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Sophia Fugiett Jay County Fair Queen and Miss Congeniality

Sophia, 19, is a 2021 Jay County High School graduate and a student at Ball State University majoring in health and physical education.

She ran cross country and track for JCHS and was also involved in FFA, student council, National Honor Society, DECA business club and Business Professionals of America. She was a four-year member of 4-H and served on the CrossRoads Financial Federal Credit Union youth advisory board.

At Ball State, Sophia is president of the health and physical educator's club and is involved in the Peer Educators Mentoring Program and the National Society of Leadership and Success.

She is working this summer as an instructor for Jay Community Center's summer day camp. She also works at the concession stand for Redkey Junior League.

Sophia is the daughter of Adam and Cathy Fugiett.

She is sponsored by Mid-States Construction and Citadel Supply of Redkey.

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Board excited for celebration

By **RAY COONEY**

The Commercial Review

Jay County Commissioners in 1872 purchased 40 acres of land outside of Portland to host a fair.

A century and a half later, Jay County Fair Board is preparing to continue the tradition they started.

The 150th Jay County Fair runs from July 9 through 16, with eight days of grandstand entertainment, 4-H shows and displays, a new carnival company and a variety of special events to celebrate the anniversary.

Excitement is high among fair board members as they get ready for the celebration.

"The fair is my favorite time of the year, just seeing everyone come out together," said board treasurer Aaron Loy. "So many different people from so many areas of the community come out ... It impacts so many different organizations."

In addition to all of the traditional fair activities, the board has a variety of

special events planned for this year.

They will kick off by honoring former fair board members at 6 p.m. Saturday to open the first of the bookend demolition derbies.

More than 200 individuals have served on the fair board over the years. The longest-serving in the board's history is Bob Lyons, who was involved from 1967 through 1976 and again from 1978 through 2019. The

longest-serving active board member is Gary Stewart, who has been a member since 1996.

The board has seen several long-serving members retire in recent years, including Rob Weaver (38 years) and Gary Trobridge (30 years) in 2018, Tom Zimmerman (35 years) in 2019, the late Ron Krieg (27 years) in 2020 and the late Curt McLaughlin (20 years) in 2021.

"To show our apprecia-

tion for all their years of service leading us to this point," said Loy of the reason for bringing board members back. "The fair has grown so much over our history. A lot of these past board members were on during the '70s, '80s and '90s, which was kind of a rebirth of the fair. We wanted to recognize them one more time for everything they've done and all the hours they put in out here."

On July 13, a "commu-

nity dinner" will feature fair board members passing out 500 wooden tokens that fairgoers can use to get \$5 off at any of the local vendors. (The board thought about doing a cookout, but didn't want to take away business from the service groups that provide food during the fair.)

Indiana State Fair Queen Alyssa McKillip, a Northfield High School graduate and psychology major at Butler University,

will visit the fair Thursday, July 14. She will share her experiences as state fair queen during a speech in the Farmers Building at noon.

The fair board will then honor all past Jay County Fair queens at 11 a.m. Friday, July 15 in the Farmers Building.

Community Day on Saturday, July 16, will provide free admission to any carload with a veteran.

See **Excited** page 10



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Ashlynn May First runner-up

Ashlynn is a 20-year-old who graduated from Jay County High School in 2020. She will be a junior at Ball State University in the fall. She is an elementary education major with a concentration in reading.

In high school, she was involved in tennis, FFA, show choir and National Honor Society and served as a manager for the volleyball team. She was a 10-year member of 4-H.

Ashlynn is the daughter of Anthony and Amanda May.

She is sponsored by Homan Logistics and FBA Indiana Prep.

