



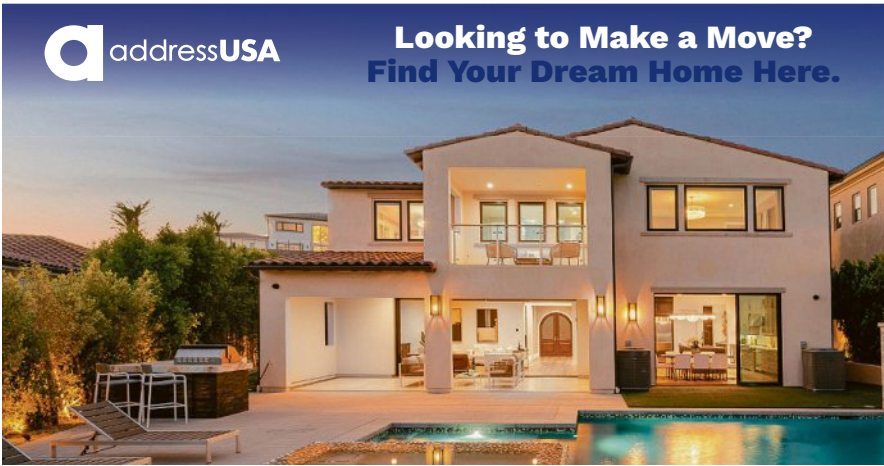
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South Bend Tribune

WEEKEND

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2026 | SOUTHBENDTRIBUNE.COM

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PRINT-ONLY SUBSCRIBER-EXCLUSIVE SPECIAL EDITION INSIDE

2026 NFL season preview: Rams look unstoppable



DATA DOMINION

Pollution politics and power needs collide at Amazon data center

NEW CARLISLE — On the frigid morning of Jan. 27, the Department of Energy ordered Amazon’s massive data center in northern Indiana to cut off 50 megawatts of electricity, about the amount needed to power 40,000 homes for one hour.

Backup diesel generators fired up, but the outside air was so cold that air lines froze in five of them. Cold lines disrupted the generators’ pollution control equipment, causing three pollutants that contribute to smog, acid rain and respiratory irritation to waft into the wind for five hours.

Bob Humbarger, who lives just east of the data center, said he was never notified of the leak that morning. But he knows the winds blow east toward the house where he’s lived for more than 50 years. Now, he’s worried about the lack of

See **POWER**, Page 8A

Redmond Bernhold,
Alyssa Sirichoktanasup and Andy Caron
University of Notre Dame Gullivan Program
in Journalism, Ethics, and Democracy

“Data centers aren’t necessarily bad, but what we are realizing as a society is that they have a huge environmental footprint that we can no longer tolerate.”

Brian Will
Co-leader of the South Bend chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby

Dry wells and water supply fears surround facility construction

NEW CARLISLE — For 18 months, Patsy Bode lived without running water. She boiled store-bought gallons to shower, dumped bottles into her toilet’s tank and washed her clothes at the local laundromat.

“Living without a well is hell,” Bode said.

Bode, 66, said she’d lived in her house in New Carlisle, west of South Bend, for 26 years and never had a problem with her shallow well until Amazon Web Services (AWS) began building one of the country’s largest data centers next door.

Yet officials from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources concluded that drought — not the data center — was the culprit for dry wells like Bode’s and about a dozen neighbors. A DNR spokesperson said there are no written reports from their investigation.

See **WATER**, Page 11A

ABOVE: Construction work takes place on a portion of land between Walnut and Larrison roads and north of Early Road on an \$11 billion Amazon Web Services data center campus on June 17, 2025, between South Bend and New Carlisle. MICHAEL CLUBB/SOUTH BEND TRIBUNE

Housing bill may have nuanced impacts on Midwest

Thomas B. Langhorne
Evansville Courier & Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The political appeal of the idea — slap restrictions on institutional investors who buy up single-family homes to make more housing stock for regular folk who want to actually live in them —

is plain to see. Both houses of Congress endorsed it by overwhelming margins.

But while the complex, 139-page 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act may make a big splash in coastal states with high costs and housing shortages — New York, California and a few others — its effect in Midwestern housing markets likely will be more nuanced.

More inside

Opinion: Washington is tone-deaf on ROAD to Housing bill. **4A**

“While the Act emphasizes zoning reform, streamlined permitting, and incentives for housing production, many Midwestern states already have rela-

tively lower housing costs, less restrictive land-use regulations, more developable land and slower rates of population growth,” said Roberto Quercia, a professor of housing and community development at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

See **HOUSING**, Page 4A





NORTH WOODS Village

> EDISON LAKES <

LICENSED MEMORY CARE

PAIN & DEMENTIA: HOW TO IDENTIFY PAIN WHEN COMMUNICATION IS LIMITED

Presented by: *Patty Piechocki - Alzheimer's and Dementia Services of Northern Indiana*

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AT 3PM- 4PM

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Volume 154 | No. 143
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