

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Opening, but limited

Lack of lifeguards leaves water park schedule in flux

By **AMY SCHWARTZ**
and **BAILEY CLINE**

The Commercial Review

The public will be able to race down the water slide, go for a dip or simply sunbathe this Memorial Day weekend as Portland Water Park opens for the season. How often it will be open remains in question.

The status of the water park's scheduled for the year continues to be up in the air because of a shortage of lifeguards. But Portland Mayor John Boggs emphasized the importance of the facility to the community.

"It's vital for children to have something to do during the summertime," said Mayor John Boggs. "I'm happy we're going to be able to (open). I was very doubtful for a while ... it would be a shame to have such an investment and not have the manpower to run it."

Water park manager Missy Bader said plans are to open the pool at noon Saturday. Cur-

rently, though, there are only 11 lifeguards hired. In 2020, the facility had 25-plus lifeguards for the season.

"I'm still doing my very best to get some people hired — we're still very short on lifeguards," said Bader, who has seven returning lifeguards from last year. (Three of those on staff will only be working part-time.)

She explained that pools around the state are having the same staffing issues.

The shortage makes for a difficult scheduling situation.

Rather than having a set schedule, the water park will post its hours on a weekly, or even day-to-day, basis based on lifeguard availability. Boggs said he hopes the pool can be open as often as possible.

But prior commitments for staff may limit that opportunity.

"We will open when we can," Bader added. "I can't tell someone they can't go on family

vacation because they have to work at the pool."

With a staff heavily consisting of high school students, the water park will only be open on weekends until Jay School Corporation begins summer break. (Jay Schools will be in session through June 11 because the start of the school year was delayed in response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.)

A post on the water park's Facebook page Thursday indicated that the facility will likely be closed on June 12, 13 and 20 and July 10, 16, 17 and 18 because of the staffing shortage.

The water park will likely close for the season when Jay Schools reopen Aug. 12 instead of staying open through Labor Day. There's also a possibility there may be at least one or two weekends the water park won't be open because of the lifeguard shortage, Bader noted. Rentals may not be available, either.

See **Limited** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Visitors to Portland Water Park may find the gates locked more often this year as its schedule will be limited because of a shortage of lifeguards. Hours will be regularly updated on the facility's Facebook page.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Run away!

Fort Recovery Elementary School third grader Victoria Jutte runs away from the action to try to avoid being hit Thursday during a game of boys versus girls dodgeball as part of field day activities. In the background are fellow third graders Skylee Grafmiller (left) and Miley Hardwick.

Holcomb targets return in July

Governor seeking to bring state employees back to offices

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indiana's governor is directing all state employees to return to their offices by early July.

Gov. Eric Holcomb told state workers that the transition from a March 2020 stay-at-home order starts with senior staff who must return by June 7.

Other employees should spend at least 50% of their time at the office by June 21 and return full-time by July 6.

Staffers for many state agencies have been working remotely, but Holcomb said in a Wednesday email to employees that "it is not the optimal way for us to serve Hoosiers."

"We work better together, and build more solid and collaborative teams, when we can have regular face-to-face conversations," Holcomb said. "Returning to the office means the impromptu discussions that so often lead to innovation will be happening again with more frequency and energy."

The state will offer a vaccination clinic at the Indiana Government Center in Indianapolis on June 21 and 22.

About 2.4 million Indiana residents were considered to be fully vaccinated by Wednesday, although the state's vaccination rate is the 14th lowest in the country at about 35% of total population, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

Microsoft: SolarWinds launched attack

By **FRANK BAJAK**
AP Technology Writer

BOSTON — The state-backed Russian cyber spies behind the SolarWinds hacking campaign launched a targeted spear-phishing assault on U.S. and foreign government agencies and think tanks this week using an email marketing account of the U.S. Agency for International Development, Microsoft says.

The effort targeted about 3,000 email accounts at more than 150 different organizations, at least a quarter of them involved in international development, humanitarian and human rights work, Microsoft Vice President Tom Burt said in a blog post late Thursday.

It did not say what portion of the attempts may have led to suc-

Company says Russian cyber spies targeted at least 150 organizations

cessful intrusions but said many of those targeting Microsoft customers were blocked automatically. "We're also in the process of notifying all of our customers who have been targeted," Burt said.

The cybersecurity firm Volexity, which also tracked the campaign but has less visibility into email

systems than Microsoft, said in a post that relatively low detection rates of the phishing emails suggest the attacker was "likely having some success in breaching targets."

Burt said the campaign appeared to be a continuation of multiple efforts by the Russian hackers to "target government

agencies involved in foreign policy as part of intelligence gathering efforts." He said the targets spanned at least 24 countries.

The hackers gained access to USAID's account at Constant Contact, an email marketing service, Microsoft said. The authentic-looking phishing emails dated May 25 purport to contain new information on 2020 election fraud claims and include a link to malware that allows the hackers to "achieve persistent access to compromised machines."

Microsoft said in a separate, technical blog post that the campaign is ongoing and evolved out of several waves of spear-phishing campaigns it first detected in January that escalated to the mass-mailings of this week.

See **SolarWinds** page 5

Deaths

Esther Anderson, 89, Portland
Leda Mock-Axe, 74, Redkey
Larry Brinkerhoff, 75, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County's high temperature Thursday was 79 degrees. The low was 55.
Showers are expected tonight with thunderstorms possible and winds gusting to 30 miles per hour. The low will be 43. Saturday will be windy and rainy as well with a high of 57. See page 2 for an extended forecast.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available Saturday. Trailers will be open from 9 a.m. to noon in the shopping center at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, and Dunkirk City Park.

Coming up

Saturday — Coverage of the monument lighting and Memorial Day ceremony in Fort Recovery.
Wednesday — Results from Tuesday's JCHS boys golf match against Daleville.



Obituaries

Esther Anderson

June 4, 1931-May 26, 2021
Esther Miller Anderson, age 89, of Portland passed away Wednesday, May 26, 2021, in Fort Wayne at her son's home.



Esther was born in Jay County on June 4, 1931, the daughter of Kenneth and Minnie (Trafzer) Somers. She was married to Morris Miller, who preceded her in death, and then in 1977 married Harry F. Anderson, and he passed away in 1998.