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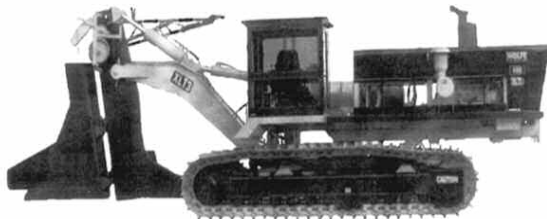
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POET

Grandstand schedule



Saturday, July 9

6 p.m. — Demolition derby

Sunday, July 10

7 p.m. — Micro Wrestling

Monday, July 11

7 p.m. — Full Throttle Monster Trucks

Tuesday, July 12

7 p.m. — Autocross

Wednesday, July 13

3 p.m. — Harness racing

Thursday, July 14

7 p.m. — Cain (with Amber Gill and Tommy Michaels)

Friday, July 15

7 p.m. — Cole Swindell (with Tyler Rich and Ashley Cooke)

Saturday, July 16

6 p.m. — Demolition derby




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HUBBARD

Looking back 50 years (1972)



The Commercial Review

Riding in, blasting out

Past years of the Jay County Fair have seen the event open with a parade and close with fireworks. (The fair board is bringing back the fireworks at dusk Saturday, July 16, to put an exclamation point on the 150th celebration this year.)

Pictured at left, Jack Miller of Yorktown kicks a leg back while riding an 1884 model, 54-inch Columbia bicycle in the parade through downtown Portland on Aug. 5, 1972.

At right, Teresa Waltz watches the fireworks at the close of the Jay County Fair on Aug. 12, 1972.



The Commercial Review/Frank Kenyon



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The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

All six contestants in this year's Miss Jay County Fair Queen Pageant were named to the queen's court. Joining queen Sophia Fugiett and first runner-up Ashlynn May (at center) are, from left, McKenna Vore, Laci McGinnis, Skye Wimmer and Emily Starr.

McKenna Vore

McKenna, 18, is a 2022 Jay County High School graduate who plans to attend Ball State University to major in theater education. She has been involved in drama club, Jay County Civic Theater and 4-H. She is the daughter of Amy and Joe Vore and is sponsored by Wildflower Beauty Lounge.

Laci McGinnis

Laci is a 17-year-old who will be a senior at Jay County High School in the fall. She is president of Jay County FFA and is a member of the Patriot Edition and Just Treble show choirs. She is the daughter of George and Heidi McGinnis and is sponsored by Jay County FFA and Creative Awards and Gifts.

Skye Wimmer

Skye, 21, graduated from Jay County High School in 2019 and is studying agribusiness at Purdue University. She was a 10-year 4-H member and was Indiana Angus Association queen three years in a row. She is the daughter of Eric and Laura Wimmer and is sponsored by Dave's Heating and Cooling.

Emily Starr

Emily is an 18-year-old who graduated from Indiana Digital Learning School in 2021. She is a 10-year 4-H member and has been involved in Skills USA and National Honor Society. She is the daughter of Myla Starr and the late Shane Starr and is sponsored by Jay County Abstract Company, Inc.

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Jay County Fair history

1871

The first meeting was held to organize the Jay County Fair Board. Stock shares were sold at \$25.

1872

The first Jay County Fair was held on 40 acres that had been purchased by Jay County Commissioners. The land included the area that now runs from the grandstand track to the 4-H barns.

1891

Floral Hall (also known as the roundhouse) was built for \$575.

1896

Horseless vehicles were exhibited on the grandstand track. Portland native Elwood Haynes, one of the early automobile pioneers, was among those who provided daily demonstrations.

1902

The first Jay County Fair Kids Day was held.

1922

The Jay County Fair celebrated 50 years with a crowd of 15,000 attending on Sunday, Aug. 27. The day included 4-H judging led by H.S. Ebbinghouse, the county agricultural agent, with the top three competitors slated to represent the county at the Indiana State Fair. An estimated 25,000 were there four days later for events that included horse racing.

1928

The fair board leased Jay County Fairgrounds to Bricker Auto Race Association for races that were held Nov. 4.

1942

The original Farmers Building was constructed. It served as a 4-H barn for 41 years before being moved to the current site.

1947

The Wednesday, Aug. 5, crowd was reported as one of the largest ever recorded in the history of the fair. It was 4-H club day, which included livestock judging. There were also bicycle, three-legged and sack races.

