

Board: County should close facility

Commissioners table issue to discuss along with county council

By BAILEY CLINE The Commercial Review Officials agree it's not as simple as putting a closed sign on the door. How the county goes about its living facility's future is still to be determined.

Jay County Country Living Advisory Board at its June meeting recommended the county close its living facility. Jay County Commissioners discussed potential next steps, such as transitioning ownership to another entity, at their meeting Monday before tabling the matter.

A committee was created in late 2023 to determine the facility's feasibility moving forward, with it morphing into an advisory board of directors intended to oversee regular operations. Discussion has been ongoing for years about Jay County Country Living — formerly known as Jay County Retirement Center — and its future.

The facility has been operating in Jay County since 1895.

"When this task began, I said we needed to keep Jay County Country Living open well, or close it well," read board president Cindy Bracy from a prepared statement. "I would like to revise that statement to keep it open well, or transition it well."

Bracy noted a housing crisis in Jay County. She also pointed to the property's historical significance.

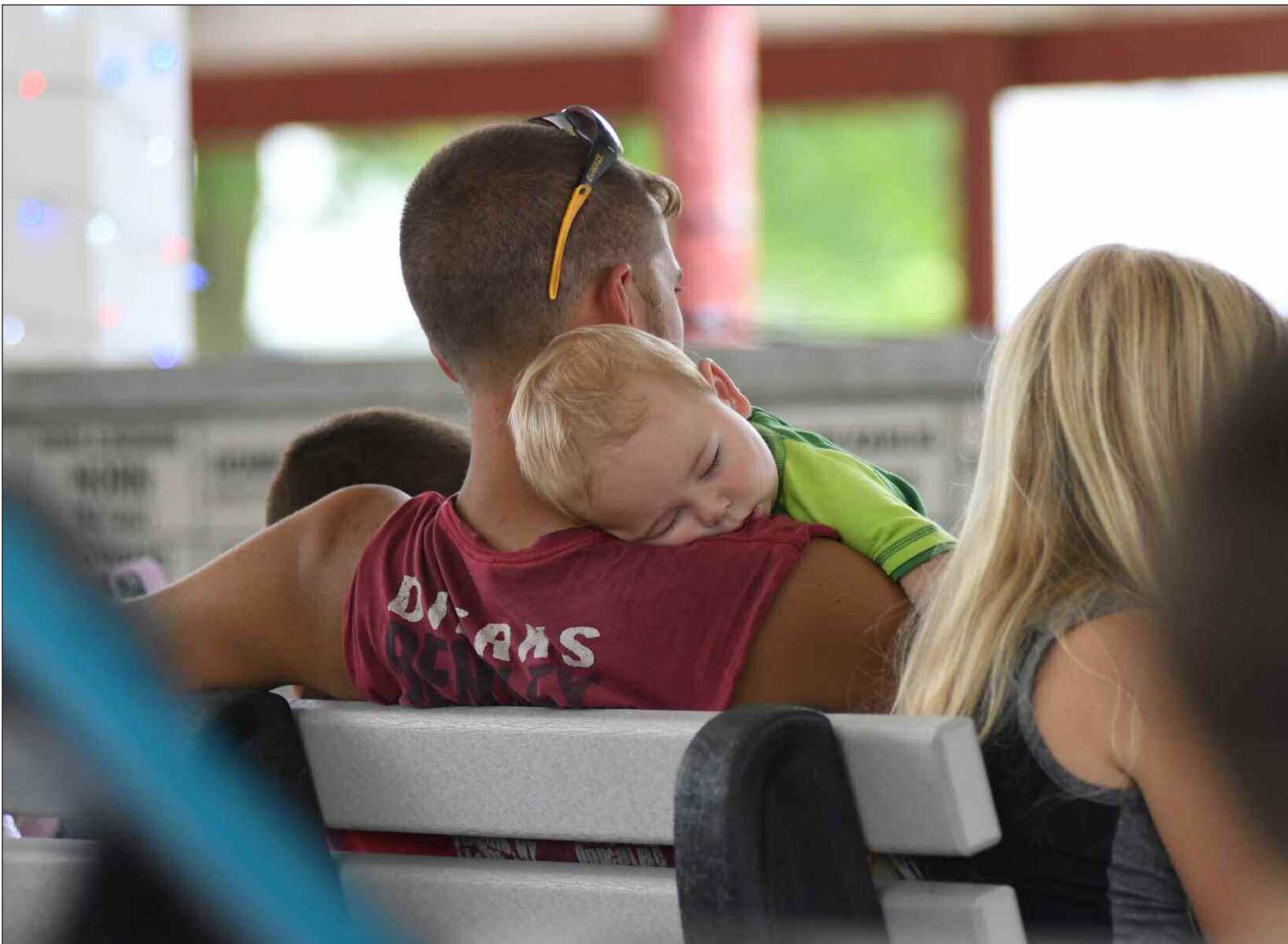
"There is a great need for this place," she read. "The question is how and what are the next steps."

Bracy also read a statement prepared by board member Chris Nixon, who explained the board has been reviewing the facility's assets for the last 15 months. The board applied for the facility to be designated on the National Register of Historic Places with a goal of securing preservation funding, among other efforts.

"We took seriously the mission we were given: to look for a path forward, not just an exit strategy," read Bracy. "I recognize the realities we're facing. I remain deeply concerned about what will be lost, not only in terms of care for our most vulnerable residents, but in our community's legacy of responsibility. I hope we can continue seeking solutions that reflect that legacy, even in these difficult times."

See Close page 2

2025 Jay County Fair



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Snoozing, schmoozing

The Jay County Fair continued over the weekend and Monday with a variety of 4-H shows, grandstand entertainment and Farmer's Building events. Pictured above, Brayden Alig, 7 months, takes a nap on father Nick's shoulder in the Farmer's Building during the Little Miss & Mr. Jay County Fair Contest on Saturday. At right, Ashlynn Brunswick speaks to her cow during the beef show Sunday in the Show Arena. For more photos, see pages 6 and 7.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Morehouse projects include a wide variety of produce

By BAILEY CLINE The Commercial Review Seventh grader Kyler Morehouse loves homegrown vegetables.

That's why he started maintaining his family's gardens and selling his harvests at Portland Local's Market.

Some of his produce is also on display at the Jay County Fair.

Kyler, 12, started helping his parents in their garden at a young age.

"We've always had a big garden," explained mother Katrina.

About five or six years ago,



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Kyler Morehouse, a seventh grader, participates in a long list of 4-H projects. Many of them involve his produce after he took over the family garden about 5 years ago.

her son expressed an interest in taking over the garden. Around the same time, Kyler also decided he wanted to sell their produce.

Kyler, who will begin attending Jay County Junior-Senior High School as a seventh grader in the fall, now regularly main-

tains his own garden. This year's variety includes peppers, tomatoes, potatoes, squash, pumpkins, cucumbers, green beans, beets, peas, radishes, lettuce, cabbage and kohlrabi, among other plants. In tomatoes alone, they've got more than 30 plants.

