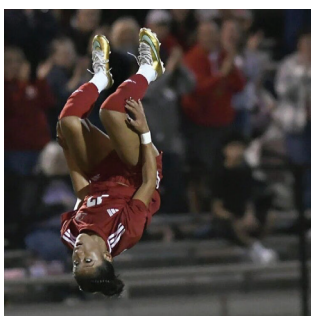




Northridge to face Goshen for sectional title

SPORTS, B1



Eighth-graders introduced to manufacturing

LOCAL, A3

The Elkhart Truth

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A 1/8th scale model of the New York Central Mohawk was among displays featured at the National New York Central Railroad Museum during an event marking 175 years of railroad in Elkhart. Elkhart Truth photo / Anika Yoder

Museum marks 175 years of rail

Organizers show off upgrades to museum during festival

By ANIKA YODER
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ELKHART — The National New York Central Railroad Museum celebrated its 175th anniversary on Saturday with several local area businesses and vendors lining the museum pathway. Attendees were able to get a glance at what the railroad looked like in 1851 with free admission. The celebration ended the ElkhartRail175 event series for 2026 that kicked off in April with the ElkhartRail175 Gala scheduled for early next year. The event was presented by the Elkhart County Convention and Visitors Bureau along with funding provided by donations to the National New York Central Railroad Museum. Activities provided by the museum for event goers included face painting, live music, free rides on the NIBCO Century Flyer and



Visitors could catch a free ride on the NIBCO Century Flyer near the Pioneer Kids Play Area during an event at the National New York Central Railroad Museum marking 175 years of railroad in Elkhart.

artisan blacksmith demonstrations featuring artwork made from railroad spikes. “We have a new exhibit. It’s the 20th century exhibit, so that would be a really cool one for people to get to check out,” museum director Ashley Hughes said. “We’ve done some revamp of our gift shop, and we actually have some historical items that the friends of the railroad museum have actually

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Sentence enhancement filed in spousal murder case

By JORDAN FOOTS
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GOSHEN — A man accused of killing his wife faces up to 85 years in prison if convicted.

Aaron Williams, 42, is charged with murder in the May 24 death of Patricia Williams. Officers found the woman lying in bed with a gunshot wound to the head in the middle of the night at their C.R. 18 residence.



WILLIAMS

Aaron Williams is awaiting a Feb. 1 jury trial. On Thursday, a judge allowed prosecutors to file a sentence enhancement for the use of a firearm in the crime.

The enhancement carries a penalty of five to 20 years, Elkhart County Circuit Court Judge Michael Christofeno told Williams. That would be in addition to the sentence that a murder conviction carries, which is 45 to 65 years.

The judge did not take action on Williams’ request for a new attorney. He sent a letter to Elkhart County Chief Deputy Public Defender Bridgette Faulkner on Sept. 28 informing her she was “fired.”

Williams told the judge he would like a different public defender assigned to his case. Christofeno told him that’s up to the public defender’s office.

Christofeno said if he took Faulkner off Williams’ case, he would vacate the appearance of the public defender’s office entirely. That would force Williams to hire private counsel or represent himself.

The judge set a Nov. 5 hearing to revisit the request. “We should reset this so you can get some legal advice,” Christofeno told Williams.

Williams was arrested after police responded to repeat 911 calls from 30217 C.R. 18 at around 2:50 a.m. He first called 911 and indicated that he wanted to kill himself, according to court

See WILLIAMS, page A5

Inside Indiana’s surplus warehouse

By MACKENZI KLEMANN
Indiana Capital Chronicle

INDIANAPOLIS — There’s a saying at the Indiana Department of Administration: One man’s trash is another man’s treasure. The stack of broken chairs in storage at the IDOA State Surplus Warehouse may be useless to the 30,000 state employees who once sat in them, but the chairs are a popular item with recyclers. IDOA routinely redistributes state property to other agencies, saving Hoosier taxpayers an estimated \$571,000 in the past three years alone.

Local governments are next in line for this surplus property. Any remaining unwanted property is then auctioned off to the public, who can bid on used vacuum cleaners, printers, lawn mowers, vending machines, television sets – even air compressors once used by divers at the Department of Natural Resources. The state raised just shy of \$2 million in revenue through those auctions in the past three years, averaging \$252 apiece for products sold on govdeals.com. “We like to think we’re the Fred Sanford of the state,”

said state surplus Director Marshall Tullos, referring to the fictional junk dealer from the 1970s sitcom “Sanford and Son.” A broken vending machine can be stripped for parts by recyclers or resellers, whom Tullos said are the surplus program’s primary customers. “There are good parts in there,” he said. The surplus warehouse is brimming with unexpected finds: corkscrews, drill pins, brass knuckles, rolling sets, cast-iron skillet and a snake-engraved dagger confiscated by TSA agents at the Indianapolis International Airport.

Boxes are filled with forgotten car keyfobs, jewelry, belts, cellular phone chargers and sunglasses left behind at the airport. Outdated security cameras, printers, snow blowers and a wardrobe-sized safe are in storage awaiting auction. So too are metal detectors, vending machines and microscopes. There’s a dresser filled with envelopes of every conceivable size. Nearby is an old lectern used by the Indiana Integrated Public Safety Commission available for state

See SURPLUS, page A5



Kitchenware confiscated or abandoned at the Indianapolis International Airport is transported to the Indiana Department of Administration warehouse for storage.