

The Commercial Review

More projects receive approval

Commissioners OK \$348,000 in owner-occupied rehab work

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

More bids, more home repairs.

Jay County Commissioners approved more than \$348,000 in projects Monday for residents participating in the owner-occupied rehabilitation program.

Created with a \$1 million Office of Community and Rural Affairs grant, the program is intended to make necessary repairs or upgrades to residents' homes throughout the county. Work could include roof, water heater or heating ventilation and air conditioning unit replacements, electrical work or upgrades to make a home more accessible. Projects are limited to \$25,000 per household.

The county put out a request for proposals for 37 properties in this round. Fourteen properties had fully responsive bids, with 12 properties receiving partially responsive bids — only some of the scope of work was encompassed — 10 properties getting bids at more than the \$25,000 limit and one property with no offers.

Approximately 117 total bids were received by the county, with offers from All Circuit Electrical of Bryant, Dave's Heating & Cooling of Portland, Mooreland Roofing and Construction of Richmond, Mustard Seed Remodeling of Portland and Fortitude Design and Consulting of Evansville. Fortitude Design and Consulting's offers made up the largest amount at \$146,521 for 17 projects.

Egis recommended accepting offers for projects on 21 properties. Consultant Mike Kleinpeter assured county officials that the work will be completed by the Aug. 30 deadline. Commissioners then OK'd president Chad Aker to sign contracts for the work.

Relatedly, commissioners also approved an amendment to a grant administration contract with Kleinpeter, who has been working with the county on its owner-occupied rehabilitation program. He noted extra work put into the project — the county underwent environmental reviews for all 70 homes that applied, although not all of them received funding, as well as other changes. His additional cost came to \$12,005.

Also Monday, commissioners agreed to pursue a road use agreement with Minnich Poultry related to construction on its new feed mill and biochar manufacturing and distribution plant in Noble Township.

Jay County Council recently granted the rural Portland company, which also includes Minnich Eggs and Reier Pullets, five-year tax abatements related to the upcoming additions.

See **Projects** page 2

2025 Jay County Fair



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Goat pal

The Jay County Fair continued with 3 Bar J Rodeo in front of the grandstand on Monday evening and the Jay County 4-H dairy show on Tuesday morning in the Show Arena. Tuesday was also Kids Day at the fair. Pictured, Cooper Minnich, 2, Fort Recovery, giggles as he reaches out to pet a goat Tuesday morning during the Books in the Barn event at the fairgrounds. For more coverage of the fair, see pages 2 and 5.

Smith concert canceled

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Nate Smith is not coming to Jay County.

The party will go on without him.

Smith's management team informed the Jay County Fair Board on Monday afternoon that the country music artist has canceled his scheduled Friday concert at the Jay County Fair.

He has not performed in about a month "after struggling with some vocal issues."

"Due to Nate Smith's vocal issues in the month of June, he

has canceled our show for Friday, July 4," said fair board secretary Dillon Muhlenkamp. (The board will be offering refunds. See details below.) "With this move, we understand

that there might be some frustration," he continued, "but we want people to understand that this was completely out of our control."

The fair board is pivoting to a

free-will donation concert with Smith's planned opener, Josh Ross, as the headliner and Celina, Ohio, band 127 North stepping in to be the opening act.

See **Concert** page 2

Show will go on with Ross headlining, 127 North stepping in as opening act



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County FFA advisor Katie Loy speaks Monday during a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Robert C. and Joyce A. Lyons FFA Pavilion at Jay County Fairgrounds.

New FFA home

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Three years in the making, Jay County FFA has a new home at the fairgrounds.

Jay County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Monday afternoon to celebrate the new Robert C. and Joyce A. Lyons FFA Pavilion at Jay County Fairgrounds.

"It's kind of a dream and a vision to mimic what the Indiana FFA Pavilion is at the state

Ceremony celebrates pavilion at fairgrounds

fairgrounds," said Jay County FFA advisor Katie Loy alongside fellow advisors Matt Slavik and Ava Stockton during the ceremony.

Plans for the new facility were announced on the opening night of

the 150th Jay County Fair in 2022. Those included naming the building for Lyons, the longest-serving member in the history of Jay County Fair Board, and his wife.

See **FFA** page 5

Display features Jay County writers

By LOUISE RONALD
The Commercial Review

Jim Waechter, one of the founders of Museum of the Soldier, is always on the lookout for artifacts as he searches through antique stores, flea markets, garage sales and the internet.

One day, he came across a book called "Out There: The Story of a Soldier's Quest to Find Himself in the World War I Front Lines." Not surprisingly, he was intrigued.

The surprise came when he opened the book to discover its author, Charles Whitehair, was

born and raised in Redkey. Not only that, the book was published in Jay County.

Thus started a collection of books by county authors, part of which is on display for the first time this week in the Marian Orr Women's Building at the Jay County Fair.

"Jay County has so many different things that people aren't aware of," said Waechter. "I had the opportunity right now to suck some of (those things) out of the woodwork and make (them) available to people."

See **Writers** page 5

Deaths

Ronald Lee, 81, Fort Recovery
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. — 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

Thursday

10 a.m. — Jay County 4-H Awards Ceremony and Auction in the Show Arena
3:30 p.m. — Johnny Cash Tribute with Andrew Kern in the Farmer's Building
7 p.m. — Queen City Stunt Circus at the grandstand
9 p.m. — East on Division in the Farmer's Building



Projects ...

Continued from page 1

According to tax abatement forms, the estimated start date for construction is Sept. 1.

Jay/Portland Building and Planning director John Hemmelgarn pointed to the proposed construction and suggested a road use agreement with the company. He noted Minnich Poultry will need a special exemption from Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals before moving forward but suggested the road use agreement be put in place first.

Commissioner Duane Monroe voiced concerns about the agreement hindering the company's plans, saying the company hasn't damaged the roads in the past.

"They could very easily build on the other side of the state line," he said.

Hemmelgarn said the compa-

ny was open to discussion, and Aker advised commissioners heed the building and planning department's advice.

"I don't think it hurts to have that conversation," Aker added.

Commissioners also scheduled a public hearing and special meeting at 4 p.m. July 21 to discuss whether to enact one-year moratoriums on wind farms and geological carbon sequestration projects.

Renewable energy company RWE Clean Energy, a subsidiary of electricity company RWE Group, is planning to construct a 200-megawatt wind farm in Jay County. Hopes are for the wind farm to be operational in 2031.

Ethanol plant POET Bioprocessing is working on a geological carbon sequestration project. It would involve drilling a nearly 4,000 foot well and injecting car-

bon dioxide — it's a byproduct from creating ethanol — into the well over the next several years.

Jay County Plan Commission last month recommended enacting up to a one-year moratorium on wind farms. It also recommended not to enact a moratorium on geological carbon sequestration projects.

Jay/Portland Building and Planning director Pati McLaughlin noted if commissioners don't act on plan commission's recommendations, they will go into effect as is within 90 days.