The family pitches in each year to help plant the seeds. They currently have two gardens at their home in Bearcreek Township — one is a pumpkin patch — and a garden at their farm about a mile away. This year, Kyler laid down the landscaping fabric. He and his sister, 10-year-old Kazlynn, have been keeping up with weeding and other gardening essentials.

Kyler has been to Portland Local's Market once so far this season. As more of his plants ripen, though, he'll be making more trips to sell his vegetables at the market.

His favorite part about visiting the market — gathering suggestions on what to grow next.

"We've done cucamelons, and this year he's got purple potatoes," noted Katrina.

His 4-H gardening projects on display at the Bob Schmit Memorial Exhibition Hall this year include purple potatoes, red potatoes and radishes.

"The radishes are done for," noted Kyler.

His mother laughed, explaining his radish harvest unfortunately shriveled up.

See Green page 7

Deaths

Wanda Downs, 72, rural Bryant John Bailey, 89, rural Hartford City Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 87 degrees. Sunday. The low was 67. Expect a low in the lower 60s tonight. Skies will be mostly sunny Wednesday with a high in the mid 80s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

At the fair

Today 9 a.m. — Dairy show in the Show Arena 10:30 a.m. — Pet parade in the Farmer's Building 11 a.m. — Magic show in the Farmer's Building 2 p.m. — Small animal supreme showmanship in the Show Arena 7 p.m. — Figure 8 and UTV barrel racing at the grandstand

Wednesday 9 a.m. — Horse and pony show in the Horse Arena 3 p.m. — Cincinnati League Hall of Fame Ceremony in the Farmer's Building. 5 p.m. — Large animal supreme showmanship in the Show Arena 7 p.m. — Truck and tractor pull at the grandstand





# Obituaries

**Wanda Downs**  
*Feb. 8, 1953-June 27, 2025*  
Wanda Kay Downs, age 72, of rural Bryant passed away on Friday, June 27, 2025, in Parkview Hospital Randalia in Fort Wayne. She was born in Portland on Feb. 8, 1953, the daughter of Max and Martha (Noble) Butcher. She was married on June 17, 1995, to Roger Downs who survives.  
Wanda was retired from Smith Brothers Furniture in Berne and was a dog groomer. She was a Portland High School graduate

and member of Bryant Wesleyan Church, raised and showed cocker spaniel dogs, was an avid Bengals fan and enjoyed NASCAR and dirt track racing.  
Surviving are her husband Roger; one son, Aaron Walter (wife: Stephanie) of Dunkirk; two daughters, Angie Stuckey (companion: Bert West) of Hartford City and Carrie Schmit (hus-



Downs

band: Joe) of Portland; two brothers, Mark Butcher (wife: Jiao) of Pennville and Michael Butcher (wife: Debbie) of Bryant; five sisters, Judy Simon (husband: Tim) of Lansing, Michigan, Diane Bost (husband: John) of Portland, Patty Meinerding (husband: Jerry) of Bryant, Amy Crabtree (husband: Barry) of Bryant and Lori Theurer (husband: Reuben) of Portland; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.  
She was preceded in death by a grandson, Austin Coates.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, July 3, at 2 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Paul Van Cise presiding. Burial will follow in the Gravel Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be Thursday from noon to 2 p.m.  
Memorials can be made to the Jay County Humane Society. Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

1935-June 28, 2025. Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.  
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*The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.*

CR almanac				
Wednesday 7/2	Thursday 7/3	Friday 7/4	Saturday 7/5	Sunday 7/6
<b>86/66</b> Mostly sunny skies on Wednesday when the high will be in the mid 80s.	<b>88/67</b> There's a slight chance of rain Thursday. Otherwise, mostly sunny.	<b>89/71</b> Independence Day looks to be mostly sunny again with a slight chance of showers.	<b>91/73</b> Mostly sunny on Saturday when the high may reach the 90s.	<b>89/68</b> There's a 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms on Sunday.

Lotteries	
<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$162 million	21-24-25-27-36-37-43-47-48-51-55-59-60-63-67-71 Cash 5: 6-33-36-42-45 Estimated jackpot: \$554,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$50 million	
<b>Hoosier</b> Sunday Midday Daily Three: 6-7-3 Daily Four: 6-2-1-7 Quick Draw: 5-6-8-11-14-16-21-22-31-37-45-47-48-49-52-63-65-68-70-73 Evening Daily Three: 0-8-8 Daily Four: 7-5-9-4 Quick Draw: 4-6-7-12-	<b>Ohio</b> Sunday Midday Pick 3: 4-2-4 Pick 4: 5-2-2-6 Pick 5: 1-4-1-3-4 Evening Pick 3: 5-0-8 Pick 4: 6-1-7-7 Pick 5: 7-4-4-1-0 Rolling Cash 5: 6-7-17-27-30 Estimated jackpot: \$140,000

Markets	
<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.57 Aug. corn .....4.69 Oct. corn .....4.05	July beans .....10.35 Wheat .....4.97
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.54 July corn .....4.54 Oct./Nov. corn .....4.13	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.32 July corn .....4.32 Beans .....10.17 July beans .....10.12 Wheat .....4.96
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....4.43 July corn .....4.43 Beans .....10.35	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.49 July corn .....4.49 Beans .....10.13 July beans .....9.73 Wheat .....4.77

Today in history	
<p>In 1535, Sir Thomas More's trial began for refusing to accept King Henry VIII as the head of the Church of England.</p> <p>In 1847, the United States Post Office issued its first general issue postage stamps. They were a 5-cent stamp in honor of Benjamin Franklin, who served as the first postmaster general under the Continental Congress, and a 10-cent stamp honoring President George Washington.</p> <p>In 1863, the Battle of Gettysburg began in Pennsylvania. Union Gen. George Reynolds was killed early in the fighting, setting the tone for a day that saw massive losses for both armies.</p> <p>In 1867, the Dominion of Canada was formed. The day is celebrated as an annual holiday, known as Canada Day since 1982.</p> <p>In 1979, Sony started selling its portable cassette player known as the Walkman.</p>	<p>In 2002, the International Criminal Court was established.</p> <p>In 2007, Andrea Banter, 24, Berne was killed and nine others, including six children ages 7 and younger, were injured in a traffic collision at the intersection of county roads 1150 West and 350 North, west of Pennville.</p> <p>In 2020, the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement was signed to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement that had been in effect since 1994.</p> <p>In 2021, after about four months of discussion, Portland Plan Commission gave a favorable recommendation to Portland City Council for approval of rezoning 108 acres of land between Tyson Road and county road 75 South to allow for the expansion of U.S. Aggregates' stone quarry. —The CR</p>

Citizen's calendar	
<b>Today</b> 7 p.m. — Salamonia Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center.	Commission, Wells County Public Library, 200 W. Washington St., Bluffton.
<b>Wednesday</b> 9 a.m. — Upper Wabash River Basin	<b>Thursday</b> 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.

