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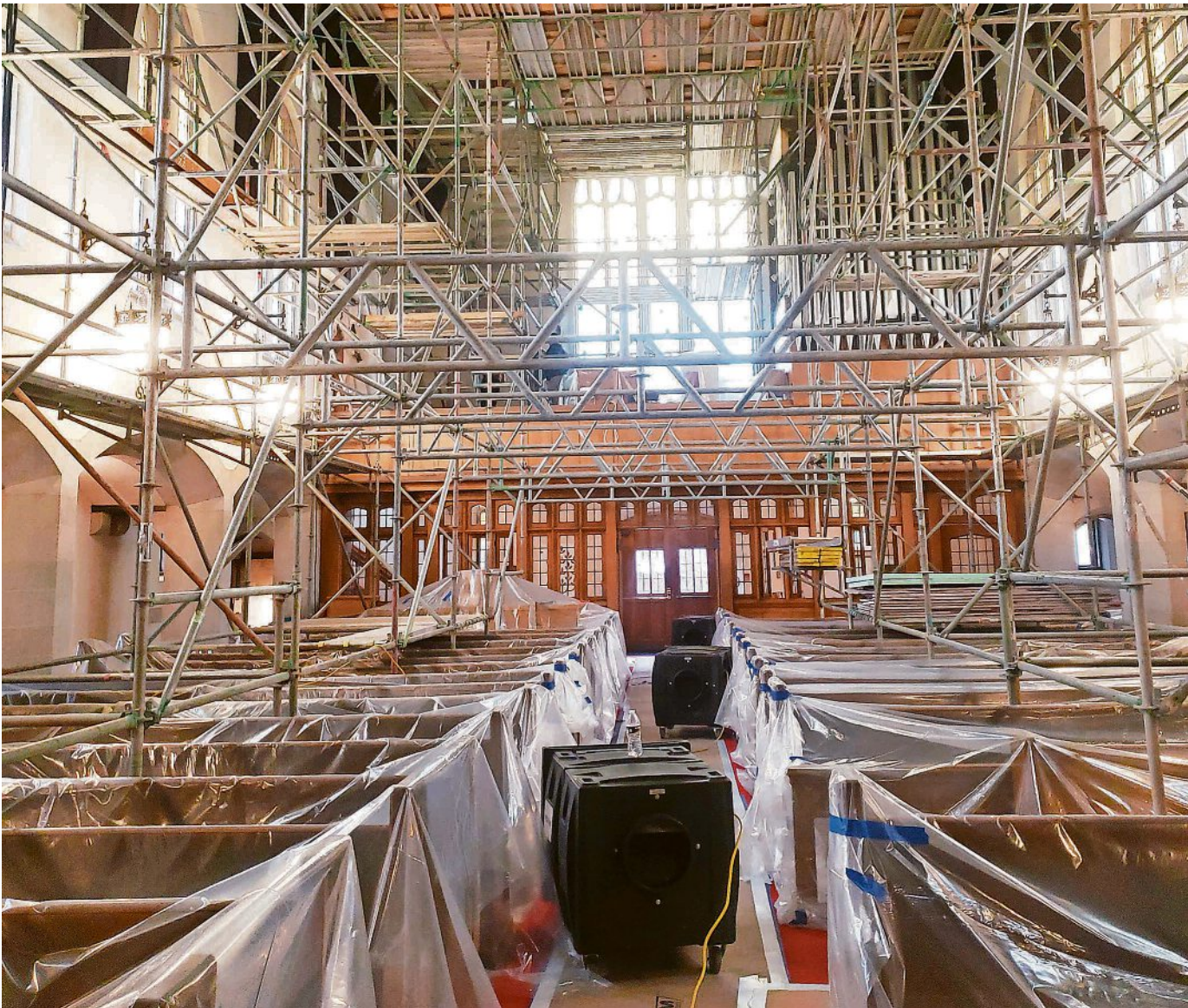


MORGAN COUNTY'S DAILY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1889

REPORTER-TIMES

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‘Fully operational for services’



Scaffolding has been erected throughout the sanctuary at First Christian Church in Bloomington after an Oct. 1 fire that left the sanctuary area with smoke damage. CAROL KUGLER/HERALD-TIMES

First Christian is back in church while recovering from fire

Carol Kugler The Herald-Times | USA TODAY NETWORK

“Things the way they are now are not the way they will always be.” That statement by the Rev. Kyrmen Rea, pastor at First Christian Church, has a special meaning this year after a fire on Oct. 1 damaged part of the building, keeping parishioners from services and other activities in the

church for two months. For most of October and November, the congregation met for Sunday services at St. Thomas Lutheran and then at Fairview United Methodist Church, with other locations for meetings and events.

On Nov. 30, people were once again

allowed back into the church, at 205 E. Kirkwood Ave. But necessary restoration caused by the fire, smoke and water damage means the congregation still is not able to meet in the sanctuary.

See CHURCH, Page 3A

17 Bloomington restaurants to open on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day

Carol Kugler and Boris Ladwig
The Herald-Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day have always been a time for celebration but this year with the Indiana Hoosiers playing in the Rose Bowl, there's more to celebrate. While some restaurants may be closed — with the winter break for Indiana University and area schools — others are open and still taking reservations. Here's a list of some of the area restaurants that will be open for New Year's Eve or New Year's Day.

See OPEN, Page 3A



The Tap, at 101 N. College Ave., will be open 11 a.m. through the afternoon on New Year's Eve, closing for a private party, and be open noon to 11 p.m. New Year's Day. RICH JANZARUK/HERALD-TIMES

Washington Post names IN inaugural ‘state of the year’

Kayla Dwyer
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Indiana lawmakers' rejection of President Donald Trump's push for mid-decade redistricting has caught the attention of the Washington Post editorial board, which named Indiana its inaugural "state of the year."

For this new tradition, the editorial board looked for a state that "did the most to improve or otherwise acted in a way worthy of emulation," the Post said in an article posted Dec. 22. Calling mid-decade redistricting a "race to the bottom," the board wrote it found Indiana's actions most admirable.

"Twenty-one principled conservatives in the state Senate resisted four months of intense threats, from primary challenges to federal funding cuts, but they never caved to demands from the Trump White House and Gov. Mike Braun (R) to redraw the congressional map," the editorial says. "This act of political courage has emboldened others, including Maryland Senate President Bill Ferguson (D), who continues trying to fend off Gov. Wes Moore's brazen power grab."

More than half of Indiana Republicans in the state Senate helped Democrats vote down the proposed redrawn congressional map on Dec. 11. The vote capped months of anticipation and pressure from the White House and its allies, placing Indiana at the center of national intrigue and ire.

The "intense threats" lawmakers weathered also included ones violent in nature, from bomb threats to swatting incidents. There have been no arrests.

The proposed Indiana map would have given Republicans the advantage in all nine of Indiana's congressional districts, two more than they currently have. Without these two, redistricting efforts in a handful of Republican and Democratic states could very well result in a wash for Trump's effort to pad the majority in Congress ahead of the midterm elections.

"It is no small thing for lawmakers to say no to the president of the United States," the board previously wrote about Indiana legislators. "It's even more remarkable for state-level Republicans to withstand the full force of President Donald Trump's bully pulpit for months on end."

Beyond redistricting, the editorial board also mentioned other policies passed in the past year that have

See POST, Page 2A

Note to readers

We will not be printing a paper on Thursday, Jan. 1, but will be providing it to you via the eNewspaper. You can always find the latest news on our website, mobile app, newsletters and social media. Subscribers can access the eNewspaper by going to our website and clicking on eNewspaper in the black navigation bar.

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