Thunder-struck: No miracle comeback this time as OKC buries Pacers in Game 2

SPORTS, 1B

The Herald-Times

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The city of Bloomington has filed a lawsuit against the owner of this multi-apartment building, at 393 W. Roll Ave., shown on June 5, because the city is alleging violations of its rental inspection program. PHOTOS BY BORIS LADWIG/THE HERALD-TIMES

Landlord continues to rent despite suit

Boris Ladwig
The Herald-Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Although the city of Bloomington said it would prohibit on June 1 a local landlord from renting 11 of his properties – threatening fines in cases of noncompliance – the landlord is continuing to rent at least some of the homes and apartments.

Residential tenants in some of the homes and apartments said Thursday they have long dealt with potential health and safety problems, including mold and collapsing floors, but the tenants also expressed worries about what would happen to them if the city's actions – and the landlord's failure to comply with the city's demands – mean the homes can no longer be occupied.

The comments served as an example for the careful balance cities have to strike when they regulate rental

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This rental home at 916 S. Larkspur Lane, shown on June 5, is one of the 11 properties from which the city of Bloomington said it would revoke the occupancy permit on June 1.

Newsom blames Trump for LA protests

John Bacon and Trevor Hughes
USA TODAY

LOS ANGELES – California Gov. Gavin Newsom and President Donald Trump clashed, with Newsom threatening to sue, after the president activated the National Guard to combat protests against Immigration and Customs Enforcement sweeps.

Hundreds of California National Guard troops joined police in riot gear after authorities declared several of the June 8 demonstrations "unlawful assemblies," sweeping in with flashbangs and tear gas grenades to disperse protesters. That sent hundreds of people running, their eyes streaming with tears. Helicopters clattered overhead as protesters fled to the honking of car horns and periodic cheers.

Destructive clashes ensued between protesters and officers: Some vehicles were set ablaze, protesters blocked U.S. 101 and a group converged on an overpass and threw objects down at police, video footage showed.

Trump, in a social media post June 8, said Newsom and Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass should "apologize to the people of Los Angeles for the absolutely horrible job that they have done, and this now includes the ongoing L.A. riots. These are not protesters, they are troublemakers and insurrectionists."

However, Newsom asked Trump to withdraw the National Guard and, in an overnight social media post, he urged Trump to "stop fanning the flames" after a third day of protests.

"Let's get this straight: 1) Local law enforcement didn't need help. 2) Trump sent troops anyway – to manufacture chaos and violence. 3) Trump succeeded," Newsom wrote. "4) Now things are destabilized and we need to send in more law enforcement just to clean up Trump's mess."

Newsom warned that violent protesters would be arrested and prosecuted. He also kept up his social media attack on Trump, saying on June 9 that

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Beanblossom Bottoms gets 2025 improvements

Andrew Miller
The Herald-Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Those visiting Beanblossom Bottoms Nature Preserve will see some new upgrades: an educational kiosk and benches at the trailhead, an improved access trail and better parking area.

It's yet another step forward for the Monroe County nature preserve, owned by Sycamore Land Trust. At the enhancements' dedication ceremony and 30th anniversary Friday, June 6, about a dozen people hiked through the marshy habitat, thankful the forecasted rain had not yet come.

Still, it was muggy, to where the humidity filled up one's nose like wasabi. You could see scores of tiny insects zipping around the air if you unfocused your eyes. Yellowthroats, wood thrushes, cricket frogs and other species of animals provided nature's score.

Water was about a foot high under the preserve's boardwalk, but seeped through in some places. Kate Hammel, the trust's membership and communications director, said beavers have been damming up water and flooding some

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A swampy area is pictured at Beanblossom Bottoms Nature Preserve. Beaver dams have rapidly changed water displacement in the area, making improved trails a priority at the preserve. ANDREW MILLER/HERALD-TIMES

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Upgrades

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trails. The improved access trail will help mitigate that.

Sycamore Land Trust's recent expansions

The upgrades follow a few recent expansions or refurbishments for the Sycamore Land Trust, which owns and maintains the park. Last summer, the trust gained 61 acres along Beanblossom Creek. In 2022, the trust acquired more than 100 acres for further wetland preservation and development of an education center.

The trust, headquartered in Bloomington, got its first property in the Beanblossom area in 1993, and has now significantly expanded its acres. Its local area, part of the Beanblossom Creek Conservation Area, extends from Beanblossom Creek in Brown County to where it joins with the White River near Owen County. Throughout southern Indiana, the trust owns nearly 12,000 acres of protected properties.

Not all of the trust's properties are open to the public. That allows space for both wildlife to thrive and people to visit, and learn about the ecosystem.

How did Sycamore Land Trust fund the project?

Sycamore Land Trust is a nonprofit group, meaning it's primarily funded through donations, and memberships. One of its largest donors is the Duke Energy Foundation, which funded Beanblossom Bottoms' recent improvements.

"The Duke Energy Foundation has a long history of partnering with Sycamore, not just on this project, but on other projects," said Liz Irwin, Duke Energy government and community relations manager. "We're really proud of that partnership, and we hope for additional years of partnership on other projects."

Why conserve wetlands?

Tom Swinford, land preservation director at Sycamore Land Trust, described wetlands as a sponge and a filter. Loss of this crucial ecosystem can cause flooding in other areas, and harm species that depend on it.

"Over 50% of the United States regular endangered species live with some portion of their life history in wetlands, over 50% of our threatened endangered species," Swinford said. "As the wetlands went, so did all these species."

He's referring to the massive loss in wetland habitat as agriculture and urban centers spread across the United States. In Indiana, that's been especially severe – according to the state's department of environmental management, wetlands covered about a quarter of Indiana in the early 1700s. Today, wetlands are cover about 4%.

So continued preservation, helping take back wetlands one piece at a time, is the goal.

Contact Andrew Miller at AMiller@gannett.com.

CORRECTION

We printed a mistake in a recent edition. A correction follows:

- There were 179 men incarcerated at the Monroe County Jail on Friday, May 30. The inmate count was incorrect in a story published June 8.

The Herald-Times regrets the error.