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Several good recipes offered this week

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Indiana housing overhaul bill advances

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Tipton's Downtown District earns historic designation

The City of Tipton's Downtown District has officially been added to the National Register of Historic Places, a significant milestone that highlights the historic, architectural, and cultural value of the community's core.

The designation became official in January, following years of local collaboration and commitment to preserving Tipton's heritage.

"Efforts on this began while I

was at the Tipton County Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with the Tipton Main Street Association," Tipton Mayor Kegan Schmicker said. "I knew at the time that this would be an important designation for Downtown Tipton because of the economic opportunities, and it would offer existing property owners and future investors tax credit incentives and possible grant opportunities. During this process, we hosted two

listening sessions with downtown property owners, and by the end of those meetings, we had unanimous support from those who attended the sessions."

The effort began in the middle of 2023 when the Tipton County Chamber of Commerce, with support from Indiana Landmarks, initiated the nomination process. The Chamber contracted K.W. Garner Consulting to prepare the formal submission to

the Indiana State Historic Preservation Office. The state-level review process, which typically spans 18 months, concluded on October 22, 2025, when the district received its recommendation for approval from the National Park Service, the administrator of the National Register.

"This designation is a tremendous win for Tipton and a proud moment for our entire community," said

Megan Pore, interim CEO of the Tipton County Chamber of Commerce. "The National Register recognition not only affirms the historic character that makes our downtown so special, but it also strengthens our long-term economic outlook."

"By opening the door to rehabilitation tax credits and new investment opportunities, this milestone gives

See **TIPTON** on A3

TOUGH TARRIFFS



File photo | CNHI News Indiana

Parts are used inside the Stellantis Kokomo Transmission Plant, where electric vehicles are built.

Indiana RV industry hit with tariff whiplash

CARSON GERBER
CNHI STATE REPORTER

ELKHART — The state's recreational-vehicle industry experienced tariff whiplash Friday after the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that invalidated emergency powers tariffs imposed by the Trump administration.

Over 80% of all RVs in the U.S. are manufactured in Elkhart County and the surrounding area. Those businesses and their suppliers support 126,000 jobs across the state, making it a bedrock industry for Indiana.

Since Trump in April imposed sweeping tariffs on nearly every nation in the country, RV manufacturers have been paying a 19% import tax on the lightweight plywood called Luan, which is almost entirely imported from Indonesia and critical for building motorhomes.

On Thursday, the U.S. and Indonesia bartered a new trade deal that removed that tariff, leading RV makers to celebrate a policy for which they had long advocated, according to Jason Rano, vice president of government affairs for the RV Industry Association.

Now, the Supreme Court has ruled the Indonesia tariff was improperly implemented, raising questions about the validity of the newly negotiated trade deal, Rano explained.

President Donald Trump further complicated the scenario Saturday when he announced plans to implement a 15% across-the-board tariff on all the world's countries through the 1974 Trade Act, which is different and far more limited than the law under which the prior tariffs were ruled illegal.

"There's just a lot of unknowns at this point about what the impacts are to these already negotiated and signed agreements," Rano said.

The tariff on Luan and other imported goods has increased the costs to manufacture RVs, causing concerns that the units could become too expensive for most consumers, he explained.

"When you start putting pressure on inputs, that has the potential to impact the affordability of the lifestyle," Rano said.

RV industry interests are also closely watching the mandated review of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) negotiated during Trump's first term. Canada purchased \$1.38 billion

See **RV** on A3

Despite SCOTUS ruling, some Indiana manufacturers still face pain

CARSON GERBER
CNHI STATE REPORTER

SPICELAND — Skyrocketing costs. Lower-quality supplies. Fewer workers. Millions of dollars in extra spending.

That's been the unfolding reality at Draper Inc. nearly a year after President Donald Trump ordered sweeping tariffs on nearly every nation on the planet.

"It's been a rocky road," said Terry Faurote, the director of operations for the company that employs 700 workers making high-end window shades, projector screens and gym equipment at its Henry County facility.

Now, the company is celebrating Friday's U.S. Supreme Court ruling that Trump exceeded his authority by imposing tariffs through an emergency powers act. The ruling invalidates many, but not all, of the imposed tariffs. The 50% import tax on steel and aluminum remains in place.

Faurote said the tariffs imposed through the emergency powers act had a small impact on Draper, compared to the metal tariffs.

"Those are really, really diffi-

cult for the manufacturers here in the U.S.," he said.

The U.S. government could be required to refund the roughly \$240 billion in tariff revenue collected since April by the now-void import tax.

Neil Bradley, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's executive vice president and chief policy officer, said in a statement that the court's decision is "welcome news for businesses and consumers" and called for "swift refunds of the impermissible tariffs."

Trump on Saturday quickly moved to offset the court ruling by imposing another 15% tariff on nearly every country on the planet using the 1974 Trade Act.

However, under that law, tariffs can last for up to 150 days, after which Congress may have to take action to extend them — a major limitation compared to the emergency-powers tariffs.

The new taxes add just another kink for companies like Draper that have scrambled to adapt to the onslaught of policy changes

and shifting timelines on tariffs that have generated deep economic uncertainty over the past year.

In that time, the Trump administration has altered tariff rates more than 400 times. That's more changes in a year than in the nation's entire 249-year history combined, noted Michael Hicks, an economist at Ball State University.

Trump has argued tariffs will boost U.S. manufacturing, reduce trade deficits, help pay down the national debt and pressure trading partners into more favorable agreements — all of which, he asserted, will help U.S. businesses.

But Faurote said he's seen the import tax only hurt his company and drag down the economy.

"We definitely would have preferred not to see these tariffs," he said.

'A TOUGH YEAR'

Tariffs have caused more financial pain in Indiana than most



Michael Hicks



Andy Baker

WEATHER



Clouds and sun.

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Full forecast on A8.

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