

GIRLS SOCCER

Wolves end sectional drought

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LOCAL

LP County Master Gardeners honors members

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LA PORTE COUNTY

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\$4

Candidate forums spark engagement

Judges and prosecutor candidates attend their first LWV event

By ELIZABETH BUNTON
Staff Writer

La PORTE — The first League of Women Voters of La Porte County candidate fo-

runs, held on Sept. 23 at the La Porte County Annex building, welcomed the candidates running for County Superior Courts No. 1 and 3, as well as the candidates running for

County Prosecutor.

After spending five and half years as Superior Court No. 1 judge – and devoting most of that time reducing that court’s pending cases from around

2,500 to “just over 1,000” with the help of her staff – Judge Jaime Oss understands that she holds a great amount of responsibility in ensuring that everyone that appears before her feels heard and seen. “I believe that the most im-

portant responsibility is making sure that due process is given to everyone who comes to the court, making sure that they are heard, feel heard, that everyone is treated with dignity and respect, and that the rule of law is followed,” Oss said.

Hoping to reclaim his seat as Superior Court No. 1 judge – a position he held for six years before being tapped by the Indiana Supreme Court to be a senior judge for the state,

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Photos by Amanda Haverstick

A rider navigates their horse through the arena at Reins of Life’s Michigan City facility during the therapeutic horseback riding center’s recent Benefit Dressage Show. The annual event served to raise funds for Reins of Life and educate the community on their mission.

Everyone has ‘lots to offer’

Dressage show supports Reins of Life

By AMANDA HAVERSTICK
Staff Writer

MICHIGAN CITY — Equestrians from across the area recently showcased their

ridership skills at Reins of Life’s annual Benefit Dressage Show.

The purpose of the event, held Sept. 26 and 27 at the therapeutic horseback riding center’s Michigan City facility at 9375W CR-300N, was three-fold.

“One is to help us finan-

cially to raise funds for our programs to be affordable or close to nothing in price,” said Reins of Life Executive Director Dorota Janik.

“The second purpose is to provide an opportunity for our participants to have experience competing with able bodied riders and experience

a show atmosphere because they would typically not travel anywhere else – this is a safe place,” she added.

The third purpose is to educate the community about the abilities of the program’s participants.

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A rider receives instructions while guiding their horse through the arena on the first day of Reins of Life’s annual Benefit Dressage Show on Sept. 26.

LP Invitational high school hoops returns

STAFF REPORTS

La PORTE — High school basketball fans can start counting down to another

unforgettable weekend of hoops as the La Porte Invitational returns to the historic La Porte Civic Auditorium this January.

The La Porte Invitational returns Jan. 8 through Jan. 10 for its sixth year.

This three-day, nationally recognized basketball show-

case will feature 10 of the best high school programs from across the nation,

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MC Flock camera ordinance is dead

Expansion proposal fails after loss of sponsorship

By MATT FRITZ
Staff Writer

MICHIGAN CITY — “The ordinance is dead.”

That was the pronouncement by Michigan City Common Council President Tracie Tillman – followed by a round of applause from the audience – when Michigan City’s proposed \$300,000 expansion of its Flock surveillance system lost the support of all four of its sponsors, effectively killing the ordinance in its original form, on Tuesday.

During the Oct. 6 meeting of the council, the proposed ordinance – which requires a \$300,000 appropriation from the city’s Rainy Day Fund – was taken off the table, where it had been ever since the council’s Sept. 15 meeting, only to have all four of its sponsors withdraw their support, citing privacy concerns from the public.

When no council members opted to sponsor the bill in their stead, the ordinance was determined to be dead.

“After listening to feedback I’ve gotten from my constituents, seeing that the company itself that manufactures Flock systems [is] making some changes, and in response to the public feedback and the possibility that even congress may get involved



KORA



COULTER



DABNEY



PRZYBYLINSKI

with this, I feel that this is not the right time to expand the Flock program,” said At-Large Councilman Dr. Vidya Kora, one of the ordinance’s sponsors.

“We’ll just stick with what we currently have. So I would also like to drop my sponsorship of the expansion of the Flock program,” he added.

And he wasn’t alone, as councilmen Greg Coulter, Bryant Dabney and Don Przybylinski made similar announcements.

“I’m excited to see that the state and federal government, as well as Flock itself, are going to introduce more protections and regulations, but at the moment, with public feedback on this, I don’t support the expansion of the system as we have it now,” Coulter said.

“That said, in the future, I would still be interested in the Drone [as First Responder program] and further protections for the

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Salvation Army is seeking bell ringers

Paid and volunteer ringers needed for Red Kettle Campaign

STAFF REPORTS

La PORTE COUNTY — The Salvation Army serving La Porte County is now recruiting both paid and volunteer bell ringers for its annual Red Kettle Campaign in Michigan City and La Porte.

Kettles will begin appearing at locations throughout the community in early November and remain in place through Christmas Eve, raising critical funds to support local families and year-round programs across La Porte County.

The iconic Red Kettle Campaign serves as one of The Salvation Army’s largest fundraising efforts each

year.

Donations collected during the campaign help provide Christmas assistance for families during the holiday season while also supporting ongoing services such as food pantries, weekend backpack feeding programs for children, free summer camp opportunities, emergency assistance, and other programs that help individuals and families facing hardship.

“Every dollar placed in a Red Kettle helps us serve our neighbors in need right here in La Porte County,” said Major Dale Simmons of The Salvation Army.

“With many families continuing to feel the impact of rising costs and economic uncertainty, the need for our services remains high. We rely on the generosity

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