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PHAROS-TRIBUNE

‘SO MUCH TALENT’



Photos by James Bennett III | Pharos-Tribune

Mariachi Internacional de Bloomington performs at the grand opening of The Pavilion and The Kitchen on Saturday.

The Pavilion & Kitchen holds grand opening with multicultural celebration

JAMES BENNETT III
PHAROS-TRIBUNE

The line stretching out from She Rylou Cole’s Filipino food stand never seemed to disappear on Saturday.

She was told to prepare for roughly 400 customers during the grand opening for The Pavilion, the new home for Logansport’s farmers market and cultural events with accompanying commercial and demo kitchens. The number was an underestimate. She had prepared for that.

Customers were offered pamphlets to read a bit more about the food they were sampling — they picked up dishes of tender pork belly with rice, meat wrapped in crispy, paper-thin dough and thin

rice noodles with a savory sauce.

If that wasn’t enough, visitors could pick from seven other food stands offering Italian, Mexican, Caribbean, Lao, Indian and Polish cuisine. All the food was free.

Several vendors tucked away dishes from their counterparts, waiting for the opportunity to feed themselves.

Entertainment came in the form of songs, dances and a Chinese dragon parading through the crowd.

Among the hundreds of people attracted to the downtown event were Santa and Mrs. Claus. It was fitting, given the Cass County Community Foundation was informed it had been awarded

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Bomy’s Indian, a food vendor, serves chicken tikka masala and butter chicken during The Pavilion’s grand opening on Saturday.

Trial begins in Cass Co molest case

Defendant was former head of county EMS

JAMES BENNETT III
PHAROS-TRIBUNE

Escorted by a pair of bikers, a minor faced their sibling’s alleged abuser on Monday.

They were called by the State of Indiana as a witness against Logansport resident Mikel Fort during the first day of trial. Fort faces several felony-level charges related to child molesting, a child exploitation charge and a misdemeanor charge for contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Cass County’s Chief Deputy Prosecutor, Tom Lupke, told jurors that the State identified six incidents where Fort was given access to the juvenile victim.



Mikel Fort

Describing the alleged incidents and the evidence jurors would hear about through the trial, he asked them to find Fort guilty.

“Ladies and gentlemen, that was a pretty horrible accusation,” Fort’s attorney, Anthony Churchward, said.

He asked them not to jump to any conclusions.

“It’s going to rattle you,” Churchward said of the evidence that would be presented by the State. “It’s obviously going to be impactful, but there’s always a second side of the story.”

He asked the jurors to keep in mind there wouldn’t be any DNA evidence presented in the trial. He also asked them to wait until hearing alternative explanations for the photographs and text messages they would see before making up their minds.

Some of the photographs and messages were shown to jurors on Monday. A few lingered on the court’s screens while witnesses took the stand.

Jurors also heard the alleged victim’s sibling testify about their first time meeting Fort.

The sibling said Fort came to their home for dinner during that first

See **TRIAL** on A3

Swimmer’s body recovered from France Park swimming lake

It is second fatality at lake since June 19

PHAROS-TRIBUNE

Indiana Conservation Officers are investigating after the body of an adult was recovered Sunday afternoon from the swimming lake at France Park, according to a press release from the Department of Natural Resources.

Cass County Central Dispatch received a report that an adult swimmer had gone missing at France Park at approximately 1:45 p.m. According to preliminary information, the individual had been swimming with family members

and was not located within the park after the group exited the water. Recreational divers on site responded to assist with the search.

A recreational diver located the adult in the lake, unresponsive. Life-saving measures were immediately attempted but were unsuccessful. The individual was transported to Logansport Memorial Hospital, where the individual was pronounced dead.

The cause of death is pending autopsy results. The incident remains under investigation.

Agencies assisting in the response include the Cass County Sheriff’s Office, Cass County EMS, District 1 Fire Department, Cass County

EMA, Cass County Coroner’s Office, Logansport Fire Department and Cass County Central Dispatch.

It is the third incident where life-saving measures were needed and second fatality at the swimming lake since June 19, when a Fort Wayne 16-year old visiting with his family went missing and was later recovered from the lake unresponsive.

On July 19, a 3-year-old boy suffered a near-fatal drowning and cardiac arrest. Thanks to quick action from park visitors and Cass County emergency responders, the boy survived.

The park is not required to have lifeguards and has not had any for years.



James Bennett III | Pharos-Tribune

The swimming lake at France Park is shown last month. There have been three drowning incidents, including two fatalities, at the lake since June 19.

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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

Partly cloudy. **High 86, Low 74.**
Complete forecast on Page A8.



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