



THE NEWS SUN

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NewWave takes over Avilla cable television

AVILLA — NewWave Communications, based in Sikeston, Mo., became the new cable TV company for Avilla Tuesday. NewWave has acquired a subsidiary of Comcast that provided cable service in Avilla for more than two decades.

NewWave had announced no changes to the service as of Wednesday. Avilla's channel listings were not yet posted on the company's website.

NewWave can be reached at 888-8NEWAVE. Its website is newwave.com.

Avilla remains the only community in the four-county area with cable service provided by a company other than Mediacom.

Free EN Theatre performance tonight

KENDALLVILLE — East Noble Theatre will present a free public performance of an original production, "Skeletons in the Closet."

The 30-minute show, written and directed by Craig Munk's acting classes, begins at 8 tonight in Cole Auditorium.

East Noble Theatre's "Skeletons in the Closet" cast will compete at the State Thespian Conference Friday at Huntington College in Huntington. East Noble's show was one of 12 selected throughout the state for presentation at the conference this weekend.

Town halls planned on hoops tourney

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The commissioner of the Indiana High School Athletic Association says the group will consider public sentiment in its review of the four-class high school basketball tournament.

Commissioner Bobby Cox says he expects the IHSAA will hold several town hall-style meetings around the state, though no timetable has been set yet.

The IHSAA adopted the multi-class format 14 years ago.

It agreed to the review Wednesday in return for Republican state Sen. Mike Delph dropping his push for a legislative mandate to force the return of the single-class tournament.

ONLINE:

PHOTO GALLERIES

NECC boys, girls tournament photos

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PHOTOS BY CHAD KLINE

Goofy game for a good cause

Above, Harlem Wizards' "King Arthur" spins on the floor as he dribbles the ball against the guard of East Noble senior Kelsie Duehmg in front of a large group of East Noble High Schools students Wednesday night in the Big Blue Pit during fundraiser to benefit the Boomerang Backpack program. A packed house watched a fun exhibition game that saw the Wizards edging several local players. At right, "Swoop" maneuvers a ball around Amelia Birt, 5, of Rome City. An additional photo is on A6.



Cable show chronicles Howe man's fishing trip

BY DAVE KURTZ
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HOWE — A Howe man's deep-sea fishing adventure will be featured in a cable television program today.

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

The Way Outfitters provides hunting, fishing and other outdoor experiences activities for disabled, disadvantaged and terminally ill children, youth and U.S. military veterans. The organization's television program made its debut Dec. 29.

Weaver, 21, was born without his lower right leg and with only 3 1/2 fingers on his right hand as a result of the rare amniotic band syndrome. His prosthetic leg is provided by SRT Prosthetics & Orthotics, a sponsor of the new TV show.

"I have a camouflage prosthetic, if that tells you how outdoorsy I am," Weaver said Wednesday. He

studied conservation law enforcement at Vincennes University, so he made a natural candidate for The Way Outfitters.

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

"I've fished my whole life, but never anything like that," Weaver said. He caught a lemon shark measuring about 8 feet long and a tarpon weighing more than 120 pounds.

"I fought it for a little over an hour," he said about the tarpon. "It's a workout catching fish that big. It was a blast — a lot of fun."

Cam Tribolet of Fort Wayne co-founded The Way Outfitters, a faith-based organization, and serves as host of its TV program.

"Being disabled myself, I know how hard it is to get out there" for outdoor activities, said Tribolet, whose said his legs are amputated above the knee.

Future episodes of the show will feature Norm Terrill of Hicksville, Ohio, on Feb. 2, and Camden Straub, 10, of Auburn on



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

David Weaver of Howe shows a fish he caught off Key West, Fla., during a deep-sea fishing adventure on "The Way Outfitters Outdoor Adventures." The cable television program airs today and Friday.

Feb. 16. Both also went fishing in Key West.

Farmers face shift in payments

BY DOUG LEDUC
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FORT WAYNE — Chuck Conner, president and chief executive officer for the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, told an audience at the 2012 Fort Wayne Farm Show only 0.5 percent of annual federal spending goes to agricultural programs — and even that amount is going to be cut.

He was the keynote speaker at a state and federal agricultural policy luncheon on the first day of the show Tuesday. The annual show concludes today.

U.S. Rep. Marlin Stutzman, R-Howe, who sits on the House Agriculture Committee, attended the luncheon and joined Conner in a question-and-answer session following the keynote address.

The three-day show at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum features some of the latest farm equipment as well as several seminars co-sponsored by Purdue University's Cooperative Extension Service and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Northeast Indiana.

With 347 exhibiting companies operating 900 booths, the event attracted 33,000 people last year, and show director Fred Cline said he expected similar attendance this year.

The federal budget of \$3.8 trillion "is in a world of hurt, but it is not because of agricultural spending," Conner said. The government's fiscal year 2012 budget for agricultural

programs was about \$17 billion.

A congressional "supercommittee" appointed to find a way to cut at least \$1.5 trillion from the federal budget was unable to reach an agreement, so a trigger mechanism will enact \$1.2 trillion in automatic budget cuts through the next decade.

Conner said that would take 7.8 percent out of agricultural spending.

Conner said everyone working to get a farm bill passed this year must find ways to reduce agricultural program spending, overcome gridlock, reach necessary agreements on program changes and determine what farmers want to see in the bill.

He encouraged farmers to participate in the political process, because few members of Congress have an agricultural background. Generally, "you do not want a politician coming in and making these choices; they're not equipped to do that," he said. "We need to be making these choices."

Conner and Stutzman predicted elimination of the direct payments program and said about a third of the acreage in the Conservation Reserve Program is very suitable for farming and probably would come out of it.

Conner predicted funding for food stamps would not be affected by budget-cutting efforts, but Stutzman said food stamp funding is out of control and must be addressed to make serious progress on the farm bill.



DOUG LEDUC

Anthony Stuckey helps his son, Mason, down from the cab of an Agco Corp. tractor at the Fort Wayne Farm Show.

Plan for oil line axed

Obama: Congress didn't give enough time for review

WASHINGTON (AP) — Raising the stakes on a bitter election-year fight with Republicans, President Barack Obama on Wednesday rejected a Canadian company's plan to build a U.S.-spanning, 1,700-mile pipeline to carry oil across six U.S. states to Texas refineries.

AREA LEADERS, local man react to decision. SEE PAGE A6.

Though the project promises thousands of temporary jobs for the recovering U.S. economy, Obama said a February deadline set by Congress would not allow for a proper review of potential harm from the \$7 billion Keystone XL project.

"As the State Department made clear last month, the rushed and arbitrary deadline insisted on by congressional Republicans prevented a full assessment of the pipeline's impact, especially the health and safety of the American people, as well as our environment," Obama said.

The plan proposed by Calgary-based TransCanada would carry oil from tar sands in western Canada to Texas, passing through Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma.

Republicans assailed Obama's decision as a job-killer and said the fight wasn't over.

And the State Department said the decision was made "without prejudice," meaning TransCanada can submit a new application once a route through environmentally sensitive areas of Nebraska is established.

Russ Girling, TransCanada's president and chief executive officer, said the company plans to do exactly that. If approved, the pipeline could begin operation as soon as 2014, Girling said.

Republicans were not assuaged. Newt Gingrich, campaigning for the GOP presidential nomination in

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