

Proposal to ban same-sex marriage passes

Resolution to move on to House

By DEANNA MARTIN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS

A proposed constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage advanced out of the Republican-controlled Senate Monday after little debate.

The resolution passed 39-10 and now heads to the House, which Democrats control 51-49. House Speaker Patrick Bauer said last year that he would allow a vote on the proposed amendment.

The General Assembly two years ago overwhelmingly approved a resolution on the amendment. For the amendment to become official, it would have to pass the General Assembly this year or next without any changes, and then be approved in a statewide vote in the 2008 general election.

"By passing this amendment, we give voters the right to decide whether the definition of marriage should be preserved in its traditional form," said Sen. Brandt Hershman, R-Wheatfield. "I trust Hoosiers to make the decision."

Hershman and other proponents say the amendment is needed to protect the sanctity of

traditional marriage from lawsuits and activist judges. But opponents say the proposal is discriminatory and could have unintended consequences for laws and policies that affect all unmarried couples.

Sen. Tim Lanane, D-Anderson, said the amendment may put into jeopardy some of the state's domestic violence laws that apply to both married and unmarried couples.

"We can rest assured that some crafty criminal defense attorneys are going to be using that to their advantage," he said.

The amendment has two sections, the first saying that marriage in Indiana is solely the union of one man and one woman. The second says the state constitution or state law cannot be construed to provide the benefits of marriage on unmarried couples or groups.

The proposal next moves to the House. Bauer said last year that he would allow a second vote on the proposed amendment during this session. Bauer said it was unnecessary because existing state law prohibits gay marriage, but said that allowing a second vote was the only way to prevent Republicans from fanning flames over the issue.

Democrats push 4.5-cent tax increase on cigarettes

By MIKE SMITH
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

House Democrats plan to introduce a health insurance plan Wednesday that might include a proposed cigarette tax increase of 4.5 cents per pack — far less than that sought by Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels to provide health coverage to more Hoosiers.



DANIELS

Democratic Rep. Charlie Brown of Gary, chairman of the House Public Health Committee, said Monday that the 4.5-cent increase was very fluid and the amount could change by the time his committee takes up a comprehensive health-care coverage plan and cigarette tax increase on Wednesday.

Daniels wants lawmakers to increase the tax by at least 25 cents per pack, which could help provide health care for about 120,000 low-income residents. Brown has said he would prefer an increase of at least \$1 per pack.

Brown said a 4.5-cent increase would provide little new money to help those without health insurance. But he acknowledged that his strategy was to start off with a low number and then see how far Republicans who rule the Senate will go to bat for their own party's governor by raising the tax higher.

"It (4.5 cents) will not make a dent, but we'll get some help from our Senate colleagues," Brown said.

His plan would address wellness and include a state insurance pool, he said, but he did not provide specifics.

Company plans to open new distribution facility

The Associated Press

REMINGTON

Advance Auto Parts Inc. plans to open a distribution center in 2008 that will create more than 600 jobs, the company announced Monday.

The facility, to be built near Interstate 65 in Remington by the summer of 2008, would be the company's ninth and serve a growing number of Advance Auto Parts stores in the Midwest, the company said in a statement.

The jobs will include drivers, dispatchers, material handlers, supervisors and managers, whom the company plans to recruit from the town halfway between Gary and Lafayette and surrounding areas.

Advance Auto Parts, based in Roanoke, Va., is an aftermarket

retailer of parts, batteries, accessories and maintenance items.

The center's location near I-65, Interstate 74 and Interstate 80 provides convenient access to Indianapolis, Chicago and other areas, the company said.

"The new distribution center will help us serve our stores better, shortening our supply lines and saving us valuable time and fuel," said Roy Martin, a senior vice president for the company. "In the auto parts business, speed of delivery is a significant competitive advantage."

Indiana offered an incentive package to Advance Auto Parts that included training grants, infrastructure assistance and \$4.7 million in tax credits based on commitments for job creation and capital investment.

Journalist outs CIA story source



Bob Woodward of the Washington Post, center, arrives at U.S. Federal Court in Washington on Monday.

State official called leak originator

By MATT APUZZO
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

Jurors in the CIA leak trial Monday heard a one-minute excerpt from Washington Post journalist Bob Woodward's tape recorder which revealed a top State Department official repeatedly discussing CIA operative Valerie Plame.

Woodward, who famously kept the identity of his "Deep Throat" Watergate source a secret for decades, testified that in June 2003, Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage disclosed that the wife of a prominent Iraq war critic worked for the CIA.

Armitage mentioned several times, in sometimes explicit terms that had to be redacted, that former Ambassador Joseph Wilson's wife was a weapons of mass destruction analyst for the CIA.

"His wife is at the agency and is a WMD analyst," Armitage said on the tape.

The exchange occurred at the end of a lengthy interview for one of Woodward's books on the Bush administration's war policy. Woodward did not publish an article on Plame, who was ousted a month later by columnist Robert Novak. Armitage also was the source for that story.

Novak's column sparked an FBI investigation that Libby is accused of obstructing. He is accused of lying to investigators about his conversations with reporters regarding Plame but is not accused of the leak itself.

