The proposed bridge will receive a new bridge inventory number (Bridge No. 026-38-10835). The new structure will be a 83-foot single span, continuous prestressed concrete bulb-tee beam bridge with an out-to-out width of 35 feet, and a clear roadway width of 32 feet. On the structure, the typical section will be two 12-foot travel lanes, 4-foot paved shoulders, and concrete bridge railing. Roadway approach work west of the bridge includes 274 feet of full-depth pavement replacement with guardrail and guardrail transition, followed by 90 feet of transition milling, totaling 364 feet including all incidental work. Roadway approach work east of the bridge includes 206 feet of full-depth pavement with guardrail and guardrail transition, followed by 90 feet of transition milling, for a total of 296 feet, including incidental work. The approach roadway typical section will include 12-foot travel lanes (one in each direction) and will taper the proposed 4-foot shoulders to the existing 2-foot shoulders. The existing guardrail will be replaced in all four quadrants. To accommodate the new structure, the existing roadway profile grade will be raised by 11 inches. Additionally, revetment riprap will be placed under the structure with riprap turnouts being constructed in all four quadrants. The southwest field entrance or the 10-inch CMP will not be reconstructed or relocated. The southeast field entrance will be reconstructed and relocated slightly to the east.
Approximately 0.40 acre of tree clearing will occur less than 100 feet from the edge of pavement for construction access and placement of riprap turnouts. No permanent lighting will be constructed but temporary lighting may be used during construction. Approximately 136 feet (0.03 acre) of Race Run (Bolen Ditch) will be impacted by the project due to placement of riprap and dewatering measures. Avoidance is not practicable and no mitigation is anticipated. Impacts have been minimized to the greatest extent possible by utilizing the minimum amount of riprap necessary, installing temporary erosion control measures around construction limits, revegetating bare areas after project completion, and directing temporary lighting away from suitable bat habitat.
The project will require approximately 1.54 acres of permanent ROW north and south of the structure and approximately 0.03 acre of temporary ROW in the southeast quadrant from agricultural and forested habitat.
The Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) for the project will require a full road closure of SR 26 and a detour utilizing US 27, SR 67, and Ohio SR 49. The detour will remain in place throughout construction and will add approximately 38 miles and 45 minutes of travel time. Access to all properties will be maintained throughout construction. School corporations and emergency services will be notified of closures prior to construction. The proposed start of construction is spring 2027.
The cost associated with this project is approximately \$1,561,000.00 which include right-of-way (state funded) and construction. INDOT has agreed this project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 2 environmental document. Preliminary design plans along with the CE are available for review at the following locations:
1. INDOT Greenfield District Office (32 South Broadway Greenfield, Indiana 46140)
2. Burgess and Niple, Inc. Website (https://www.burgessniple.com/content/indot/2200586/)
3. Jay County Public Library (315 North Ship Street, Portland, Indiana 47371)
All interested persons may request a public hearing be held and/or express their concerns by submitting comments to the attention of Nakayla Krahn, 251 N. Illinois St., Suite 920, Indianapolis, IN 46204, Nakayla.krahn@burgessniple.com, or Taylor Darrah, 32 S Broadway St., Greenfield, IN 46140, Tdarrah@indot.in.gov, on or before July 7th, 2025. Project documents can be mailed upon request.
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons and/or groups requiring project information be made available in alternative formats are encouraged to contact the project team for the arrangement and coordination of services. Please contact Nakayla Krahn, 317.237.2760 x7507, Nakayla.krahn@burgessniple.com. In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, persons and/or groups requiring project information be made available in another language are encouraged to contact the Nakayla Krahn, 317.237.2760 x7507, Nakayla.krahn@burgessniple.com.
This notice is published in compliance with: 1) Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 771 (CFR 771.111(h)(1) stating, "Each State must have procedures approved by the FHWA to carry out a public involvement/public hearing program."; 2) 23 CFR 450.210(a)(1)(ix) stating, "Provide for the periodic review of the effectiveness of the public involvement process to ensure that the process provides full and open access to all interested parties and revise the process, as appropriate."; and 3) The INDOT Project Development Public Involvement Procedures approved by the Federal Highway Administration on July 7, 2021.
CR 6-18-2025-HSPAXLP

