

Often, stepping in the ring is half the battle

DeKalb takes down county foe Eastside

The Star



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Weather

Cloudy today.
High 40. Low 35.
Rain likely on
Thursday.
High 38. Low 25.
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Auburn, Indiana

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75 cents



Kolbe pulls out of race for Congress

FORT WAYNE — Six Democratic candidates remain for the May 8 primary in the 3rd Congressional District — but the party will be going forward without its presumed frontrunner.

Warsaw-based attorney David C. Kolbe filed paperwork Friday with the Secretary of State's Office to withdraw his name from the primary ballot.

"He called earlier in the week saying he was probably going to withdraw," said Carmen Darland, 3rd District Democratic Party chairwoman.

Darland declined to give specific reasons behind Kolbe's decision to withdraw, saying only that it was a personal, family issue.

"I am disappointed he had to withdraw," Darland said. "He would have been the frontrunner."

Registered candidates for the Democratic Party are Stephen G. Hope, Justin Kuhnle, John Forrest Roberson, Tommy A. Schrader, David Sowards and Kevin Boyd.

Boyd is the latest addition to the list. A Presbyterian minister, he ran in a Democratic primary for the Third Congressional District in 2006 against Dr. Tom Hayhurst. Hayhurst won that race with 66 percent of the votes.

Incumbent U.S. Rep. Marlin Stutzman, R-Ind., will not face any opposition in the May primary.

Darland said county chairs and vice chairs in the Third District will meet Thursday to determine who the party will endorse in the May primary.

Santorum works to make support last

BOISE, Idaho. (AP) — The latest Republican to surge in polls, Rick Santorum is trying to turn his newfound strength into something lasting.

Curious Republicans now pack his rallies. Supporters have funneled nearly \$4 million to his formerly empty campaign account over the past seven days. And his staff is plotting an aggressive strategy to challenge Mitt Romney in Romney's native Michigan and beyond.

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MIKE WILSON COLUMN: The 4-legged stool of retirement
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Speaker kills creationism bill

Auburn senator led campaign for law

BY BOB CULP

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AUBURN — A bill to teach religious origin-of-life theories alongside evolution in public schools died Tuesday in the Indiana Statehouse Tuesday.

Republican speaker Brian Bosma said the so-called creationism bill was a lawsuit

waiting to happen and used a procedural move to kill the bill for this legislative session.

Senate Bill 89 would have allowed the governing body of a school corporation the option to require the teaching of origin-of-life theories in science classes.

State Sen. Dennis Kruse, R-Auburn, wrote and introduced the

bill in January. His position as chairman of the Senate Education and Career Development Committee helped get the bill to the Senate floor, where it passed 28-22.

Kruse could not be reached for comment Tuesday evening.



Kruse

Educators were cautious about the bill and how it would have been implemented in classrooms.

Chris Daughtry, superintendent of Central Noble schools, said he thinks the debate should be left to the Department of Education, adding that he doesn't think it's the Legislature's role to make curriculum.

"This has always been a hot topic that is controversial in

SEE CREATIONISM, PAGE A6

Overcoming Odds



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Camden Straub and his father, Dave Straub, fish from a charter boat off Key West, Fla., last summer. Their trip will be featured in an episode of "The Way Outfitters Outdoor Adventures" on

The Sportsman Channel today at 10:30 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. and again Friday at 1:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

TV show takes boy fishing

BY DAVE KURTZ

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AUBURN — An Auburn boy's deep-sea fishing adventure will be featured in a cable television program this week.

"The Way Outfitters Outdoor Adventures," focusing on Camden Straub's fishing trip, will be shown on The Sportsman Channel Thursday at 10:30 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. and again Friday at 1:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

The Way Outfitters provides hunting, fishing and other outdoor experiences for disabled, disadvantaged and terminally ill children, youth and U.S. military veterans. The faith-based organization's television program made its debut Dec. 29, with a new episode every two weeks.

The organization took Camden Straub, 9, and his father, Dave

Straub, to Key West, Fla., last summer for a four-day fishing trip with captain Mike Cyr and C-Hawk Charters, which operates accessible boats.