Woodward testified that he interviewed Libby a few weeks after talking to Armitage. "I have no doubt Mr. Libby did not say any-

thing about Mr. Wilson's wife," Woodward said.

Woodward's testimony doesn't directly undercut Special Prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald's case but it offers fodder to Libby's attorneys, who say Libby is being made a scapegoat by the administration.

Woodward, who protected the identity of former FBI official Mark Felt until Felt himself came forward in 2005 as the secret source for the Watergate stories, said Monday that he was only cooperating because Armitage had encouraged it. Armitage has acknowledged being the source for Woodward and Novak but has said it was accidental.

Woodward was the second defense witness to testify Monday. His Post colleague, Walter Pincus, testified that White House press secretary Ari Fleischer leaked him Plame's identity in July 2003.

Pincus, a veteran national security reporter, said he was talking to Fleischer for a story about weapons of mass destruction. He said Fleischer "suddenly swerved off" topic and asked why Pincus continued to write about Wilson.

"Don't you know his wife works for the CIA as an analyst?" Pincus recalled Fleischer saying.

Fleischer testified that he first learned that information from Libby over lunch. Fleischer testified he leaked the information to two reporters during a presidential trip to Africa but he did not mention the Pincus conversation. In exchange for his testimony, prosecutors promised not to charge Fleischer.

Burton admits missing votes was a mistake

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS

U.S. Rep. Dan Burton said Monday that it was a mistake for him to play in a California golf tournament, which caused him to miss 19 votes in the House last month. Burton represents parts of Johnson County.

The Indiana Republican missed the votes, which included a measure on financial aid for college students, between Jan. 16 and Jan. 19, according to a review of a congressional vote

database maintained by The Washington Post. Instead, he was

playing in the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic — a charity event he has attended 17 times since 1988.

"I just say to my constituents, it was one of those mistakes that I've made that I shouldn't have made and I apologize for it,"

Burton said on Greg Garrison's conservative talk show on

Indianapolis radio station WIBC.

"For 14 years, I've played that golf tournament, and it's almost always on a week when Congress is not in session, because it's early in January. And when the Republicans were in the majority, that week we almost never had votes."

Over the years, Burton has missed other votes that occurred when he was competing in the tournament, including seven in late January and early February 2003, and five in January 2004.

"I probably made a mistake by going out there," he said. "But I've

been doing it for a long time and there's never been any problem."

Burton, a conservative who began representing his central Indiana district in 1983, attended his first Bob Hope Chrysler Classic in January 1988.

Since then, he's missed the event just three times — in 1991, 1994 and 1995, said Dawn Suggs, the tournament's administrative director.

Burton is part of a field of 384 amateur players who take part in the tournament, in which top golfers are paired with politicians and celebrities.

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Japanese chief negotiator Kenichiro Sasae, center, speaks to journalists in Beijing on Monday.

North Korea makes deal

By BURT HERMAN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIJING

International negotiators reached a tentative agreement on initial steps toward North Korea's nuclear disarmament, the first concrete progress after more than three years of talks, the U.S. envoy said early Tuesday.

The draft agreement, worked out at the most recent round of six-nation talks on the North's nuclear program, contained commitments on disarmament and energy assistance along with initial actions to be taken by certain deadlines, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill said. He said working groups will be set up, hopefully in a month, laying out a framework for dealing with regional tensions.

Hill declined to give further details of the draft.

The agreement could herald the first step toward disarmament since the talks began in 2003; the rounds have been marked by repeated delays and deadlock. The process reached its lowest point in October when North Korea conducted its first nuclear test explosion, alarming the world and triggering U.N. sanctions.

Hill said the draft agreement still must be reviewed by the home governments of the six countries at the talks, but he was upbeat about it. He said he was in constant communication with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

"We feel it's an excellent draft, I don't think we're the problem," he said.

North Korea did not immediately make any public comment, but South Korea's envoy Chun Yung-woo said he believed the proposal would be acceptable to Pyongyang.



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AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentists urges parents to begin forging a relationship between their children and a dentist as soon as the child's first birthday. Although not all of the baby teeth have emerged by then, this appointment provides the opportunity for the dentist to discuss matters of diet, good oral hygiene habits, and potential dental pitfalls. At this point in a child's life, establishing good brushing (and eventually flossing) and eating habits amount to the "ounce of prevention" that can, indeed, provide a "pound of cure" in terms of averting tooth decay, gum disease, and tooth loss. In this age of fluoride treatments and sealants, it is not unrealistic to expect a child to grow up cavity-free.

"First visit by first birthday" sums it up. Your child should visit a dentist when the first tooth comes in, usually between six and twelve months of age. Early examination and preventive care will protect your child's smile now and in the future. At CEDAR LANE FAMILY DENTISTRY, our aim is to provide gentle, compassionate dental care of the highest quality. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please call 736-7476. We're located at 850 Cedar Lane, where we invite your questions about any oral health issues. We're currently accepting new patients.

P.S. Children and adolescents should wear protective mouth guards when they play team field and court sports.

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