



## Thunderbolts join exclusive club with repeat championship

SPORTS, 1B

# Evansville COURIER & PRESS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026 | COURIERPRESS.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Braun signs bill honoring slain local Realtor Susan Haynie



Evansville Mayor Stephanie Terry addressed lawmakers, local officials and Susan Haynie's family members and supporters on May 11 during the ceremonial signing of House Enrolled Act 1250. PHOTOS BY HOUSTON HARWOOD/COURIER & PRESS

# 'In the hope that tragedies like this NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN'

**Houston Harwood**  
Evansville Courier & Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

EVANSVILLE – An auditorium at Evansville's Easterseals Early Learning Center was packed Monday afternoon, May 11, filled with Susan Haynie's sons, her friends, her former colleagues and strangers moved by her story to make the trip. There were more people, Gov. Mike Braun observed, than he had seen gather for a ceremonial bill signing in many months.

"There hasn't been one ceremonial signing this year that has gathered a crowd this large," Braun told the audience. "When I look at



Indiana Gov. Mike Braun displays copies of House Enrolled Act 1250 alongside State Rep. Tim O'Brien, R-Evansville, on May 11.

See BILL, Page 7A

VANDERBURGH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

## Higher profile is incoming head's goal

**Thomas B. Langhorne**  
Evansville Courier & Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

EVANSVILLE – Get ready for a new kind of Vanderburgh County Health Department.

The agency that helped shape Vanderburgh County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic will be more visible in the community, its soon-to-be leader, Dr. Jason Bredenkamp, told the Courier & Press.

Bredenkamp, who has been an emergency physician for 26 years, will replace Dr. Ken Spear effective May 22. Currently the chair of the Emergency Medicine Dept. at Ascension St. Vincent, Bredenkamp also serves as the president of the Vanderburgh County Medical Society.

The new health officer intends to act in the part-time position as a more of a public figure than the 79-year-old Spear, who rarely spoke to the Courier & Press, made few public appearances and left the Vanderburgh County Health Board guessing about his retirement plans last year. Spear has been the health officer since March 2014.

Bredenkamp, 55, said he sees the job as "a liaison between not only the public, but also corporations and businesses in town as well as legislation and Indianapolis and the state, and basically trumpeting the health department."

"I can tell you that as a boots on the ground emergency physician, I am shocked at how much I didn't know about this health department," he said in the agency's Mulberry Street headquarters. "I think that's part of my job, is to make sure everybody else knows what a treasure we have in this place."

See BREDEKAMP, Page 2A

## CenterPoint allows bills to be paid in person Wednesdays

**Jon Webb**  
Evansville Courier & Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

EVANSVILLE – Weeks after multiple ratepayers called its customer service operations useless during a public hearing, CenterPoint announced it now will allow residents to pay their bills in person one day a week.

On Wednesdays, Evansville-area ratepayers will be able to come to CenterPoint's Downtown office at 211 NW Riverside Drive to settle their bills and talk to a customer service representative in person about any issues they may have.

CenterPoint christened it the "Customer Connect" pilot, the utility wrote in a news release Monday morning. It will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each

Wednesday. Appointments aren't required.

The first session will launch Wednesday, May 13. Ratepayers can pay by card, checking or savings account, or Apple Pay. Cash won't be accepted.

CenterPoint's customer service attracted the ire of several people who testified before a panel of Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission members dur-

ing a hearing at Old National Events Plaza on April 7. They described long wait times, and they when they did get associates on the phone, some said they received conflicting or incorrect information.

Rep. Alex Burton, D-District 77, quoted the results of a recent community

See CENTERPOINT, Page 8A

**BIG STYLE! SMART PRICES!**

**NEW 2026 CHEVY EQUINOX LT**



T5872C

**\$27,850**

**NEW 2026 CHEVY TRAX LT**



T5493C

**\$22,990**

**NEW 2026 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER LT**



T57566CC

**\$23,990**

**EXPRESSWAY GMC**

**MT. VERNON, INDIANA**

Intersection of the Lloyd Expressway and I169 Bypass, Mt. Vernon, Indiana

**812-762-4007**

**ExpresswayChevrolet.com**

PRICE EXCLUDES TAX, TITLE AND LICENSE FEES. \$250 DOC FEE INCLUDED IN SALE PRICE. RESIDENTIAL RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY. 0% APR FOR 36 MONTHS. MUST FINANCE THROUGH GME. DEALER RETAINS APPLICABLE REBATES. PHOTOS FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY. SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS

### Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to [courierpress.com/enewspaper](http://courierpress.com/enewspaper) or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 182 | No. 109  
Subscribe 800-288-3100  
©2026 \$3.49



6 97822 01100 2