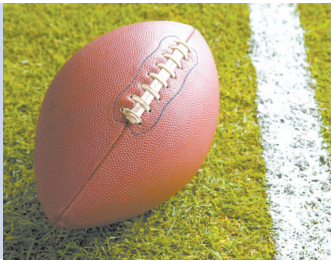


MAD life | A9  
Local homeschool co-op to perform 'Wizard of Oz' at Mainstage



SPORTS | B1  
Lapel captures regional title



GOP state senators reject Trump's redistricting push

December special session to redraw maps canceled

TOM DAVIES  
INDIANA CAPITAL CHRONICLE  
INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Senate Republicans announced Friday that they have rejected President Donald Trump's push for congressional redistricting — a move immediately blasted by Gov. Mike Braun.  
Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray said in a news release Friday afternoon that the Senate won't take

up the issue as was expected in an unusual December session.  
"Over the last several months, Senate Republicans have given very serious and thoughtful consideration to the concept of redrawing our state's congressional maps," Bray said in a statement released by his office. "Today, I'm announcing there are not enough votes to move that idea forward, and the Senate will not reconvene in December."  
Indiana lawmakers were scheduled to meet starting Dec. 1 following a months-long pressure campaign by Trump's administration and his supporters. That included two trips to

Indianapolis by Vice President JD Vance.  
The decision from Senate Republicans makes Indiana the first GOP-controlled state to not go along with Trump's wish to squeeze out more Republican-friendly U.S. House seats ahead of the 2026 mid-term elections.  
Braun had endorsed Trump's push and had called for legislators to convene in a special session this month to redraw the congressional maps.  
"I called for our legislators to convene to ensure Hoosiers' voices



Casey Smith | Indiana Capital Chronicle  
Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray, right, speaks during a January 2025 news conference with other Republican senators.

See REJECT on A2



File photo | The Associated Press  
Cars drive past data centers that house computer servers and hardware required to support modern internet use, such as artificial intelligence, in Ashburn, Virginia, in this 2023 photo. A proposed technology park in Henry County, which would include a similar facility, is raising concerns among residents and advocates about the project's potential impact on the region's underground water supply.

OPPORTUNITY OR RISK?

Proposed Henry County data center raises environmental concerns

CALEB AMICK  
THE HERALD BULLETIN  
NEW CASTLE — Kiley Blalock wants Henry County's economy to grow, but not at the expense of the area's electricity and water resources.  
A location near Interstate 70 and Indiana 109 is being considered as the possible site of a 585-acre technology park, which would include a data center.  
"It's an opportunity for us," said Corey Murphy, president of the New Castle-Henry County Economic Development Corporation.  
Murphy suggested an influx of data centers would recall the former prominence of the automotive industry, which for decades supported several municipalities in

the region.  
Blalock, whose family owns land near the proposed data center site, isn't so sure. She believes developers want to move forward without knowing many details, including the potential impact on the county's water resources.  
"We're on top of a New Castle aquifer," Blalock said. "We've asked them to do environmental studies, bring in environmental engineers. We need an assessment from the United States Geological Survey."  
"The data center developers

INDIANA IN DEPTH <environment>

don't want to pay for that up front," she continued. "They want to get the land, rezone it, buy it and take the risk of sitting on it."  
The Indiana Finance Authority has been studying water resources in regions throughout the state, including studies in the northwest and near Lake Michigan.  
Regional studies supply the foundation for a statewide comprehensive water plan, which functions similarly to a comprehensive plan used by local municipalities. They provide information that state officials use to make decisions concerning land use and development opportunities.  
Experts have noted that counties could be divided into regions according to the major bodies of water that flow through them. Stakeholders from throughout the region will form a board that will make recommendations based on the plan. Any formal decisions would require approval from the Indiana Legislature.  
Discussions about a state water plan have garnered more attention in recent years as debate continues over a pipeline that would supply water to the limitless exploration, advanced pace — or LEAP

See CONCERNS on A2

Chamber CEO Whitson resigns after six years

Organization won statewide awards during leader's tenure

LILY JONES  
THE HERALD BULLETIN  
ANDERSON — Clayton Whitson, president and CEO of the Madison County Chamber of Commerce, announced his resignation from the post Friday.  
Whitson, originally from Elwood, will be moving to North Carolina, just outside of Charlotte, to lead a larger chamber. Although the decision wasn't easy to make, Whitson said he's ready for a fresh challenge.  
"I've learned so much these last six years, both the good and the bad," Whitson said. "We've had a tremendous amount of success, but we've also had failures, and you learn from those as well. I feel, professionally, I've grown an immense amount here."  
"I'm just looking forward to experiencing some new challenges and being able to continue that growth."  
Whitson had been an Elwood firefighter and emergency medical technician, a Madison County Council member, and president of the Elwood Economic Development Commission before he took his role at the chamber Jan. 1, 2020.  
While he recognized that it was a challenging time to be a "first-time executive," he felt the chamber navigated effectively through the COVID pandemic.  
During Whitson's run as president and CEO, the Madison County chamber received the 2024 Chamber of the Year Award from the Indiana Chamber Executive Association, and Whitson received the Indiana Chamber Executive of the Year Award in 2023. It was the first time the Madison County chamber had received those awards.  
Whitson said he wasn't looking for a new job but was contacted by an executive search firm. At first, Whitson said, he didn't seriously consider the offer, but as he researched



Clayton Whitson

See WHITSON on A2

Postal delivery information:

WEATHER  
Today: Very warm and pleasant on Saturday with breezy southwest winds and highs in the low 70s.  
72 | 52  
Full forecast on Page A10.

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### Holiday Open House

Thursday, November 20 • 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Friday, November 21 • 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Shop for holiday décor and gifts in the Madison Boutique at Community Hospital Anderson. Explore decorating ideas and new product debuts. Most items will be discounted 20%.

Visitors will need to stop at the screening desk.

MADISON boutique

Located just inside main entrance of

Community Hospital Anderson