In other business, commissioners:






- OK'd a three-year agreement with Ford Pro Intelligence to outfit Jay County Highway Department's vehicles with cameras. The department's 43 vehicles will be outfitted with cam-

eras, which will be maintained for \$19,272 annually. Auditor Emily Franks noted the county will need to consider outfitting other department vehicles in order to meet insurance qualifications moving forward.

- Rescheduled their second meeting in July to 9 a.m. July 30.
- Heard about bridge construction planned on Indiana 18 just east of Bryant starting Nov. 13. The state detour will utilize U.S. 27, Indiana 218 and Ohio 49. Highway superintendent Bob Howell noted the local detour is currently slated to use county road 600 North, which also serves as Main Street in Bryant. He planned to work with Indiana Department of Transportation to look into adjusting the local detour's route.
- Heard a monthly update from Jay Emergency Medical Service

director Gary Barnett. He noted the department completed 190 runs in May, with 165 runs coming from 911 calls. Approximately 20 runs were transferred to hospitals outside of Jay County, with six of those runs flagged as emergent, and 61 runs ended with patient refusals. Barnett also shared the department's monthly financial breakdown. JEMS had \$195,186.15 in expenses and \$75,096.30 in income.

- Learned about a bridge replacement on Indiana 26 east of U.S. 27 planned for spring 2027.
- Agreed to move forward with establishing a \$10 fee for permanent commercial and residential driveway permits, with commissioners to formally approve the change in August. (Temporary driveway permits have been \$10 for years.)

CR almanac				
Thursday 7/3	Friday 7/4	Saturday 7/5	Sunday 7/6	Monday 7/7
 88/68 Sunny skies are expected Thursday when there's a high in the upper 80s.	 89/71 Independence Day looks to be mostly sunny with a slight chance of thunderstorms late.	 91/73 Mostly sunny on Saturday, when the high will be in the lower 90s.	 90/70 Sunday's forecast shows a 50% chance of rain throughout the day.	 88/65 Another 50% chance of thunderstorms during the day.

Lotteries	
Powerball Monday 13-28-44-52-55 Power Ball: 6 Power Play: 4 Estimated jackpot: \$174 million	Daily Four: 6-3-0-3 Quick Draw: 10-14-17-22-23-28-39-43-45-48-50-55-56-64-65-69-70-75-78-79 Cash 5: 8-14-24-36-38 Estimated jackpot: \$582,500
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$50 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 8-6-9 Pick 4: 2-2-3-2 Pick 5: 8-1-1-4-4 Evening Pick 3: 7-0-7 Pick 4: 0-5-1-9 Pick 5: 9-3-7-8-3 Rolling Cash: 6-15-26-32-33 Estimated jackpot: \$160,000
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 5-4-6 Daily Four: 0-7-6-5 Quick Draw: 1-5-15-17-18-22-23-33-34-43-45-47-50-51-52-53-54-66-69-79 Evening Daily Three: 5-8-6	

Markets	
Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.53 Aug. corn4.65 Oct. corn4.01	Aug. beans.....10.31 Wheat 4.92
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.51 Oct./Nov. corn4.09 Dec. corn4.21	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.29 Aug. corn4.31 Beans10.13 Aug. beans.....10.03 Wheat4.91
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.40 Aug. corn4.40 Beans10.31	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.45 Aug. corn4.45 Beans10.09 Aug. beans.....9.69 Wheat4.72

Today in history	
In 1881 , President James A. Garfield was shot and fatally wounded by Charles J. Guiteau in Washington, D.C. Guiteau blamed the president for not choosing him for a job at the U.S. Consulate in Paris.	Firecracker Tournament in Fort Wayne, dominating opponents by a combined score of 31-3 in four games. Garrett Scott shut out the Fort Wayne Jackers in the tournament championship game.
In 1908 , Thurgood Marshall, who served on the U.S. Supreme Court from 1967 through 1961, was born. He was the attorney for Brown in the landmark Brown v. Board of Education case and later became the first African American named to the Supreme Court.	In 2019 , the Jay County Summer Swim Team completed an unbeaten regular season with a 959-137 thrashing of Randolph County at Portland Water Park. Ben, Kaitlyn and Matthew Fisher, Lani Muhlenkamp, Raif Beiswanger, Maria Laux, Ralph Link and Erica Hathaway all won three events.
In 2017 , the Portland Rockets won the 16-team	—The CR

Citizen's calendar	
Today 9 a.m. — Upper Wabash River Basin Commission, Wells County Public Library , 200 W. Washington St., Bluffton.	Board of Works, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.
Thursday 4 p.m. — Portland	Monday 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

Obituaries

Ronald Lee
Jan. 31, 1944-June 29, 2025

Ronald Lee, age 81, a resident of Fort Recovery, Ohio, passed away on Sunday, June 29, 2025, at Everheart Hospice Care Center in Greenville, Ohio.

Ronald was born Jan. 31, 1944, in Portland, Indiana, the son of Lawrence "Jim" and Pauline "Marie" Shawver Lee. He graduated from Portland High School and served in the U.S. Air Force in Vietnam. He worked for Hartzell Fan in Portland



and was a member of the Fort Recovery VFW, Fort Recovery American Legion and Portland Eagles Lodge.

Ronald enjoyed playing cards, horse racing, Elvis Presley, mowing and watching his children and grandchildren having fun.

Survivors include:

His children — Susan Lee (Ernest Hollie), Milan, Michigan, Shannon Lee, Ft. Recovery, Ohio, April Bihn (Husband: Chuck), Portland, Indiana, Regina Nieto,Piqua, Ohio, and Johnny Terry (wife: Lisa), Geneva, Indiana

One sister — Diana Ransom (husband: Jay) – Bluffton, Indiana

Ten grandchildren and

several great grandchildren

He was preceded in death by his parents; and two grandchildren, Mylee and Cameron Morgan.

Private graveside services and a celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Arrangements entrusted to Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Condolences may be expressed at williamson-spencer.com.

The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

SERVICES
Today Bailey , John: 10:30 a.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W.Windsor St., Montpelier. Low e, Gordon: 11 a.m., Redkey Nazarene Church, 801 W. High St., Redkey.
Thursday Mann , Douglas: noon, Fairmount Friends Church, 124 W. 1st St., Fairmount. Downs , Wanda: 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.
Service listings provided by PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS 120 N. Meridian St. Portland, Indiana 47371 (260) 726-9201 progressiveofficeproducts.com

2025 Jay County Fair



Photo provided

Josh Ross performs Friday at Dauphins Country Fest in Manitoba, Canada. Following a cancellation by Nate Smith, Ross is now slated to headline Friday's concert in front of the grandstand at the Jay County Fair with Mercer County band 127 North as the opening act.

Concert ...

Continued from page 1

Box seats will be available for \$20.

The track will be open for patrons with no separate party pit. Sponsors that received VIP tickets will still have a VIP area for the show.