Esther had worked at CTS in Berne, K&S Cake Shop and Bearcreek Farms. She was a Gov. I.P. Gray High School graduate and attended of Collett Nazarene Church.

Surviving are three sons,

Kenny Miller of Fort Wayne, Stephen Miller (wife: Angel) of Portland and Terry Miller (wife: Bonnie) of Portland; stepchildren Harry Anderson III (wife: Ruth) of Geneva, Tony Anderson (wife: Maria) of Berne and Cathy Mitchell (husband: Arlin) of Geneva; brother-in-law Dick Nixon of Portland; seven grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; 12 step-grandchildren; several step-great-grandchildren; and several step-great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son Larry Miller; three brothers, Ralph, Everett and Ed Somers; four sisters, Alberta Menchhofer, Betty Naomi Somers, Mary Derringer and Norma Jean Nixon.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, June 2, 2021, at 10 a.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Billy

Stanton presiding. Burial will be in the Spring Hill Cemetery. Visitation is Tuesday from 3 to 7 p.m.

Memorials can be made to the Jay County Cancer Society, Visiting Nurse Hospice or Collett Nazarene Church.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Leda Mock-Axe

Dec. 7, 1946-May 24, 2021
Leda Mock-Axe, age 74, a resident of Redkey, passed away on Monday, May 24, 2021, at her home in Redkey surrounded by her loving family.

Leda was born on Dec. 7, 1946, in Jay County, the daughter of Herman and Blendenia (Markin) Mock. She graduated from Dunkirk High School and retired from Elkhart Products in Geneva. She married David Axe on May 5, 1968, and he

passed away on April 8, 2018.

Leda enjoyed spending time with her husband in Florida during the winter months. She also enjoyed spending time crafting, reading, playing cards and most recently playing games on her phone.

Survivors include: Two daughters — Melissa Axe, Redkey, Indiana, and Carrie Younger (husband: Damien), Redkey, Indiana

One sister — Levene Armstrong, Melbourne, Florida

Nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren
Visitation will be held on Tuesday from 2 to 8 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Serv-



Mock-Axe

ices to celebrate Leda's life will be held on Wednesday at 1 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Burial will follow at Garden's of Memory Cemetery, north of Muncie.

Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

Larry Brinkerhoff, Portland, April 2, 1946-May 26, 2021. Services will be at 10 a.m. June 5 at Bryant Wesleyan Church.

The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Saturday 5/29	Sunday 5/30	Monday 5/31	Tuesday 6/1	Wednesday 6/2
There is a 40% chance of showers. Otherwise skies will be mostly cloudy with a high of 57.	The high will be 67 under stunny skies.	Expect partly sunny skies for Memorial Day with a high in the low 70s.	Skies will be partly sunny with a high of 75.	Rain may return, as there is a 50% chance of showers. The high temperature will be 74 degrees.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$253 million	16-19-22-29-32-37-49-52-53-54-58-60-66-68-69-75-79 Cash 5: 10-13-27-35-42 Estimated jackpot: \$258,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$22 million	Ohio Midday Pick 3: 1-4-3 Pick 4: 3-4-8-4 Pick 5: 8-7-6-5-9 Evening Pick 3: 7-3-6 Pick 4: 9-9-3-3 Pick 5: 5-0-7-3-0 Rolling Cash: 6-12-18-37-39 Estimated jackpot: \$210,000
Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 3-9-7 Daily Four: 8-4-3-8 Quick Draw: 01-03-05-12-21-22-24-27-28-33-37-38-40-50-59-65-70-74-75-79 Evening Daily Three: 6-4-4 Daily Four: 5-4-1-3 Quick Draw: 02-08-13-	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....6.96 June corn6.96 Wheat6.47	June corn6.87 Beans15.59 June beans13.23 Wheat6.54 July wheat.....6.34
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....6.93 June corn6.93 Beans15.59 June beans15.59 Wheat6.54 June wheat..... 6.44	POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....7.26 June corn7.18
Central States Montpelier Corn.....6.87	Sunrise St. Anthony Corn.....6.89 June corn6.92 Beans15.32 June beans13.32 Wheat6.19 July wheat.....6.19

Today in history

On May 28, 1977, 165 people were killed when fire raced through the Beverly Hills Supper Club in Southgate, Kentucky.

In 1863, the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment, made up of freed Blacks, left Boston to fight for the Union in the Civil War.

In 1918, American troops fought their first major battle during World War I as they launched an offensive against the German-held French village of Cantigny; the Americans succeeded in capturing the village.

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt pushed a button in Washington signaling traffic could begin crossing the just-opened Golden Gate Bridge in California.

In 1971, Jay County Prosecutor's Office, Dunkirk Police Department and Jay County Conservation Office Bob Heath conducted a raid in which they seized "substantial quantities of marijuana, hashish, amphetamines and other hallucinatory drugs."

—AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

Tuesday 4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 7 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall,	105 N. Washington St. 7 p.m. — Salomonia Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center.
Wednesday 2 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners' special meeting, commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	

Injured, treated

A Portland boy was injured Monday when he accidentally shot himself in the chest with a nail gun. Kegan Wagner was transported to Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis for treatment after Portland police and fire departments and Jay Emergency Medical Service responded to the scene. The nail entered Kegan's chest below his sternum, missing all vital organs. He was treated and released. Portland police bought Kegan a toy tool kit upon his return home. Pictured with Kegan and his mom are officers Luke Darby, Kyle Denney and Jeff Hopkins.

Photo provided

Capsule Reports

Motorcyclist injured
A man was taken by helicopter to Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne after his motorcycle struck another vehicle about 3:45 p.m. Thursday in Redkey.

The motorcyclist, whose name was unavailable as of this morning, was traveling southbound on Indiana 1 when his motorcycle struck the vehicle in front of him. He sustained severe head injuries and potential internal injuries. He was transported by

helicopter to Lutheran Hospital. For more information, see Tuesday's edition of The Commercial Review.

Backed into
A Union City man backed his vehicle into a Portland woman's SUV at 9:20 p.m. Wednesday.

Zachary T. Mayfield, 19, was backing out of the driveway at 4276 W. Indiana 67 in his 2004 Chevrolet Silverado when it struck Jayne Ridenour's 2007 Chevrolet Malibu. Damage is estimat-

ed between \$1,000 and \$2,500.