1949

The only year the Jay County Fair was not held since its inception in 1872. It was called off on the advice of the Jay County health officer because of the polio epidemic. (Jay County 4-H held a one-day event around the Jay County REMC building on Main Street in Portland.)

1969

The first fair demolition derby was held. The derbies have become the most popular attractions at the fair, now scheduled for the opening and closing days.

1972

The Jay County Fair celebrated its 100th anniversary. The fair at that time was struggling, with a preview story in The Commercial Review saying that some were "suggesting that the fair won't last much longer."

1976

The first Jay County Fair Band Contest (now the Jay County Lions Band Contest) was held with five bands competing.

1981

The fair, which had held its first concert in 1976, hosted its first "big concert" with Mel Tillis performing at the grandstand.

2001

Jay County Fair Board first conceived of the idea of a junior fair board. It has become a three-level program, which has helped develop current fair board members Travis Theurer, Aaron Loy, Katie Loy, Randa Staugler, Luke Knapke, Dillon Muhlenkamp and Brandon Muhlenkamp.

2012

Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels visited the fair, strolling through the livestock barns and chatting with junior fair board members.

2018

The grandstand, which was believed to have been originally built in 1872 and torn down and rebuilt a century later, got another makeover. The east section was completely replaced while the middle and west sections were renovated.

2019

Structural issues led to the Farmers Building being torn down with a new structure constructed in its place.

2020

The coronavirus pandemic threatened to become the second health-related issue to force cancellation of the fair. Instead, the event was shortened to four days with limited offerings. All grandstand entertainment was called off with the exception of a demolition derby.

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Excited ...

Continued from page 4

Board members will pass out 1,000 bags of popcorn, 1,000 bags of cotton candy and 1,000 balloons.

"The reason I'm most looking forward to that is because I want to be able to give back to the community as a fair board," said board member Dillon Muhlenkamp. "The community has done so much for us over the years."

He noted that last year board members passed out 500 balloons.

"After we did that I walked over to the midway area and you could see just a sea of green balloons and all the smiling faces," he added. "That was just a real good moment for me."

He said he expects the grounds to be much more full than they have been in past years. There will be more farm

equipment in the Classics Area (east of the East Arena), he said, and more and varied "ground entertainment," including Aim High Canines shows and BMX bike shows, is scheduled.

Floral Hall, also known as the roundhouse, will feature various historical displays about the fair and area communities. July 16 will be "Small Business Saturday" in

the Women's Building at the fairgrounds to offer opportunities for those who don't have the resources for a week-long display in the Bubp Building

U.S. Sen. Todd Young is expected to visit, though the date has not yet been finalized.

And the fair will close with a fireworks display at dusk on Saturday, July 16.

"They would always

end the fair with fireworks," said Loy. "I'm not sure when it stopped, but we thought it would be nice to bring it back ..."

The grandstand entertainment schedule opens and closes with demolition derbies on consecutive Saturdays, July 9 and 16, with both competitions beginning at 6 p.m. Harness racing will make a return to the fair with post time at 3

p.m. Wednesday, July 13. All other grandstand events will be at 7 p.m., with Micro Wrestling on Sunday as the newest offering. There will be a monster truck show Monday, autocross Tuesday and the band Cain highlighting Faith Night at the Fair on Thursday, July 14 (Amber Gill and Tommy Michaels will open for the group).