"We're still gonna make this a party," said Muhlenkamp. "We're gonna make the best out of this. We're still gonna have a party atmosphere, a party feel. We still want people to come out and enjoy the Fourth of July out here. We're still gonna have our beer tent. ... We're still gonna have a great time regardless of who's performing, because the Jay County Fair is about being together with each other and making memories with our families and friends and really coming together as a community to support each other."

"It's not the party we had planned, but it's still going to be a hell of a time," added fair board president Aaron Loy.

Smith canceled his June dates, including a scheduled appearance at CMA Fest, saying in a social media post June 5 that doctors had placed him on "strict vocal rest" for the remainder of the month. His team, though, had previously indicated that he would return to his planned schedule, including the Jay County Fair.

Fair board members said Monday evening that Smith is moving forward with his performances

scheduled for the Schuyler County Fair in Illinois on July 3 and Summerfest 2025 in Milwaukee on July 5, but canceling the concert in between in Jay County. (The local concert was still on his website as of Tuesday morning.) He has additional dates planned in Canada and Wisconsin through mid-July.

Smith's "Fix What You Didn't Break" has earned the No. 1 spot on the MusicRow CountryBreakout Radio Chart for the last two weeks.

Ross (joshrossmusic.com) toured with Jelly Roll in Canada in March and won the Jeff Walker Global Country Artist Award at the 2024 CMA Awards. He has had six songs make it to the top five of the Canadian Country charts, with "Single Again" as his most popular in the U.S.

He counts Steve Earle, Guns N' Roses and Metallica among his influences and has toured with Nickelback, Luke Bryan and Brantley Gilbert.

127 North (facebook.com/127north) bills itself as a "high energy rockin country band, playing all your favorite hits & originals." It performs extensively in western Ohio, including a visit last month to the Fort Recovery Jubilee.

Though the concert will be offered for a free-will donation, the \$5 per person gate admission fee will remain in effect from 3 to 8:30 p.m. Friday. Fair board members

estimate there will still be more than \$30,000 in production costs related to Friday's concert, despite Smith's cancellation.

"We're still going to be charging at the gate, but we have plenty of free entertainment on the grounds," said Loy. "The ride company is running all day, inflatables, foam party, entertainment in the Farmer's Building."

Other free entertainment in addition to the Ross/127 North concert at the grandstand Friday will include performances by Jay & Julia Riethman at noon, Noah Black at 3:30 p.m. and Ron and Fred at 7 p.m., all in the Farmer's Building.

Fireworks are planned for 10:30 p.m.

Refunds

- Those who purchased a ticket through the online platform Etix will receive a refund automatically. Those refunds may take up to two weeks for Etix to process.
- Anyone who purchased a ticket by other means will need to stop by the secretary's office at the fairgrounds in order to process a refund. Those who purchased with a credit or debit card are asked to bring the card with them in order to improve the refund process. (The fair board plans to have additional hours next week to process refunds, but those will be limited. Those seeking a refund are encouraged to do so this week.)

FRHS honors underclassmen

Fort Recovery High School released its second semester honor roll.

Making the list with all A's were sophomores Kenna Dues, Tyler Dues, Carter Fortkamp, Alexis Grisez, Russell Hart, Makenna Huelskamp, Meredith Jones, Breaker Jutte, Grace Lochtefeld, Ian McCain, Cameron Muhlenkamp, Isaac Roessner, Madelyn Schoenlein, Kiera Stump, Amber Timmerman, Ivy Tobe, Jennifer Wendel, James Westgerdes, Brynn Willmann and Jase Wuebker.

On the honor roll with all A's were freshmen Joscie Bihn,

Emily Boeckman, Alivia Brunswick, Haley Easton, Makenzie Evers, Claire Gaerke, Malia Grisez, Madeline Hardwick, Paisley Hart, Henry Jutte, Elizabeth Kahlig, Courtney Klenke, Cora Pearson, Kendall Ranly, Madilyn Reinhard, Ally Roessner, Hoyt Schmitz and Charlie Stammen.

Also making the list with A's and B's were sophomores Brody Barga, Tyler Bertke, Deanna Brown, Kendall Buckland, Alex Carreto, Reese Diller, Cadence Eber, Brady Evers, Ava Fullenkamp, Aubree Heitkamp, Madeline Heitkamp, Jake Meyer, Cata-

rina Moura, Emma Schmitz, Angel Serio, Cara Shoemaker, Ava Timmerman and Kaylor Wendel.

On the honor roll also with A's and B's were freshmen Raya Androne, Layla Armstrong, Brooke Bihn, Addison Brunswick, Kyra Brunswick, Riley DeRoo, Evan Diller, Braylon Dilworth, Jackson Dues, Will Faller, Lizzie Heitkamp, Liza Knapke, Shelby Knapke, Kinlee Kremer, Andy Niekamp, Charity Pohlman, Liana Schlarman, Ali Siegrist, Eliza Smith, Lilah Thien, Livy Timmerman, Madelyn Weigel and Jadyn Wyerick.

Celebrate July holiday

Independence Day is right around the corner. Jay County's annual 4th of July festivities kick off Friday.

Activities start with the Firecracker 5K, with registration beginning at 7 a.m. prior to the race start time at 8 a.m. at the front entrance to Jay County Fairgrounds.

The Independence Day parade begins at 11 a.m. at East Jay Elementary School and ends at the north entrance to Jay County Fairgrounds. A flag ceremony is slated for noon at the fairground's front entrance. Free face painting, balloon animals, hot dogs and tours will also be available at Museum of the Soldier, 510 E Arch St., Portland, from 1 to 5 p.m.

Fireworks will begin at 10:30 p.m. at the Tri-State Gas Engine and Tractor Association grounds and in the northern parking lot of the fairgrounds.

Past conversation hasn't fixed bedroom problems

DEAR ABBY: After years of disappointment, I finally found the man of my dreams. How do I tell him he isn't doing certain things right in the bedroom without it being uncomfortable? I have mentioned it before, but it didn't stick. This is the only problem with our relationship. I don't want to hurt his feelings or make either one of us uncomfortable, but he's just not getting the job done. — WORKING ON IT IN TENNESSEE

DEAR WORKING: I will assume that the man of your dreams loves you and wants to take care of you. Although this may be a difficult topic to address, communication is very important. Ask your doctor or gynecologist for a referral to a licensed sex therapist, then tell the man

Dear Abby



you love you would like him to accompany you. If he loves you, he will go and learn something. If his ego gets in the way, have the conversation about what you need at a time when you are both calm and relaxed, and communication is easier — NOT in the bedroom.

DEAR ABBY: I moved away from my hometown 10 years ago, and I have a dear friend of

nearly 30 years who still likes to sleep next to me when she visits. This is becoming so annoying that I don't want her to visit. It was fine when we were younger, but we are in our 40s, and I no longer want to sleep next to anyone! I don't like pajamas. I like to sleep cool and in the dark, while she is always cold and likes to sleep with the TV on.

