

THE TIMES

Rep. Mrvan
proposes bill
to discourage
lockouts

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Doherty: Less
contact is solution
to alarming
CTE rate

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Officials to investigate storm response

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GARY — Federal, state and local officials pledged Monday to hold Northwest Indiana’s electric utility and its parent company accountable after outages caused by severe weather Aug. 11 left thousands of Region residents without power for up to two weeks.

Republican Gov. Mike Braun and Congressman Frank J. Mrvan, D-Highland, told reporters they plan to launch separate state and federal investigations into why NIPSCO and NiSource seemingly were unable to prevent trees from falling onto power lines during the storm and similarly unprepared to quickly restore power afterward.

“We will be getting to the bottom of it,” Braun said. “There will be an investigation to see if they were doing what they were supposed to do to keep things in good shape.”

The Hoosier chief executive said the state investigation will be led by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, which Braun said

he’s realigned since taking office in January 2025 to consider both the interests of rate-payers as well as the costs and profits of utility companies.

“We need dependable, reliable electricity. But we need to have somebody speaking up for the ratepayer,” Braun said. “It’s the first time that’s ever happened in the history of our state.”

At the federal level, Mrvan said he plans to ask the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to investigate how NiSource, NIPSCO’s parent company, has spent its money and other resources over the years to ensure Northwest Indiana residents and businesses have reliable electric power.

Please see **RESPONSE**, Page A5

■ **More Inside:** To read about Gary pushing NIPSCO for bill credits and food reimbursements after the Aug. 11 derecho, **Page A2.**



JOHN J. WATKINS, THE TIMES

Indiana Gov. Mike Braun makes comments at a press conference concerning storm recovery efforts.

NEW LIFE



JOSEPH S. PETE, THE TIMES

The rehabilitated Good Fellows Camp Lodge is shown in Porter.

Historic Good Fellows Lodge revived with \$13M renovation

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“French ponder truce terms” screams a banner headline of a yellowing newspaper from a World War II-era time capsule recovered from the Good Fellows Camp Lodge in Porter.

Children of U.S. Steel steelworkers went every summer for decades to the camp consisting of rustic log buildings by the Little Calumet River nestled amid redolent pine

trees in the woods. Now a little older and greyer, they reconvened Saturday at the newly renovated Good Fellows Camp Lodge, which the Indiana Dunes National Park rehabilitated as part of a \$25.4 million effort to restore historical properties.

The Indiana Dunes National Park invested \$13 million to restore the nine buildings that were built on 63 acres in Porter in 1941. The historic camp ran in Porter County

until 1976, when it became part of the then-Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

The camp has sat vacant since, but now has new life.

“This lodge tells the story of a place where thousands of children first discovered the outdoors, right here along the Little Calumet River,” Indiana Dunes National Park Acting Superintendent Leo Lestino

Please see **RENOVATION**, Page A7

The BrightSide Who fed Region during outage?

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With great power outages comes great responsibility, and we learned over the past few weeks that this Region is full of tremendous neighbors and support networks that worked tirelessly to meet the needs of residents who waited for the lights and their fridge to come back on.

Nearly every day since Aug. 11 has seen large-scale food and supply donation drives, multiple times a day, serving hundreds or even thousands of residents. This need was particularly acute in Gary and surrounding cities, whose recovery lagged behind other areas even though (or perhaps because?) those residents faced a heavier financial burden from the loss of power, food and work that resulted from the derecho.

With Gary, we also saw some high-profile artists and social media personalities use their personal clout to raise money and awareness to help residents in need.

Here are some of the heroes I encountered while on the food beat over the past two weeks. This is also by no means an exhaustive list of people and organizations who helped out — the Food Bank doubled their meal deliveries during this time as well — and instead hopefully gives an indication of the breadth of assistance and efforts that arose during one of the worst weather disasters the Region has ever experienced.

The Bright Side highlights uplifting moments across our community. Visit our website to read more and share your ideas.

The Bright Side:
Where good news lives.

Please see **OUTAGE**, Page A5

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Partly sunny; hot, humid
High: 97 **Low:** 69
Forecast: A4

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