



MADlife | A7
FILM REVIEW: ★★★☆☆
'Master'

LOCAL | A3
Anderson firefighters battle 4 morning blazes

NCAA TOURNAMENT | B1
Purdue is calm under pressure



The Herald Bulletin

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GOVERNOR'S PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION

Staff shortages could hinder emergency, health responses

Government panel, focused on public health disparities, hears testimony

WHITNEY DOWNARD
 CNHI STATEHOUSE REPORTER

INDIANAPOLIS — As with many other industries across the state, emergency professionals are in short supply due to pandemic burnout and funding shortages, even as calls for

ambulances increase. Stephen Cox, executive director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, shared his experience as a former fire chief for South Bend, noting that fire services are suffering similar staff shortages. He told members of the Governor's

Public Health Commission on Thursday that post-traumatic stress disorder, low pay and burnout have contributed to staff shortages. "You're seeing people who would normally have stayed for a 30-year career, but they're leaving after three to four years ... because they'd rather

get a factory job and not have all the risk associated (with emergency services)," Cox said. "Especially younger folks getting into the profession now. They say, 'I don't know if I want to go through all that.'" In 2020, Indiana ambulances had roughly 1.25 million emergency calls compared with 750,000 in 2018. Over the same period, the number

of operating ambulances decreased from 2,000 statewide to just under 1,800. In terms of staff, the number of licensed paramedics declined from 4,900 to 4,600 during the same time while licensed EMTs decreased from 14,000 to 13,000. But not all of those with a license are active in the field. See **TESTIMONY** on A2

LOCAL ELECTIONS

Register by April 4 to vote in primary

Satellite locations' voting starts April 18

KEN DE LA BASTIDE
 THE HERALD BULLETIN

ANDERSON — The last day to register to vote in the May 3 primary election is rapidly approaching. Local residents have until noon on April 4 at the Madison County Voter's Registration office at the courthouse or on line. Early voting at the Madison County Government Center begins on April 5 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Madison County Clerk Olivia Pratt said the Election Board is considering the placement of a large tent on the south side of the courthouse for in-person voting. "We're hoping to have an increased number of voting machines at the location for early voting," she said. Early voting at eight satellite locations will begin on April 18 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays.

"We're ready to go," Pratt said. "We have all the necessary equipment for the early voting locations."

There will be early voting Saturdays on April 23 and April 30 at the courthouse from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and at satellite locations from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The last day to vote in-person at the courthouse is May 2 from 8 a.m. to noon.

The polls on May 3 will be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Follow **Ken de la Bastide** on Twitter @KendelaBastide, or call 765-640-4863.

Satellite voting locations

- Alexandria 4-H Building, 12 E. Fourth St.
- Anderson Zion Baptist Church, 2008 Rev. J.T. Menifee St., Anderson
- Cross Roads United Methodist Church, 2000 Scatterfield Road, Anderson
- Elwood City Hall, 1505 South B St.
- Madison Park Church of God, 6607 Providence Drive, Anderson
- Pendleton Library, 595 E Water St.
- Wesley Free Methodist Church, 3017 W. Eighth St., Anderson
- Whetstone Christian Church, 5940 S. Madison Ave., Anderson

TRADING SPACES

Executive Tower owner: Smaller offices key part of downtown's future



Andy Knight | The Herald Bulletin

New York City-based investor Mariusz Kurylo stands on the roof of Anderson Executive Tower in downtown Anderson. Kurylo purchased the former First Savings building last year at a tax sale and hopes to lease office space to small businesses and startups beginning later this year.

ANDY KNIGHT
 THE HERALD BULLETIN

ANDERSON — The new owner of the former First Savings building isn't quite ready to give up on seeing the city's downtown remade as a business hub.

But instead of persuading big-name companies to locate office space at his property, Mariusz Kurylo wants to open the roughly

72,000 square feet on 10 floors of the building at 33 W. 10th St. to smaller operations and startups — a vision he says will provide needed balance for those who work and play in the neighborhood.

"It's pretty much the newest building (downtown), and it's in fairly good shape," Kurylo said. "We've had people come to me for the last several months, and they want to come in and convert it to residential units and whatnot.

I don't see this building in that aspect, even though I know the city wants to see it as residential."

Kurylo, a financial adviser and real estate developer based in New York City, acquired the building through a commissioners' tax sale last April, paying \$3,333. He has invested about \$1.5 million to clear the building's back taxes,

See **DOWNTOWN** on A2

Biden's St. Patrick's Day scrambled by Irish PM's COVID case

ZEKE MILLER AND LISA MASCARO
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Call him a disappointed extrovert. President Joe Biden had to settle for meeting virtually Thursday with Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin after the visiting leader's positive test for COVID-19 scrambled plans to mark St. Patrick's Day at the White House.

"I'm really deeply sorry for the inconvenience that we have to meet virtually this year," Biden said to Martin, who dialed in by video link while isolating at Blair House across the street from the White House. The traditional crystal bowl of shamrocks gifted to the U.S. president was displayed next to the television monitor set up next to Biden's chair in the Oval Office.

"I'm doing good, and I think that reminds of the vaccines and that the vaccines prevent severe illness," Martin told Biden.

See **SCRAMBLED** on A2



Patrick Semansky | Associated Press

President Joe Biden met virtually with Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin in the Oval Office of the White House on Thursday. Martin tested positive for COVID-19 on Wednesday.



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