My friend won't tell me what her problem is; she says she's not scared to sleep alone. She has a husband at home, but she nearly freaked out when he went on a weekend trip with his friends. I have a very nice guest room, but she never wants to sleep in there. She does not respect my boundaries, and I don't know how to make her understand that I want to sleep alone. Can you help? — SOLO

SLEEPING LADY IN MARYLAND

DEAR SOLO: I sure can. The next time this friend wants to visit, grow a backbone. Tell her you no longer want to share your bed with her or anyone, and if she can't be comfortable in your guest room, she should stay home. Gee whiz!

DEAR ABBY: Today, I asked a man with a black mole on the side of his face if he had been checked for skin cancer because I come from a family with a great deal of skin cancer. The man was very patronizing and told me I should just go sit down. My husband previously ignored my concerns, but he did listen to a friend who was concerned that his dark mole could be pre-can-

cerous, which it was. Was I wrong for bringing this to the stranger's attention? — PROACTIVE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR PROACTIVE: If you said it in the context of explaining that your husband had something similar that turned out to be cancerous, I don't think what you did was wrong. It may have been presumptuous but it was also well-intentioned. He may have reacted the way he did because it made him self-conscious.

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.

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

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

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

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet the first Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

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.

ROAD RIDERS FOR JESUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month in the West Walnut Church of Christ fellowship hall, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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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STEP 1

Be a Hoosier! You must live in the State of Indiana.

STEP 2

Live with a Caregiver: You must live in the same home as the Caregiver (either their own home or the home of the Participant).

STEP 3

Have Medicaid and Get on a Waiver: Be eligible for Medicaid or already have Medicaid and meet the financial requirements for the Pathways for Aging or Health & Wellness Waiver.

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Time goes by quickly at 4-H auction

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Aug. 1, 2012. Jack was a regular at the annual 4-H auction. Even in his later years when he left most of the fair work to the rest of the staff, he was always there to bid and to take pictures of the grand champions, 4-H members and buyers. (This year's auction is Thursday.) It's easy to lose track of how many times we've done this or that. It's a good idea to sit back sometimes and remember.

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

Pete Shawver leaned over and asked, "How many years?" Good question. Melodi Haley and I had been talking about that same thing earlier in the week. It was the monthly informal gathering of my high school class. We were having lunch at Ponderosa, and Melodi men-

Back in the Saddle



tioned that she wouldn't be bidding at this year's 4-H livestock auction for the first time in 19 years. She'd be in attendance, she assured me, to support some treasured young 4-H members in her family. But since her retirement from Harvestland Co-op, the job of bidding had fallen to someone else. Nineteen years, I thought. If Melodi was on hand for 19 auctions, I had to be present for at least that many. So when Pete leaned over and asked his question, I guessed 20.

"At least that," he said. "More than that. Twenty-five at least." He could well be right. I returned to Jay County in 1974, settling uncertainly into a job as a reporter in August that summer. My first fair as a reporter, in 1975, is a blur. But I know that I didn't take the photos of the grand and reserve champion animals at the livestock auction that year: That was the job of Frank Kenyon, the best photographer on the staff. But as my duties changed and my skill level improved — and as Frank got older — I picked up the assignment. It was a dual job: Photography and bidding on 4-H livestock on behalf of the paper. The second half was easy. The photography not so much. This was, after all, in the era of film. Taking pictures in the live-

stock arena could be challenging. The light meter tended to pick up sunshine outside the barn, and a flash was preferable. So F-stop settings needed to be flexible. Usually every photo was what photographers called "bracketed." It was shot with at least three different exposure levels. The real pressure came from the fact that the event couldn't be duplicated. Sure, in some ways, it was a routine picture: A 4-H kid, the buyers, and the animal. But the animal might end up at Fisher Packing before the weekend was over. There was no way to call everyone on Monday and recreate the gathering. And, because it was film, it would be sometime Monday morning before I could be sure I had useable images that would reproduce in the paper. In a kind of a silly way, it was

a high-pressure photo assignment. Not so today, with digital cameras that let you review your pictures instantly. Those thoughts were flashing through my head after Pete's question. Was it really 25 years? Was it more than that? Probably. I looked around the show arena and thought of how many auctions we'd all seen and remembered the folks who weren't there. I looked at Gary Loy and remembered his dad Ernie. I looked at Mel Smitley and remembered his dad Grant. I watched Pete letting young Pete and Zane do their jobs. And, of course, I thought of Dan Orr and his dad Karl Ed. And then I waved a fly away and nearly bid more money than I had to spend.

