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Times-Mail

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A needle sits near the trash pile in a homeless persons camp near the B-Line trail in Switchyard Park on May 1, 2024. RICH JANZARUK/HERALD-TIMES

‘Something isn’t working’

Business owners: needle litter raises doubts about syringe exchanges

Boris Ladwig
The Herald-Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

BLOOMINGTON – Local health officials point to fewer hepatitis C infections and steady treatment referrals as evidence that Monroe County’s syringe

program is working. But some members of Bloomington’s public and business community say they see evidence that makes them doubt the program’s effectiveness: needles they find in parking lots, near trash bins and in the shrubs outside their doors.

Needle exchange programs provide people who use injectable drugs with clean needles and safe disposal options to reduce the spread of infectious diseases while connecting them to health

services and treatment resources. Several critics said they’re skeptical about statewide and national data cited by proponents, saying gaps in the program make the results hard to trust. Others say that — whether because of or in spite of the program — too many syringes are being dumped in public spaces where they may pose a risk to workers, customers and passersby.

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CIB ends host hotel negotiations

Boris Ladwig
The Herald-Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Capital Improvement Board had guided Bloomington’s \$71 million convention center through more than two years of steady progress. But just as the project approaches a decisive stage, repeated clashes with the Thomson administration are threatening to undermine the construction of a hotel widely considered critical to the success of one of the largest public downtown investments.

CIB President John Whitehart said Thursday that the administration of Mayor Kerry Thomson has made a late-stage reversal on what land the city is willing to provide for free for a convention center host hotel — a shift that has



Construction crews work on the Monroe Convention Center on Nov. 13, 2025. RICH JANZARUK/HERALD-TIMES

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Legislature approves renaming road after Bob Knight

Boris Ladwig
The Herald-Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Indiana Legislature has unanimously approved a plan to rename a stretch of Ind. 45 near Indiana University’s Assembly Hall after the late men’s basketball coach Bob Knight.

The resolution, sponsored by state Rep. Peggy Mayfield, R-Martinsville, would rename the Ind. 45 portion between Fee Lane to the east and College Avenue to the west. It would include the stretch that runs north of the IU athletic fields.

“Coach Knight’s impact on Indiana goes far beyond the basketball court,” said in a news release. “Renaming this roadway near Assembly Hall in his honor is a lasting tribute to his legacy, his commitment to excellence and the pride he brought to Hoosiers across the state.”

Knight coached the Hoosiers from 1971 to 2000. Renowned for his basketball brilliance and a belligerent bearing that inspired devotion and disdain in equal measure, Knight led Indiana to three national championships, among other accolades.

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IU BLOOMINGTON Shrivastav to step down as provost

Brian Rosenzweig
The Herald-Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Indiana University Bloomington Provost Rahul Shrivastav is stepping into a new role as the university system’s interim vice president for student success, the university announced Thursday.

John Ciorciari, dean of the Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies, will assume the role of interim provost at IU Bloomington.

The university did not specify when Shrivastav and Ciorciari would change their respective roles. Shrivastav has served as the Bloomington campus’ provost since 2022.

In a press release, IU President Pamela Whitten said both Shrivastav and Ciorciari were both “trusted, experienced leaders” with a deep commitment to IU.

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