Backing collision
A Geneva man backed his truck into a Dunkirk woman's vehicle at 3:45 p.m. Wednesday.

Chad Thompson, 45, was backing his 2005 Dodge Ram pick-up truck out of a parking space at Walmart, 950 W. Votaw St., Portland, when Thompson's rear driver's side swiped Shaunda C. Overla's 2019 Toyota Tacoma. Damage is estimated at less than \$1,000.

IU reviewing vaccine policy

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Indiana University is reviewing its new COVID-19 vaccination requirement as more state officials line up against it.

IU defended Thursday the policy requiring vaccinations for all students and employees as a way to safely return to full in-person classes and events on all its campuses starting with the fall semester.

But IU said it "will further consider our process

for verifying the requirement" a day after the state attorney general issued a non-binding opinion that the policy was illegal under a new state law banning the state or local governments from issuing or requiring vaccine passports.

Nearly all Republican members of the Indiana Senate on Thursday joined the criticism of IU's policy. They sent a letter to university President

Michael McRobbie saying the policy violates a federal law prohibiting entities from requiring vaccines that haven't received full federal approval and the state's vaccine passport ban.

"This heavy-handed mandate goes against many of the liberties on which our founders built our democratic republic," said the letter signed by 35 of the 39 Republicans who dominate the state Senate.

Limited ...

Continued from page 1
Bader encouraged local residents to watch the water park Facebook page for updates and call before visiting to check if the pool is open.

Portland Water Park is hiring throughout the summer until all staffing positions are filled. Starting

pay for new lifeguards is \$9 an hour. For each year of experience, returning lifeguards will receive an extra 25 cents per hour. Anyone with lifeguard certification is encouraged to contact the Portland Water Park for more information. The park can be reached at (260) 726-6653.

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Annual meeting set for Tuesday

Jay County Civic Theatre will hold its annual meeting via Zoom at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

The meeting will feature an appearance by Jordan Gelber, who played Buddy in "Elf" the Musical" on Broadway.

He will share some of his experiences as a Broadway and television actor and take time to answer questions.

The annual meeting will include election of three board members to three-year terms. Seats up for election are currently held by JB Goodrich, Casi Avery and Jason McGraw.

JCCT's annual meeting is open to anyone who has been involved in one of the organization's shows in the last three years.

A Zoom link will be posted on the Jay County Civic Theatre Facebook page when it becomes available. To request the link in advance, email jay-countycivic@gmail.com.

Workshop scheduled

John Jay Center for Learning will host a free financial stability workshop at 6 p.m. June 9.

The event, in partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank, will cover topics including budgeting, debt, credit, cutting expenses and improving cash flow. Those interested in participating can sign up at curehunger.org/john-jay2021 or by visiting John Jay, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

For more information, contact Carol Bradshaw at cbradshaw@curehunger.org or (765) 730-0279.



Photo provided

Powerful performance

Fort Recovery FFA's ag power team recently placed second out of 77 teams in the Ohio FFA ag power contest. The team had to recognize malfunctions of engines that included hydraulic, fuel and electrical systems. Pictured, from left, are Bruce Heitkamp, Devin Schoenlein, Brock Dues, Kendrick Wendel, Bailey Bergman and Luke Keller. Heitkamp placed fourth individually out of nearly 500 competitors and Keller was fifth.

Equipment becomes a sore subject

DEAR ABBY: Several years ago, while living with my sister, I bought a \$900 rowing machine I could barely afford. I loved it and used it often. Two years ago, since we were moving out, I decided to let my sister take the rowing machine because my new apartment building had three and hers had no gym at all. It worked perfectly, and I thought I was doing her a favor because she couldn't afford a gym membership. My intention was to take back the rowing machine when I eventually had room to put it somewhere in a future home.

Well, after recently moving into my new home and requesting she return it, she informed me that it was hers now. That was never my intention. She has gotten my other sister and our parents to side with her, and they're making me feel like a bad person for even asking for it. Now I'm left to shop for a new machine,

Dear Abby



while the original sits in her new large home gym along with her Peloton.

She never offered to buy it, ever. She just insists it's hers now because I "gave" it to her. I still need a rowing machine, and I get upset every time I look at new ones online. It just feels wrong that I have to buy another one. What should I do? — BUFF BRO IN ILLINOIS

DEAR BRO: Buy another one. If it wasn't made absolutely clear to Sissy that you expected the rowing machine to be returned at a

later date, she was within her rights to conclude that it was a gift. If you DID make that clear to her when you moved out, then shame on her. But either way, it's not worth a family feud.

.....

DEAR ABBY: Some close friends have an adult child with a severe disability. They've been upfront about it and his need to be present in the community. I applaud their attitude, but on a personal level, I don't know how to handle it.

They have a big family celebration coming up, assuming things continue to improve COVID-wise. I'm tired of not knowing how to interact with this person. Other people laugh and joke and seem to have a nice relationship with him. I struggle to understand, and I don't know if I should just be honest and say I don't know what to do or say. I feel I'm miss-

ing out on what others see. How do I move along? — AWKWARD IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR AWKWARD: I don't think it's necessary to explain to your friends that you feel uncomfortable interacting with their disabled child. I do think you should tell them you would like to interact more fully with him and ASK FOR SUGGESTIONS on how you can achieve that. They wouldn't find it offensive. In fact, they may appreciate your being forthright, because I'm willing to bet not everyone has been as compassionate as you — or as direct.

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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@theccr.com.

Saturday

PORTLAND FARMERS MARKET — Is open from 8 a.m. to noon each Saturday in the parking lot at The Rock Church.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. upstairs at True Value Hardware, Meridian Street, Portland. For more information, call (260) 729-2532.

Monday

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

fast at Richards Restaurant.

BRYANT AREA COMMUNITY CENTER — Walking from 9 to 10 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

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

EUCHRE — For those 55 and older from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at West Jay Community Center in Dunkirk.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

tion or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 5:30 p.m., with the meeting at 6 p.m., in the fellowship hall at Evangelical Methodist Church, 930 W. Main St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5312.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6 p.m. each Monday 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.

Tuesday

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

THE LANDING — A 12-step program for those in sixth through 12th grade will meet at 5:55 p.m. each Tuesday at 2nd Chance at Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 703-0777 or (260) 726-5273.