See **Excited** page 15

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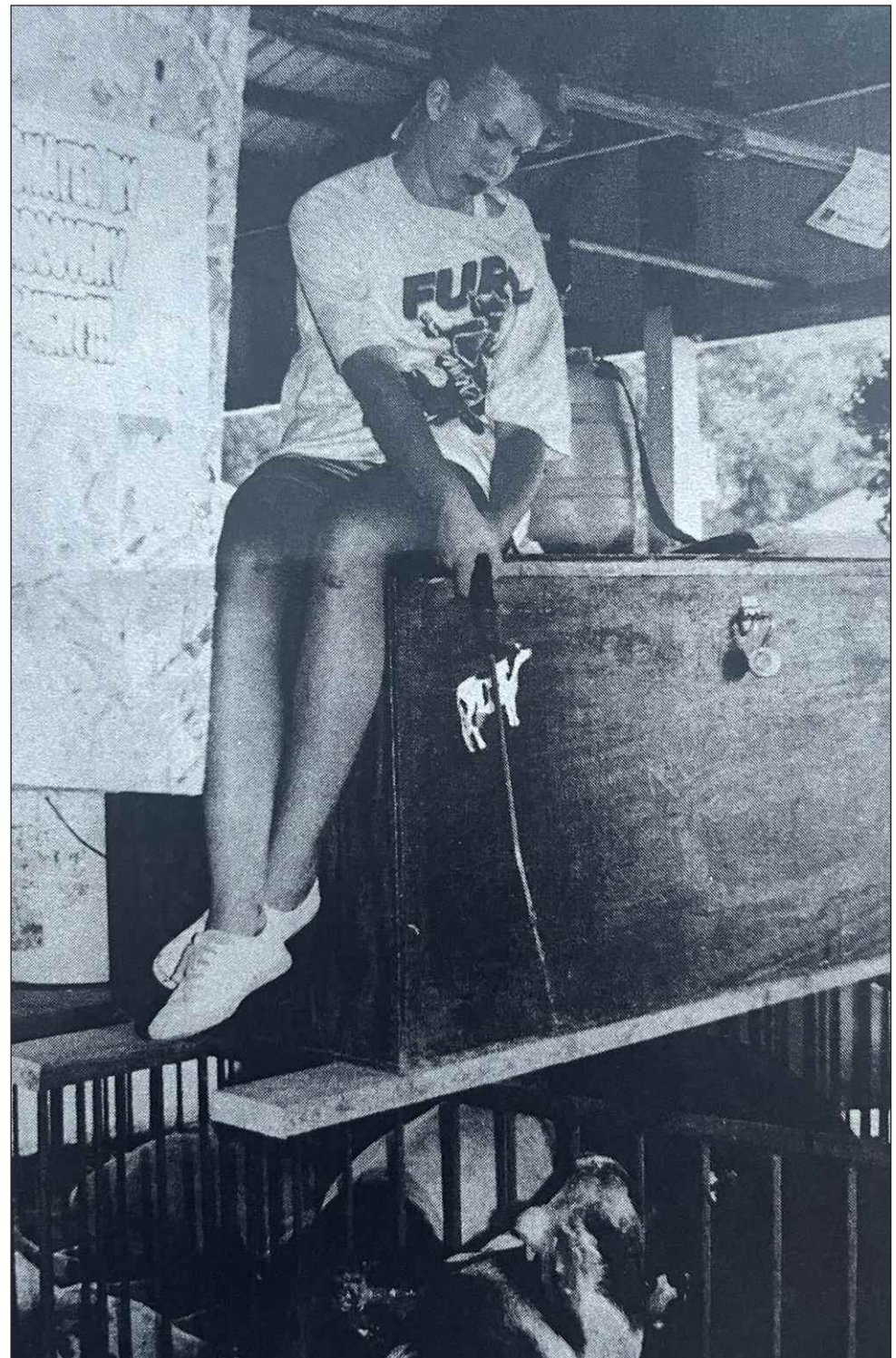
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Looking back 25 years (1997)



The Commercial Review

Watering down

Melissa Muhlenkamp, 13, Bryant, waters down her hot hogs in the swine barn on Aug. 10, 1997. Even with plenty of fans running, the hogs were feeling the heat. Muhlenkamp would go on to graduate from Purdue University and served as an agriculture teacher at Jay County High School.