# Close ...

Continued from page 1  
Commissioners president Chad Aker clarified the board's recommendation to close the facility could include allowing another organization to take over Jay County Country Living. He voiced support for keeping the facility open and questioned what the next steps may include.  
"I just hate to see this happening," Aker added. "I guess I'm only one of 10 decision makers in this county."  
"Best government is always less government," Bracy responded. "And it is a challenging place to run as a county entity."  
She pointed out a board member had said previously that the county was 20 years behind on discussions about its living facility. She agreed, referencing problems she said should have been addressed and dealt with two decades prior.  
Jay County Country Living director Stacey Johnson said various changes would need to take place at the facility in order to continue operating as it is, citing population, established requirements and a clearer focus on independent living for residents.  
Bracy noted there are options moving forward. Discussion on Monday revolved around establishing a non-profit organization or seeking requests for proposals for prospective buyers. Bracy asked whether the facility should continue allowing residents to move in for now, with commissioners disagreeing on the matter but taking no formal vote.  
Commissioners also pointed to the upcoming county budgeting process, questioning whether Jay County Country Living can feasibly close or transition before January. Commissioner Doug Horn suggested the county budget for the facility for one more year while plans are put in place, although he noted the financial decision is up to Jay County Council.  
County attorney Wes Schemenaur said the largest factor will be determining where the residents — there are currently 18 living at the facility — will go next.  
Johnson pointed to a lack of housing in the community, saying some residents have no other option.  
"We can absolutely not forget that we are one of the last resorts," noted

## Options for new non-profit, other proposals discussed

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Johnson pointed to a lack of housing in the community, saying some residents have no other option.  
"We can absolutely not forget that we are one of the last resorts," noted

Johnson. "A lot of times we are 100% last resort for someone, or they're going to sleep in their car."  
Commissioner Duane Monroe voiced concern for residents not receiving the care they need.  
"Half of the people need more assistance than what (Jay County Country Living) can give them," he said. "I hate that for the people that need that, because they're not getting it there, and they need help. They need someone better than we can give them."  
Once the advisory board's recommendation gets out to the public, he added, perhaps more folks will come forward with ideas on what to do next with the facility.  
Aker noted various improvements made to Jay County Country Living since the advisory board was created. He pointed to renovations, such as the recent bathroom remodels.  
"You guys have turned that place around by leaps and bounds," he said. "But again, sometimes it does come down to a matter of dollars and cents, unfortunately."  
Commissioners then tabled the matter, planning to discuss it again at a future joint session with Jay County Country Living Advisory Board and Jay County Council.  
.....  
*For more information from the commissioners' meeting, see Wednesday's newspaper.*

# Trump tax bill heads to Senate

**By LAURA DAVISON and ERIK WASSON**  
Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service  
Senate Majority Leader John Thune is rushing to meet President Donald Trump's July 4 deadline for pushing through his massive tax and spending bill, but first he has to work through a list of approximately eight Republican senators who have expressed opposition to portions of it.  
Within the next two days, he needs to find a way to appease most of them.  
The South Dakota Republican has one of the least enviable jobs in Washington in the coming hours — trying to knit a compromise between factions of his party: one side pushing for more spending cuts in the legislation and sena-

tors who are threatening to withhold their support unless there is more funding for health benefits, renewable energy subsidies and other priorities.  
Thune can afford to lose only three of his 53 members in the chamber, with Vice President JD Vance breaking the tie.  
Trump is closely watching the talks, quick to issue a harsh social media broadside to anyone who criticize his signature tax-cut legislation.  
Just ask North Carolina Senator Thom Tillis, one of two Republicans who voted against a late-night Saturday procedural vote to begin debate on the legislation.  
Trump unleashed a series of scathing posts, threatening to primary Tillis.

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SERVICES	
<b>Today</b> <b>Hunt, Jessica:</b> 7 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.	
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>Bailey, John:</b> 10:30 a.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier. <b>Lowe, Gordon:</b> 11 a.m., Redkey Nazarene Church, 801 W. High St., Redkey.	
<b>Thursday</b> <b>Mann, Douglas:</b> noon, Fairmount Friends Church, 124 W. 1st St., Fairmount. <b>Downs, Wanda:</b> 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.	
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# Short vacation goes long way for parents

**By CHRIS SCHANZ**  
The Commercial Review

I think we have a new quarterly tradition.

A month or so ago, my wife had this novel idea: we'd send Baby Schanz to day care, "skip" work and have ourselves a childless day.

It was genius. Here's why.

It could take time to vet potential babysitters. Maybe our daughter doesn't take to a new babysitter well and becomes a "monster" for this person.

I use "monster" in quotations because she's not literally a monster child. She's a great infant. But sometimes she can be extremely needy and someone who isn't keen

## Parental Ponderings



on her cues may not know what she needs.

We're already paying to send our daughter to day care. Our facility has people we trust, people who already know her and those with whom she's familiar. It's comforting for her to go there.

Why pay for an additional babysitter when we already have some built in?

Last week we took that opportunity to play hooky

— well, sort of; we burned vacation days — for the first time.

It was glorious.

We dropped our only child off at day care at her normal time around 8 a.m., then hit the interstate and headed toward the Detroit Metro area to do what every middle-aged parent does when they have free time from their children — go to IKEA.

We were on a mission. I have a handful of intricate Lego sets assembled that I now need to protect because they're just about in arm's reach of our infant. I will be devastated if she were to knock one off the shelf and it gets destroyed. Therefore, I was looking

for a display case to put them in so they're safe.

I also wanted to get ideas for our house because, as I've mentioned in previous columns, our home is lacking decor.

Also, for those who haven't been — this was only my second time there — IKEA is a really cool store. There are items for every room, and some of the designs are impeccable. I had to stop my wife countless times when she said "I love this" and reassure her that it wouldn't work in our house.

It's still a cool place to kill some hours, though.

We didn't end up purchasing anything, but we did return with a list of items to get at a later date

and a plethora of ideas for our home.

After that, we went to one of our favorite fast food places, Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers, for lunch, and then we had one more stop to make — a motorcycle dealership.

My dream motorcycle is an Indian Pursuit. I'll never be able to afford one — fully decked out, it's around \$60,000 — but a man can wish, right? I just had to get my eyes on one and hopefully be able to sit on one.

Unfortunately, and rightfully so, the dealership wasn't allowing people to sit on them.

Someday, I guess.

Following our visit to look at bikes we can't afford, we decided to cut

our excursion a bit early and head home. We wanted to get out of the car and into the comfort of our quiet home.

Chef's kiss.

And before we went to pick up our daughter from day care, we reflected on the day we just had without parenting duties.

It was just what the doctor ordered: a much-needed break from a few important responsibilities.

For our mental health, I suggested we make it a quarterly tradition.

I'm hoping it'll stick.

.....

*Chris Schanz is a former CR Sports Editor who is not ashamed at some time away. Send ideas for future getaway days to christopher.schanz@gmail.com.*

# In-laws' incorrect naming choice feels targeted

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been happily married for 12 years. We have a beautiful family — a 12-year-old daughter and a 10-year-old son. My husband is not close with his side of the family. We are very close to mine. My husband has a brother my kids have never met. He has two great-nieces and one great-nephew whom none of us have met. He does maintain a relationship with his parents. They usually visit once a year, as we live out of state.