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

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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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Applications can be submitted online at

www.jrmanufacturing.net

or in person at 900 Industrial Drive Fort Recovery between 7am-4pm



The Portland Police Department is accepting applications for TWO FULL-TIME SWORN POLICE OFFICERS

The hiring process is open now through June 11, 2021. All applications must be turned in by June 11, 2021. Any late applications will not be accepted. Applicants must meet the entry level physical agility requirements mandated by the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy, which will be held on June 12th.

Upon the successful completion of the physical agility an interview process, background check, and a pre-employment voice stress will be conducted.

Benefits include a starting base salary of \$46,391, an excellent insurance plan of 90/10 coverage, a \$500 deductible single and \$750 deductible for family coverage, excellent dental coverage, and a Police/Fire 1977 Retirement Fund pension.

Applications can be picked up at the Portland Police Department located at 319 N Meridian Street anytime or online at

<https://thecityofportland.net/Police-Department-Opening>.

Commission is setting an example

Herald Bulletin (Anderson)

Groups such as Common Cause and the League of Women Voters have been working for years to take politics out of the once-a-decade redistricting process.

In 2016, a bipartisan panel of legislators and citizens recommended the General Assembly pass a law to create a nine-member commission to complete the process.

The next year, House Speaker Brian Bosma and Rep. Jerry Torr sponsored legislation based on the committee's recommendation, but the bill died in committee. A year later, a similar bill won overwhelming support in the

Hoosier Editorial

Senate but couldn't get a hearing in the House.

Such measures failed again in 2019 and 2020.

Finally, advocates decided to go it alone. If they couldn't get the Legislature to set up an independent commission, they decided, they'd do it themselves. The goal was to set an example for lawmakers to follow.

Thus, in January, after an application process that yielded nearly 300 candidates, the All IN for Democracy coalition formed an Indiana Citizens Redistricting Commission made up of three Republicans, three Democrats and three independents.

In the months since, that commission has conducted a series of public hearings, and it has submitted a list of recommendations based on the feedback it gathered. The report calls on legislators to create an open process that encourages public participation.

At the top of the commission's wish list is to establish more districts where both parties have a shot at winning. A lack of such

districts, the commission said, was the leading complaint voiced by those participating in the various hearings.

Way too many of Indiana's legislative and congressional districts are stacked in favor of one political party. That leads to elections that are effectively over in the primary, and it results in lawmakers who worry a lot more about the base than the average voter. Voters grow apathetic, and turnout suffers.

Reform advocates cite the example of 2014 when Indiana's voter turnout was 28%, lowest in the nation. Part of the problem, perhaps, was that more than a third of candidates for the Indi-

ana General Assembly that year had no opponent in the general election.

Surely, the maps this time around can be better.

The commission is now offering training on its mapping website, and it will be putting together mapping workshops in some urban communities. It's also working to set up meetings with legislative leaders to discuss its recommendations.

In the end, the commission wants a process where the voters choose their representatives rather than the other way around.

That doesn't seem like too much to ask.

Dems should take GOP offer seriously

By HENRY OLSEN

Special To The Washington Post

The Senate Republican \$928 billion counteroffer to President Joe Biden's infrastructure bill is predictably being panned as dead on arrival. That's too bad, because it's actually a sound proposal both in its spending priorities and the way it intends to pay for them.

The GOP plan is limited to what most ordinary people would characterize as infrastructure — publicly owned or operated roads and other hard assets that undergird the economy. The plan includes modern ideas of infrastructure, such as spending \$65 billion on expanding broadband access. And it proposes to spend \$98 billion on public transit systems and another \$46 billion on passenger rail and freight systems. One can quibble with the amount of money proposed, but it's hard to think of a sector of infrastructure that has been excluded.

The Republicans' biggest proposed "pay-for" is repurposing unspent coronavirus relief funds already appropriated. Much of that money is allocated to states and local governments to offset expected declines in revenue arising from the pandemic. But state and local governments are increasingly reporting little to no decline in funds. California, for example, recently announced it has a nearly \$76 billion general fund surplus. It simply doesn't need the \$26 billion in federal aid that Congress allocated to the state in prior relief bills. Why not repurpose that money to do something everyone agrees is valuable?

Hiking transportation user fees, another GOP proposal, is also a tried-and-true way of paying for infrastructure projects. Republicans have floated the idea of indexing the gas tax, which has not been raised since 1993, to inflation. They also propose charging owners of electric cars, who obviously don't pay the gas tax, an annual fee to pay for their share of the roads they use. One can imagine this idea spreading to other sectors addressed in the bill, such as raising fees and taxes that airplane travelers already pay to finance airport construction. Placing the burden for infrastructure improvements on those who use the facilities is the traditional way of paying for expanding and upgrading those facilities.

Democrats will surely object to excluding the

Henry Olsen



The plan includes modern ideas of infrastructure, such as spending \$65 billion on expanding broadband access.

president's proposed changes to child-care subsidies and other ideas included in his original plan. Perhaps those ideas can be addressed in some other way, but they are not infrastructure, no matter how much Democrats try to twist the plain meaning of words to suit their political purposes. Democrats are not Humpty Dumpty — they cannot make words mean whatever they like whenever they like it.

That things have come to this point is a Republican failing. President Donald Trump wanted to pass a \$1 trillion infrastructure bill for four years. Republicans largely ignored his pleas, not wanting to increase the gas tax or the federal deficit to pay for it. The GOP could have passed this sort of measure when it controlled Congress in 2017 and 2018 and received sole political credit for getting the ball rolling. The fact that Biden's proposal has forced them to propose spending almost as much as what Trump asked for and pay for it with means they had previously rejected simply shows the political failure of Republican economic orthodoxy.

Those concerns, however, are for the future. For the present, Republicans have made a plausible offer, with plausible spending levels and plausible pay-fors. It's now up to Biden and Democrats to show they are serious about bipartisanship. Let the games begin.

Olsen is a senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center.



Plan imperfect, but not socialism

By MICHAEL HICKS

President Biden laid out his infrastructure plan in a recent address to Congress. The American Jobs Plan contains spending priorities that go well beyond traditional roads and bridges. It deserves an honest appraisal, including an assessment of the economic conditions we now face. I begin by sharing my initial skepticism.

