

PHAROS-TRIBUNE

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Twelve Mile
woman gets
maximum
sentence

Sayger found guilty in
child trafficking case

JAMES BENNETT III
PHAROS-TRIBUNE

Prior to Thursday afternoon, Judge Stephen Kitts had never given a maximum sentence.

He explained that was a practical matter — a maximum sentence assumes the convicted is the worst of the worst.

Kitts delivered seven maximum sentences to 38-year-old Amanda Sayger of Twelve Mile. She is now set to serve 252 years with the Indiana Department of Correction, with 139 days credit.

The charges, which were originally filed in August 2022, stemmed from an investigation by Detective Jason Rozzi of the Logansport Police Department that revealed Sayger had arranged for sexual encounters between a 13-year-old and a then 36-year-old male in exchange for money.

During the October trial, Sayger testified that she was the one having sex for money, instead of the 13-year-old victim who had been given alcohol and THC gummies.

A jury deliberated for less than two hours before finding Sayger guilty of all 11 charges, which included conspiracy to commit child molesting, assisting in the commission of child molesting and promotion of child sex trafficking and neglect.

Seven of those charges were used for sentencing after the others were vacated.

At the sentencing, Sayger's mother asked Judge Kitts to see her daughter's humanity. She described Sayger as a kind, funny, caring and outgoing

See **SENTENCE** on A3



Amanda Sayger

HISTORIC SNUB



Leslie Bonilla Muñiz | Indiana Capital Chronicle

Sen. Mike Young blasts his chamber for ignoring the governor's call for a special session about redistricting, on Organization Day, held on Tuesday, Nov. 18.

Legislature appears poised to ignore governor's special session call

CASEY SMITH
INDIANA CAPITAL CHRONICLE

For decades, Hoosier governors and lawmakers have sparred over what can be done during a special legislative session. But state leaders are now confronting a different dilemma — can the General Assembly legally ignore a governor's demand to convene?

Indiana's debate reached a new breaking point Tuesday when the Senate chamber voted to adjourn until Jan. 5, rebutting Gov. Mike Braun's call for a special session on redistricting.

The Senate's decision to simply not show up appears to be unprecedented in state history.

Republican Sen. Mike Young, who supports redistricting, said Tuesday that lawmakers are already, by definition, in a special session and therefore can't ignore it.

"The governor has the power to call us into a special session, which he's done," Young said. "But we have a right as a body to set a different schedule. ... We could have been in and adjourned, sine die, but we chose not to do it. This is a slap in the face of the governor of the state of Indiana."

He told the Indiana Capital Chronicle that the legislature must at least gavel in and out of the special session — even if redistricting matters are left untouched.

"We first have to go in," Young said. "I'm not saying we have to

See **SESSION** on A3

Lewis Cass theater students to perform 'Elf the Musical'

Show based on
the Will Ferrell classic

JOSH FLYNN
FOR THE PHAROS-TRIBUNE

Brecken Smith, a Lewis Cass sophomore, seems capable of doing it all. He plays football, baseball and swims. He's an actor. He even has a director's hat he can switch into when his theater directors are in a difficult spot.

This weekend Smith finds himself spreading holiday cheer as Buddy the Elf in Lewis Cass's production of "Elf The Musical."

The musical is based on the 2003 Will Ferrell comedy and first appeared onstage in 2010. Buddy was raised in the North Pole as one of Santa's elves. When he discovers he is actually human, Santa Claus encourages Buddy to head to New York City to find his father, (played

by freshman Sam Hull) who just happens to be on Santa's naughty list.

"The storyline is very true to the movie," said Abby Guy, the Lewis Cass choir director who co-directs the play alongside elementary school teacher Joyce Bower. "The songs and the music they have incorporated into it are very fun with a big city, big band Christmas in New York feeling. I think that the music is really great. Not to mention our cast does a great job of performing."

Smith brings childlike exuberance to the role. On the stage he's a whirlwind, spinning about as if every new sight is a magnificent wonder to behold. When he does slow down it's because he's been stripped of his colorful elf outfit and reduced to being a civilian or is tackling a school project with the laser focus of an elementary school student. Smith's performance will be a joy

If You Go

When: 7 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday

Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5 students, free for children under 5

Where: Lewis Cass High School, 6422 E. St. Rd. 218, Walton (Use doors 26 or 17)

to watch for both adults and children alike.

Did he watch Will Ferrell's performance from the film to prepare for the role? Not yet. He's been bingeing "Stranger Things" to get ready for its final season.

Reuniting with Smith as a lead is junior Maddy Willis. The two played Danny and Sandy in last spring's performance of "Grease." Willis plays Jovie, a young woman

See **ELF** on A2



Josh Flynn | For the Pharos-Tribune

Lewis Cass High School students Brecken Smith and Maddy Willis team up once again in the school's production of "Elf the Musical." Smith plays Buddy the Elf and Willis plays Jovie in this musical adaptation of the Will Ferrell comedy. The sophomore and junior took the stage together as Danny and Sandy in last spring's performance of "Grease."

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FIRST AMENDMENT

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

WEATHER

Rainy day, thunder possible.
High 55, Low 47.
Complete forecast on Page A7.


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