When my husband and I wed, we were in our 30s, we both had established careers, owned our

## Dear Abby



own homes and lived complete lives. I kept my last name. My husband said he would talk to his parents about it because I had a feeling they would not approve. Fast-forward to the present: They always address my mail to "Mrs. Bob Jones." I find this hurtful. It's

usually a birthday card, but it still feels bad.

Am I a terrible person? I have asked my husband to talk to them about it, but he refuses. He thinks I need to let it go. But it's hard to feel love and appreciation for people who don't accept me at a basic level. What do you think? — WRONG NAME IN TEXAS

**DEAR WRONG NAME: You obviously don't have a close relationship with your in-laws, and I'm sure there is more than one reason for it. If you raise the issue of how the envelope is addressed, it will likely drive the wedge deeper**

**between you and them, which is why I agree with your husband. Let it go. However, because seeing it grates on you, feel free to toss it in the circular file as you would any other piece of junk mail.**

.....

DEAR ABBY: I have a male friend (attorney) who is married to a dermatologist. Nearly every time this friend interacts with a medical provider, he is dissatisfied and feels he is being ripped off. He attests that doctors order unnecessary tests and deliberately overcharge. He does this vociferously and repeatedly.

I'm a retired medical professional and consumer of health services myself, so I am certainly aware that many parts of our health care system are a mess. I do not know how to stop his rants. I try to change the subject, but nearly every conversation is the same. — TIRED OF LISTENING

**DEAR TIRED: You are not a hostage. The next time this friend raises the subject, tell him you have heard his complaints, there is nothing you can do about them, you would prefer to discuss something positive when you're together and CHANGE THE SUBJECT.**

# Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email [news@theocr.com](mailto:news@theocr.com).

**Today**

COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

**Wednesday**

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.

SINGLES AND SEPARATES SUPPORT GROUP — For anyone who's lost a loved one or has a spouse living in long-term care or suffering from an illness, the group will meet at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in the Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion in Berne. For more information, call

Sarah Conrad at (260) 589-4496.

JAY COUNTY FARM BUREAU — Will host its annual meeting from 3 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 2, at the Farmer's Building at Jay County Fairgrounds. During that time, farm bureau members may pick up meal voucher, redeemable at stands for Jay County Lion's Club, Jay County Optimist Club or Jay County Conservation Club. There will also be a pedal tractor pull beginning at 4 p.m. Door prize winners will be drawn and awarded at 6 p.m. on stage, with prizes including \$100 and several gift cards.

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 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.

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.

**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.

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.

**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.

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# Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

**Saturday's Solution**

3	8	4	1	9	2	5	7	6
7	2	1	4	5	6	8	9	3
6	9	5	8	7	3	4	1	2
4	6	9	2	8	1	3	5	7
5	7	8	6	3	9	2	4	1
2	1	3	7	4	5	9	6	8
1	4	7	5	2	8	6	3	9
9	5	2	3	6	7	1	8	4
8	3	6	9	1	4	7	2	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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**Portland, IN 47371**  
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# How did we survive without AC?

**By LISA O'DONNELL**  
News & Record  
(Greensboro, North Carolina)  
Tribune News Service

Summer, circa 1978, a five-acre farm in central Indiana.  
No air-conditioning.  
Two-story house. Family of six.  
One fan.

Do I remember being hot and miserable on those long summer days when I was 12 years old, in the way that I feel miserable at 59 merely walking a block to my car in this oppressive heat?  
Not really.  
There were four of us kids in the house, all separated by two years. My brothers and sister annoyed me. I annoyed them. But they were usually game for something. We couldn't drive. We didn't live in a neighborhood. We were essentially stranded once my parents left for work.  
If I was going to do anything, it had to be with my siblings.  
My sister set up a portable black-and-white TV on the back porch and listened to soap operas while she "laid out."

## Guest Opinion

(Do people say "laying out" anymore? It's how a generation of girls spent their summers.)  
I was too inpatient and stubbornly fair-skinned to lay out; nothing moved the needle on the shade of my skin, much to my dismay, so mostly I played with my younger brother, riding bicycles, playing basketball or catch in the backyard before an afternoon of "Gilligan's Island" and "Brady Bunch" reruns.  
I think they call this "free time" today. But that's what all my summer days were like back then. Unstructured, vaguely supervised, occasionally unwashed, a tad feral.  
My mom usually kept a tub of powdered Country Time Lemonade in the lazy susan and, if she were feeling generous, a gallon

of vanilla ice cream. I drizzled it with Hershey's syrup from a can. Sometimes, I took shots of syrup straight from the can. It seemed as if anything that was tasty — ice cream, chocolate syrup, anything in a Hostess wrapper — disappeared within minutes. We were scavengers for sweets. That left us with Grape Nuts, only edible with half a cup of sugar.  
Heaven was a friend with a swimming pool in the backyard or a house at the lake.  
We had a hose and a sprinkler. Running through the sprinkler; sliding in slick grass, their blades covering our bare feet; drinking cool water straight from the hose and then sticking a finger over the opening to spray an unsuspecting sibling. Shards of memories of simple times.  
Good times.  
Night was different. The air in the house was the breath of the devil — stagnant, heavy with heat. My sister and I had one window, facing north, in our bedroom. Everyone else had a west-facing window.

And yet ... that one fan was split between two bedrooms. A great injustice to my sister and me.  
Why my parents didn't buy a second fan still confounds me, as if it were a luxury item in those days, a Buick. Maybe it was my mom's way of exacting revenge for the chaos we created, drinking her Coke, leaving fingerprints on the ceiling because we couldn't stop jumping, watching "Gilligan's Island."  
Instead, my parents set up a fan in the hallway, with the expectation that a whiff of a breeze might find its way into the room I shared with my sister and another hint might make it to my brothers' room. Or maybe they thought the hum of a fan would give us the allusion of coolness.  
It did not.  
No one got any air, setting off the Battle of the Fan.  
In the middle of the night, I'd move the fan to our room. When I woke up, the fan was in my

brothers' room. And so it went. Every night.  
Finally, one year, my parents splurged and bought a window unit for my bedroom. Now my brothers had a west window and a fan to themselves.  
And still, they moved into our room the first night, played on the floor, and stayed all summer.  
All four of us in one small room. It felt like an invasion.  
"There's a world where I can go and tell my secrets to," Brian Wilson sang about his safe space.  
If only.  
It was a miserable summer — the snoring, the laughs as I'm on the verge of sleep, the obnoxious brother sounds. You know the ones.  
Eventually, I took the one fan and moved into their room, sleeping on a bottom bunk, amid the KISS records, the scandalous Chery Tiegs poster, the beer can collection.  
Peace was restored.  
I still like falling asleep to the whir of a fan.  
But the air-conditioning needs to be on as well.

# Overhaul temp program for visas

**The Dallas Morning News**  
Tribune News Service

When Americans were told earlier this year that the Trump administration's immigration raids would target criminals, they pictured roundups of human traffickers, sex offenders and gang members. It didn't cross their minds that the people handcuffed and shipped off to detention centers would be longtime garment workers, beloved restaurant employees and farmworkers who toil under harsh conditions to fill the produce and dairy aisles at the grocery store.

