

Braun touts November redistricting bid

Governor thinks state lawmakers will 'come around to it'

By Alexandra Kukulka
Post-Tribune

Gov. Mike Braun floated the idea of the Indiana state legislature meeting in November in a special session to address redistricting, but also stated that the decision is ultimately up to legislative leadership. "You're going to find that, probably, the legislators will come around to it. I'm going to give them time," Braun said. "I think eventu-

ally we'll get there."

During an interview with a Fort Wayne radio station Monday, Braun said as leaders in Missouri, Ohio and other Republican-led states move forward with redistricting, Indiana "will evolve in that direction."

The decision is up to the legislature, but many legislators have seemingly voiced their support of redistricting, Braun said. Indiana could also face consequences from President Donald Trump's administration if it doesn't redistrict, he said.

"I wanted it to be where it wasn't forced upon our legisla-

ture, have our leaders talk to their own caucus members. Some have already changed their point of view when they look at what good comes from it," Braun said. "If we try to drag our feet as a state on it, probably, we'll have consequences of not working with the Trump Administration as tightly as we should."

When asked about the timeline for redistricting, Braun said the legislature could address redistricting at the start of the 2026 legislative session in January or "more ideally" some time in

Turn to Redistricting, Page 2



Gov. Mike Braun said the decision on redistricting is ultimately up to legislative leadership. KYLE TELECHAN/FOR THE POST-TRIBUNE



St. Augustine's Episcopal Church historian Paula DuBois stands in front of a new historical marker at the Gary church. She worked with Indiana Landmarks, Indiana Historical Bureau and Decay Devils to bring it about. DOUG ROSS/FOR POST-TRIBUNE

A faithful history

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church in Gary gets historical marker

By Doug Ross
Post-Tribune

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church now has a new historical marker, thanks to church historian Paula DuBois, who worked with Indiana Landmarks, Indiana Historical Bureau and Decay Devils to bring it about.

Bringing it all together took almost five years, she said. "It didn't take me this long to do the national historic register."

The church has historical significance for a variety of

reasons, beginning with its founding. "We were set up because of segregation," DuBois said.

"It's very much a compelling American story. It really is," she said.

St. Augustine's was established in 1927 by a group of Black professionals in need of a place to worship in a segregated city. The white Episcopal church didn't welcome them during normal worship times.

"We're the only historically black parish in the city," DuBois

Turn to History, Page 3



The interior of St. Augustine's Episcopal Church in Gary featured sweeping lines. Stained glass windows were added later. HEDRICK-BLESSING/COURTESY

Chesterton man charged with sending chat threat

Police say actions led to U.S. Naval Academy lockdown

By Meredith Colias-Pete
Post-Tribune

A Chesterton man is accused of sending a social media threat that caused officials to lockdown the U.S. Naval Academy in Maryland last week.

Jackson Fleming, 23, was charged with one count of transmitting a threat in interstate communication, according to a press release from the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Northern District of Indiana. Fleming's charge was approved by a federal magistrate on Sunday.

He was arrested Friday and is currently jailed, records show. A detention hearing is set for Sept. 22. The complaint is a temporary charge that must be followed by an information or indictment formally bringing federal charges, the release stated.

Associated Press reported the academy in Annapolis, Maryland went on lockdown Thursday after officials learned of an "anonymous chat platform" post.

"Jack is a young man with his entire future ahead of him," his lawyer Jonathan Bedi said in an emailed statement.

"He recently graduated from college and is planning to attend law school," he wrote. "We intend to fight these charges in court vigorously. No one, including Jack, should be judged by a mere accusation from the government. We are prepared to mount the strongest possible defense, and I am confident that when the complete facts emerge, Jack will be vindicated."

Bedi did not answer a question on Fleming's connection to the U.S. Naval Academy. The Baltimore Banner, an online news outlet, reported Fleming was a former midshipman, which could not be independently verified.

A woman who answered the phone in the U.S. Naval Academy public affairs office said the director would return a phone call by the end of business day, but no

Turn to Threat, Page 2

New members join Gary airport authority; chair's seat still vacant

Officials throw shovelfuls of dirt during a ceremonial groundbreaking ceremony to mark the start of construction on an approximately \$24 million infrastructure enhancement plan at the Gary/Chicago International Airport on Oct. 8. KYLE TELECHAN/FOR THE POST-TRIBUNE



By Carole Carlson

Three new faces joined the Gary/Chicago International Airport Authority Tuesday, but the chairman's seat is still vacant.

The terms of all past seven members expired Aug. 31 by state law.

Gary Mayor Eddie Melton, who has four appointments, named Vanessa Allen-McCloud, Tyrone Hamilton and William Godwin, and reappointed Stephen Mays.

They replaced Trent McCain, Millicent Lyles, and Gerald Anderson, former Mayor Jerome Prince's appointees.

Remaining on the authority are Lake County appointee Philip J. Mullins and Porter County repre-

sentative Thomas Collins Jr., although he said he hasn't heard anything from Porter County officials concerning his reappointment.

Gov. Mike Braun hasn't named a new chairman to succeed former congressman Peter J. Visclosky, who resigned in July.

Former Gov. Eric Holcomb appointed Visclosky in 2022 after Visclosky retired after 35 years in Congress.

Allen-McCloud is a former educator who is president and CEO of the Urban League of Northwest Indiana. She served on the Gary School Board until this year.

Turn to Airport, Page 2