I believe the plan is too large and happens too quickly on the heels of pandemic relief. I'm afraid it uses some inappropriate tools to address real problems. And, it tries to remedy some problems that don't actually exist. However, there are three reasons why this proposal could be more effective than even its most ardent supporters hope.

The first is that our economy has been stuck in low gear for more than a decade. There is growing evidence that this has some of its roots in the last recession. Despite historically low interest rates and large tax cuts, private capital investment grew very slowly. If the Fed is unable to boost the economy by easing interest rates, some fiscal policy will be needed. Hence the broad infrastructure bill.

It is important to note that the Trump tax cuts were predicated on exactly the same theory. My 2017 column supporting the Trump tax cuts noted, "We are stuck in a very slow growth expansion." Had we not embarked on a disastrous trade war, perhaps it would have boosted growth. But, it did not. As the infrastructure bill descends into a predictable partisan divide, it is useful to know that the economic theory behind deficit spending is the same whether it comes through tax cuts or spending increases. The only real difference is how quickly the effects move through the economy.

Second, we have some meaningful infrastructure shortfalls. While the federal government spends a great deal of money, a declining share of it targets productive infrastructure spending. There is even some evidence that the recent decline in public investment has contributed to slowing economic growth. The most widely accepted studies on infrastructure impact suggest a modest, but long-term boost to productivity from increased spending.

Supporters of infrastructure spending will likely argue that it cre-

ates lots of jobs. That may be true, but the real benefit isn't a five-year burst of construction work. It is the long-term effects of safer, less congested roadways, more secure power supplies, and better telecommunications networks that boosts growth. A better argument than the popular, but misguided, short-term job creation claims is that it is good investment.

The U.S. government can now borrow money for 10 years at a negative real interest rate. Folks, that means that investors are paying the U.S. government to borrow their money. This is because there are no private investment opportunities that are safe enough to lure investors. All that may change of course, but now is a superb time to invest in public infrastructure.

The third argument for this infrastructure untrue bill is that we may have neglected many public investments that are important, even if they aren't measured in Gross Domestic Product. Most large American cities have water and sewer infrastructure partially built before the 20th century. Broadband telecommunications remain unavailable in many places, limiting the quality of education, public services and the delivery of healthcare and emergency services. Addressing these things won't cause a burst of economic growth but it can reduce costs for state and local governments.

These types of investments also improve the lives of many citizens, particularly those whose economic prospects have been most challenged by longer-term changes to the economy. Some parts of the infrastructure plan, which target spending on children care and early childhood education, may help. These aren't traditional infrastructure, but that does not make them unimportant. Our nation has yet to figure out how to reduce economic inequality that manifests itself before children enter elementary school. This program

Michael Hicks



may not do so, but it is a serious effort. This program also targets more R&D spending, which is a long-term catalyst for a growing economy.

Despite my aforementioned misgivings about the infrastructure proposal, it has serious elements that address real, persistent problems in our economy. Moreover, the Biden administration propose this without dramatically expanding the scope of government. The bill contains no new big programs or agencies, no vast new government apparatus or power. It's a lot of spending, more than I would wish, but not a new bureaucracy.

True conservatives should be pleased with that and should try to work to improve the plan. Compromise that extends the spending over a longer timeline would enable better coordination between types of construction, reduce the risk of skyrocketing construction costs and yield more long-term benefits. The child-care programs should be family based and agnostic about the type of early childhood education or child-care. We should be indifferent between spending the same amount of money on a homeschool program as we do a traditional provider.

We should reward local governments who target their spending to support local infrastructure. We should spend R&D money on new science, and on new ways to prioritize public services, reduce barriers to economic integration and promote a stronger, more secure nation. These ideas have always been consistent with conservative principles, and should attract compromise. They probably will not.

In the coming months, the infrastructure plan will run through the rigors of appropriations, so it will be different when finally passed by Congress. However, something like it will surely pass. It is not a panacea to all our economic woes, but neither is it socialism. We'd all be wise to view it with healthy skepticism, while hoping my hesitations about it don't come to pass.

Hicks is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and the George and Frances Ball distinguished professor of economics in the Miller College of Business at Ball State University. Email him at mhicks@bsu.edu.

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Bloomberg/Soichiro Koriyama

Customers dine today in front of an Izakaya restaurant in the Shinjuku district of Tokyo. Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga today extended the country's coronavirus state of emergency in an effort to curb cases of COVID-19 ahead of the Summer Olympics that are scheduled to begin July 23.

Emergency is extended

Japan seeks to rein in COVID-19 infections as Summer Olympics approach

By **JON HERSKOVITZ**
and **ISABEL REYNOLDS**
Bloomberg

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga extended a state of emergency that includes Tokyo and other major cities, in a last-ditch effort to rein in COVID-19 infections ahead of the capital hosting the Olympics in less than two months.

Suga said today the emergency that was due to end on Monday would be extended to June 20, a little more than a month before the Tokyo Olympics start. The extension would be for Tokyo, Osaka and seven other prefectures that comprise about half of the nation's economy.

"The nationwide infection numbers have been falling since the middle of the month," Suga told his coronavirus task force. "But the situation is still unpredictable," he added, noting case numbers remained high in Tokyo and Osaka.

Suga later told a news conference he was aware of concerns over hosting the Olympics but will continue with preparations, saying he will seek further cuts in the number of people visiting Japan in connection with the games. Japan has already barred fans from overseas from attending and is weighing whether it would allow its residents to see the events.

The prime minister said he believes it's possible to hold the Olympics with spectators. Many Japanese sports, from baseball to sumo, have been held before fans during the pandemic, albeit with limits on crowd size and mask mandates.

Suga faces enormous pressure to keep the virus under control, and the public is worried the global sports spectacle could turn into a superspreader event. Still, he has few tools left to slow the spread of the virus. His government is running one of the slowest vaccination programs in the developed world, so far administering just 11.8 million shots, compared to 291 million in the U.S.

Japan plans to ramp up vaccinations to about 1 million shots a day by mid-June at

the earliest, Suga said at the news conference.

"If the current situations continue, it will be very difficult to hold the Olympics," Haruo Ozaki, chairman of Tokyo Medical Association, said at an online briefing Thursday. "In that sense, this is the last chance."

Nearly 60% of respondents in a Yomiuri newspaper poll this month said the games should be called off, and the Asahi newspaper, a sponsor of the event, wrote in an editorial Wednesday that Suga should cancel the Summer Olympics.

