

# THE TIMES

SoLa will bring lakefront bike and kayak rentals to Michigan City

PAGE A3



PNW women's soccer readies for 2025 after program-best 2024 season

PAGE B1

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES

nwi.com

## Masonic Temple opening up to public



JOSEPH S. PETE, THE TIMES

NWI Development Group is planning a project at the Masonic Temple in Michigan City.

JOSEPH S. PETE  
joseph.pete@nwi.com, 219-933-3316

The public will have a chance this week to enter the historic Masonic Temple in Michigan City that few people have entered in the last 35 years.

NWI Development Group is looking to redevelop the Masonic Temple at 132 E. 6th Street, which has now been rechristened The Cornerstone. It's looking to showcase the 103-year-old building for redevelopment possibilities.

NWI Development Group will

host an open house in the former Masonic Temple at 6th and Pine streets between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday.

It's looking to repurpose the building for a variety of uses. Team O'Connor Jiu Jitsu Academy of Chesterton and a ghost kitchen operator have expressed interest in the adaptive reuse project.

"This is a rare opportunity to step inside a vintage anchor building in Michigan City's historic district," developer Rob Harte said. "We want the public to be part of envisioning its future

and to celebrate the possibilities that lie ahead."

Acme Lodge No. 83 originally occupied the Masonic Temple in downtown Michigan City but moved in 2000 to a new location at 8700 W. Pahl Road in Michigan City. Valparaiso-based PACT, or Prisoners and Community Together, then operated a halfway home and public service agency for prisoners at the nearby Indiana State Prison, limiting public access to the site for the last few decades.

Please see **TEMPLE**, Page A7

## Distractions hindered lake rescue effort: cops

BOB KASARDA  
bob.kasarda@nwi.com, 219-548-4345

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP — Emergency responders pulled a 42-year-old Valparaiso man out of Long Lake Monday evening, but say the rush of the public to share details on social media hindered their ultimately unsuccessful effort to save him.

The deceased was identified Tuesday afternoon by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources as Sean Ryan.

"Despite lifesaving efforts, Ryan was pronounced deceased at a local hospital," the Indiana Department of Natural Resources announced Tuesday afternoon.

Liberty Township Volunteer Fire Department chiefs Brian Duncan and Michael Wineland had earlier said bystanders at these types of scenes can delay emergency responders.

"During the rescue operation, a number of bystanders began arriving at the scene, and individuals posting live updates on social media with speculation heard on the radio," the chiefs said in a statement issued Tuesday morning. "These created distractions, congested access areas and further delay critical efforts when the information being provided has to be verified for accuracy to ensure responders are sent where the help is needed."

"While we understand the concern and interest from the community, emergency responses are not the time to post live updates always," Duncan said. "Our crews need clear access and focused coordination."

The township fire department reported being called out shortly after 6 p.m. Monday to the lake just north of Valparaiso, where they learned Ryan had last been about 100 feet off the west shoreline.

A dive team arrived, and after spotting a bright blue material submerged in shallow water, a member dove in and located Ryan, according to firefighters.

The dive team began CPR as the boat made its way back to shore.

"Long Lake in Liberty Township is known for its calm waters and recreational paddling," according to the fire department. "Conditions at the time were reported with having calm waters and the missing person not wearing a life jacket."

Duncan said official updates in these situations are provided through verified news releases when necessary.

Please see **RESCUE**, Page A7



JOHN J. WATKINS, THE TIMES

There's going to be a new enforcement effort by Crown Point police to ticket people parking beyond posted time limits.

## CRACKING DOWN

Crown Point police will enforce downtown parking violations again

MICHAEL HOWIE  
michael.howie@nwi.com, 219-319-7682

CROWN POINT — After a brief hiatus, parking in Crown Point's downtown square is about to get a little bit stricter.

Beginning Monday, the city will debut new technology to enforce two-hour parking violations on the square and two of its municipal downtown parking lots. The restrictions will be in place beginning at 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.,

Monday through Friday.

The "new device" used to enforce the ordinance is a handheld machine that allows parking enforcement officers to identify vehicles that have been parked for more than two hours, Crown Point Assistant Police Chief Jim Janda said in an email to The Times. Specifically, the device contains a license plate reader, keyboard, camera and GPS system to document violations. It can print tickets at the scene.

Parking will be limited to two hours all around the square, the city court parking lot and the Crown Point Community Library. Parking at City Hall will have just a 15-minute time limit.

The two-hour time limit is not new — though it was not enforced for about a year, the ordinance will now be more strictly enforced than ever before.

Please see **PARKING**, Page A7

## New documentary tells White's story

JOSEPH S. PETE  
joseph.pete@nwi.com, 219-933-3316

A new documentary narrated by the television host Mike Rowe of "Dirty Jobs" fame tells the story of how Bruce White went from opening a single hotel in Northwest Indiana to building a national hospitality empire.

"Bruce: Begin with the End in Mind" releases Wednesday on Amazon Prime and the White Lodging website. It will also come out on the Roku Channel and other streaming platforms soon.

The 40-minute documentary follows the release of the new book "Hospitalitarian: Bruce White's Legacy" that aims

to share White's entrepreneurial lessons, values and leadership philosophy. The son of billionaire Dean White, White launched White Lodging in 1985 and went on to build more than 150 mostly upscale hotels all around the country, in

Please see **DOCUMENTARY**, Page A7

GET THE FULL BENEFITS OF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION!

Activate your digital account to get updated stories, videos, and hundreds of additional puzzles and comics. Visit [nwi.com/activate](https://nwi.com/activate) and download our app for the E-edition and breaking news on the go!

**Weather**  
Shower, thunderstorm  
**High 81 • Low 45**  
**FORECAST • A4**

### Inside

Obituaries	A8-9	Food	C1
Business	A11	Advice	C2
Sports	B1	Comics/Puzzles	D6