90 SALE CALENDAR

payable in May 2026 and thereafter.
expense. Sale of Real Estate is subject to approval of the Jay Circuit Court. For more information or private showing contact GARY LOY, Auctioneer and (260) 726-5160 or KIM LOY, Real Estate Broker at (260) 726-2700.
PERSONAL PROPERTY INCLUDING A 2002 GEO TRACKER WILL BE SOLD IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE REAL ESTATE.
SONJA YOHE ESTATE BY AMBER WANKEN, PERSONAL REP
JOHN LARUE - ESTATE ATTORNEY
Loy Auction
AC#31600027 Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608

PUBLIC AUCTION
Saturday JUNE 21st, 2025
TIME 9:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 2011 E 200 S, HARTFORD CITY, IN
VEHICLES - CAMPER - TRACTOR - ATVS
1973 Volkswagen Beetle (Non running) with extra parts. 1996 Chevy ZR-2 Pickup 4x4 extended cab. 2002 Sprinter by Keystone 27' Camper with slide-out. Harris Pontoon boat with trailer. Paddleboat. Iseki TS1910 Tractor. Polaris 400 and 300 Xplorer 4x4 ATVs. Hot spring 8 Person Hot tub w/ Chemicals and Filters.
ANTIQUES - TOOLS - HUNTING - MISC
Large Stamp Collection. Hotwheels Collection. Longaberger Baskets. Childs Sled. Large Childs Makeup Stand. Galvanized 10 hole Chicken Nest. Craftsman Roll away Tool Boxes. Craftsman Transmission Jack. McCulloch Generator. Front-tine Tiller. Predator Post-hole Digger. Diamond Plate Toolbox. Wire Cages. Chicken Feeder. Fishing Supplies. Yeti and other Coolers. Bicycles. Pull-behind Childs Buggy. Vera Bradley Purses. Building Supplies and Materials. Several Rolls of R-19 Insulation. Insulation Blower and Blown Insulation. Refrigerators. Hammock. Several Items Not Mentioned.
OWNER: CHARLES EDWARDS ESTATE BY JACKIE EDWARDS
Note: Check Auctionsoft

90 SALE CALENDAR

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

PUBLIC AUCTION
SATURDAY JUNE 28th, 2025
TIME 9:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 346 E 400 N, Portland, IN
TRACTOR - EQUIPMENT - GUNS

Ford Jubilee Tractor. 3pt 5' Box Blade. 5' King Cutter 3pt Rotary Mower. 3pt Post Hole Auger. 6' x 10' Single Axle Utility Trailer w/ Winch. Craftsman Roll-away Tool Boxes. Craftsman 20 Gallon Air Compressor. 10f Table Saw. Insulated Dog Houses. Winchester Model 1200 12 Gauge Pump. Ruger .22 Cal Single 6 Revolver. Thompson 45 and 50 Cal Muzzle Loaders. (2) Muzzle Loader Barrels. Compound Bows and Arrows. Clay Targets and Thrower.
ANTIQUES - MISC
2 and 3 Gallon Crock Butter Churns. Horse Shoes. RR Anvil. Stop-light. Coca Cola Chest Cooler. Coca Cola Carrying Cooler. Bronze Horse Figure. Cross Cut Saw. Miniature Tricycle and Child's Wagon. Old Kitchen Cabinets.3 Cushion Sofa w/ Matching Love Seat. Over-sized Recliner. Rocker Recliner. 2 Person Bicycle and Other Bicycles.
OWNER: Charles Anderson Estate by Darlene Anderson
Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

