

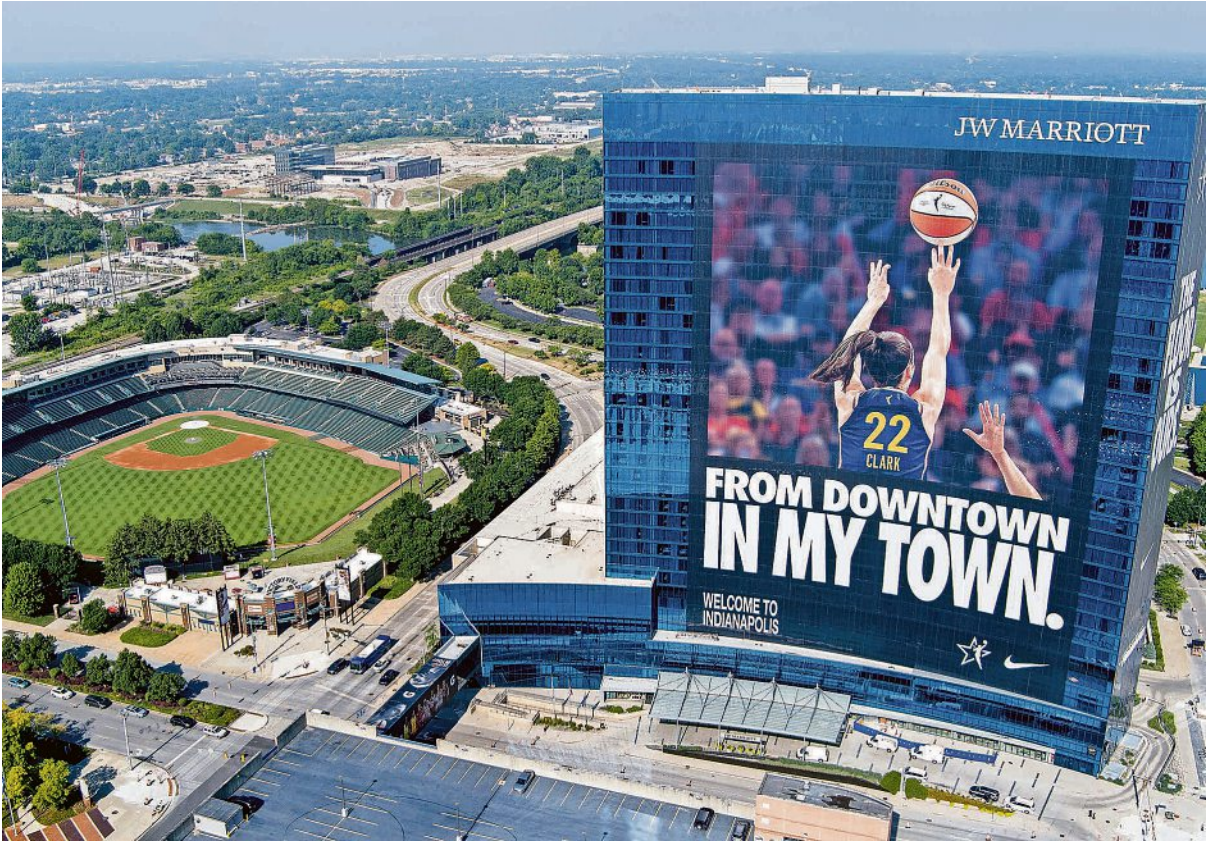
One-handed pitcher who threw no-hitter still resonates

SPORTS, 1B

Palladium-Item

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A graphic featuring Indiana Fever’s Caitlin Clark adorns the JW Marriott hotel on July 8, ahead of the WNBA All-Star weekend in Indianapolis. MAX GERSH/INDYSTAR

Indy’s summer economy is typically very slow

WNBA All-Star Game has changed that

Alysa Guffey
Indianapolis Star | USA TODAY NETWORK

Streets downtown have been ceremoniously renamed after WNBA teams. Hotels are nearly sold out. Caitlin Clark’s shooting form adorns the sky-blue JW Marriott hotel.

It’s a sign: The WNBA All-Star Game is coming to town — for the first time ever — and Indianapolis leaders, restaurant owners and residents are prepping for what they hope will be a healthy infusion to the local summer economy.

On July 18 and 19, all eyes in the sports world will focus on Indianapolis, the city that has arguably catapulted professional women’s basketball into the national spotlight and brought a fervor to the sport not seen before in the league’s nearly 30-year history.

Though the city predicts 70,000 visitors next weekend, the possible economic impact remains

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Nehemiah Talifarro, 11, dribbles a basketball during a youth basketball clinic following the unveiling of a new WNBA All-Star Legacy Court on July 10 at Al E. Polin Park in Indianapolis. The WNBA All-Star Game is coming to town July 18-19.

CHRISTINE TANNOUS/INDYSTAR

States face Medicaid, SNAP cuts

Sarah D. Wire
USA TODAY

GERMANTOWN, MD — Marsha Tonkins has never been one to get involved in politics. She was happy to let others worry about such things.

But President Donald Trump’s cuts to food stamps and health care for poor people and those with disabilities, among other things, have pushed her over the edge.

“I’m just worried, extremely worried,” said Tonkins, 57, who has a 17-year-old son with autism.

So, for the first time in her life, she attended a town hall July 10 held by her Democratic member of Congress, Rep. April McClain Delaney.

Officials across the country like Delaney are trying to figure out how the cuts will affect their constituents. After months of lobbying against the spending bill, they say they now have to figure out how their states are going to manage to live with it — and how to help residents like Tonkins do the same. But they’re not even certain yet what the impacts will be.

Cuts to Medicaid and SNAP won’t fully take effect until after the 2026 midterm elections, but states budget a year or even two years into the future. Unlike the federal government, most states are required to balance their budgets.

That means making hard decisions about which people they can afford to protect and which ones will be left to fend for themselves.

“As public servants, we all feel a responsibility to fill these gaps, but there’s not enough dirt for the hole,” said Nevada Treasurer Zach Conine, a Democrat.

“The level of catastrophe that’s being created here is not one that states like Nevada are going to be able to sort out,” he said — at least not without taking money from other priorities like mental health treatment, education and housing.

Trump and Republicans in Congress have said the budget cuts are

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‘Humanitarian city’ stirs heated political debate

Officials: Israel hasn’t yet crafted a practical plan

Maayan Lubell
REUTERS

JERUSALEM — An Israeli plan to move hundreds of thousands of already uprooted Palestinians to a so-called “humanitarian city” in Gaza has led politicians to spar with the defense establishment, but officials say a practical plan has yet to be crafted.

Even without a clear blueprint, opposition critics have denounced the proposal, with some likening the suggested site to a “concentration camp,” which could lead to ethnic cleansing in the coastal enclave devastated by 21 months of conflict.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanya-

hu’s administration has defended the project, saying it would offer civilians a safe haven while further weakening Hamas militants’ grip on Gaza, but it remains unclear whether it is a concrete government policy.

The idea was floated by Defense Minister Israel Katz in early July, and Netanyahu convened ministers and defense officials to discuss it late on July 13.

The military had been asked to put together a detailed proposition, but Netanyahu dismissed it as far too costly and complicated, two Israeli officials who were present said, and ordered them to come up with something cheaper and faster.

An Israeli military source said it was a complex initiative that required intricate logistics for infrastructure such as

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Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, left, sits in Israel’s parliament with Defense Minister Israel Katz, center, and National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir in Jerusalem on July 14. Netanyahu’s administration has defended the “humanitarian city” project. RONEN ZVULUN/REUTERS

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