Our country needs tougher immigration enforcement, but not like this. U.S. farms are a prime example of the unworkability of populist promises of widespread immigration crack-downs. Trump adviser Stephen Miller's mass deportation quotas are crashing against the real world outside the White House, where industries like agriculture rely on undocumented workers to put food on the table of American families. By the government's own estimates, 40% of farmworkers are in the country illegally.

Now farm owners are complaining that many of their employees are not showing up to work for fear of immigration raids. Men and women who contribute to their communities, who've kept their heads down and stayed out of trouble are just as likely to be nabbed as people with rap sheets.

But even as we decry the Trump administration's methods, it should give us pause that an industry so critical to America's well-being is so reliant on a shadow labor force. Farm owners say they hire foreign workers — with visas or not — because they can't find American workers to fill what are often physically taxing and low-paying jobs. They have been pushing for an overhaul of the visa program to hire temporary farmworkers, and this could be an opportunity for President Donald Trump

## Guest Editorial

to give that effort the momentum it needs.  
Since the raids started, his administration has sent mixed messages to American farmers. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins, a Texan, convinced Trump to stop targeting farms, restaurants and hotels for immigration raids, but the administration later reversed itself. Then, last week, Trump appeared to side with farmers again, telling Fox News on Friday: "We're looking at doing something where in the case of good, reputable farmers, they can take responsibility for the people that they hire ... because we can't put the farms out of business."  
Industry groups like the Texas Farm Bureau have supported streamlining the H-2A program for seasonal agricultural workers. In fiscal year 2023, federal officials approved more than 378,000 jobs. But the process is inefficient: The government requires employers to submit paper petitions and supporting documentation by mail. Bills like the Farm Workforce Modernization Act that would improve the program have earned bipartisan support but stalled in Congress.

That bill would also create a legal pathway for undocumented immigrants who have worked in agriculture for a number of years and who pass background checks. We expect that policy will be more controversial, but it merits debate.  
Texas Farm Bureau President Russell Boening told us in a statement that the group wants to work with the Trump administration on solutions to provide "a legal and stable workforce."  
"A safe and secure food supply is a matter of national security," he wrote.



# Skipping politics was refreshing

**By NIKI KELLY**  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Most of the speeches I see elected officials give are full of policy jargon, exaggerated claims or partisan political messages. So, it was a delight recently to hear Gov. Mike Braun and Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith speak to high school FFA students from around the state.  
There was no red meat or careful wording. The speeches, instead, were uplifting and full of kindness.  
Beckwith kicked it off with a quick but effective address. At town halls, the controversial lieutenant governor can be combative. But this talk was positive and inspiring.  
"You know, as I stand here, I'm reminded about the things that make Indiana an amazing state, one of the best states in the union, by far, because of integrity, hard work, dedication and excellence. I think there is not a better group of students that embody that than FFA members and students," he said.

Beckwith recalled growing up in the world of agriculture with his father as president of the Michigan Dairy Association.  
He encouraged the students to think beyond themselves.  
"What are you leaving? What are you giving back? What are you doing to serve your fellow man, your community, your friends, your family and those that will come after you?" Beckwith asked.

*Niki Kelly*



He said the best leaders in his life were the ones who would sacrifice themselves to uplift others.  
"That is the mark of a true leader ... And those are the people that everybody wants to be around."  
Beckwith also encouraged the young Hoosiers to have empathy and be sensitive to what others are going through on life.  
"You need to be walking with them, doing life with them, you know, linking arms with them. And if you do that, you're going to be somebody that for years to come, will be very successful. No matter where your steps take you, you will be successful in everything you do."  
Braun started his speech by talking about his time in the U.S. Senate and then told the teens that he gets up early each day — without using an alarm clock — to pack as much into his day as he can.  
He said most people know him as running a successful automotive business, but one of the most enjoyable times of his life was as a farmer. And he stressed how important it was for he and his wife to return to their hometown of Jasper.

"You're going to have a lot of forks in the road, and the more you get involved in what you like, it's gonna prepare you for whatever you choose to do," Braun said.  
"You never know where life is going to take you. All I can tell you, is you're showing right here that you're going to be a mover and a shaker. You're probably in the arena that I've enjoyed most, being a tree farmer and involved in the row crop side of it, having that turkey farm. If you get up each day, you view it with opportunity. You work hard. You never know where life might take you. Someday, you might even decide to get into public service."  
The governor ended by telling the students not to be afraid of challenges.  
"Always be willing to stick your neck out and take a little risk, otherwise, you'll get down the trail and maybe be disappointed that you didn't do more."  
I know these aren't the kind of speeches that elected officials can give every day. They have to focus intently sometimes on budgeting, taxes and policy. But for one day it was a fond departure. And I hope the kids enjoyed it as much as I did.

.....  
*Kelly, editor-in-chief of Indiana Capital Chronicle, has covered the Indiana Statehouse since 1999. Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.*

# The Commercial Review



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

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Photo provided

Hotel donates

Holiday Inn Express recently made a donation to support the Portland Rockets All Black Building project. Pictured is Kristie McIntire of Holiday Inn Express presenting a check to Randy Fisher, Randy Miller and Dru Hall of the Rockets. Not pictured are Holiday Inn Express owners Scott and Sue Daniels.

US Aggregates facility upgraded

US Aggregates has installed a new fine grind plant at its Portland location. The plant can process material that was previously wasted two to three times a day. It utilizes a classifier that sorts materials according to size, shape and density. “The Portland team is a tight-knit and hardworking community with a strong sense of camaraderie built through shared challenges like this build,” said plant manager Corey Price in a press release.

**Stepping back**  
As part of a debut restructuring for Ardagh Group, CEO Paul Coulson will relinquish control of the company. Creditors will take control of Ardagh after paying Coulson \$250 million in the deal. He has worked at the glass manufacturing firm, which has facilities in Dunkirk and Winchester, for more than 35 years.

**Partnership extended**  
Dollar General extended its partnership with the American Red Cross Disaster Responder Program with a \$250,000 donation. The Funding will support the organization’s disaster preparedness, response and recovery efforts. It will be used to provide shelter, meals and other support to those in need following natural disasters. “Dollar General understands the profound disruption disasters like hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, fires or earthquakes can bring, and we’re proud to be Here for What Matters for our hometowns when they need it

Business roundup

most,” said Denine Torr, Dollar General’s vice president of corporate social responsibility and philanthropy. “We hope these funds help provide compassion and restore hope, helping communities thrive once again.” Dollar General has donated more than \$11 million in corporate funds and in-store donations to the Red Cross since 2001.

**New plans**  
Comcast is changing its Xfinity plans and dropping data caps. The company announced last week that it will offer four plans, with download speeds at 300 megabytes per second, 500 Mbps, one gigabyte per second and 2 Gbps. Customers can get discounted rates for long-term commitments.

