



## BASKETBALL

### SC edges Hebron in PCC tourney

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## LA PORTE COUNTY

# Herald-Dispatch

Friday, January 23, 2026

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\$4

# Trail Creek cleanup moves forward

### MC Redevelopment Commission OKs change order for project

By ANTHONY HUDSON  
Staff Writer

MICHIGAN CITY — Cleanup of a contaminated site in Trail Creek has pushed forward, with city officials looking toward closing out the project.

The Michigan City Redevelopment Commission, during their Jan. 12 meeting, unanimously approved a change order for August Mack for environmental work at the former Begley/Concord Cleaners site in the amount of \$18,361.60. For more than a decade,

the city has been working on what was known as the former Concord Cleaners project, an environmental cleanup of a once-operating dry cleaners site at 1033 E. Michigan Blvd. According to Redevelopment Commission member Skyler York, the project

is short on funds because it took longer to obtain its clean test results due to additional sampling and other components. “You have to get, I think,



YORK

two full cycles of testing done at our monitoring wells. We didn't hit that, so it took a little bit longer to get that two-cycle process so that we can close this out,” York said.

York stated that the change order will cover their expenses temporarily, then another portion will be needed later this year for 2026 to close out

through the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM).

Matt McDevitt, project manager for August Mack, expressed that they have developed soil management plans, as that was one of the previous requirements for IDEM to

See CLEANUP, page A3



Photos by Anthony Hudson

Youth dancers perform during the Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration held at the H.O.P.E. Community Center in Michigan City on Monday. The event was sponsored by the Melanated Business Association (MBA) of Northwest Indiana.

# Putting everyone on the same page

### Community joins for MLK celebration at H.O.P.E Center

By ANTHONY HUDSON  
Staff Writer

MICHIGAN CITY — At the H.O.P.E. Community Center in Michigan City, residents, leaders and performers came together to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The “Remembering the Dream, One Table, One



Attendees enjoy a meal during the MLK Day celebration held at the H.O.P.E. Community Center in Michigan City on Monday.

See MLK, page A5

# State senate advances school cellphone limits

By CASEY SMITH  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

INDIANAPOLIS — A divided Indiana Senate approved a bill Tuesday to tighten school cellphone restrictions, advancing the proposal to the House despite concerns about safety, cost and enforcement.

Senate Bill 78, authored by Sen. Jeff Raatz, R-Richmond, passed the chamber 28-19 after a 40-minute floor debate.

Eight Democrats and 11 Republicans voted against the measure. GOP votes in opposition were cast by Sens. Ron



RAATZ

of Highland, Aaron Freeman of Indianapolis, Jean Leising of Oldenburg, Ryan Mishler of Mishawaka, Jim Tomes of Wadesville, Kyle Walker of Lawrence and Greg Walker of Columbus.

The legislation would require all public schools to adopt a

ban that prohibits students from using or possessing a wireless communication device during the school day and requires that any teacher-directed use of a device “for educational purposes” occur only on school-supplied devices.

It also mandates that each district choose between two enforcement models: a “no device policy,” in which students may not bring phones to school at all; or a “secure storage policy,” in which students may bring phones but must store them so they are “inaccessible throughout the school day.”

The bill expands the definition of “wireless communication device” to include smartwatches connected to a phone, cell tower or the Internet.

Under current state law, students are prohibited from using phones during instructional time, but they can use them during lunch and passing periods.

**‘Adults need to be in charge’**

Raatz said the bill is driven

See CELLPHONE, page A2

# Elected officials discuss impacts of social media’s rise

By ELIZABETH BUNTON  
Staff Writer

WESTVILLE — The rise in social media, according to local and state elected officials, is the main culprit behind political turmoil.

When asked during the Third House Session — which was hosted by La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership, Michigan City Chamber of Commerce and Westville Area Chamber of Commerce on Purdue University Northwest’s Westville campus on Jan. 16 — about the current climate across political lines, Michigan City Mayor Angie Nelson Deutch said, at a local level, everyone works well together, regardless of political party.

“Most of my peers, I don’t know what their party is. We have all the same issues, regardless of party,” Nelson Deutch said.

“We don’t get bogged down. We want money for

streets. We want to make sure that we have police and fire protection — all those things. I think the thing that has changed dramatically is social media,” she added.

The sentiment was shared across the five-person panel, which consisted of State Senators Mike Bohacek, R-Michiana Shores, and Rodney Pol Jr., D-Cheserterton; State Representatives Jim Pressel, R-Rolling Prairie, and Randy Novak, D-Michigan City; La Porte County Commissioner Steve Holifield; and Nelson Deutch. La Porte Mayor Tom Dermody was absent due to illness.

Coming from someone who has recently worked at both a local and state level, Novak, who, before being caucused as a state representative sat on the County Council, stated while “heated” debates may occur down state, “social media

See SOCIAL MEDIA, page A2

# Woman faces charges after gas station mayhem

STAFF REPORTS

ROLLING PRAIRIE — Attempting to run over a gas station employee — while also threatening to shoot him — apparently wasn’t enough trouble for one Elkhart woman, who later went on to claw a La Porte County deputy trying to handcuff her, the Sheriff’s Office said.

Now Marisol Trinidad, 20, of Elkhart, is facing preliminary charges of battery against a police officer engaged in official duty, a Level 6 felony; criminal recklessness with a deadly weapon (motor vehicle), a Level 6 felony; intimidation, a Level 6 felony; resisting law enforcement, an A misdemeanor; criminal trespass, an A misdemeanor; and disorderly conduct, a B misdemeanor.

According to the Sheriff’s

Office, the incident began around 6:32 p.m. Jan. 16, when deputies received reports of a woman in a green Chevy Cruze trying to strike an employee with her vehicle at Family Express, 4093 E. U.S. 20, Rolling Prairie. Witnesses also claimed she threatened to shoot the employee as well.

The woman, later identified as Trinidad, reportedly remained at the scene and contacted law enforcement herself, telling Dispatch she had been chased out of the gas station by a male employee, who then “realized he shouldn’t mess with her once she got into her vehicle,” the Sheriff’s Office said. She emphasized this was because she was a “U.S. citizen.”

When asked what vehicle

See CHARGES, page A5

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