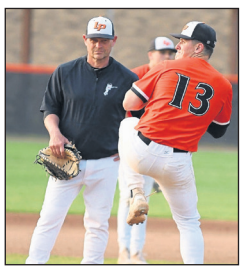
BASEBALL

One more season for LP's Upp

FOR MORE, SEE PAGE B1



LOCAL

Rolling Prairie High School holds reunion

FOR MORE, SEE PAGE A3



LA PORTE COUNTY
Herald-Dispatch

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Cost of basics outpacing inflation

ALICE data shows 43 percent of 43,030 La Porte County households struggle

STAFF REPORTS

La PORTE COUNTY — La Porte County households are continuing to face financial hardship according to a United Way report.

The United Way of La Porte County, on Wednesday, released new data from the 2026 ALICE Report (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed), revealing that the cost of household necessities in Indiana has outpaced inflation every year for more than 15 years, leaving many struggling to get by.



PATE

The report is provided through a partnership between Indiana United Ways and United Way of Central Indiana.

The latest State of ALICE report for Indiana includes data from the ALICE Essentials Index, which tracks the rising costs of only six basics families need to live and work: housing, child care, food, transportation, health care and technology.

In La Porte County, ALICE data shows that 43 percent of households are either living below the poverty level or struggling to afford their basic needs. That's well over one in three of the total 43,030 households – 18,503 households.

"In La Porte County, ALICE families fill essential roles within our communities – they are the caregivers, clerks, delivery drivers, health care support workers and so many other essential

See **ALICE**, page A2

LA PORTE FAITHFUL WITNESS CORPUS CHRISTI



Photos by Amanda Haverstick

Members of the clergy lead the faithful across Michigan Avenue in La Porte during Holy Family Parish's Corpus Christi Eucharistic Procession on Sunday afternoon. The procession began at St. Joseph Church, 109 C. St., traveled to St. Peter Church, 1101 Michigan Ave. and concluded at Sacred Heart Church, 201 Bach St. **More photos on page A5.**





LEFT: Father Alex Kouris carries a monstrance containing the consecrated Eucharistic host from St. Peter Church in La Porte during Holy Family Parish's Corpus Christi Eucharistic Procession on Sunday. The Catholic religious procession is held in honor of the Eucharist, the consecrated bread and wine believed to be the body and blood of Christ. **RIGHT:** Flanked by members of the Knights of Columbus, Holy Family Parish's Corpus Christi Eucharistic Procession leaves St. Joseph Church on Sunday.

Parcel rezoned for Microsoft data center

By ELIZABETH BUNTON
Staff Writer



PHILLIPS

La PORTE — One parcel within the future Microsoft data center campus has been rezoned.

The La Porte City Council, on June 1, unanimously approved an ordinance to amend the zoning ordinance of the city of La Porte to rezone one parcel or real estate in the city of La Porte. Councilman Tim Franke was absent. The first reading of the ordinance occurred at the council's May 18 meeting.

This approval comes on the heels of the City Plan Commission, who, at their May 12 meeting, unanimously agreed to recommend the parcel rezoning to the City Council.

This one parcel of land, according to City Planner Craig Phillips, is already within the city limits, and, before the council's rezoning, was zoned as a R1B or a single-family residential zone. After the council's approval, the parcel was rezoned as a M1 or light industrial zone.

"Basically, it's intended to be ... part of the overall campus of the Microsoft data center campus," Phillips said on June 1.

"Located along Boyd Boulevard," the parcel of land sits next to the recently approved East Annexation, which the Plan Commission also heard a request for rezoning – from agricultural to a M1 or light industrial zone – at their May meeting.

Broken into two separate actions by the Plan Commission, the council, as of late, has only approved the rezoning of the single parcel of land, and the rezoning of the East Annexation

See **REZONED**, page A2

Board of Works approves light duty policy for MCFD

By ANTHONY HUDSON
Staff Writer



TAYLOR

MICHIGAN CITY — A light duty policy has been approved for the Michigan City Fire Department.

The Michigan City Board of Public Works, during their June 1 meeting, unanimously approved Michigan City Fire Chief Barrett Taylor's request to adopt Policy No. 211, which establishes guidelines for light duty assignments within the Fire Department.

According to Taylor, eligible employees may be assigned to light duty work for up to 90 days after using three sick days, with additional 30-day extensions available upon review and approval.

Taylor explained that the department had been operating under a light duty policy established on Nov. 5, 2007, and continued to follow that policy until September of last year.

According to Taylor, Mayor Angie Nelson Deuitch first met with department leadership, including the deputy chief, and then met with union representatives about one to two weeks later.

Taylor said those discussions resulted in a temporary light duty plan that the mayor and union agreed would remain in effect through the end of the year.

"And the reason why she was going to end the year was, there were hopes that they would negotiate something and have it in the contract," Taylor said.

However, Taylor said negotiations after the first of

See **LIGHT DUTY**, page A2

Arrest made in '24 battery case over car repair

STAFF REPORTS

MICHIGAN CITY — The La Porte County Prosecutor's Office has announced an arrest in a nearly two-year-old battery incident that resulted in permanent vision loss to the alleged victim.

And it was all over a broken car.



HATCHEL

Harley Lee Hatchel, 33, of Michigan City, has been preliminarily charged with aggravated battery resulting in loss or impairment of a bodily function, a Level 3 felony; and battery resulting in serious bodily injury, a Level 5 felony. He is being held in La Porte County Jail on a $25,000 cash bond.

According to the probable cause affidavit, officers with the Michigan City Police Department were initially dispatched to a disturbance complaint in the 900 block of Hitchcock Road in Michigan City at 10:23 a.m. Nov. 18, 2024. Upon their arrival, they found a man battered with a torn and bloody white T-shirt, blood and bruising on the face, a swollen left eye, a small laceration behind his left ear and a bruise on the right side of the neck.

See **ARREST**, page A2