**Grants awarded**  
Indiana’s Commerce Office awarded \$925,107 in grants last week to 28 projects through its Community Collaboration Fund. Among the grants awarded were \$40,000 to Muncie Regional Mentorship Hub. The City of Muncie plans to establish a structured mentorship program to serve all of east central Indiana. "Under Governor Braun's leadership, Indiana is more committed than ever to cultivat-

ing the growth of Main Street entrepreneurship and celebrating the impact our business owners have on our economy,” said Secretary of Commerce David Adams in a press release. “These community projects will ensure that current and future entrepreneurs across the state have access to the programming, resources and support needed to start and scale a business right here in Indiana.”

**Expanding in Kentucky**  
Tyson Foods announced plans to invest \$23.5 million to expand and upgrade its facility in Henderson County, Kentucky. Company officials said the expansion will support increased market demand for its products. I it will increase capacity and product diversity. “Tyson Foods has successfully done business in Kentucky for over 30 years and is positioned for even more growth in the future with this expansion and modernization,” said Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear. “I want to congratulate the company’s leaders on this progress and thank them for their longstanding commitment to the commonwealth. I’m excited to see Tyson Foods continue to grow and thrive in Henderson County.”

Also, members of Teamsters Local 577 at Tyson Foods in Amarillo voted to authorize a strike. The union represents 3,100 workers, who are demanding higher wages and improved benefits.

**Center opens**  
CVS Health announced

Thursday that it has opened its new Workforce Innovation and Talent Center in Chicago. The facility is intended to improve access to workforce training. It will include assistance for those seeking jobs as pharmacy technicians, customer service associates, call center employees and retail staff. “At our new WITC, we’re dedicated to helping individuals build skills for in-demand jobs, like Pharmacy Technicians,” said Sheryl Burke, senior vice president of corporate social responsibility and chief sustainability officer at CVS Health, in a press release. “Working alongside the Chicago Baptist Institute, we aim to make it easier for community members to access and find meaningful employment.”

**Hosting drive**  
Menards is hosting a food drive through the end of July. The company will accept donations of non-perishable food items through July 31. They can be placed in collection boxes near the exit doors to its locations. Participating locations include stores in Anderson, Fort Wayne, Kokomo, Muncie, Richmond and Celina, Ohio.

**Facility launched**  
Walmart announced the grand opening of its first owned and operated case-ready beef facility in Olathier, Kansas, on Friday. The 300,000-square-foot facility will package and distribute Angus cuts sourced from Sustainable Beef to stores across

the Midwest. It has resulted in 600 new jobs in Kansas. “The opening of our new facility in Olathe, Kansas, is centered on delivering more of what our customers want — affordable food and quality they can trust. This is the first case-ready facility fully owned and operated by Walmart, and that milestone ensures we’re able to bring more consistency, more transparency and more value to our customers.”

**Awards set**  
Indiana Chamber of Commerce will host its annual awards dinner at 5 p.m. Nov. 5 at the JW Marriott Indianapolis. Daymond John, founder of FUBU and a longtime star of “Shark Tank,” will be the featured speaker. Individual tickets are \$195. For more information, visit indianachamber.com.

**Nominate manufacturers**  
Nominations are open for the Indiana Manufacturers Association 2025 Manufacturing Excellence Awards. The awards honor Indiana companies and individuals for their contributions to the manufacturing industry. They are open to all manufacturers in Indiana. Anyone can make a nomination by visiting indianamfg.com/2025-manufacturing-excellence-awards. The deadline is Sunday, Aug. 31. .... Does your business have news to share? Email us at news@thecr.com to be included in our weekly business roundup.

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2025 Jay County Fair

Livestock showing and scrubbing

Jay County 4-H shows at the Jay County Fair included goats on Saturday, beef, poultry and cats on Sunday and swine on Monday.

Pictured at right, Natalie May and Carson Westgerdes lock in on the judge of the 4-H swine show while guiding their Hampshire barrows on Monday morning in the Show Arena.

At lower right, Easton Sprunger listens as one of his chickens is judged during the poultry show on Sunday afternoon in the poultry barn.

Below, Maddie Clark holds a chicken as Grant Fenning rinses it off at the animal wash barn Saturday afternoon in preparation for the 4-H poultry show on Sunday.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

<div>06.28</div> <div></div> <div>DEMO DERBY</div>	<div>06.29</div> <div></div> <div>AUTO CROSS</div>
<div>06.30</div> <div></div> <div>3 BAR J RODEO</div>	<div>07.01</div> <div></div> <div>FIGURE 8 - BARREL RACING</div>
<div>07.02</div> <div></div> <div>TRUCK &amp; TRACTOR PULL</div>	<div>07.03</div> <div></div> <div>QUEEN CITY STUNT CIRCUS</div>
<div>07.04</div> <div></div> <div>NATE SMITH &amp; JOSH ROSS</div>	<div>07.05</div> <div></div> <div>DEMO DERBY</div>



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2025 Jay County Fair



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney



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Kids' weekend

The Jay County Fair has plenty to offer for are youth. Pictured, clockwise from left:

- 1-year-old Tucker Lamontagne of Portland races toward the crowd Saturday morning during the baby contest in the Farmer's Building.
- Cousins Renna Brockman, 4, and Taylyn Muhlenkamp, 5, check out the fair book at the top of the bleachers Sunday in the Show Arena while their relatives practice with their animals.
- Eleanor Leuthold, 3, takes a bite of corn while hanging out with her family Sunday in the Farmer's Building.
- Nora Castillo, 7, and Maitlinn Castillo, 9, scribble on the coloring wall together Sunday in the FFA building.
- Carter May, 12, rinses off a cow Sunday.
- Ruby Muhlenkamp, 10, reacts after being announced Little Miss Jay County Fair on Saturday.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

One of Kyler Morehous's 4-H projects this year involved welding to create a grasshopper sculpture (right) from a pipe wrench. He welded rebar to the wrench to form the legs.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Green ...

Continued from page 1  
A member of the Jackson Champs 4-H Club, Kyler is also participating this year in the swine and sheep shows.  
His other 4-H projects also reflect his life growing up on Morehous Farms, such as the honey he has harvested that will be making its way to the state fair this summer. He and his sister both created models of their family's property, complete with tractors, farm animals and at least one garden.  
Kyler's fur collection boasts 47 pelts, with 30 of those currently on display at the fair-

grounds. In his at least seventh year of trapping, some of his favorite furs are those from a beaver, otter and white weasel.  
Drawing inspiration from a friend, Kyler also welded a grasshopper sculpture out of a pipe wrench. He attached rebar around the body to appear similar to legs and antennas.  
Katrina talked about the learning process for her children as they've maintained their gardens over the years.  
“(They’re) just learning how to be able to make their own food,” she said.



SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

Peanuts

Rose is Rose

Agnes

Hi and Lois

Between Friends

Blondie

Snuffy Smith

Beetle Bailey

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### Shades of Robert Burns

East dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ 7  
♥ 10 8 7 2  
♦ 9 7 6 3  
♣ K 8 5 4

**WEST**  
♠ 8 6 2  
♥ J 5 4  
♦ J 10 5 2  
♣ Q 10 3

**EAST**  
♠ K Q J 10 3  
♥ 9 6 3  
♦ Q 4  
♣ A 7 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ A 9 5 4  
♥ A K Q  
♦ A K 8  
♣ J 9 6

**West**  
♠ J 10  
♦ Q 10 3

**North**  
♥ 10  
♦ 9 7  
♣ K 8

**South**  
♠ 9  
♥ 8  
♦ 19 6

Declarer was well-aware that East had to have the ace of clubs for his opening one spade bid. So he decided that his best chance to make the contract was to put East on lead with a spade at this point and force him to return a club to dummy's king. This would allow dummy to score the seventh and eighth tricks with the king of clubs and ten of hearts.

