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THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026

"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" II COR. 3:17

IndyStar.

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Mislabeled package leads to a deportation

Chinese researcher's study is delayed; IU labs closed

Cate Charron
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

In March 2024, a postdoctoral researcher at Indiana University named Youhuang Xiang received an improperly labeled package at his apartment. Inside was biological material commonly

used as a building block for his plant biology lab's studies.

Two years later, he has been deported, his team's disease-resistant wheat research is delayed, and multiple IU biology labs have been temporarily closed.

Federal authorities have investigated, charged and deported a number of

Chinese academics, including two at IU, for what critics claim are low-level technicalities, a part of a resurging politicized hysteria about China and national security.

The crackdown is compounding fears among international faculty and students that small missteps could result in life-changing consequences. At the

See **RESEARCHER**, Page 6A

"This is a tragedy of sorts. It's someone that was really dedicated to being a scholar."

James Tunick
Youhuang Xiang's defense attorney



Project Rainier, an \$11 billion Amazon AI data center between New Carlisle and South Bend, is seen on April 23.

MICHAEL CLUBB/SOUTH BEND TRIBUNE

As data centers eye state, Hoosiers' concerns grow

Environmentalists say facilities may create local health hazards

Karl Schneider
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

As Indiana cities see more data centers express interest in setting down roots in the state, local communities and environmental activists are expressing concern about the potential for the new facilities to create local health hazards.

Many have expressed anxiety about potential air pollution from the multiple diesel backup generators the facilities will rely on to run. Indiana already struggles with high levels of air pollution as a recent American Lung Association report revealed.

A Google data center in the southeastern portion of Fort Wayne will have at least 179 diesel generators, air emissions permits issued by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management show. In New Carlisle, which lies west of South Bend, permit documents show Amazon is seeking at least 234 diesel generators for its data center.

See **DATA CENTERS**, Page 8A



Residents hold signs Jan. 28 during an Indianapolis City-Council meeting to discuss regulations and community impact of a proposed data center at the City-County Building in downtown Indianapolis. GRACE HOLLARS/INDYSTAR

"It's essentially a mini oil power plant right next to these people's homes."

Jorge Fernandez
Teacher in Fort Wayne

Recounts possible in IN Senate primaries

Results now certified in Trump-endorsed races

Jake Allen and Jillian Ellison
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Republican primary elections for two Indiana Senate seats that featured candidates endorsed by President Donald Trump have been certified — but there may be a recount in one or both races.

In state Senate District 23, which borders Illinois, West Lafayette incumbent Spencer Deery's three-vote lead stood after Tippecanoe County's election certification on May 15. Deery was challenged by Paula Copenhaver,

See **RECOUNTS**, Page 10A



Two state Senate primaries could face a recount. TRAVIS LACOSS/INDYSTAR



Colts Insider
Joel A. Erickson
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Colts finally get it right with 'The Simpsons' schedule video

The Colts did not put the finishing touches on the best schedule release video they have ever assembled until the last minute.

They couldn't. Under the leadership of Amber Derrow, the team's senior director of content strategy and operations, the Colts

See **ERICKSON**, Page 10A

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