4-H livestock schedule



Saturday, July 9

11 a.m. — Dog show in the Show Arena
2 p.m. — Rabbit show at East Arena

Sunday, July 10

1:30 p.m. — Poultry Show at East Arena
3 p.m. — Beef and beef feeder show in the Show Arena

Monday, July 11

8 a.m. — Swine show in the Show Arena
2 p.m. — Cat show in Bob Schmit Memorial Exhibition Hall
3 p.m. — Dairy beef and feeder show in the Show Arena

Tuesday, July 12

8 a.m. — Dairy goat show in the Show Arena
11:30 a.m. — Meat goat and pygmy goat show in the Show Arena
4 p.m. — Small animal supreme showmanship in the Show Arena

Wednesday, July 13

9 a.m. — Dairy show in the Show Arena
4:30 p.m. — Sheep show in the Show Arena

Thursday, July 14

9 a.m. — Horse and Pony Show at the Outdoor Arena
5 p.m. — Large animal supreme showmanship in the Show Arena

Friday, July 15

10 a.m. — Auction in Bob Schmit Memorial Exhibition Hall

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Jay County's only state fair queen

Tina Schwieterman hugs another contestant after winning the 1986 Miss Jay County Fair Queen Pageant during the Jay County Fair.

The daughter of Jerry and Ilene Schwieterman of rural Portland, Tina went on to win the Indiana State Fair Queen Pageant, the only Jay County Fair Queen to do so.

She had graduated from Jay County High School that spring and planned to attend Ball State University. At JCHS, she played basketball and was involved in National Honor Society, student council and Students Against Drunk Driving. She was also the homecoming queen.

Tina was a Hoosier Girls State delegate and was involved in 4-H and CYO.

She was sponsored by Jay County FFA.



The Commercial Review



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Excited ...

Continued from page 10

The featured fair performer is country music artist Cole Swindell, whose hits include "Middle of a Memory," "Ain't Worth the Whiskey" and "You Should Be Here," at 7 p.m. Friday, July 15. He represents the largest investment the fair board has made for its biggest grandstand offering, surpassing comedian Jeff Foxworthy from 2016.

"We're bringing in a big name, going all out," said board member Travis Theurer. "There are a lot of extras to it."

Those extras include two opening acts — Tyler Rich and Ashley Cooke — and video boards alongside the stage.

The schedule of 4-H livestock shows runs from the opening day of the fair through Thursday, July 14, with the dog show starting things off at noon Saturday in the Show Arena and the rabbit show at 2 p.m. in the East Arena. The rest of the schedule is as follows:

Sunday — Poultry show at 1 p.m. at the East Arena; Beef and beef feeder show at 3 p.m. in the Show Arena

Monday — Swine show at 8 a.m. in the Show Arena; Cat show at 2 p.m. in the Bob Schmit Memorial Exhibition Hall; Dairy beef and feeder show at 3 p.m. in the Show Arena

Tuesday — Dairy goat show at 8 a.m. in the Show Arena; Meat goat and pygmy goat show at 11:30 a.m. in the Show Arena

Wednesday — Dairy show at 9 a.m. in the Show Arena; Sheep show at 4:30 p.m. in the Show Arena

Thursday — Horse and pony show at 9 a.m. at the Outdoor Arena

See **Excited** page 19



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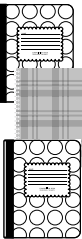
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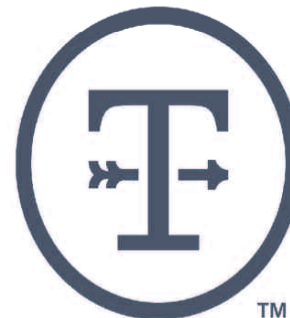
JAY COUNTY FAIR

July 9-16, 2022



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Farmers Building schedule



Saturday, July 9

- 9 a.m. — Baby contest (six to 12 months)
- 11 a.m. — Baby contest (12 to 18 months)
- 1 p.m. — Diaper derby
- 3 p.m. — Mix Factory concert

Monday, July 11

- 5 p.m. — Jay County Farm Bureau Cook-off

Tuesday, July 12

- 10 a.m. — Sweetcakes Entertainment
- 11 a.m. — McDonald's Kids Day
- 11:30 a.m. — Bike giveaway
- 1 p.m. — Kiddie pedal tractor race
- 2:30 p.m. — Story time with Jay County Public Library

Wednesday, July 13

- 3 p.m. — Cincinnati League senior citizen recognition

Thursday, July 14

- 10 a.m. — Story time with Jay County Public Library
- Noon — State fair queen appearance and speech
- 4 p.m. — A Touch of Mexico

