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Alex's Bates honors grandfather's battle

Man, woman die from gunshot wounds at Anderson apartment

Family members discovered bodies Thursday night

KEN DE LA BASTIDE
THE HERALD BULLETIN

ANDERSON — Local police are investigating the Thursday night deaths of a man and woman from apparent gunshot wounds at a home on the northeast side of Anderson. Officers were dispatched at 8:11 p.m. to the 3200 block of Autumn Ridge after two adult sisters found their mother and boyfriend

dead inside an apartment. Madison County Coroner Adam Matson identified the deceased as Hilda Farrow, 61, and George Lark, 44. Farrow and Lark suffered apparent single gunshot wounds and Anderson detectives collected two firearms from the residence, according to Caleb McKnight, Anderson police public information officer. The sisters came to Anderson

to check on their mother's welfare after not hearing from her for several days, he said. The investigation remains ongoing and autopsies will be performed. According to Madison County court records, Lark was arrested in 2020 on charges of battery with a deadly weapon and criminal recklessness with a deadly weapon. He pleaded guilty in Madison Circuit Court Division 1 in 2022 and was

sentenced to five years in prison with one year suspended. Court records indicate Lark served his sentence on home detention. The incident is the second in less than a week that resulted in multiple deaths, following a fatal stabbing and shooting in the 3000 block of County Road 200 West late on the night of May 9. Madison County Prosecutor Rodney Cummings said in a press release Wednesday that no formal charges would be filed against John Christo-

pher Worley, 41, Anderson, who had been preliminarily charged with murder in the stabbing death of Koty L. Riall, 37, and shooting death of his father, Rodney D. Riall, 58, at their rural Anderson home. The prosecutor's office determined the incident was a case of self-defense, but charges could be filed if new information is received during the investigation. Follow **Ken de la Bastide** on Twitter @KendelaBastide, or call 765-640-4863.



Caleb Amick | The Herald Bulletin

The Harding Street Station in Indianapolis, owned by AES Indiana, is a coal-fired power plant that could be affected by a proposed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's rule change regarding coal ash. Advocates fear relaxing coal ash regulations could lead to environmental disasters.

COAL ASH CONUNDRUM

Proposed repeal of cleanup regulations could have far-reaching effects

CALEB AMICK
THE HERALD BULLETIN

ANDERSON — The green energy debate is sometimes framed as choosing between affordable energy and environmental responsibility. Some people believe that comparison misses a larger point. "It's a false choice," said Ben Inskip, program director for the Citizens Action Coalition. "We can have a cleaner environment and we can have affordable rates. They don't have to be mutually exclusive." Affordability was a factor in the Trump administration's decision to order two Indiana coal plants to remain open at least through mid-June. The plants, at the R.M. Schahfer generating station in Wheatfield and the F.B. Culley generating station in Newburgh, are operating by the Northern Indiana Public Service Company

and CenterPoint Energy. "Americans deserve access to affordable, reliable, and secure energy to power their homes all the time, regardless of whether the wind is blowing or the sun is shining," United States Energy Secretary Chris Wright in a press release announcing the order. Officials at several Indiana utilities are pushing for further measures which they believe will help production. That includes repealing the EPA's Biden-era coal ash cleanup regulations, which was still under consideration in April. Any proposed changes will not be finalized until June after the public comment period ends. "There is a need to revisit the overall approach for implement-

ing the federal program, as the current regulatory regime results in inefficiency and wasteful over-regulation," wrote Utility Solid Waste Activities Group, an organization representing some power utility companies. Coal ash is a waste product left behind after coal is burned. It is not biodegradable, which means utilities have two choices — store it or recycle it. Advocates say both methods, if not executed properly, can have dire environmental and public health repercussions. "Indiana has been burning coal for electricity since the 1920s, so we've accumulated tens of millions of tons of coal ash," said Indra Frank, coal ash advisor for the Hoosier Environmental Coun-

cil. "We still have coal fired power plants ... Indiana is producing about five million tons of coal ash per year." Frank said most coal ash is stored in unlined pits near rivers or other waterways. Coal ash contains toxic chemicals including arsenic, boron and lithium, which can seep into the ground once the ash gets wet. That seepage can contaminate nearby waterways, some of which are used for drinking water. According to a 2022 report from the Earthjustice and The Environmental Integrity Project, 91% of U.S. coal plants are contaminating groundwater. The report resonates with residents of Pines, Indiana, a town of about 600 people nestled near the Lake Michigan shoreline, about 30 miles east of Gary. According to the EPA, in May

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Local businesses, leaders honored at Alliance awards night

LILY JONES
THE HERALD BULLETIN

ANDERSON — Longevity and commitment to community were among the accomplishments celebrated Thursday as local business leaders gathered to honor their own during the Madison County Alliance's annual awards night. The event is meant to honor businesses that have been in operation for many years, ranging from 25 years to 100 years, as well as celebrating individual leaders who are making a difference in Madison County. Marissa Skaggs, the Madison County Alliance's president and CEO, was excited to see her first awards ceremony as president unfold. "This is a great opportunity for us to celebrate longstanding businesses and organizations within Madison County," Skaggs said. "We are celebrating several that have (reached) 25 years and all the way up to 100 years. "That's a big achievement, and we're excited to celebrate that piece of our business community, and shine a light on wonderful folks who pour into this community on a variety of levels." Kim Townsend, who serves as the chair of the Madison County Alliance Board of Directors, said the awards night is a great way to give thanks to the businesses in the community. "It just reinforces to people who serve and work that they are valued and they are appreciated," Townsend said. "It's good for people to get more fuel to keep going in their respective businesses. Just saying thank you and highlighting their achievements, I think it's really a boast for anybody." Zina Teague received the Emerging Leader Award, one of nine individual awards given at the event. Teague, the executive director of the Leadership Academy of Madison County, said receiving the award was an honor. "It truly is humbling to know that folks are seeing and recognizing my work, and are like, 'We think you are doing great work and we want to honor that tonight,'" Teague said. "I think it's always important to pause and acknowledge the good that's happening, because that is hope that we need in order to continue to move

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Tonight: Scattered showers and thunderstorms.
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