But when South led the nine of spades, West discarded a club, dummy a diamond and East, obviously a devotee of Robert Burns, followed with the three! As a result, declarer had to go down one. He unexpectedly scored a second spade trick, but it proved to be a Greek gift!

The bidding:  
East 1♠ South Dble Pass West 2 NT North 2♥

Opening lead — eight of spades.  
Declarer's best-laid plans gang aft a-gley. So said the Scottish poet Robert Burns — if we may be permitted to paraphrase him — some two centuries ago. South surely planned his play correctly in the accompanying deal, but at the critical moment, East made an unusually good play that foiled South's plan.

West led a spade against two notrump. Declarer held up on the first two rounds and won the third

Tomorrow: Everyone is dealt 13 cards.  
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CRYPTOQUIP

TN PXEJB BKMMYUU OUPSYQ  
AJJOM OBJNYMMTJVPUUS, AY  
XJKUQ IY XJVMTQYBYQ P

IPMFYEIPUU FKBE.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: "SESAME STREET" SONG ABOUT A WEB-FOOTED SWIMMER WHO LIKES TO FILCH THINGS: "ROBBER DUCKIE."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals F

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 New corp. hires  
5 Rockies hrs.  
8 Dutch cheese  
12 Bassoon relative  
13 Not "neath  
14 Takeout order?  
15 Salary parity  
17 Pet food brand  
18 Concorde, e.g.  
19 "Shoo!"  
20 Country store?  
21 Sixth sense  
22 "Hum-bug!"  
23 Expire  
26 Fuel dispenser  
30 Gray's subj.  
31 Archipelago part  
32 Mosque leader  
33 Advl alternative  
35 Scruffs  
36 Enervate  
37 U.K. military fliers

**DOWN**

2 Cookouts, briefly  
3 Summer month, in Arles  
4 Briny expanse  
5 Clean a spill  
6 Plane reservation  
7 Sample  
8 "La Vie en Rose" singer  
9 Bargain  
10 Mater lead-in  
11 Disarray  
16 Misplace  
20 Small batteries  
21 Colorado resort town  
22 Howl at the moon  
23 Back muscle, briefly  
24 Whatever  
25 Bud  
26 Actress Gadot  
27 Diamond arbiter  
28 West of Hollywood  
29 Evening hrs.  
31 Police officer  
34 D.C. base-baller  
35 Traffic stopper  
37 Train tracks  
38 Grand — (four-run homer)  
39 Peru's capital  
40 Cupid's alias  
41 Atop  
42 Skin opening  
43 Beheld  
44 Hebrew prophet  
46 Quarter-back Manning  
47 Cauldron

**Solution time: 22 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer 7-1**

MUM	EGG	COAT
ABET	FLU	OUZO
SERA	SOL	LITE
TREND	WAND	
GEM	GOHOME	
REMOVED	RADON	
ELIA	DAM	RIOT
BARN	SLENDERS	
ANODES	HOC	
CENT	WAVED	
GAGA	OAT	SEGO
USES	BOA	HEAR
SETH	SSS	RNA

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# Roundup ...

Continued from page 10

**Carreno leads**  
PENNVILLE — Neymar Carreno led the Ohio Valley Gas Meteors to the Pennville Soccer League Space Division title on Saturday.

Carreno scored all eight of the Meteors' goals in an 8-1 victory over the AgBest Express Rockets. Natan Perez had the long goal for the Rockets.

In the Meteors' semifinal game, Carreno found the net twice, while Bradley Catterson and Williams Gutierrez each scored once in the 4-0 defeat of the Penrod Monuments Galaxy.

The Rockets took down the WPGW Asteroids 4-1 to reach the championship. Perez scored three goals, while Anniston Hammond added one for the Rockets. Owen Ehrhard accounted for the Asteroids' score.

**Dragons win**  
PENNVILLE — A trio of players lifted the Vinson Rental Properties Dragons to a 3-2 victory over the General Store Griffins in the Sky Division championship game of Pennville Soccer League on Saturday.

Carter Hermann, Angel Perez and Camden Vinson all scored for the Dragons in the victory.

The Griffins' goals came the way of Chase Kirkwood and John Schneider.

The Dragons led 2-0 at halftime but held the Griffins' comeback effort off for the victory.

**Three in final**  
PENNVILLE — The final quarter proved to be big for the Dave's Heating & Cooling Hornets in a 4-1 victory over the A Place to Grow Wasps on Saturday in the Pennville Soccer League Stinger Division championship.

The Hornets and Wasps were tied 1-1 after three quarters but the former put

up three goals in the final period to pull away with the victory.

Ian Kaehr led the way with two goals, while Lance Gentis and Raelyn McClain each found the net once. Chase Keyes had the Wasps' lone goal.

Ian Kaehr led the Hornets with three goals in the 6-2 win over the Matt Aker Foundation Yellowjackets in the semifinal. Abram Kaehr, McClain and Brinlee Michael all scored once to support Ian Kaehr. Leila Rodriguez and Madison Schmiesing found the net once each as well.

Sebastian Benavidez had three scores, while Keyes had two in the Wasps' 5-1 victory over the Ernst Concrete Bees. Tessa Coleman had the Bees' score.

**Cheetahs win**  
PENNVILLE — The Edward Jones Cheetahs had a pair of players step up in the Pennville Soccer

**Cook's moves on**  
Cook's Nursery beat Williams Auto Parts 10-8 in the Portland Junior League Rookie baseball semifinal on Friday afternoon.

Steven Robbins drove in four runs for Cook's Nursery, while going 2-for-3 from the plate. Bryson Berry, Kayden Alberson and Waylon Huelskamp got on base with efficiency for Robbins as all three players were a perfect 3-for-3 on the day.

Boone Locke and Alex Lochtefeld matched the trio from Cook's Nursery as they finished 3-for-3 at the plate for Williams Auto Parts.

Williams Auto Parts also got strong offensive performances from Brett Huntsman, Thobe Keller, Zander Williams and Porter Huntsman, as all collected two hits on the day.

**Title taken**  
SELMA — the Jay Coun-

ty 12-and-younger softball team won the Longhorns Tournament on Saturday, going 3-0-1 on the day.

The Patriots tied with the Berne Bears in the first game of pool play before earning their way to face the Bears in the championship game, eventually winning 9-4.

Jay County surrendered four runs in the first inning, but immediately responded with nine in the bottom half before both teams' offense stalled out.

Addisyn Champ, Haley Comer, Ellie Wiggins, Kali Conaster, Amalee Aker, Miley Duncan, Danica Chowning and Audrey Miller all had an RBI in the explosive first inning. Wiggins and Arabella Newsome each had a pair of hits to lead Jay County as well.

