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Robotics team paves their way to state champions



AJ Sedory, left, and Odin Farrell work on a robot during an I.C.E. Robotics practice session on March 25. RICH JANZARUK/HERALD-TIMES

Brian Rosenzweig
The Herald-Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

In a year full of bad headlines about robots, here's a good one: Bloomington's student robotics team, I.C.E. Robotics, recently captured the winning alliance at the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) state

championship, and is headed to the world championships for their third year in a row next month.

Each year, the youth robotics nonprofit FIRST tasks student teams across the world with building a robot for global competition. This year, they challenged teams to create a "launcher" robot, using a flywheel shooter system to

chuck multiple wiffle balls – or "artifacts" – into the air at thousands of rotations per minute.

I.C.E.'s robot "Hailstorm" proved the power behind its name, winning 31 out of its 32 matches this season, and scoring 396 non-penalized points at

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Smaller counties grew faster than most

Migration fuels gains as state births decline

Jordan Smith
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Despite Hamilton County's reputation as a magnet for new residents, two smaller central Indiana counties and one near Louisville outpaced its population growth rate in 2025. Meanwhile, Marion County, the state's largest, lags behind.

Indiana added more than 38,000 residents from July 2024 to July 2025 to reach a total population of 6.97 million, according to new census data analyzed by the Indiana Business Research Center at Indiana University.

Seven of the state's 10 fastest-growing counties were in the 11-county Indianapolis metropolitan area. Statewide, 66 of Indiana's 92 counties reported an increase in residents, and the overall growth rate slightly outpaced the nation's.

But Indiana's growth is projected to slow significantly in the coming decades as natural increase – births outnumbering deaths – gradually reverts into natural decrease.

Indiana has already started to rely heavily on migration, with 80% of population growth in the last three years due to people moving from abroad or within the United States. This shift upends the post-World War II norm of natural increase driving the state's growth, said Matt Kinghorn, senior demographer at the IBRC.

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ON THE MENU

Sales of Hive's new Squeak Burger aids cancer support

Carol Kugler
The Herald-Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

On April 1, the Hive restaurant added the Squeak Burger, offering a larger burger option with proceeds of the sales going to support breast cancer patients and their families. The sandwich was named after Hoosier defensive lineman

Tyrique Tucker, whose nickname is Squeak.

The Squeak Burger has three Hive smashburger patties, strips of bacon, American cheese, grilled onions, lettuce, pickles and Hive's house-made Squeak Sauce inside a soft bun. The sauce is a tangy, smoky-sweet topping that has a little kick.

Tucker was a starting defensive tack-


le on Indiana University's National Championship football team. Tragically, his mother, Tonya Giddings-Tucker, died of breast cancer in 2024. In her memory, proceeds of Squeak Burger sales will go to Cancer Support Community South Central Indiana, directly supporting breast cancer patients and their families.

Hive is at 2608 E. 10th St. in the Tenth and the Bypass shopping mall.

Dyngus Day at Lennie's returns

Celebrate Dyngus Day at Lennie's restaurant with its special menu, available 4-9 p.m. Monday, April 6, and


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