

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

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Welcome to 150



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney



The 150th Jay County Fair kicked off with a day full of festivities Saturday.

Pictured above, Jay County Fair Board president Trent Paxson, next to Jay County Fair Queen Sophia Fugiett, her court, fair board members and county government representatives, prepares to cut the ribbon to officially open the fair.

At left is the midway entrance for Primetime Carnival Company, which is making its Jay County Fair debut this year. The company brought about 20 rides, including Ring of Fire (background left), as well as games and food. The fair continues daily through Saturday. Rides open at 5 p.m. today, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. They will open at noon Tuesday and Saturday for Kids' Day and Community Day, respectively.

In honor of service

Buildings to be named for Lyons, Zimmerman

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Honoring past fair board members was part of the announced plans for the opening night of the 150th Jay County Fair.

The current board had a little something extra for two of the longest-serving past members.

Jay County Fair Board on Saturday night surprised Bob Lyons and Tom Zimmerman with the announcement that buildings on the fairgrounds would be named in their honor.

The FFA Pavilion — there are plans to relocate one of the horse barns on the east end of the grounds to create a new pavilion to the southeast of the East Arena — will become the Robert C. and Joyce A. Lyons FFA Pavilion.

"It was a surprise," said Lyons. "I didn't expect it."

"I probably need to throw a little money at that project now," he added with a chuckle.

And the maintenance building will be known as Tom Zimmerman Maintenance Barn.

"I always thought about having my name on there. That way people would know where I'm at," joked Zimmerman. "It's a great honor. I appreciate it."

Zimmerman was a fair board member from 1984 to 2019 and



stands as its longest-serving president, leading the group for 19 years. He was inducted into the Indiana Association of Fairs Hall of Fame in 2014.

No one has spent more years on the fair board than Lyons, who served from 1967 to 2019 except for a one-year absence in 1977.

The fair board voted to honor them by making their names permanent fixtures on the ground because of their years of dedication to specific aspects of the fair.

For Zimmerman, that was taking care of the fairgrounds.

The former farmer and contractor is known for his time spent working on the property. He supervised the renovation of Floral Hall, the remodeling of the secretary's building and the relocation and renovation of the

Farmers Building. He took pride in the landscaping at the facility and can still be seen riding through the grounds to make sure it's up to his standards.

"Tom ... his heart is into the Jay County Fairgrounds," said fair board president Trent Paxson. "Making it look its best, making sure the grounds are kept up, being presentable to the community, being presentable to the state. ... You find few and far between kept as well as this grounds. A lot of that is attributed to Tom."

For Lyons, it was his work with youth, both as an agriculture education teacher at Portland High School and Jay County High School for a combined 46 years and as a Jay County FFA leader.

Lyons, who still farms in



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Jay County Fair Board on Saturday night announced that buildings at the fairgrounds would be named in honor of longtime fair board members Tom Zimmerman and Bob Lyons. At left, Zimmerman (left) shakes hands with Jay County Fair Board member Jeremy Lewis after the announcement. Above, Lyons pumps his fist.

southern Jay County, supervised the Classics section during the fair. He had the idea for the FFA petting zoo. He was instrumental in starting the junior fair board, which has become a developmental system for future board members.

"Hours and hours with youth, years and years with youth. Jay County FFA," said Paxson. "They've done a lot of work out here. They contribute to a lot of the activities. We just thought that would be a fitting visual, building a new FFA pavilion and we're going to name it after him."

For the men with a combined 86 years of service to Jay County Fair Board, the reason for giving that time was simple.

It was about what they could help provide to their community. "I just enjoyed it," said Zim-

merman. "I just like to see the smiling faces on the people. The people appreciate it, I think."

Lyons especially noted all that is free — admission is free until 5 p.m. each day — from kettle-cooked meals (noon) to ice cream (4 p.m.) every day, to games like ring the bell and the nail drive to ground entertainment such as the Aim High Canines shows this week to the Farmers Building events to the 4-H and FFA activities.

"That's what I get the biggest kick out of," said Lyons. "I know the Secretary's Office is lined with (photos of) rich and famous people that's been here, but that doesn't impress me like all the free stuff that happens. ..."

"You can come with very little money in your pocket."

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 84 degrees Sunday. The low was 60.

Tonight's low will be 69 with a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 11 p.m. Skies will be

sunny Tuesday with a high of 84. The rest of the Jay County Fair week schedule calls for sunny skies with highs in the 80s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