Friday, July 15

- 11 a.m. — Recognition of previous fair queens
- 1 p.m. — Senior bingo
- 4 p.m. — Greg Rhodes concert

Saturday, July 16

- 2 p.m. — Veteran's Day program




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Jay County Fair facts

First stockholder

The first two shares of Jay County Fair stock were sold to Harvey Bergman, who then served on the board in 1873 and '74. His brothers Abraham and George both served on the board as well. (The second shareholder was Jonas Votaw, who served six years as fair board president. He was elected treasurer of Jay County before becoming treasurer of Cincinnati, Union & Fort Wayne Railroad.)

First president

Isaac Underwood served as the first Jay County Fair Board president in 1872 and 1873. He was an early settler of Jay County who lived in Penn Township. He served as county treasurer and was elected as a state representative during the Civil War and as state senator in 1874.

Longest-serving officer

Walter Haynes, who was the son of Judge Jacob Haynes and brother of automobile pioneer Elwood Haynes, was the longest-serving Jay County Fair Board officer. He was treasurer for 40 years, serving in that role from 1888 through 1928.

Oldest building

Floral Hall is the oldest existing building at Jay County Fairgrounds. It was built in 1891 for \$575 and featured flower stands, fountains and space for merchants. (The second-oldest building is the secretary's office, which was constructed in 1906.)

The coliseum that wasn't

Jay County Fair Board approved the construction of Jay County War Memorial Coliseum in 1952. It was to be 230 feet by 215 feet with a seating capacity of about 4,000 and a construction price tag of \$450,000. It was never built.

Longest-running band contest

The Jay County Fair Band Contest (now Jay County Lions Band Contest) is the longest-running among the Central Indiana Track Show Association contests that lead up to the state fair. (It is also the only such contest still held on a harness racing track.) The first contest, which featured five bands, was held in 1976.

Hall of Famers

Six Jay County Fair Board members have been inducted into the Indiana Fair and Festival Hall of Fame. Edna Elliott was the first in 1965 as a member of the inaugural class. Others are Bob Lyons (1987), Everett May (1990), Rob Weaver (2010), Tom Zimmerman (2014) and Ralph Grapner (2016).

Longest-serving board member

Bob Lyons is the longest-serving member in the history of Jay County Fair Board. Lyons served on the board first from 1967 through 1976. He rejoined the board two years later and continued serving until retiring at the age of 80 in 2019. He was presented with a symbolic key to the fair in honor of his service.

First couple

Aaron Loy and Katie (Lyons) Loy are the first married couple to serve on the Jay County Fair Board together. Aaron has been a board member since 2016 while Katie was voted on in 2019. They were married last year.

New blood

With the retirement of several longtime Jay County Fair Board members over the last five years, the bulk of the current board has served four years or fewer. Those newest board members include Jeremy Lewis (2018), David Bricker, Katie Loy, Dalton VanSkyock and Luke Knapke (2019), Dillon Muhlenkamp and Randa Staugler (2020), Brandon Muhlenkamp (2021) and Brandon "Bubba" Swoveland and Jason McGraw (2022). The longest-serving current board member is Gary Stewart, who has been involved since 1996.

Summer Fun Is In Full Swing

Congratulations on
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of Fair fun!

All the great food, thrilling
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attractions you've been
craving are back and better
than ever!



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Looking back 10 years (2012)



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

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Governor visited

Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels visited the Jay County Fair on July 25, 2012. Pictured, he chats with junior fair board member Randa Gillespie (she is now a member of Jay County Fair Board) as they walk through the hog barn. At left is Preston Overholser and in the background is Jay County Fair Queen Katie Snyder. After serving two terms as governor, Daniels went on to be president of Purdue University. He has announced that he will retire from Purdue at the end of this year.



**Proud
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of the Jay
County Fair**



THE FAIR IS BACK!

**Congrats
JC Fair Board!**
Clerk Treasurer, Lori Phillips
and Staff



Our annual meeting will be held this year in the round building at the Jay County fairgrounds on July 14 during the fair.

