

NO RINGING ENDORSEMENT: INDIANS THUMP WHITE SOX 8-2. Coverage in sportNews

CLOCK TICKING ON TOLL ROAD CHALLENGE

State rep asks 'Why no notice in NWI?'

BY PATRICK GUINANE
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INDIANAPOLIS | They might not know it yet, but opponents have fewer than 10 days to challenge a 75-year lease of the Indiana Toll Road.

The clock quietly began ticking on a 15-day legal window last week,

when Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels' administration published fine-print notices in two Indianapolis newspapers. The move satisfied a legal obligation, but some believe the state should have shone a brighter spotlight on this near-final stage of a \$3.85 billion deal.

"That should be a statewide notice to all newspapers and radio,"

said state Rep. Bob Kuzman, D-Crown Point. "This a major, major decision that affects the entire state of Indiana for a long time and people should know about it."

On April 14, the state plans to sign the \$3.8 billion lease it negotiated with Cintra-Macquarie, a Spanish-Australian consortium that will operate the 157-mile road and collect tolls until 2081.

The General Assembly approved the deal last month by approving

legislation that gave opponents just 15 days to challenge the deal. The window started last Wednesday and closes April 13.

Kuzman said the state should have given notice in the seven northern counties that surround the Toll Road.

But State Public Finance Director Ryan Kitchell said it's not his job to invite a lawsuit.

THE ISSUE

When the General Assembly passed legislation approving the sale of the Indiana Toll Road to Cintra-Macquarie, it gave opponents 15 days to challenge the sale. The 15-day window began March 29 when Gov. Mitch Daniels' administration published notices in two Indianapolis newspapers, which fulfilled the legal obligation to announce the challenge period.

See **TOLL ROAD, A6**

Rudy, by a whisker Clay beats Allen for Gary mayor



JOHN J. WATKINS PHOTOS | THE TIMES

Rudy Clay, 69, emerges from a closed room Tuesday after his victory in the race for Gary mayor during a caucus of Democratic precinct committeemen. "Precinct committeemen, I will be your best friend," Clay said. "You will get more respect from my administration than any administration before."

Dem chairman picked by 2-vote margin

BY BILL DOLAN
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GARY | A crush of supporters chanted "Ru-dy, Ru-dy" as their joyous candidate emerged Tuesday night barely victorious from the closed-door caucus room of the Genesis Center.

In the closest election of his political career, Lake County Commissioner Rudy Clay was elected mayor of Gary.

Clay defeated acting Mayor Dozier Allen Jr. 66 votes to 64 votes among

Democratic precinct committeemen. A third candidate, John Hall, received one vote.

A visibly moved Clay, 69, said: "Precinct committeemen, I will be your best friend. You will get more respect from my administration than any administration before."

He will be sworn in Friday to run Northwest Indiana's largest city until next year's municipal election. Clay put off comments about his future plans.

See **MAYOR, A6**



Rudy Clay Jr. raises his fist Tuesday after learning his father was named to replace Scott King as Gary mayor.

Hammond wins first round in State Line fight

Judge refuses to shut down curb construction for now

BY JOE CARLSON
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HAMMOND | Jeremy Jacobson looked on passively Tuesday as chainsaws and woodchippers chopped the four mature trees in his front yard on State Line Road. "These are 100-year-old trees. That's part of why we moved to this place," Jacobson said.

As the chips collected on the sidewalk, the mayors of Hammond and Calumet City and a half-dozen attorneys gathered in the U.S. Courthouse about two miles north to present evidence to a federal judge about whether the work should continue.

Ultimately, U.S. District Judge Philip Simon decided not to immediately stop the work, although the argument will continue again in three weeks.

See **STATE LINE, A7**

THE ISSUE

Hammond officials want to build a curb to stop traffic from crossing State Line Road south of River Oaks Drive. Officials say the barrier is intended to stop drivers from using residential streets for shortcuts.

Calumet City officials sued Hammond and Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr. in federal court to stop construction of the barrier. Officials say Hammond's decision infringes on Calumet City's rights because the city partially owns the road.

Child left on bus while driver shops

Official: Driver made poor call, didn't follow protocol

BY JOYCE RUSSELL
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SOUTH HAVEN | Six-year-old Khaylie Turner didn't want to make her school bus driver angry Monday when the driver failed to drop the Saylor Elementary School kindergartner at her bus stop.

She sat silently on the bus as the driver continued her route.

The child, one of about a half-dozen on their way home after their morning kindergarten class, was left on the bus late Monday morning when the driver apparently thought she had dropped off all of her young charges, parked the bus at Al's Supermarket on U.S. 6 and McCool Road and went into the store.

See **BUS, A6**

WHAT HAPPENED

A Portage Township Schools bus driver didn't stop to drop off Khaylie Turner, 6, at her baby sitter's home. Khaylie remained on the bus until the end of the route but remained quiet. After finishing the bus route, the driver stopped at Al's Supermarket. Khaylie left the bus and was found in the parking lot by a stranger.

On to Round 5: Jamrose still kickin'

BY CHRISTINE KRALY
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The tension in the Dyer living room was high.

"Are you OK, man?" one of John Biter's friends asked him.

"Not until I hear her name," a pacing Biter replied, referring to his

wife, Nicole Jamrose.

His stress finally dissipated when singer-musician Jamrose made it through to another round of eliminations on "Nashville Star" on Tuesday night.

Contestant and former beauty queen Melanie Torres became the fourth person to be sent home. There are now just six contestants

and four weeks of competition left in this season.

"I'm so proud of her," Biter said.

At Northwoods restaurant and bar in St. John, employees sported white T-shirts and tank tops emblazoned with "Let's go Jamrose" in silver writing.

See **STAR, A7**



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