The City of Dunkirk will be accepting sealed bids on the following vehicles until noon June 23, 2025. Bids will be accepted by mail or in person at the Dunkirk Municipal building located at 131 S Main Street. All envelopes must be marked as containing a bid. Vehicles are located at 588 Industrial Drive for viewing. All vehicles are sold As Is.
2015 Dodge Durango Police – 149,986 miles
1979 Ford Ranger F250 4-Wheel Drive Truck – 73,885 miles
1999 Jeep Cherokee 4-Wheel Drive – 53,961 miles
CR 6-13,14,17,18,19,20,212025-HSPAXLP

90 SALE CALENDAR

ESTATE
AC31800004
AUCTIONEERS
Zane Shawver
Lic. #AU10500168
260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver
Lic. #AU19700040
260-726-5587

100 JOBS WANTED

AMISH CREW LOOKING for any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489.

190 FARMERS COLUMN

AG RENTAL Spreaders: BBI, Artsway Vertical. New Holland 228 skid loaders w/full cab, heat/ac. Fort Recovery 419-852-0309

200 FOR RENT

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230 AUTOS, TRUCKS

WE PAY CASH for junk autos. We pick up at your location. 1-765-546-2642 or 1-765-857-1071. Slocum's Salvage

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

LEGAL NOTICE
The Jay County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) will hold its yearly exercise beginning at 09:00 AM on August 26, 2025, at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover Street, Dunkirk, IN 47336.
The Jay County Emergency Plan for Hazardous Materials incidents may be reviewed during regular business hours at the office of the Jay County Emergency Management Agency, Jay County Security Center, 224 West Water Street, Portland, IN. Copies of documents may be obtained at the office, and the Committee may charge a fee for copying. For further information regarding LEPC matters, please contact Samantha Rhodhamel, LEPC Planning Coordinator, Jay County Emergency Management Agency, Jay County Security Center at 260-726-6908. CR 6-18-2025-HSPAXLP

Visit Us At:
theocr.com

260 PUBLIC AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION

Located at 925 West Race Street, Portland Indiana
on Friday Afternoon
JULY 11, 2025
5:30 P.M.
REAL ESTATE

Single story home with approximately 1036 square feet of living space situated on a 52' x 136' lot. Home features include 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom. A new water heater was installed recently. Property also offers a 12' x 14' deck and a detached garage with approximately 720 square feet. This property will make a great starter home or rental investment property.

Terms of Sale: 10% nonrefundable deposit day of auction and balance at closing. Closing to be no later than 45 days from date of auction. Buyer to assume taxes due and payable in May 2026 and thereafter. Sellers will furnish Warranty Deed and Sellers Title Insurance. Any inspections need to be made prior to the auction and will be at the potential buyers expense. Sale of Real Estate is subject to approval of the Jay Circuit Court. Any statements made day of sale take precedence over previously written or oral matter. For more information or private showing contact GARY LOY, Auctioneer and (260) 726-5160 or KIM LOY, Real Estate Broker at (260) 726-2700.

PERSONAL PROPERTY INCLUDING A 2002 GEO TRACKER WILL BE SOLD IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE REAL ESTATE.

SONJA YOHE ESTATE

BY AMBER WANKEN, PERSONAL REP
JOHN LARUE – ESTATE ATTORNEY
LOY AUCTION AC31600027
AUCTIONEERS
Gary Loy AU 01031608
CR 6-18,26-2025



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Grant Glentzer swims the butterfly as part of the 13-14-year-old 200-meter medley relay team during Monday’s meet between the Jay County Summer Swim team and the Fort Recovery Eels at Portland Water Park. Glentzer won a trio of events to help the Patriots to a 693-310 victory.