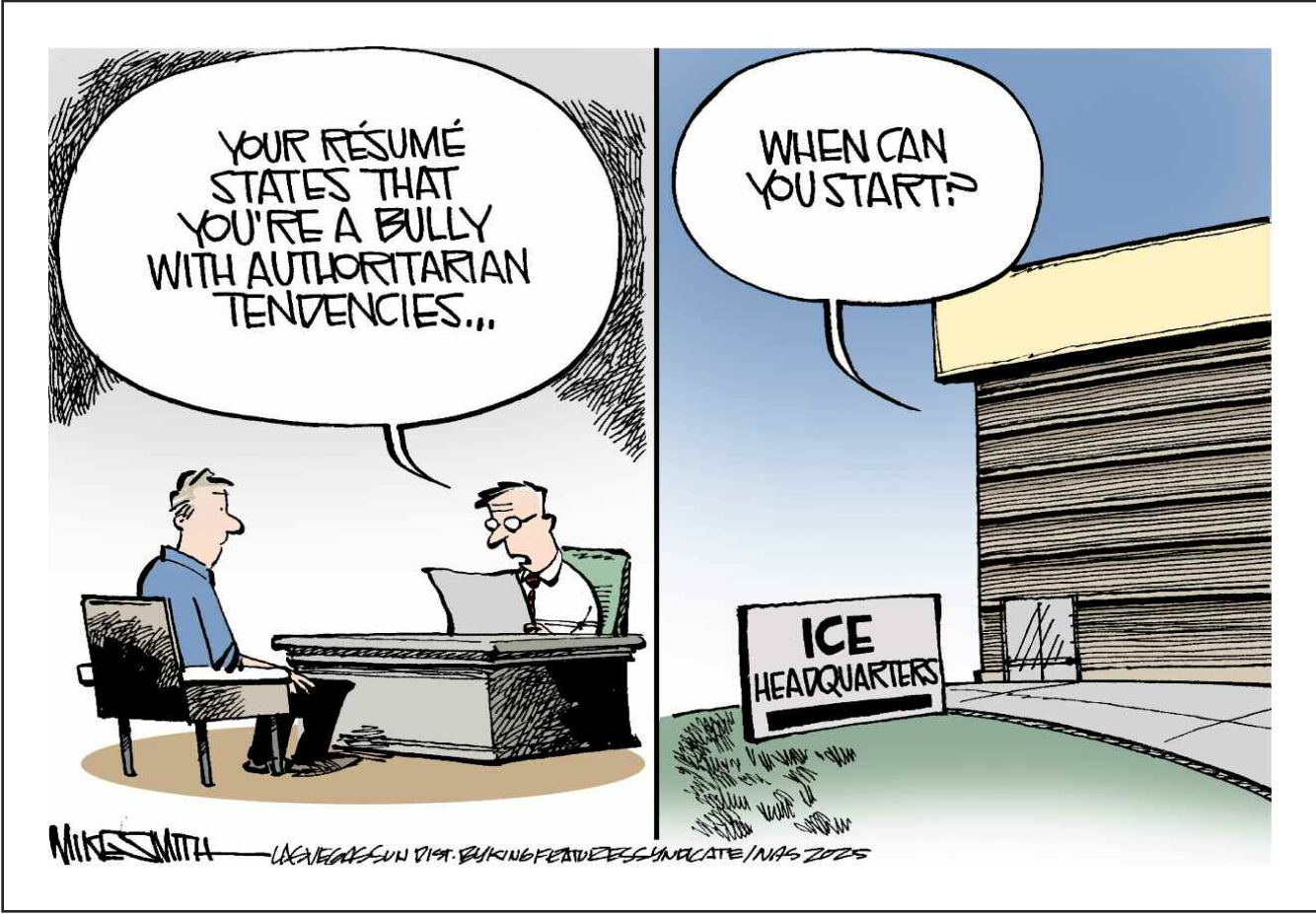
Outbreak could grow even worse

The Dallas Morning News
Tribune News Service

The South Plains measles outbreak may be slowing, but it isn't over. The case count was 750 as of last week, and the virus is still actively spreading in Gaines and Lamar counties. We worry this outbreak could be the first of many if vaccination isn't emphasized as a safe and effective preventive. Unfortunately, a new federal vaccine advisory panel appeared more interested in sowing confusion than offering wise guidance. Public health officials do not consider an outbreak over until two incubation periods pass without a new case. With measles, the incubation period lasts 21 days, so it will be weeks before anyone can celebrate the end of this doleful situation. Even though the outbreak remains active, we can start tallying its costs. Two unvaccinated children died — the first U.S. measles deaths in years. Ninety-seven people, or about 13% of reported cases, have required hospitalization. Texas has spent \$9.9 million so far trying to contain it. The state had to control the outbreak, but the word "waste" is appropriate here — waste in the sense of resources spent needlessly, or for too little in return. Had more residents, especially children, received two doses of the MMR vaccine, these costs could have been avoided. The virus, which can only survive and multiply in humans, would have quickly run out of people it could infect. The South Plains outbreak began in January, when federal public health and disease surveillance programs were still intact. Robert F. Kennedy Jr. was only a nominee for health and human services secretary. Anti-vaccine activists spread disinformation about the MMR vaccine through social and mass media, but federal health authorities uniformly rejected it. In February, U.S. senators confirmed Kennedy as health secretary, despite his well-known hostility toward vaccines and his misleading statements about them. Elon Musk's DOGE team targeted federal health agencies, cutting programs, firing workers and generating chaos. Earlier this month, Kennedy terminated all 17 members of the federal

Guest Editorial

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and named eight new panelists. Few of the committee's new members had the depth of relevant education and experience as their predecessors. The panelists met last week for the first time, despite calls from Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-Louisiana, to postpone the event. Cassidy, a physician, cited his concerns about the committee's smaller size and its members' qualifications. Parts of the meeting looked as dry and academic as any other governmental scientific panel. But it was different. One agenda item was a presentation by a prominent vaccine skeptic about the mercury-based preservative thimerosal in some pharmaceutical products. Mercury is toxic; that's why thimerosal prevents the growth of microbes that could contaminate vaccines. But it is used sparingly these days. No childhood vaccine licensed in the U.S. contains thimerosal, except for some multi-dose flu vaccines. The MMR vaccine has never included thimerosal. The vaccine skeptic's presentation was posted online with other meeting materials. But an extensive review of studies about thimerosal, which showed it is rarely used and has not been linked to neurodevelopmental problems, disappeared a couple days after it was posted. With a health secretary who spreads disinformation and a hastily assembled advisory panel with significant biases, pediatricians have lost a key resource in their work of keeping children healthy. Our best advice to parents and pediatricians: Don't expect this federal panel to offer useful guidance. Download the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's pre-meeting immunization recommendations, or check with the American Academy of Pediatrics, and follow those. The Texas measles outbreak, made possible by low vaccination rates, has wasted enough time and money and lives. Let's avoid another one.



Farewell to U.S. science status

By LLEWELLYN KING
Tribune News Service

When I asked John Savage, the retired co-founder of the Department of Computer Science at Brown University, what the essential ingredient in research is, he responded with one word: "Passion." It is passion that keeps scientists going, dead end after dead end, until there is a breakthrough. It is passion that keeps them at the bench or staring into a microscope or redesigning an experiment with slight modifications until that "eureka moment." I have been writing about science for half a century. I can tell you that passion is the bridge between daunting difficulty and triumphant discovery. Next comes money: steady, reliable funding, not start-and-stop dribbles. It is painful to watch the defunding of the nation's research arm by a third to a half, the wanton destruction of what, since the end of World War II, has kept the United States the premier inventor nation, the unequalled leader in discovery. It is dangerous to believe the status quo ante will return when another administration is voted in, maybe in 2028. You don't pick up the pieces of projects that are, as they were, ripped from the womb and put them back together again, even if the researchers are still available — if they haven't gone to the willing arms of research hubs overseas or other careers. The work isn't made whole again just because the money is back. The passion is gone. There are crude, massive reductions in funding for research and development across the government — with the most axing in the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy. The Philistines, with their metaphorical chainsaws, have slashed wildly and deeply into every

Llewellyn King



corner of science, every place where talented men and women probe, analyze and seek to know. This brutal, mindless slashing isn't just upending careers, causing projects to be abandoned in midstream and destroying the precious passion that drives discovery, but it is also a blow against the future. It is a turn from light to dark. The whiz kids of DOGE aren't cost-cutting; they are amputating the nation's future. The cutting of funds to NIH — until now the world's premier medical research center, a citadel of hope for the sick and the guarantor that the future will have less suffering than the past — may be the most egregious act of many. It is a terrible blow to those suffering from cancer to Parkinson's and the myriad diseases in between who hope that NIH will come up with a cure or a therapy before they die prematurely. It is a heartless betrayal. The full horror of the dismantling of what they call the nation's "scientific pillar" has been laid out by two of America's most eminent scientists in an essay in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. They are John Holdren, who served as President Barack Obama's science adviser and as director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and Neal Lane, who was President Bill Clinton's science adviser and is a former NSF director. In their alarming and telling essay, they appeal to Congress to step in and save America's global leadership in science.