Wiggins earned the win, striking out 10 batters in the championship game.

# LeBron ...

Continued from page 10

Finney-Smith, who is coming off a strong season with the Lakers, is expected to be pursued by multiple teams. He could still return to the Lakers. ESPN was first to report Finney-Smith's decision.

Last week, Austin Reaves declined the team's maximum offer of four years for \$89 million, according to a person with knowledge of the situation.

Reaves, 27, still has two years left on his deal, for \$13.9 million next season and \$14.9 million in the 2026-27 season, and he holds a player option for the last year of his deal.

He was third on the Lakers in scoring last season, averaging career-highs in scoring (20.2), assists (5.8), rebounds (4.5) and minutes per game (34.9). He shot 46% from the field and 37.7% from three-point range.

With the James and Smith player option questions resolved Sunday, the Lakers are focused on filling out their roster. They added an athletic wing player when they acquired Adou Thiero in a trade with the Minnesota Timberwolves, who drafted him with the 36th pick in the second round.

The most pressing need for the Lakers remains a center,

and they'll have to look into free agency or via trade to acquire one.

The Lakers have the taxpayer mid-level exception of about \$5.65 million to spend.

"As I said at the end of the year, we know one of the things we have to address is the center position and that's clearly going to be one of our focuses as we begin the free-agency period," Rob Pelinka,

the Lakers' president of basketball operations, told Spectrum SportsNet after the second round of the draft Thursday. "... "So, we're looking forward to just putting in the hard work and making sure we take care of all the needs on the roster to give [Lakers coach] JJ [Redick] the tools he needs for this team to be great next season."



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Show opener

A pair of cars collide during the demolition derby at the grandstand of the Jay County Fair on Saturday. The fair will close with another demo derby on Saturday, July 5.

# Sports on tap

Local schedule	TV schedule		
<b>Today</b> Jay County Summer swim vs. North Adams – 6 p.m.	<b>Today</b> 6 a.m. — Tennis: Wimbledon (ESPN) 7:10 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Boston Red Sox (FDSN Indiana)	Chicago Cubs (TBS) 9 p.m. — FIFA Club World Cup: Borussia Dortmund at Monterrey (TNT)	
<b>Friday</b> Portland Rockets in Firecracker Tourney – TBD	<b>Wednesday</b> 6 a.m. — Tennis: Wimbledon (ESPN) 12 p.m. — UEFA Women's Euro soccer: Iceland at Finland (FOX)	12:35 p.m. — MLB: St. Louis Cardinals at Pittsburgh Pirates (FDSN Indiana) 3 p.m. — UEFA Women's Euro soccer: Switzerland at Norway (FOX) 7 p.m. — CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer: United States at Guatemala (FS1)	7:10 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Boston Red Sox (FDSN Indiana) 8:05 p.m. — MLB: Cleveland Guardians at Chicago Cubs (ESPN) 10 p.m. — CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer: Mexico at Honduras (FS1)

90 SALE CALENDAR

**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 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.

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PERSONAL PROPERTY INCLUDING A 2002 GEO TRACKER WILL BE SOLD IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE REAL ESTATE.  
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**SCRATCH PADS ARE BACK** various bundles sizes and XL pads. \$1.25 plus tax. Pick up at The Commercial Review Tuesday thru Friday 10am to 4pm.  
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The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland 260-726-8141.  
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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

**Public Notice**  
Office of Jay County Drainage Board  
Notice of Hearing Regarding Combining into Salamonia River Watershed  
Notice is hereby given by the Jay County Drainage Board that a hearing will be held to combine the Iris Scholer Watershed into the Salamonia River Watershed on July 14, 2025 at 9:00am in the Auditorium, Jay County Courthouse, Portland, Indiana, at which time the following will be considered:  
1. Combine for purpose of maintenance into the Salamonia River Watershed all legal drains (both open and tile) of the above watershed.  
2. All funds in the above watershed will be combined into the Salamonia River Watershed monies to create one fund from which work will be performed.  
3. The assessment rate of the above watershed will be adjusted to the Plot (\$20.00) and Acre (\$2.00) rate of the Salamonia River Watershed.  
4. That the maintenance report of the Jay County Surveyor and the schedule of assessments made by said Board relating to the above mentioned drain have been filed and are available in the office of the Jay County Surveyor.  
Jay County Drainage Board  
Chad Aker  
Duane Monroe  
CR 7-1-2025 -HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

**Public Notice**  
The bids should be mailed to the Jay County Surveyor and received no later than 8:30am on July 11, 2025 – Jay County Surveyor  
120 North Court St  
Portland, IN 47371  
The bids will be opened in the Auditorium in the Jay County Courthouse on July 14, 2025 at 9:15am and continuing until completed.  
Sincerely,  
Bradley A. Daniels  
Jay County Surveyor  
CR 7-12025-HSPAXLP



## Delta High School senior

“Kaleb, who was a big weight for us ... was somebody we could depend on in our lineup up top to always go get us bonus points at dual meets,” said DHS coach Cody LeCount. “He was

"It was really special because a lot of times people may place in the state and then the next year they don't even make it or lose on Friday night," Stebbins said. "I placed seventh last year and then I improved to fourth this year so that shows I put a lot of work into it."

106 – Reed Wicker, Fr., Delta	150 – Jacob Robinson, Sr., Jay County
113 – Kaid Jackson, Jr., Delta	157 – Evan Duncan, Sr., Winchester
120 – Ayden Bollinger, Sr., Delta	165 – Jeremiah Ullom, Sr., Monroe Central
126 – Isaiah Spurlin, Sr., Winchester	175 – Kaeb Stebbins, Sr., Delta
132 – Sam Mosier, So., Delta	190 – Clayton Holder, Sr., Winchester
138 – Jackson Teal, So., Delta	215 – Bryce Coy, Jr., Jay County
144 – A.J. Heskett, Sr., Jay County	285 – Alan Ortiz, Jr., Jay County

Matthew Alberson, So., Winchester  
Jensen Boyd, So., Delta  
Cory Brown, So., Monroe Central  
Griffin Byrum, Sr., Jay County  
Wesley Hendrickson, Jr. Winchester  
Jason Landers, So., Jay County  
Brogan Long, Jr., Wapahani  
Corbin Lothridge, Fr., Jay County  
A.J. Myers, Sr., Jay County  
Austin Roth, Sr., Union City  
Zeke Witter, Sr., Delta

# Rockets split four games

Garrison Brege suffered the loss in the second game of the weekend after giving up six runs on six hits, double what the Rockets had.

Johnny Heitkamp and Trey Pullins led the Rockets' offense in the first game on Sunday with three RBIs apiece on three hits combined. Andrew Onuegbu earned the win in three innings of work.

Crosby      Heniser  
picked up the victory  
as he struck out six  
batters, while giving  
up one hit and one  
walk over three  
innings on the bump.  
See **Roundup** page 9

# LeBron will be first to play 23 NBA seasons

***Lakers star exercised a \$52.6-million option***

Fellow Laker Dorian Finney-Smith reportedly declined his \$15.3-million player option and will pursue free agency, a person with knowledge of his decision told The Times.

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