
https://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/news-briefs/article_d643006e-d8b7-5c0b-abe6-7803b3cf2a45.html

News Briefs

Lake County Editions

Nov 9, 2007

ACT NOW! Subscribe \$5 for 5 mo.

ROWN POINT

C Valpo man charged with S'ville sex crime

Prosecutors charged Nicholas Bastin, 18, of Valparaiso, with two counts of sexual misconduct with a minor after a 14-year-old girl said he forced her to engage in sexual conduct, Lake County court records show.

Bastin was at the teen's Schererville house on Aug. 20 watching TV with her when the incident happened, reports state.

CROWN POINT

E.C. man charged with molesting 9-year-old

An East Chicago man who is alleged to have inappropriately touched a 9-year-old girl has been charged with child molesting.

Leonard Andrews, 32, faces eight years in prison if convicted.

Lake County court records allege that Andrews went into the girl's bedroom and touched her chest under her pajamas.

The girl told her mother. The mother sat Andrews down in front of the girl and her brother and told Andrews if he did it again, she'd kill him, court records state.

The girl's brother told a teacher at school, who reported the incident to police.

GARY

Public hearing set on steelmaker's request

Federal environmental regulators will host a public hearing on a proposed U.S. Steel wastewater permit on Dec. 11 in Gary.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Chicago office will host the meeting at Indiana University Northwest to explain its objections to the steelmaker's proposed permit allowing it to discharge into area waterways, including Lake Michigan.

In its objection to the permit last month, the EPA contested the discharge limits for several pollutants, as well as a proposed five-year compliance schedule.

The EPA is accepting comments about other aspects of the permit, and will accept written and oral comments after a presentation at the hearing.

The hearing is from 3 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 8:30 p.m. in the Savannah Auditorium at Indiana University Northwest, 3400 Broadway Ave., Gary.

Comments about the permit can be submitted in writing until Dec. 28 to: David Soong, EPA Region 5, NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J), 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604. Comments also can be faxed to (312) 886-0168 or submitted online at **www.epa.gov/region5/publiccomment**.

For more information, go to **www.epa.gov/region5/sites/ussteel**.

CROWN POINT

Two more sentenced on vote fraud charges

A former Schererville Town Court bailiff was one of three people to recently plead guilty to vote fraud as part of the more than 50 cases brought by the Lake County Joint Vote Fraud Task Force.

The bailiff, Brian Berkman, of Gary, pleaded guilty to voting in the wrong precinct and was sentenced to one year of probation. Also sentenced to a year's probation was Ashley Dunlap, of East Chicago, who pleaded guilty to aiding fraudulent application of a ballot.

East Chicagoan Natividad Hernandez has pleaded guilty to unauthorized entry at a polling place, and she is scheduled to be sentenced in December.

The state and local task force has secured 37 convictions, and 11 other cases are awaiting trial, according to a news release from Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter's office.

WASHINGTON

Bayh property tax relief plan gains momentum

Both Illinois senators have signed on to Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh's effort to allow more taxpayers to subtract property taxes from their federal income taxes.

Sens. Barack Obama and Dick Durbin, both Democrats, were among 15 colleagues joining Bayh on Wednesday in a letter urging Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., to add the property plan to legislation being considered by the panel.

Bayh's legislation would allow taxpayers who do not itemize their federal returns to deduct their property taxes, a move the senator says would provide relief to nearly 1 million Hoosiers.

"Middle-class taxpayers are working harder than ever to meet their financial commitments, and skyrocketing property taxes have not made that any easier," the senators wrote. "While taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions may claim the standard federal tax deduction, this deduction does not adequately take into account rising property tax values and increases."

CROWN POINT

Sheriff hosts event on communicable diseases

Lake County Sheriff Rogelio "Roy" Dominguez recently hosted a demonstration of a dry chemical sterilizing system for jail areas and vehicles.

The sheriff said the increasing threat of MRSA, Hepatitis C and other infectious diseases requires new training and technology. MRSA has become a problem in local jails, hospitals and schools.

He said Jim Axt, of ZIMEK, conducted the decontamination of a room as part of the demonstration.

Get local news delivered to your inbox!

Subscribe to our Daily Headlines newsletter.

* I understand and agree that registration on or use of this site constitutes agreement to its user agreement and [privacy policy](#).

Most Popular

UPDATE: Alleged gunman identified in Valparaiso shootings; condition given on victims

Updated 20 hrs ago



13-year-old student nabbed in cyber attacks on Valpo schools, police say

Updated Sep 20, 2020

'Fireball' blamed for Portage knife attack, police say

Updated Sep 19, 2020

Man shot dead at gas station was carrying \$12,000, marijuana, charges say

Updated 2 hrs ago

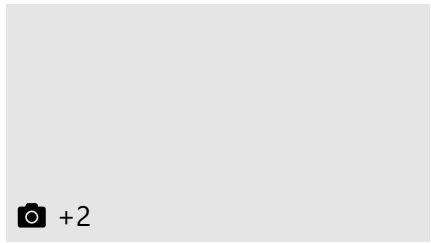


WATCH NOW: Face masks 'just a fact of life right now,' governor says

Updated Sep 19, 2020

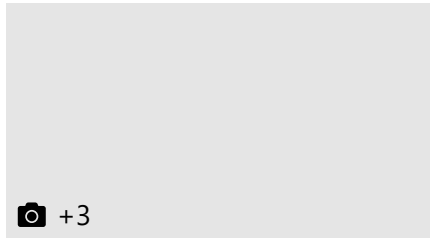
Additional charges filed against Valpo man accused in double shooting

Updated 20 hrs ago

 +2

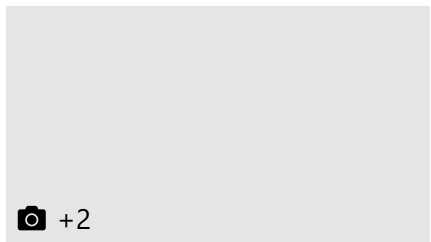
Pain lives on nine years after Amanda Bach murder, but so does awareness of dating violence

Updated Sep 19, 2020

 +3

Accused Valpo shooter said he was protecting his mom, police say

Updated 20 hrs ago

 +2

Man calls for help, later dies after being shot on Borman Expressway

Updated 2 hrs ago