A decision on whether to hold the Tokyo Olympics must be made by the end of June at the latest, International Olympic Committee member Dick Pound said in an interview with Jiji Press. The IOC has the final say, but in a statement this week it said all games-related decisions "have always been and will always be taken in full agreement of all parties." The games are set to open July 23.

The extension comes after the U.S. on Monday said Americans should avoid traveling to Japan because of the virus. The action — which comes despite far lower infection rates in Japan than in the U.S. — was a fresh blow to a country struggling to convince the international community it is ready to host the Summer Olympics, following their delay in 2020.

The latest state of emergency, put in place in late April, helped reduce the daily number of recorded infections in the capital from 1,027 on April 29 to 614 on Friday. The restrictions have meant that bars and restaurants were made to close at 8 p.m. and banned from selling alcohol, while some large stores were closed.

Analysts factoring in a longer emergency now see a larger chance of Japan suffering a second straight quarterly contraction.

"Japan's imminent extension to its virus emergency probably spells another recession," wrote Bloomberg Economics' Yuki Masujima.

SolarWinds ...

Continued from page 1
USAID and Constant Contact provided no additional detail on how the hackers gained access. USAID spokeswoman Pooja Jhunjhunwala said Friday that a forensic investigation was ongoing and the agency was working with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. Constant Contact spokeswoman Kristen Andrews called it an "isolated incident," with the impacted

accounts temporarily disabled.

While the SolarWinds campaign, which infiltrated dozens of private sector companies and think tanks as well as at least nine U.S. government agencies, was supremely stealthy and went on for most of 2020 before being detected in December by the cybersecurity firm FireEye, this campaign is what cybersecurity researchers call noisy. Easy to detect.

Microsoft noted the two

mass distribution methods used: the SolarWinds hack exploited the supply chain of a trusted technology provider's software updates; this campaign piggybacked on a mass email provider.

With both methods, the company said, the hackers undermine trust in the technology ecosystem.

As in the SolarWinds campaign, the exploit of the USAID marketing email was first publicized by private sector actors.

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## Beat ...

Continued from page 8  
**Fennig paces PG**  
Grant Fennig had three hits and five RBIs on Thursday, pacing PG-14 to a 13-4 triumph over Lions Club in P/L's Willie Mays division.  
Fennig doubled and sin-

gled twice to lead PG, while Alex Huntsman doubled and knocked in two runs. Brayden Scott and Sam Wiggins each had a single and two RBIs, and Benson Armstrong singled and drove in a run.  
Stats for Lions Club were not provided.

## Courting ...

Continued from page 8  
"It did not matter. I didn't care about it," he said. "Still don't. It meant nothing. I was focused on going fast and trying to win. If you focused on anything other than that when you were there, you were going to get hurt or get killed."

Programs launched over the last several months are designed to reach far beyond the cockpit, but an anchor of IndyCar's plan was the creation of Force Indy, an all-Black race team led by Reid that competes in the IndyCar ladder USF2000 Series. Force Indy hired and developed Black mechanics, engineers and drivers throughout its entire team. Myles Rowe, who turns 21 in June, drives for the team and has been pegged as a potential Indy 500 driver.

Jimmie McMillian, chief diversity officer for Penske Entertainment, is the architect intent on designing a new era in the open wheel series. He said members of the Black community who live near IMS treat never having attended an Indianapolis 500 as some sort of badge of honor. They have an up-close look at one of the most famous venues in sports and don't really see anyone who looks like them, certainly not on the starting grid.

"We want to make sure our paddock represents the fan base that we hope to have," McMillian said. "My No. 1 goal, I feel every

day, is to get rid of the concept that this is a white sport and that people are not welcome here."

Years before Penske assumed stewardship of the series, IndyCar had a diversity committee that worked on recruitment and retention for both the series and IMS. While McMillian viewed the number of women involved on the corporate side as a positive for the series — roughly 35% to 40% of the workforce are women — the minority makeup "was where we probably struggled."

"We tried to figure out why we were so monolithic in our employee base," McMillian said.

IndyCar's solution was an attempt to become more aggressive and creative in its outreach efforts — how does it find the best and brightest in urban communities and persuade them to seek a career inside the paddock. Yes, there was a greater presence on social media and ticket drives, and some of the usual promotional pushes like working with key stakeholders in the community such as the Indianapolis Urban League.

For McMillian, it was the 1-to-1 connection, the personal stories that could be shared with kids and adults that Indianapolis Motor Speedway was as welcoming to them as any other fan enjoying a pork tenderloin sandwich as cars zip past at 200 mph on race day.



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Jean Pieterse of the Jay County High School boys track team competes in the high jump during the IHSAA Track and Field Regional championships on Thursday at Lawrence Central. Pieterse, who was third at sectional, did not place.

## Ribbon ...

Continued from page 8  
Pike, the 2019 state runner-up, scored 65 points to win its third straight regional championship. Host Lawrence Central was second with 60 points, and Mt. Vernon had 54.33 points for third.

Defending state champion North Central scored 49 points for fourth.

Pieterse, who was third at sectional with a career-best jump of 6 feet, was unable to successfully clear the opening height of 5 feet, 10 inches. Each

time, he clipped the bar with his thigh.

But he wasn't alone. Eight others out of 19 jumpers failed the opening height.

"When you get to this level it's extremely tough," Imel said. "Just to make it here he had to PR at 6 foot. At sectional he made 5-10 on his third jump. We were hopeful he would make that first height but it just didn't happen today."

Lawrence Central senior Kamyren

Garrett, who was fourth in the state as a sophomore, won the regional championship with a height of 6 feet, 10 inches. He attempted to set a new regional record of 7 feet, 1.5 inch, but wasn't able to do so.

Garrett, who will attend Kansas State in the fall, earlier this season cleared 7 feet, 3 inches, for the highest jump in the country by a high school athlete.

The state record in the event is 7 feet, 4 inches.

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Today**  
Jay County — Boys golf vs. West Del — 4:30 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Track regional at Troy — 4:30 p.m.  
Fort Wayne TinCaps at South Bend Cubs — 7:05 p.m.

**Saturday**  
Portland Rockets doubleheader vs. Midland Tribe — 1 p.m.

Fort Wayne TinCaps at South Bend Cubs — 7:05 p.m.

