



High school boys basketball: Our takeaways from sectional pairings

SPORTS, 1B

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Jennilyn Nichols, the mother of a transgender daughter, speaks during the annual LGBTQ+ Statehouse Day on Jan. 28 at the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis. The event comes one day after the Indiana Senate passed Senate Bill 182, which would bar individuals from using a bathroom that does not match their sex assigned at birth. CHRISTINE TANNOUS/INDYSTAR

LAFAYETTE

Right Steps wants to build new child-care center

Jillian Ellison
Lafayette Journal & Courier
USA TODAY NETWORK

Greater Lafayette nonprofit Right Steps moved a step closer to building its fifth child-care center in Tippecanoe County after receiving unanimous approval for a necessary rezoning on Lafayette's north end.

In a rezone request presented to the Tippecanoe County Area Plan Commission on Wednesday, Right Steps described plans to build the new child-care center on the sites of the former Hanna Community Center and the Dennis Burton Care Center. Encompassing the two properties at 1201 N. 18th St. and 1200 N. 19th St., the properties would shift from R2 for residential use to NBU for neighborhood business.

The Hanna Center moved from its former 18th Street location in 2018, into the North End Community Center. The Dennis Burton Care Center was razed in 2024 after the building was found to be too far beyond repair.

Ian Loera, a representative for Right Steps, said during Wednesday's meeting that the proposed child-care center would be consistent with the previous center and social services the former buildings offered.

"Through this proposal, Right Steps seeks to continue the legacy of serving community child-care needs throughout Greater Lafayette," Loera said.

The site for the new Right Steps center holds deep roots in Lafayette's north end. The beginnings can be traced back to the former Lincoln Center, according to the APC staff report. The Lincoln Center's foundational purpose was to serve the welfare and social needs of the African-American community and other minority groups, where resources were limited.

In 1923, a new \$54,000 brick Lincoln School opened at 14th and Salem streets with classrooms, a gymnasium and an assembly hall, also serving as a community center. In 1943, the Lincoln Community Center was organized at Lincoln School, where fundraising made it possible to buy land at the corner of 18th and Hanna streets.

In 1978, the Lincoln Community Center moved into houses within the 1800 block of Hanna Street, according to the APC report. In an effort to take

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A young boy plays with a toy train inside the Creasy Right Steps Child Development Center, Jan. 27, 2020, in Lafayette.

NIKOS FRAZIER/JOURNAL & COURIER FILE

Abortion drugs, transgender bathroom restrictions in bill

Marissa Meador
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

A handful of bills that had early momentum have died just yards away from the finish line after not receiving a committee hearing in the second half of the legislative session.

They span topics as simple as pork tenderloin and as complex as gender and abortion. While these stalled bills won't see the final week of session, key provisions could still be stitched into another bill in the form of an amendment. It's certainly happened in the past, and it's already begun this year.

Here's everything you need to know about the legislation that couldn't quite cut it.

Senate Bill 21 - Pork tenderloin

A bill to make the pork tenderloin Indiana's state sandwich died after failing

to get a hearing in the House.

The breaded delicacy has been long recognized as an Indiana staple and making it official was a "labor of love" for bill author and former Sen. Andy Zay. It passed the Senate in 37-11 vote on Jan. 13.

Though SB 21 got further than its 2023 predecessor, Zay's final legislative effort was never heard by the House Government and Regulatory Reform Committee, where it was assigned after its Senate passage.

Senate Bill 182 - Transgender bathroom restrictions

SB182 would have required people to use school restrooms or locker rooms based on the bill's narrow definition of sex and gender, effectively keeping transgender Hoosiers from using the restroom that matches their gender identity. It also would have penalized schools and state educational institu-

tions who fail to enforce the law.

The legislation passed the Senate 37-8 but was never heard by its assigned House committee.

It had also been fiercely opposed by LGBTQ+ rights advocates who feared the restrictions would harm transgender people who have already been subject to a host of previous crackdowns by the legislature.

But not all of the bill's proponents have given up. Lt. Go. Micah Beckwith called for the legislature to pass the bill Feb. 18, the eve of the deadline for it to be heard in committee.

"What's the point of a supermajority if we govern like we're in the minority?" he wrote in the post.

Senate Bill 236 - Abortion drugs

A bill designed to close potential loopholes in Indiana's 2022 abortion

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News reports, J&C readers' comments cited for change of venue in Moss case

Ron Wilkins
Lafayette Journal & Courier
USA TODAY NETWORK

LAFAYETTE — Journal & Courier readers' comments about Thomas Moss and the Jan. 18 shooting of Judge Steve and Kim Meyer posted on Facebook play prominently in Moss' arguments in support of a change of venue from Tippecanoe County.

Five pages of the 22-page motion filed Wednesday include screenshots of J&C readers' comments against Moss, against Meyer or in favor of law enforcement.

"Beyond the prejudicial pretrial pub-

licity and comments made by prospective jurors, Judge Meyer's prominence in the community makes a fair trial — in this county — impossible, and a change of venue constitutionally necessary," the motion states.

"The media coverage has been far from neutral," Moss' attorney, Andrew Baldwin, wrote in the motion. "The reports have repeatedly and prominently featured ... prejudicial information — much of which may be inadmissible at trial — and disseminated it to the Tippecanoe County jury pool."

Baldwin is an attorney in Franklin, Indiana, and defended Delphi murderer Richard Allen in the trial for the killings

of Libby German and Abby Williams. Allen's appeal is pending in the Indiana Court of Appeals.

Moss, 43, faces a dozen charges, including multiple counts of attempted murder and conspiracy to commit murder. Baldwin notes in the motion that if Moss is convicted, he faces more than 100 years in prison.

Moss was scheduled to stand trial Jan. 20 — two days after the judge's shooting — on 2024 allegations of intimidation, gun law violations and domestic battery. Prosecutors allege the shooting of the Meyers was a gang hit to

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