They write, "What is happening now exceeds our worst fears. Consider, first, the National Science Foundation, one of the brightest jewels in the crown of U.S. science and the public interest. ... It's the nation's largest single funder of university basic research in fields other than medicine. Basic research, of course, is the seed corn from which future advances in applied science and technology flow." The NSF co-stars in the federal research ecosystem with NIH and DOE, the authors write. The NSF has funded research underpinning the internet, the Google search engine, magnetic resonance imaging, laser eye surgery, 3-D printing, CRISPR gene editing technology and much more. The NIH is the world's leading biomedical research facility. The writers say it spends 83% of its \$48 billion annual budget on competitive grants, supporting 300,000 researchers at more than 2,500 institutions in all 50 states. An additional 11% of the agency's budget supports the 6,000 researchers in its laboratories. Holdren and Lane write, "Of the Energy Department's \$50 billion budget in fiscal 2024, about \$15 billion went to non-defense research and development." Some \$8 billion of this funding went to the DOE Office of Science Research, the largest funder of basic research in the physical sciences, supporting 300 institutions nationwide, including the department's 17 laboratories. In all of the seminal moves made by the Trump administration, what The Economist calls the president's "War on Science" may be the most damaging. ***** King is the executive producer and host of "White House Chronicle" on PBS. He wrote this for InsideSources.com.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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2025 Jay County Fair



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Fair fun

Rides along the midway and 3 Bar J Rodeo highlighted Monday evening's events at the Jay County Fair. Pictured clockwise from above:

- Fernando Mejia and Andre Lopez, both 12, enjoy a ride on the Sizzler.

- Jay County native Tyler Manor puts in a full ride during the rodeo

- Karyssa Denney leads her cow around the Show Arena Tuesday during the Jay County 4-H dairy show.

- Harper Perry, 9, Winchester, gasps during the magic show performed by Rusty Ammerman on Tuesday during McDonald's Kid's Day festivities at the Farmer's Building.

FFA ...

Continued from page 1
"I'm tickled that I was able to live long enough to see it," said Lyons, 86, who served on the fair board from 1967 to 2019 with only a one-year absence and was a longtime agriculture teacher and FFA advisor at Portland High School and Jay County High School. "I think ... they'll take it and run with it."

The pavilion already has a variety of activities available, including nine holes of mini golf to mimic the Indiana FFA Pavilion at the state fairgrounds. There is also a 40-foot coloring wall, a corn pit and information highlighting local agriculture producers.

Future plans include interactive exhibits similar to what might be found in a children's museum — Jay County FFA is working with Museum EXP to develop them — and a

gaming console similar to a farm simulator.

All of the activities in the pavilion will be free to patrons, which is music to Lyons' ears.

"When I was a kid, I went to the fair every day," said Lyons. "My mother let me have a dollar. ... So I liked everything that was free."

After plans for the new pavilion were announced during the 150th Jay County Fair, concrete work was completed over the next year. The 30-foot by 50-foot structure that previously served as a horse barn on the east side of the fairgrounds was moved to its new location in November 2023. The FFA has been working since then to get it ready for its opening at this year's fair.

The effort has already cleared \$60,000. The FFA received a \$15,000 grant to help move the barn, and the \$30,000 in concrete work was split between another



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Joyce and Bob Lyons cut the ribbon for the new Jay County FFA pavilion that bears their name on Monday afternoon at Jay County Fairgrounds.

grant from The Portland Foundation and a donation from Bob and Joyce Lyons.

Jay County FFA has been awarded an additional matching grant to work

toward the \$50,000 in interactive exhibits that are planned.

Loy thanked all of the donors who helped make the new facility possible.

"This all couldn't have been possible without the FFA alumni taking it and ... helping us find local donors and community members to support it," she said. "We

are forever thankful for this community and allowing us to be the program that we are."

"It's definitely been a labor of love."



The Commercial Review/Louise Ronald

Jim Waechter, center, talks about his display of books by Jay County writers with (from left) Jeff Jackson, Shelba Chenoweth, and Sabra Jackson. Sabra, Shelba's daughter, grew up in Jay County. She and Jeff now live in Fort Wayne.

Writers ...

Continued from page 1
Waechter, who has read about half of the works on display, has a special attachment to Whitehair's book.

"His style of writing was very reminiscent of Ernie Pyle, very folksy," he said, referencing the famed World War II journalist from Indiana.

An Amazon review says, "This gripping memoir tells the story of Whitehair's journey from the trenches ... to the depths of human resilience."

"Out There" is one of the older books in the exhibit, but Waechter also has included more recent works.

Recently, he ran across an online reference to Jay County native Douglas Laux, formerly

with the CIA. That's how he learned about "Left of Boom: How a Young CIA Case Officer Penetrated the Taliban and Al-Qaeda," published in 2016.

But Waechter doesn't limit his collection to military history.

"I think one of the neat ones (in the exhibit) is Debbie Shreeve," said Waechter. Shreeve writes under the pseudonym April Decton. "Her books are online, on Amazon, all over."

Shreeve/Decton has created a series about a married couple and the challenges they encounter. According to goodreads.com, her most popular work is "This is Us," published in 2022.

Twenty-two Jay County authors are featured in the dis-

play, and Waechter keeps hearing about more.

Just since the fair started, "I found out about three more (writers)," he said.

And he learned that one writer, Jeanine Poole, has a new book that will be added today.

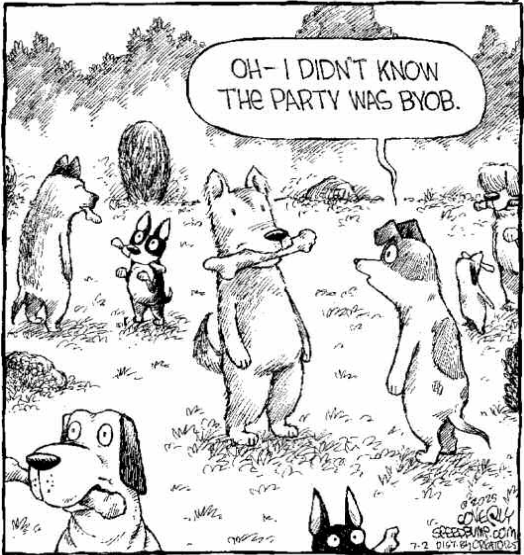
"There's been a lot of interest in (the exhibit)," said Waechter. "I've been surprised."

Jay County native Sabra Jackson and her husband, Jeff, looked through the display along with Sabra's mother, Shelba Chenoweth. All were impressed by the number and variety of books included.

Sabra's advice for fair visitors?

"You absolutely should see this," she said.

SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



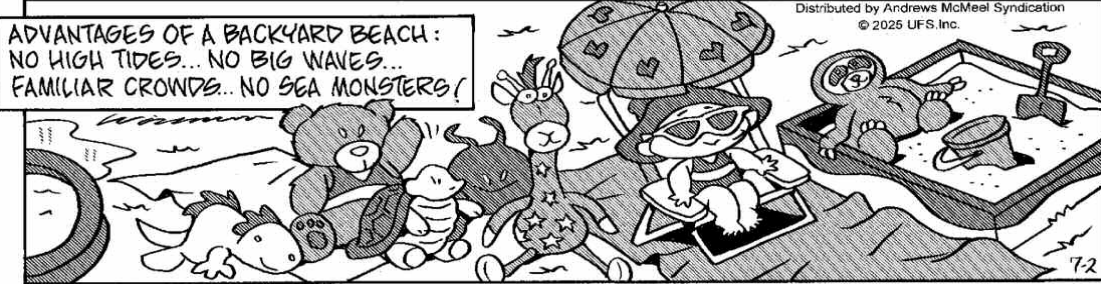
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



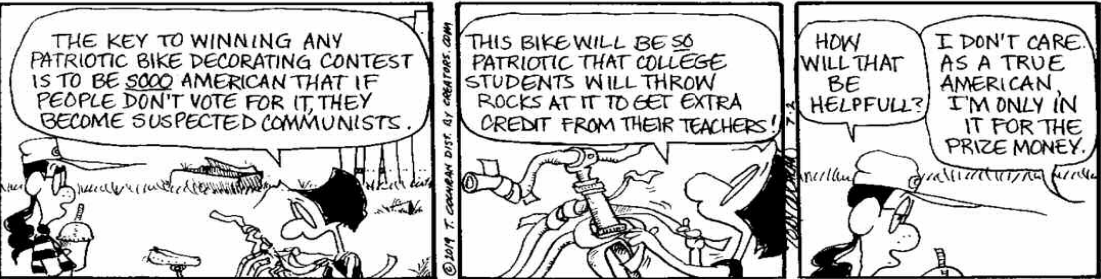
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Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Everyone is dealt 13 cards

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 6 3
♥ J 7 3 2
♦ K J 4
♣ K J 8

WEST
♠ A K J 8 5 2
♥ A 8 4
♦ 7
♣ 9 6 3

EAST
♠ 10 4
♥ 5
♦ Q 9 8 6 5 2
♣ 10 7 5 2

SOUTH
♠ 9 7
♥ K Q 10 9 6
♦ A 10 3
♣ A Q 4

The bidding:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass Pass 2 ♥
Pass 3 ♥ Pass 4 ♥
Opening lead — king of spades.
When declarer has a two-way
finesse against a queen, he should
try to avoid making a decision until
after he has gathered all the information
he can about the defenders' hands.
Take this deal where South is
faced with the question of where
the queen of diamonds is located.
West leads the K-A and another
spade, East ruffing the third spade

and declarer overruffing.
Since he must lose a trump trick
sooner or later, South's only concern
is to avoid a diamond loser. This
would be easy enough to do if
the location of the queen were
known, but lacking that knowledge,
the best South can do is search for
clues that might point the way to
the habitat of the missing damsel.
So at trick four, he leads the
queen of hearts, which holds, followed
by the ten. West takes the ace
and exits safely with his last trump.
By this time, declarer already
knows a great deal about West's
hand. West has shown up thus far
with exactly six spades and three
hearts. With nine of his cards
accounted for, South next turns his
attention to finding out whatever
he can about West's four remaining
cards. He does this by cashing the
A-K-Q of clubs, and when West
follows suit to each of them,
South's problem is solved.
He leads a low diamond to the
king as West follows with the only
diamond he can hold. South then
continues with a diamond to the
ten with 100% certainty that it will
win the trick, and the contract is
home.

Tomorrow: Sylvia strikes again.
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7-2

CRYPTOQUIP

RXG PG OGC ACUUGAW QCAN

ZW NXW HVTGSFNW PSVQVNFAN

GH RFMMFW-NXW-UGGX VMP

AQGBWO? AXVBWA-ZWVS.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF ACTOR RUSSELL
PLAYED HOOPS PROFESSIONALLY, HE COULD
BE CONSIDERED A BASKETBALL KURT.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals P

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Does in
5 Mac alter-
natives
8 Despot
12 Night, in
Paris
13 Feedbag
bit
14 Mystique
15 Beach-
goer's
protection
17 Make a
sweater
18 Bagel
choice
19 Diving
birds
21 Bit of wit
22 Barking
mammal
23 Ton
fractions
(Abbr.)
26 Farm pen
28 "Fences"
actress
Davis
31 Hawk-
eyes'
home
33 Apt rhyme
for "spa"
35 Future
doc's
exam
36 Too
trusting
38 Bud
40 Sportage
maker

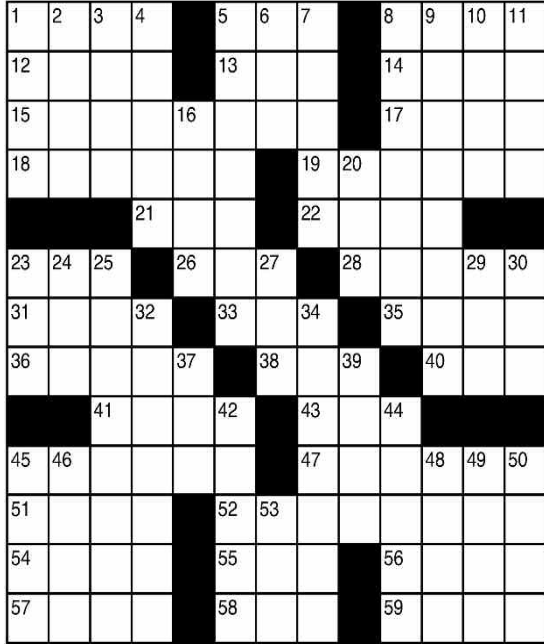
DOWN
1 Burden
2 Seethe
3 Little lies
4 Purse
part
5 Italian
cornmeal
recipe
6 "East of
Eden"
brother
7 Antlered
animals
8 Point
9 Beach-
goer's
applica-
tion
10 Singer
India.—
11 "Phooey!"
16 Flight-
less
birds
20 Speed
(up)

23 —
-Manuel
Miranda
24 Feathery
wrap
25 Beach-
goer's
wear
27 Shrill
bark
29 Chou
En —
30 — glance
32 Online
images
34 Leonard
Bern-
stein's
alma
mater
37 Ram's
mate
39 Boxer
Spinks
42 Bar
mitzvah
official
44 Lizzo's
"— Girl"
45 Wine
valley
46 Actor
Richard
48 Honey-
comb unit
49 And
others
(Lat.)
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IDs
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Solution time: 23 mins.



Yesterday's answer 7-2



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Milwaukee Bucks waive Damian Lillard

Move freed up cap space for Bucks to sign former Pacer Myles Turner

By AARON FENTRESS
oregonlive.com
Tribune News Service

The Milwaukee Bucks have waived guard Damian Lillard, ending his two-year run with the team, an NBA source has confirmed to The Oregonian/OregonLive.

ESPN's Shams Charania first reported the news.

Lillard ruptured his left Achilles during Game 4 of the Bucks' playoff series loss to the Indiana Pacers. He had two years remaining on his contract worth \$112.5 million, including a player-option.

The Bucks will use the stretch provision to spread the former Trail Blazers superstar's cap hit over five seasons.

Lillard is now an unrestricted free agent.

The move allowed the Bucks to free up enough cap space to sign free agent center Myles Turner to a reported \$107 million deal over four years.

