



Stout reaches 1K-point plateau at Elkhart

SPORTS, C1



Tattoo removal less fun than getting one

LIFE, D1

The Elkhart Truth

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WE BUILD COMMUNITY • YEAR 136, NO. 246



Salvation Army Major Tim Nauta looks at items for the Christmas baskets Friday during the Christmas distribution in Elkhart.

Elkhart Truth photos / Clayton Sidenbender

'It's important to give back'

Salvation Army distributes Christmas baskets

By CLAYTON SIDENBENDER
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ELKHART — The Salvation Army along with community volunteers gave out baskets with items during the annual Christmas assistance distribution.

There were 411 families who received assistance this year by pre-registering in the fall. The families received gifts, toys, household, personal hygiene items and food gift cards. The items were donated by local businesses, churches, organizations and individuals.

"We have to put together baskets here in house," Salvation Army Major Tim Nauta said. "Instead of depending on fully the public or people who take them, but we have great folks. One business I think took 150 baskets."

Among the local organizations that volunteered their



People in vehicles line up to receive their Christmas baskets from the Salvation Army volunteers outside the Salvation Army building on Friday morning.

time to give out baskets were Federated Media and Church Community Services. Representatives from both organizations helped the Salvation Army on Friday.

Zach Miller, radio host for Froggy 102.7, served with the Federated Media group on Friday. Miller said the

volunteering experience was a company initiative to serve the community.

"I think it's really important to make an impact on your community more than just your job and more than just raising your kids," Miller said. "I think that there's a real need to look out for

our neighbors that live in the community that might be going through something, a hard time or it might be an off year for them. If you can make an impact with a neighbor, I think ... it's what we're called to do as people,

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Charges filed in fatal crash with motorcycle

By JORDAN FOUTS
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ELKHART — A South Bend man is accused of being the driver in a fatal hit-and-run crash with a motorcyclist in July.

Eric Beal, 45, faces two counts of leaving the scene of an accident in a warrant issued Wednesday. The charge is a Level 3 felony because the accident killed a motorcyclist and caused severe injury to the passenger, and because Beal was

allegedly intoxicated at the time of the crash.

The crash killed 31-year-old Caleb Watson and left 25-year-old Madison Tucker with leg and hip injuries that made doctors doubtful she could walk again.

Bond is set at \$1 million in the warrant.

According to court documents and past reporting:

Elkhart police responded to the crash at C.R. 6 and John Weaver Parkway on July 10 shortly after 10 p.m. First responders treated an unre-

sponsive Watson at the scene but he died of his injuries at the hospital.

Tucker was transported to the hospital and then airlifted to Indianapolis. Her injuries included a broken hip, pelvis, femur and ankle.

Doctors said she would be hospitalized for around two months and were uncertain if she would be able to walk again, according to police.

Witnesses told officers that a light-colored Jeep struck the motorcycle and then fled. A piece of a vehicle that ap-

peared to be from the grill of a Jeep was found at the scene.

Police found a silver Jeep while searching the area and determined that it was registered to Beal. A witness named him as the driver during the crash and said Beal parked the vehicle at Towne and Country Apartments and waited to be picked up.

Beal allegedly claimed that his Jeep had been stolen and

See WARRANT, page A3

INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Backlash intensifies after Senate kills Trump's redistricting push

Trump allies and conservative groups warn Indiana could lose federal dollars

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle

INDIANAPOLIS — A day after the Indiana Senate rejected President Donald Trump's mid-decade redistricting proposal, warnings of political and financial retaliation escalated — including public threats that the Hoosier State could lose federal funding as punishment for GOP senators' refusal to approve the new congressional map.

The Republican-controlled state Senate voted 31-19 on Thursday to defeat the redistricting bill — a measure Trump and others had pushed for months as a way to carve Indiana's congressional map to potentially yield two additional Republican seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In a rare rebuke of Trump from within his own party, 21 of Indiana's Republican senators joined all 10 Democrats in voting down the proposal, ensuring it can't be revived until the 2027 session. Nineteen GOP senators voted in favor of the bill.

The outcome was met with fierce criticism from state and national Republican leaders who helped drive the effort.

Comments from Trump, Gov. Mike Braun and national GOP leadership signaled potential retaliation against lawmakers who broke ranks.

Reactions From Washington

Minutes after the vote, U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson addressed reporters at the U.S. Capitol, pushing back on the notion that Thursday's result reflected a weakening of Trump's influence.

Johnson said the Indiana vote was "inconsequential to that" and insisted the GOP will prevail in next year's midterm elections, regardless of how individual states vote.

He also refuted suggestions that Trump is a "lame duck," calling him "the most powerful president of this generation and many others," and downplayed the Indiana effort, saying the president "did not put in a major pressure campaign for it."

"He let his opinion be known — as he does on everything all the time, all day long. We win some, we lose some," Johnson continued. "We're going to win on whatever maps are presented. ... I'm very bullish. I'm

more bullish today than I was yesterday."

Trump and White House officials had numerous calls with Senate Republicans and Vice President JD Vance traveled to Indiana twice to push the effort.

Trump himself, speaking from the Oval Office, lamented the rejection of Indiana's proposed map and targeted Senate leadership. The president specifically named Republican Senate Pro Tem Rodric Bray, who voted against the measure and said repeatedly in recent months that too few GOP senators supported the mid-decade redistricting for it to pass.

"You had one gentleman, the head of the Senate, I guess Bray, whatever his name is ... He'll probably lose his next primary, whenever that is," Trump said, adding that Indiana's Republican Senate "has done a tremendous disservice."

"I'll certainly support anybody that wants to go against him," he added.

The president also asserted that his strong electoral performance in Indiana should have translated into support for his redistricting push.

"It's funny, because I won Indiana all three times by a landslide, and I wasn't working on it very hard. It would have been nice. I think we would have picked up two seats if we did that," he continued. "(Indiana) is a great place. I love the people there, they love me. We won in a landslide all three times. I got tremendous votes — record votes. ... There's no reason for (not redistricting)."

On social media, Trump's allies and conservative advocacy groups amplified the pressure.

Heritage Action — the advocacy and lobbying arm of The Heritage Foundation, a Washington, D.C.-based conservative think tank — posted just hours before the vote that "if the Indiana Senate fails to pass the map, all federal funding will be stripped from the state. Roads will not be paved. Guard bases will close. Major projects will stop."

Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith echoed that assertion, saying in a post on X Thursday night that the Trump administration was "VERY clear" in its warnings to state lawmakers and the governor that a failed map could bring consequences. Beckwith deleted the post Friday morning.

"They told many lawmakers, cabinet members and the (governor) and I that this would happen," Beckwith said in the since-deleted post.

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Tomorrow's weather

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THE OFFICIAL CHOICE AWARDS South Bend

NORTH WOODS Village

> EDISON LAKES <

Cookies with Santa

SAT., DECEMBER 13TH
11AM - 12PM

at North Woods Village

1409 E. Day Road, Mishawaka, IN 46545 • NorthWoodsMemoryCare.com

Bring your holiday cheer and join us for a sweet morning with Santa! Enjoy delicious cookies and milk while you snap festive photos and share your Christmas wishes. Families and friends are welcome—it's the perfect way to celebrate the season together at North Woods Village.

Space is limited for this complimentary event. RSVP by Dec. 12 by calling 574-247-1866 or scan the QR code to reserve your spot.