"It was a great time. They treated us awesome," Dave Straub said. "They're bringing a lot of joy to a lot of people."

He said Camden had his greatest fun when the captain allowed him to steer the boat. Adopted from Philippines at 3 months old, Camden suffered from Streeter's dysplasia, which causes constricting bands around the limbs, leaving him without a left foot and deformities in his right foot and both hands.

After he arrived in the United States, Camden endured 10 1/2 hours of surgery at age 10 months to begin treatment of his condition. Dave Straub said Camden had a

"They're bringing a lot of joy to a lot of people."

Dave Straub

His son took fishing adventure

life expectancy of 4 to 5 years if he had not received medical care.

Today, Camden excels at baseball, football and basketball in local youth leagues. He earned a top award last summer at basketball camp.

"He's amazing. You just don't know how he's going to affect people's lives," Dave Straub said. "God has a purpose for him. I just feel there's a reason for him to be here."

Ashley-Hamilton road project goes on fast track

Steuben County plans to use local funding, low-cost technique

BY MIKE MARTURELLO

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ANGOLA — Reconstruction of C.R. 800S from near Ashley to Hamilton once was considered a project that could take years to complete in multiple phases.

Now, it appears the work is going to get done this summer, thanks to a road construction technique that's new to Indiana.

For about \$2 million, Steuben County is going to be able to do the work using a technique called full-depth reclamation.

"This isn't new. It is new in Indiana," said Mark Cox of The Klink Group of Companies, Ashley.

Cox explained the process to the Steuben County Council Tuesday. He said the technique

involves grinding up the existing road surface and base, then mixing it with concrete or a polymer to create a solid base. After that step, 5 inches of asphalt are laid for the final surface.

"I think it's an applaudable product. You don't have any waste," Councilman Rick Shipe said.

To completely rebuild the road using conventional methods, it is estimated the project would have cost in the range of \$5 million. The project is going to stretch about 6.4 miles, from just east of I-69 at Ashley to Hamilton, following the Steuben-DeKalb county line.

It is possible Hamilton and DeKalb County might contribute to the cost of the work. Steuben County plans on paying its portion

through Major Moves transportation fund dollars, using proceeds from the lease of the Indiana Toll Road in 2006.

"Yes, we're hoping," Commissioner Ron Smith said.

Councilwoman Sara Tubergen said she would like to see other avenues of funding explored. For example, she thought money recaptured from a tax increment financing district could reimburse the cost of the road. Taxes collected by TIFs can be used for infrastructure projects in a TIF district.

"I think we need to investigate that and see if there's any other way to get funding," Tubergen said.

The TIF district would run along the road, between Ashley

"... if we do not do this, what's this road going to look like in a year from now when the trucks start running?"

Jim Crowl

Steuben County commissioner

and Hamilton, both of which have TIF districts.

It seemed to be the consensus of the council and the commissioners present at the council meeting that the project needs to be done.

"Let's face it, if we do not do this, what's this road going to look like in a year from now when the trucks start running?"

SEE ROAD, PAGE A6

Warm stay for Xi

Obama strikes up relationship with China's vice president

WASHINGTON (AP) — The man destined to be China's next leader won an extraordinary welcome across Washington on Tuesday, a finely scripted opening to one of the world's most important relationships. Trading kind words of cooperation, President Barack Obama and Xi Jinping also spoke directly about human rights and worsening foreign crises.



Xi



Obama

Everything about the day reflected just how much China and the United States need each other, no matter what their differences, given their economic and military might and global influence. Xi got a lengthy Oval Office audience with Obama, an elaborate reception at the State Department, full military honors at the Pentagon, a gathering with chief business executives and a dinner at Vice President Joe Biden's house.

At the center of it was a president seeking four more years and the man expected to lead China for the next decade. Xi (whose full name is pronounced shee jee-jing) is expected to succeed Hu Jintao as China's president in 2013.

"I'm sure the American people welcome you," Obama said.

All the symbolism and protocol were intended to pay dividends in the coming decade and to reciprocate.

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