There will be linemen demonstrations, information tables, and so much more.

Come vote for your directors from 10am to 3pm and attend the business meeting at 5pm for election results. Or if you cannot make it that day be sure to stop in to our office at one of these convenient voting times.

Voting Schedule		
Date	Voting Times	Location
7/9/2022	10am - 2pm	Jay County REMC Lobby
7/11/2022	8am - 4pm	Jay County REMC Lobby
7/12/2022	9am - 4pm	Jay County REMC Lobby
7/13/2022	8am - 6pm	Jay County REMC Lobby
7/14/2022	10am - 3pm	Round Building at the Jay County Fairgrounds



Jay County REMC

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Excited ...

Continued from page 15

Supreme showmanship competitions will be at 4 p.m. Tuesday (small animal) and 5 p.m. Thursday, July 14 (large animal). The auction is scheduled for 10 a.m. Friday, July 15, in the Schmit Exhibition Hall.

The 150th fair will also feature a new ride company as Jay County Fair Board recently contracted with Primetime Carnival Company for the event.

Primetime owner Joshua Macaroni, whose company provides attractions at the Darke County Fair and Cuyahoga County fair in Ohio in addition to the Ohio State Fair, said he expects to have about 20 rides available in addition to games and food. He said his company also does "midway beautification" and has a traditional midway entrance, umbrellas to provide shade and cell phone charging stations.

"I know that when we were told yes, it's a for sure, the five of us that were on that phone call were just bouncing up and down in our seats," said board member Katie Loy.

That news amped up the excitement for what the board was already hoping would be a special fair.

Aaron Loy said that's been evident as he's seen board members pouring time into weeding, sprucing up flower beds, mulching, mowing, cleaning and making sure buildings look good, in addition to witnessing the same from 4-H personnel and the various service groups that take part in the festivities.

"Just a lot more planning and work goes into it," he said of the anniversary celebration.

"We've been hyping it

up for two years now, so we don't want to have a disappointing event or just the same old, same old," added his wife, Katie.

"It's all going to come together ... and I can honestly say I'm super proud to be a board member to be a part of this ... working alongside all the other board members to get everything into shape," said Muhlenkamp. "It's going to be amazing."

Some events have stood the test of time since the commissioners bought the first land that became the fairgrounds — it expanded in future years with the purchases of the Millet farm (11 acres) and the Abromsen farm (105 acres) — as events like horse racing, pet parades, 4-H livestock

events and the "baby show" were all on the schedule as far back as a century ago. Carnival rides, demolition derbies (started in 1969) and the big country concert (beginning with Mel Tillis in 1981) have been among those added over the years fair boards have tried to keep the event fresh.

As the 150th celebration approaches, Katie Loy can't help but think about those, including her great-great-great-great-grandfather Elijah Lyons, who got the ball rolling in 1872.

"I just wish that I could look at the people who sat down, put their money together and said, 'We're going to create the fair,' if they really thought the fair would make it 150 years and be to this capacity."

"I just wish that I could look at the people who sat down, put their money together and said, 'We're going to create the fair,' if they really thought the fair would make it 150 years ..."

—Katie Loy,
Jay County Fair Board

Coming Soon!

Plan now to

ADVERTISE

We have a busy schedule of special sections and pages coming up.

Mark your calendar so you don't miss them.

Swiss Days

Wednesday, July 27 (ad deadline July 20)

Fall Sports

Wednesday, August 17 (ad deadline Aug. 10)

Tri-State Gas Engine Show

Tuesday, August 23 (ad deadline Aug. 16)

Fall Home Improvement

Friday, September 23 (ad deadline Sept. 16)

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Community Support

Means More Than Ever

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

GRANDSTAND LINE-UP

Saturday, July 9th, 6:00 PM - Demolition Derby

Sunday, July 10th, 7:00 PM - Micro Wrestling

FAMILY DAY

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, 6:00 PM - Demolition Derby/Truck Derby

Performance to Include Dwayne Spaw

HUGE FIREWORKS SHOW FOLLOWING DERBY

COMMUNITY DAY

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