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Trump and Mamdani hold productive meeting

President: We're going to help him

MICHELLE L. PRICE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump on Friday met the man who had proudly proclaimed himself “Donald Trump’s worst nightmare,” but he seemed to find the opposite.

The Republican president and New York City’s Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani were warm and friendly, speaking repeatedly of their shared goals to help Trump’s hometown rather than their combustible differences.

Trump, who had in the past called Mamdani a “100% Communist Lunatic” and a “total nut job,” spoke openly of how impressed he was with the man who had called his administration “authoritarian.”

Trump said he was surprised by their “great” meeting and said of the democratic socialist, “I think he is going to surprise some conservative people, actually.”

Mamdani and Trump said they discussed housing affordability and the cost of groceries and utilities, as Mamdani successfully used frustration over inflation to get elected, just as the president did in the 2024 election.

“We’re going to be helping him, to make everybody’s dream come true, having a strong and very safe New York,” the president told reporters with Mamdani beside him in the Oval Office.

“What I really appreciate about the president is that the meeting that we had focused not on places of disagreement, which there are many, and also focused on the shared purpose that we have in serving New Yorkers,” Mamdani said.

The president brushed aside Mamdani’s criticisms of him over his administration’s deportation raids and claims that Trump was behaving like a despot. Instead, Trump said the responsibility of holding an executive position in the government causes a person to change, saying that had been the case for him.

See **MEETING** on A7



Evan Vucci | Associated Press

President Donald Trump shakes hands with New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani at the White House Friday in Washington.

Stand up and dance



A sold-out crowd dances as the Dueling Pianos International play at Vibrant Event Center Friday, Nov. 14.

Photo provided

Dueling Pianos event raises \$64,232 to help Ivy Tech students

STAFF REPORT

The energy from the sold-out crowd was buzzing throughout the Vibrant Event Center all night long last week when the Ivy Tech Community College Logansport campus held its first Dueling Pianos fundraiser.

Members of the community, elected officials and representatives of area businesses and organizations cheered, clapped and sang their way through the fun-filled evening and raised nearly \$65,000 to support students at Ivy Tech.

“Together we raised an amazing \$64,232 – funds that will directly help students at Ivy Tech Community College overcome barriers and unlock opportunities,” said Dr. Ethan Heicher, chancellor for Ivy Tech’s Kokomo Service Area. “Thank you for believing in our students. Your support shows them that they’re not alone. Their community is behind them, cheering them forward.”

The fundraiser was specifically for Scholarships for Student Success for the Kokomo service area, which includes Cass, Fulton, Howard, Miami, Pulaski and Tipton counties.

The event featured the return of Dueling Pianos International, a crowd favorite known for its high-energy, all-request rock ‘n’ roll show where the audience becomes part of the performance. They played a similar event in September in Kokomo.

Kelly Karickhoff, vice chancellor for Development and Community Engagement, said sponsors, donors, and guests all contributed to the event’s success, showing the power of community in action.

See **PIANOS** on A7



State Rep. Ethan Manning served as auctioneer to raise funds for scholarships for Ivy Tech students.

Indiana's demands for energy explodes

County pushback still is powerful, however

CARSON GERBER
CNHI STATE REPORTER

PERU — In 2017, an international energy developer began signing land-lease agreements in Miami County to build 75 wind turbines as part of a multi-county development.

Project leaders said the wind farm would produce up to 600 megawatts of electricity — enough to power hundreds of thousands of homes.

A year later, the venture was dead.

Fierce pushback from local residents led county officials to approve a new wind ordinance with 2,000-foot setback requirements for the turbines that made the project nearly impossible to develop.

Larry West, then a Miami County commissioner who supported the wind farm, said losing the project cost the county and local school districts over \$7 million in new tax revenue and robbed landowners who signed lease agreements of a lucrative new income source.

Eight years later, as electricity rates skyrocket and energy demand soars, losing the project has also cost Indiana what would have been a major new energy source, he argued.

“Our electricity is going to come from somewhere ... and I think it’s going to have to be a combination of probably some green projects and nuclear modules,” he said.

BANNING CLEAN ENERGY

The situation in Miami County has played out time and again across Indiana, where county officials have total authority on zoning and permitting solar and wind projects.

But in the past two year, more counties than ever have started restricting clean-energy developments.

Of Indiana’s 92 counties, 64 have bans or impediments on new wind and solar projects as of September, according to an analysis by USA TODAY and the Indianapolis Star. That’s nearly double from just four years ago, when 34 counties had

See **ENERGY** on A11

INSIDE

CLASSIFIEDB4-B5
COMICS.....A8
LOCALA3

OBITUARIES..... A2
OPINIONA4
SPORTS..... B1-B3

FIRST AMENDMENT

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

WEATHER

Partly sunny.
High 54, Low 39.
Complete forecast on Page A12.

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