

Ind. Senate sees shakeup post-redistricting



Rodric Bray, the Senate president pro tem, takes questions after a bill to redistrict the state's congressional map was defeated Thursday at the Statehouse in Indianapolis. MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Two senators announce major changes in their roles

By Alexandra Kukulka
Post-Tribune

Within days of the Senate voting against mid-census redistricting, two Senators — who voted in favor of House Bill 1032 — announced major changes in their roles, which isn't uncommon after a majority party fails to pass a piece of legislation.

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-Hun-

tington, announced Monday that he will resign from the Senate after being appointed as chair of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. Zay served the Senate for 10 years, and his last day will be Jan. 8, 2026.

"I am proud of the work I accomplished during my time in the Senate and am grateful for the dedicated staff, state agencies and community leaders who helped make this progress possible. While my role as a public servant is changing, my commitment to serving Hoosiers remains the same," Zay said.

Senate President Pro Tem

Rodric Bray, R-Martinsville, congratulated Zay on his appointment in a statement Monday.

"Our caucus certainly wishes him all the best as he takes on this new public service role," Bray said.

Zay, who voted in favor of mid-census redistricting, issued a statement after the Senate's 31-19 defeat of the measure Thursday stating he believed in "strengthening" the state's congressional districts.

"Where we fell short as a state was in failing to fully help Hoosiers understand why redis-

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A U.S. Marine Corps JROTC color guard from Portage High School braves Saturday's frigid weather to honor veterans at Luther Cemetery in Valparaiso during the Wreaths Across America ceremony. DOUG ROSS/POST-TRIBUNE PHOTOS

'TODAY WE STAND IN GRATITUDE'

Veterans honored with wreath-laying ceremony in Valparaiso



By Doug Ross | Post-Tribune

Northwest Indiana members of the Daughters of the American Revolution braved Valley Forge-esque weather for an abbreviated ceremony Saturday to place wreaths honoring veterans at Luther Cemetery.

A U.S. Marine Corps JROTC color guard from Portage High School performed their duties with bare hands despite the 14-degree weather and snow flurries.

The DAR's William Henry Harrison Chapter chose the small

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Kathlynn Kinnear-Hewitt, a member of the William Henry Harrison Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, lays a wreath Saturday at Luther Cemetery in Valparaiso.

Man, 20, wounded in Gary police shooting

By Meredith Colias-Pete
Post-Tribune

A Gary police officer shot a 20-year-old man during a service call Sunday afternoon, officials said.

Around 4 p.m. Sunday, officers responded to the 2100 block of Tennessee Street for a "potentially suicidal individual" who was "cutting himself," Lake County Sheriff Oscar Martinez said in a release. When the arrived, he ran from the home.

Gary Police said in a statement that officers found the man two blocks east near 22nd Avenue and Ohio Street. The man was still holding a knife and "covered in blood."

Police allege the man ran at an officer, ignored verbal warnings and didn't drop the knife.

The officer shot the man, who was taken to a Chicago hospital. The officer has been placed on administrative leave pending the investigation's outcome, police said. Neither the officer nor the man who was shot was identified.

The Lake County Sheriff's Department is investigating the shooting.

"Situations involving mental health crises are deeply tragic and the balance of keeping the community safe can often be a delicate matter," Gary Police Chief Derrick Cannon said in the release. "We understand the fragility involved in these moments and the profound impact they have on families and our community."

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Hammond Holiday Parade kicks off the season

By Sue Ellen Ross

Hammond's annual Holiday Parade helped jump-start the holiday season.

A crowd of spectators braved the freezing temperatures on Dec. 6, which didn't dampen the festive spirit in the air.

"We've been coming to this parade for more than 20 years," said Chris Osikaof Crown Point, as she arrived with her husband and three children. "It's become an important tradition for our family."

Her children, 20-year-old triplets Brandon, Allison and Caitlyn, agreed.

All of them are home on holiday

break from college, and the parade was high on their to-do list.

"I remember all the years our family came to this event, it was always a lot of fun," Brandon Osikaof said. "We're here to continue the tradition."

More than 70 entries entertained the crowd.

Local college organizations, high school marching bands and colorful floats appeared between antique cars, community groups, and a live horse performance, as well as other attractions.

Hundreds of spectators joined in the fun along the parade route down Indianapolis Boulevard. Louis Goodman of Hammond had

a bird's-eye view of the procession from her living room window, since she lives along the parade route.

Although she stayed mostly in the warmth of her house, periodically she went on her front lawn to check on family members.

"I love that we always can count on this parade every year," she said. "My kids and grandchildren use this day to also come and visit

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Businesses in the Hammond community participated in this year's annual Holiday Parade.

SUE ELLEN ROSS/POST-TRIBUNE