The Blazers traded Lillard to the Bucks before the 2023-24 season. In two seasons, he averaged 24.6 points and 7.0 assists, but injuries derailed two playoff runs.

In his first season, superstar forward Giannis Antetokounmpo suffered a calf strain, which contributed to a first-round series loss to the Pacers.

Antetokounmpo was healthy entering the 2025 postseason, while Lillard worked his way

back from a deep vein thrombosis (blood clot) in his right calf.

In Game 4, Lillard was lost to an Achilles injury that will keep him out most, if not all, of next season.

Lillard has previously discussed ending his career with the Blazers, where he has played 11 seasons. This move by the Bucks opens the door for that possibility.

However, Portland recently traded guard Anfernee Simons to the Boston Celtics for guard Jrue Holiday, who was acquired from the Bucks for Lillard in 2023 before being re-routed to Boston. Also, the Blazers have seemingly committed to starting point guard Scoot Hender-

son, the No. 3 pick in the 2023 draft.

It also wouldn't make sense for the Blazers to pursue Lillard, who turns 35 next month, until he proves he can return to full strength.

Another possibility is Miami, which pursued Lillard in 2023 after he demanded a trade to the Heat, which never materialized.

Now the Heat could sign him as a free agent and play him alongside All-Stars Bam Adebayo and Tyler Herro.

The Bucks' signing of Turner, a former starter with the Pacers, could hurt the Blazers down the road. Portland acquired the Bucks' first-round pick in 2029 and pick swaps in

2028 and 2030 through the Lillard trade.

The best-case scenario for the Blazers would be for Antetokounmpo to leave Milwaukee within a few years, thus hurting the franchise and increasing the value of those picks.

Reports indicated that Antetokounmpo and the Bucks have held discussions regarding his future. He has three seasons remaining on his contract, including a player option for 2027-28.

Adding Turner, 29, to replace center Brook Lopez, who departed for the LA Clippers, increases the likelihood that Antetokounmpo stays put at least in the short term.



Photo provided

Minor champs

PDF Local 5356 of the Portland Junior League Minor softball division poses with their championship rings. PDF Local 5356 won both the regular season and tournament titles.

EA ...

Continued from page 8

They now appear to have their wish.

If it does return, it would be the first EA Sports college basketball game since 2009's NCAA Basketball '10, which featured Oklahoma's Blake Griffin, on the cover.

According to a memo obtained by Extra Points, that's exactly what happened.

In a memo sent to college conference offices from the College Licensing Company, dated June

26, 2025, CLC issued a request for proposal to create a college basketball video game in November 2024. According to the memo, five companies expressed formal interest, and three filed formal bids.

The CLC memo recommends that the conferences accept the proposal made by EA Sports to bring back EA Sports College Basketball. This proposal states a plan for EA Sports to release the first game in 2028.

This drew strong reactions from the basketball fanbase, especially with the rivalry between EA Sports and 2K Games. 2K Games produces the NBA 2K series which has been a mainstay sports video game, second only to Mad-

den in popularity.

Some fans were excited for EA to be producing the game.

Others wished it was 2K Games producing the game, noting how unique the MyPlayer game mode would be.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Saturday

Portland Rockets vs. South Bend Royals in Portland Firecracker Tourney – 12 p.m.

Portland Rockets vs. Indy Orioles in Portland Firecracker Tourney – 5 p.m.

TV schedule

Today

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)

Thursday

6 a.m. — Tennis: Wimbledon (ESPN)

12 p.m. — UEFA Women's Euro soccer: Belgium at Italy (FS1)

3 p.m. — UEFA Women's Euro soccer: Spain

at Portugal (FOX)

6:45 p.m. — MLB: Detroit Tigers at Washington Nationals (FOX)

7 p.m. — WNBA: Los Angeles Sparks at New York Liberty (FOX)

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

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Jay County's Lucas Bennett swims the breaststroke leg of the 11-12-year-old boys 200-yard medley relay as part of an 808-244 wallop at Union City on Monday.

Jay County summer swim crushes Union City

UNION CITY — Twenty-six tankers took at least one individual event. Four doubled it up and eight more claimed three victories.

The result was a complete blowout of Union City.

The Jay County Summer Swim team beat up on Union City 808-244 on Monday afternoon.

Along with the 46 individual victories in the 59 contested events, Jay County walked away with all but one of the relays.

Maria Laux and Elly Bryum worked to sweep the 13-14-year-old girls division as two of the eight tankers with three wins.

Jay County's other triple-victors were Addysin Champ (11-12-year-old girls and open 200-meter freestyle), Carsyn Guggenbiller (11-12-year-old girls), Sam Benirschke (11-12-year-old boys), Grady Warvel (13-14-year-old boys), Cooper Glentzer (15-and-older boys) and Brooklynn Byrum (15-and-older girls).

Maddie Theurer, Riley Clifton, Emme Theurer and Aubrey Millspaugh supported the effort with a pair of wins apiece.

Local Roundup

Loys lost

Loys fell to Portland Optimist 16-10 in the opening round of the Portland Junior League Sandy Koufax baseball tournament on Monday.

J.T. Davis led Loys with three RBIs on a home run, while Tyan Rodgers and Oaklan Ingram supported the effort with two more runs driven in each. Sam Wiggins also contributed two singles.

Davis suffered the loss after throwing 2 2/3 innings for Loys.

Portland Optimist will go on to play Local 1620 in the Sandy Koufax championship game.

Guggenbiller leads

NOBLESVILLE — The Jay County Winter Swim team had six tankers compete at the Enchanted Forest Swim Meet over the weekend.

Hayden Guggenbiller earned the 8-and-younger high point honors after winning the 50-meter butterfly, 100 backstroke and 100 freestyle, while placing



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Emme Theurer swims the breaststroke leg of the 9-10-year-old girls 100-yard medley relay for the Jay County Summer Swim team at Union City on Monday. Jay County beat Union City 808-244 as it claimed 46 of the 59 contested individual events.

second in seven other events.

Cooper Glentzer and Grant Glentzer put up strong performances in the open boys and 13-14-year-

old division. Cooper Glentzer finished ninth in the standings, with his best finish coming in the 400 freestyle at fourth place. Grant Glentzer added to his

brother's five top-10 finishes with three himself, including fifth in the 200 backstroke.

Also competing in the girls open division was

Aubrey Millspaugh, whose highlight was earning 13th in the 200 backstroke.

Carsyn Guggenbiller and Jaley Knapschafer added five top-20 finishes.

EA Sports teases return of college basketball game

By **BRENDAN SANDERS**
Jacksonville Journal-Courier, Ill.
Tribune News Service

EA Sports has teased the return of the College Basketball video game.

In a series of tweets put out on Monday EA Sports announced what appears to be the return of a college basketball video game.

"Bring the Madness.

Let's run it back. #CBB #ItsInTheGame," EA Sports wrote on its social media account.

EA made the college basketball game from 1998-2009, and after EA College Football 25 was a hit in 2024, fans have been hoping for a basketball return.

See EA page 7

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