**Sunday**  
Portland Rockets doubleheader vs. Midland Tribe — 1 p.m.  
Fort Wayne TinCaps at South Bend Cubs — 7:05 p.m.

**Tuesday**  
Jay County — Boys golf vs. Daleville — 4:30 p.m.

### TV schedule

**Today**  
7 p.m. — NBA Playoffs: New York Knicks at Atlanta Hawks, Game 3 (ESPN)  
8:30 p.m. — NBA Playoffs: Brooklyn Nets at Boston Celtics, Game 3 (ABC)  
9:30 p.m. — NBA Playoffs: Los Angeles Clippers at Dallas Mavericks, Game 3 (ESPN)

**Saturday**  
1 p.m. — NBA Playoffs: Milwaukee

Bucks at Miami Heat, Game 4 (TNT)  
4 p.m. — NBA Playoffs: Denver Nuggets at Portland Trail Blazers, Game 4 (TNT)  
7 p.m. — NBA Playoffs: Philadelphia 76ers at Washington Wizards, Game 3 (ESPN)  
7:15 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Atlanta Braves at New York Mets (FOX)  
9:30 p.m. — NBA Playoffs: Utah Jazz at Memphis Grizzlies, Game 3 (ESPN)

### 90 SALE CALENDAR

#### PUBLIC AUCTION

Located in Marion and Irene Bubb Exhibit Hall at the Jay County Fairgrounds, Portland, IN on Sunday afternoon June 6, 2021 at 12:00 P.M. OLD AND COLLECTORS ITEMS -

HOUSEHOLD - 4 drawer dresser with claw feet, Cedar lined blanket chest, 3 draw marble top dresser with handkerchief boxes and mirror, Hisense flat screen TV, Bentwood straight chair, LARGE ASSORTMENT OF COMIC BOOKS - Archie, Flintstones, Tom & Jerry, to name just a few, Baseball cards, Pyrex, Tupperware, Goodyear semi with Trailer, Lots of Jewelry, Cast Iron skillets, American doll, Schwinn 26' girls bicycle. GUNS - InterArms 357 magnum revolver pistol, Nef Gardner Model R73-H & R 32 Magnum revolver pistol, Winchester Model 9422M-22 magnum lever action with scope, Winchester Model 94 "Legendary Lawman" 30/30 lever rifle, Gun parts, small amount of Ammunition, and much more not listed.

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### 90 SALE CALENDAR

#### PUBLIC AUCTION

Located: Bubb Exhibition Hall, Jay County Fairgrounds  
Monday Morning May 31, 2021  
9:30 A.M.

ANTIQUES - OLD AND COLLECTORS ITEMS - HOUSEHOLD Dining room suit to include table with 4 chairs, buffet, china cabinet, and server; grandfather clock; fireplace mantel top; fireplace set; Sleep Number king size bed with metal headboard; Thomas Kincaid picture "Garden Beyond Spring Gate"; Kitchen Aid mixer; Keurig coffee maker; wood doors; and many other items not listed.

TOOLS  
Troy Bilt 3550 watt generator; Troy Bilt weed eater; Weed Eater gas edger; broadcaster; tree trimmer; Craftsman gas blower; garden cultivator; hand tools; and many other items not listed.

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Real Estate- Ranch style 2-3 bedroom home with 1284 square feet of living area. Property has a detached 24' x 40' garage and sets on a 113' x 165' lot. Property would make a good starter home or a rental. 10% nonrefundable deposit day of sale with balance due at closing. Seller will provide Owners Title Insurance and a Warranty Deed. Buyer will assume taxes due and payable in November 2021 and thereafter. Any inspections must be made prior to sale day and are at potential buyers expense. Any statements made day of sale take precedence over previously written or oral matter. Owner confirmation day of sale. For more information contact LOY REAL ESTATE & AUCTION 260-726-2700. Personal property to sell immediately following Real Estate.

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### Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### Test your play

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Diamonds, and North leads the K-A of spades. You ruff and cash the ace of trump, on which North shows out. How would you play the hand?

West  
♠ 8  
♥ K Q  
♦ A K Q 9 5  
♣ A 9 7 4 3

East  
♠ J 5  
♥ A J 9 4 3  
♦ 10 7 6 2  
♣ K 6

2. You are West, defending against Three Notrump after the auction: North - 1 ♠, South - 1 NT, North - 3 NT.

West  
♠ J 7 4  
♥ 10 8 6 5 2  
♦ A 8  
♣ 8 7 2

You lead the five of hearts, dummy plays the nine, East the three and declarer the queen. South leads a diamond, which you win with the ace. What do you play next and why?

North  
♠ K 9 3  
♥ J 9  
♦ K Q J 10 9  
♣ A K Q

1. To try to ruff a club in dummy by playing the K-A and another club would subject you to a possible over-ruff if South started with a doubleton (or singleton) club.

A much safer method of play is to cash the K-Q of hearts. Once you get

by this hurdle (the chance of South having one or no hearts is relatively small), you lead a club to the king and start to run dummy's hearts. If South ruffs at any point, you overruff and draw his remaining trumps to score the rest of the tricks. If South discards as dummy's hearts are led, you finish by taking a trump finesse to make the slam.

2. The only play that has any chance to defeat the contract is the jack of spades. You know from the play to the first trick, where partner could not beat dummy's nine, that declarer has the A-K-Q of hearts. You therefore can't afford to play another heart, because declarer will then score three hearts, four diamonds and three clubs to finish with 10 tricks. What you hope is that South has something like:

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

It is known from the bidding that South does not have the ace or queen of spades, since he would not have bid one notrump (six to 10 points) if he had either of those cards plus the A-K-Q of hearts. Your only real hope, therefore, is that partner has four or five spades headed by the A-Q-10. Note that a low spade return would not succeed in that case, since declarer would play low from dummy to safeguard his contract.

Tomorrow: The pressure principle.  
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# Sports

## Regional ribbon

**Jay Co. junior places eighth in 400-meter dash at regional**

By **CHRIS SCHANZ**

The Commercial Review

INDIANAPOLIS — Aaron Funkhouser absorbed an elbow to the side shortly after exploding out of the blocks.

It took him a bit off his stride, but he was able to keep his position after 200 meters.

Making the turn onto the front stretch, Funkhouser appeared as if he would finish somewhere in the middle of his heat.