At the fair

Today

2 p.m. — 4-H cat show in the Bob Schmit Memorial Exhibition Hall

3 p.m. — 4-H dairy beef and feeder show in the Show Arena

5 p.m. — Jay County Farm Bureau Cook-off at the Farmers Building

7 p.m. — Full Throttle Monster Trucks at the grandstand

Tuesday

8 a.m. — 4-H dairy goat show in the Show Arena

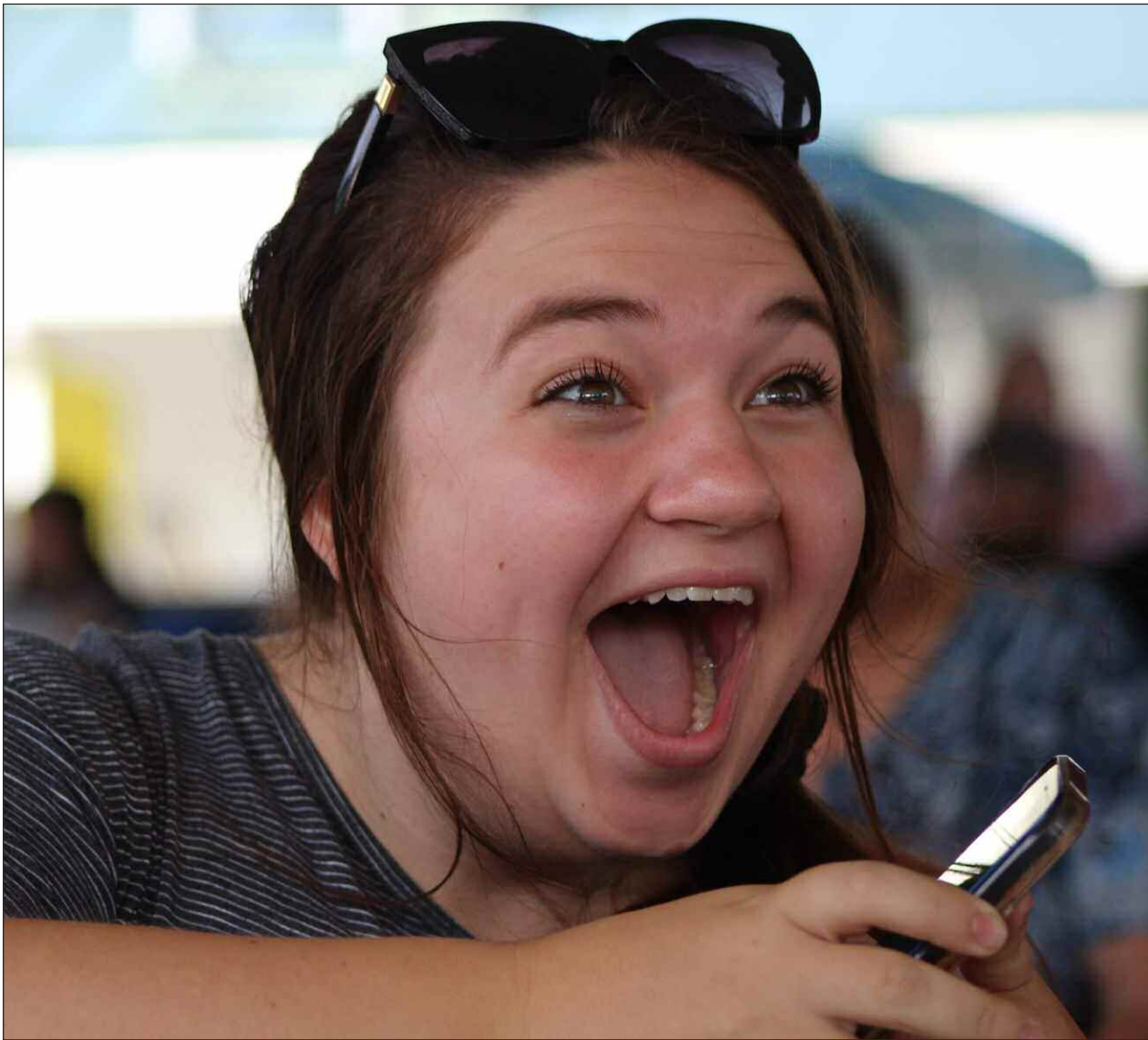
11:30 a.m. — 4-H meat goat and pygmy goat show in the Show Arena

4 p.m. — 4-H small animal supreme showmanship in the Show Arena

7 p.m. — Autocross at the grandstand



Saturday at the fair



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Saturday's Jay County Fair activities included the baby contests, 4-H rabbit and dog shows and the opening demolition derby at the grandstand. (A second demolition derby will close the fair at 7 p.m. Saturday.)

Pictured, clockwise from left:

Devan Bennett calls for 7-month-old Theodore Bennett to smile during the contest for 6- to 12-month-old babies at the Farmer's Building.

Hank Theurer, 8 months, grins while being tossed in the air at the contest, during which he won most handsome baby boy.

Smoke pours from cars during the demolition derby as officials keep an eye out for the need to throw up a red flag to stop the action.

Jayne Harker works with his rabbit during the showmanship competition.



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Sunday at the fair



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The Commercial Review/Amy Schwartz



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Micro Wrestling made its first appearance Sunday at the Jay County Fair with a series of matches in front of the grandstand. The day's activities also included the 4-H beef and beef feeder show and 4-H poultry show.

Pictured, clockwise from upper right: Ellie Buckingham, 10, and Rocky Williams (background) react during a Micro Wrestling match at the grandstand.

Kaleb Curts handles his spring yearling angus in the Show Arena during the beef and beef feeder show. Curts' animal was later named grand champion beef female.

Jay County Fair Board member Brandon Muhlenkamp helps his 1-year-old son Lincoln gather his winnings at a game on the midway.

Paisley Fugiett hauls a pair of chickens back to the poultry barn after showing them at the East Arena during the poultry show.

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Community Support

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The Jay County Fair Board members would like to thank Jay County for its support.

100s OF EVENTS TO ATTEND

4-H, Business Exhibits, Women's Building, Classic Tent, Kids' Day AND MORE!

GRANDSTAND LINE-UP

Monday, July 11th

7:00 PM - Full Throttle Monster Truck
COMMUNITY HEROS' DAY

Tuesday, July 12th

7:00 PM - Autocross
KIDS' DAY

Wednesday, July 13th

3:00 PM - Harness Racing
SENIOR CITIZENS' REPUBLICAN DAY

Thursday, July 14th

7:00 PM - Cain along with Amber Gill and Tommy Michaels
DEMOCRAT DAY

Friday, July 15th

7:00 PM - Cole Swindell with Tyler Rich and Ashley Cooke
4-H DAY

Saturday, July 16th

7:00 PM - Demolition Derby and Truck Derby
Performance to include Dwayne Spaw
HUGE FIREWORKS SHOW FOLLOWING DERBY COMMUNITY DAY

Carload with veteran FREE with ID
Veteran and significant other FREE to Grandstand

WELCOME



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