Jay summer swim tops Eels 693-310

The Patriots couldn’t take all of the events but they still rolled to victory. The Jay County Summer Swim team won 50 out of 62 events as it took down the Fort Recovery Eels 693-310 on Monday afternoon. Between the teams, there were eight triple-event winners, seven of which belonged to Jay County and one from Fort Recovery. Hayden Guggenbiller led the 8-and-younger girls with first-place finishes in the 50-meter freestyle, 25 butterfly and 25 backstroke. One age group up, Jaley Knapschafer topped the 9-10-year-old girls 50 freestyle, 25 backstroke and 100 individual medley. The other triple-event winners from the Jay County girls came from the 13-14-year-old division. Elly Byrum won the 100 freestyle, 50 backstroke and 50 breaststroke, while Maria Laux completed the sweep with the top spot in the 50 butterfly, 200 individual medley and 50 freestyle. Sam Benirschke was the youngest Jay County boy to win three events. He was the first to finish in the 50 butterfly, 200 individual medley and 50 breaststroke in the 11-12-year-old boys. Grant Glentzer and Cooper Glentzer won three events each from the 13-14-year-old and 15-and-older boys divisions, respectively. Grant Glentzer claimed the 100 freestyle, 50 butterfly and 200 individual medley. Cooper topped the open 200 freestyle, 100 freestyle and 100 backstroke. Ivan Boekman was Fort Recovery’s sole triple-event winner. He won the 9-10-year-old boys 50 freestyle, 25 breaststroke and 25 backstroke. Jay County also had nine dual-event winners, 11 swimmers top one race each and 16 first-place relay teams. Owen Wenning and Lincoln Sutter both won a pair of events for the Eels, while three girls and one boy claimed a single race. Fort Recovery also won three relays.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Hailey Wenning of the Fort Recovery Eels summer swim team competes as the butterfly leg of the 200-meter medley relay during Monday’s meet at Jay County.

Sports on tap

| Local schedule | TV schedule | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| Today Fort Recovery ACME baseball at St. Henry – 7 p.m. Jay County Summer swim vs. Blackford and Marion – 6 p.m. | Today 2 p.m. — NCAA baseball tournament (ESPN) 3 p.m. — FIFA Club World Cup soccer: Real Madrid at Al Hilal (TNT) 7 p.m. — NCAA baseball tournament (ESPN) 7 p.m. — CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer: Costa Rica at Dominican Republic (FS1) 7:10 p.m. — MLB: Minnesota Twins at Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana) | 10 p.m. — CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer: Suriname at Mexico (FS1) | Thursday 12:40 p.m. — MLB: Minnesota Twins at Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana) 2 p.m. — NCAA baseball tournament (ESPN) 3 p.m. — FIFA Club World Cup soccer: Inter Miami at Porto (TNT) 6:45 p.m. — CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer: Trinidad and Tobago at Haiti (FS1) | 7 p.m. — NCAA baseball tournament (ESPN) 7 p.m. — WNBA: Phoenix Mercury at New York Liberty (FOX) 8:30 p.m. — NBA Finals: Oklahoma City Thunder at Indiana Pacers (ABC) 9:15 p.m. — CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer: Saudi Arabia at United States (FS1) |
| Thursday Jay County Summer swim at Catalina – 6 p.m. | | | | bicycle ride in Adams County is now open. To register, visit RunSignUp.com. There are rides ranging from 20 to 100 miles long. The event will be held at 7 a.m. Saturday, June 21. It will start at Belmont High School and will have stops in Willshire, Geneva and Monroe with refreshments. To have an event listed in “Sports on tap”, email details to sports@thecr.com |

Advertise your auto service and repair business in all of our publications with:

Four 3x5 ads in The Commercial Review

Two 3x5 ads in The News-Gazette

One 3x5 ad in The News Times for

\$300

OR

Run **two 3x5 ads** for your auto service and repair business in the publication(s) of your choice during June for:

The Commercial Review – **\$156**

The News-Gazette – **\$145**

The News Times – **\$120**

Ads must run in June. Rates do not apply to special sections.

Call (260) 726-8141 or email ads@thecr.com