But his final kick put him near the front.

Funkhouser, a Jay County High School junior, placed eighth overall in the 400-meter dash for the Patriot boys track team in the IHSAA regional championships Thursday at Lawrence Central.

"It's just not really what I wanted to run," said Funkhouser, who at sectional a week earlier set a career-best time of 51.05 seconds, but crossed the line in 51.63 seconds Thursday. "It wasn't too far off my (personal best), so it's not a bad run. But I feel like I could have did better."

Jean Pieterse, a first-time regional qualifier in high jump, had his junior season. The top three places in each event advance to the state finals.

Although Funkhouser had a more critical evaluation of his performance, his coach, Joe Imel, sang a different tune.

"Anytime you can walk away with a ribbon at this track meet you're doing something special," Imel said. "Obviously the only thing more special is to get



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Jay County High School junior Aaron Funkhouser grits his way toward the finish line ahead of Speedway's Cale Bennett during the first heat of the 400-meter dash in the IHSAA Track and Field Regional championships on Thursday at Lawrence Central. Funkhouser was second in his heat and eighth overall with his time of 51.63 seconds.

to the state track meet, but who's kidding who? This is like the mini state track meet.

"I can't say enough about Aaron. He is an extremely competitive guy. He's walking right now not happy with his performance, but again he's coming home with a ribbon ... I'm extremely pleased with his results."

Seeded eighth out of 15 runners, Funkhouser kept his staggered position over Speedway's Cale Bennett, Mt. Vernon's Andrew Jones and Union City's Blayne Daniels through the first 250 meters. But as the runners started to come out of the final turn onto the front straightaway, the three inside

lanes had overtaken him.

Speedway's Eli Givens, running in lane No. 5, started to break away from the field. But at that point, as well, Funkhouser kicked it in gear and started to pick off those running inside of him.

With a number sticker fixed to the bottom of his left shoe he picked up along the way, Funkhouser pushed the final 40 meters and was the runner-up to Givens in their heat.

In the next heat, six runners posted faster times — Pike junior Troy Golden won the championship with a state-standard time of 49.17 seconds — putting Funkhouser in eighth place.

"It's definitely a big improve-

ment," said Funkhouser, who was two seconds slower and 15th at regional as a freshman in 2019.

"He's just a really talented sprinter that also just so happens to love the 400-meter dash, probably the toughest race in track and field," Imel said. "He's not built like a 400-meter dash runner with his length (but) what he lacks in length he makes up for in heart."

"He's a competitor." Funkhouser's one team point put Jay County in a three-way tie with Eastern Hancock and International School of Indiana for 29th place out of 32 scoring teams.

See Ribbon page 7

## Golfers beat ACHS

DECATUR — Griffin Mann bogeyed two holes. He made birdie on the last one to help make up for it.

Mann shot a 1-over-par 34 Thursday, helping the Jay County High School boys golf team to a

### Local roundup

157-159 victory over Adams Central at Cross Creek Golf Course.

It was a new season-low score for both Mann and the Patriots, who shot 158 on May 5.

Mann was even through his first three holes before going 1-over on the par-4 fourth hole and then bogeying the par-4 sixth. He made birdie on the ninth hole, the only par-5 of the round, edging Adams Central's Keaton Bush for match medalist honors.

Simon Pryor shot a career-low 39 as Jay County's second-best score, and Caleb DeRome was one stroke behind. Kyle Sanders completed the team total with his round of 44.

Gage Simms also competed, but his 51 did not factor into the overall score.

### All-Circuit cruises

All-Circuit Electrical cruised to a 21-6 victory Thursday against Jay County Monuments in Portland Junior League's Major softball division.

Jordyn Hutzler and Carley Trinidad each had two doubles for All-Circuit, which also got a pair of singles from Kendel Rowles and Emily Young. Trinidad finished with seven strikeouts as well.

Lillie Arnold, Jamie Davis and Dakota Chowning all singled for Jay County Monument.

See Beat page 7

## IndyCar courting Black fans, drivers

By **DAN GELSTON**

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Rod Reid ran a program full of young, Black kart racers locked out of a venue because of the pandemic and needing a track to race.

Indianapolis Motor Speedway had spent millions on upgrades on the historic property at the same time last year when the coronavirus had a steely grip on the nation. There was no guarantee — even if gates were open — that there would be room for NXG Youth Motorsports' usual spot teaching kids STEM classes in a makeshift classroom in the paddock or for their drivers to race around the cone-lined course in a parking lot.

The suggestion was made to Reid: Why not dial up the new boss at IMS?

His plea for help last June to Roger Penske — Reid noted the 2,300 kids from 11 to 15 years old who have passed through the school over 15 years looking for a path into motorsports — turned instead into a startling revelation for the Captain.

Yes, the NXG kids needed a place to learn and hone their craft. But the blossoming drivers also represented a rare chance for a minority group severely underrepresented in racing to feel at home inside the sprawling, 111-year-old speedway.

"We told him what we were about and he was really surprised," Reid said. "He did not know we existed. The reason we started, especially the idea of exposing the Black community to Indianapolis Motor Speedway, surprised

him because he said he couldn't believe people don't feel welcome here. I told him, you're talking years and years and years back to when a person of color couldn't even go to the speedway."

The 84-year-old Penske offered NXG space at IMS to resume the program and, essentially, a new start. He helped NXG start a working relationship with Chevrolet, and the program secured loans to purchase a truck for its trailer. The talks with Penske happened to come not long after the death of George Floyd, a catalyst that in part led to IndyCar's "Race for Equality and Change" initiative supporting diversity and inclusivity across the industry.

"I think the idea that a group of people would not feel welcome in a place he purchased, and a sport he loves, like I do, totally didn't make sense to him," Reid said.

Much like NASCAR dealt with its own racial reckoning last year, IndyCar moved to create a more diverse workforce throughout all levels of a series that has had just two Black drivers race in the Indy 500, its showcase annual event that dates to 1911. Willy T. Ribbs became the first Black driver to start the race in 1991 (and again in 1993) and George Mack in 2002 are it.

"Isn't it sad, all these years and not another Black driver?" Reid said.

The 66-year-old Ribbs, who drives this summer for the Superstar Racing Experience series, said he never cared much for his role as Indy 500 trailblazer. See **Courting** page 7

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