



Indiana bill with stricter verification for SNAP goes to Senate, **NEWS - A3**

Knights fall to No. 1 Roncalli in Class 3A Southport Semistate, **SPORTS | B1**

Tribune-Star

TRIBSTAR.COM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026

\$2.50

Switzer: Vigo may make 1-time help to VCSC

Picture still taking shape, but commissioner says county is financially healthy

By **SUE LOUGHLIN**
TRIBUNE-STAR

Even with upcoming changes due to Senate Enrolled Act 1, Vigo County Commissioner Chris Switzer says county government will be in good shape to assist the Vigo County School Corp. with its

facility plan. He spoke briefly during Monday's meeting of the Vigo County Oversight Board. With upcoming changes brought by last year's Senate Enrolled Act 1, Switzer said the county would be in good position



SWITZER

to make a one-time payment from the county general fund; include temporary funding for the school district through a new local income tax structure; or potentially both, subject to Vigo County Council approval. Switzer said later his comments were based on existing

legislation, which could undergo some modifications during the current General Assembly. At the oversight board meeting, Switzer pointed to major changes coming from the state that have to be implemented in late 2027 and early 2028 that would impact the local income tax structure. The county's 2% local income tax will expire in 2027, and at that time, all of the money generated



METHENY

from that tax will go to the county general fund, adding a one-time addition of about \$50 million, he said. The current LIT has rates dedicated for different purposes, including public safety and the new county jail. Turn to **VIGO, A2**

TARIFF PAIN IS NOT OVER



CNHI News Indiana/file

Parts are used inside the Stellantis Kokomo Transmission Plant, where electric vehicles are built.

Some Hoosier manufacturers say rough waters still lie ahead

By **CARSON GERBER**

CNHI STATE REPORTER • Spiceland

Skyrocketing costs. Lower-quality supplies. Fewer workers. Millions of dollars in extra spending.

That's been the unfolding reality at Draper Inc. nearly a year after President Donald Trump ordered sweeping tariffs on nearly every nation on the planet.

"It's been a rocky road," said Terry Faurote, the director of operations for the company that employs 700 workers making high-end window shades, projector screens and gym equipment at its Henry County facility.

Now, the company is celebrating Friday's U.S. Supreme Court ruling that Trump exceeded his authority by imposing tariffs through an emergency powers act. The ruling invalidates many, but not all, of the imposed tariffs. The 50% import tax on steel and aluminum remains in place.

Faurote said the tariffs imposed



Submitted photo

An overview of the Draper Inc. facility in Spiceland.

through the emergency powers act had a small impact on Draper, compared to the metal tariffs.

"Those are really, really difficult for the manufacturers here in the U.S.," he said.

The U.S. government could be required to refund the roughly \$240 billion in tariff revenue collected since April by the now-void import

tax.

Neil Bradley, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's executive vice president and chief policy officer, said in a statement that the court's decision is "welcome news for businesses and consumers" and called for "swift refunds of the impermissible tariffs."

Turn to **TARIFF, A5**

Fiscal impact statement on Bears stadium bill outlines millions in tax increases

By **NIKI KELLY**

INDIANA CAPITAL CHRONICLE
Indianapolis

A fiscal note on the proposed Chicago Bears stadium construction package shows northwest Indiana residents could pay millions in new taxes, which could grow with use by visitors to the region.

The statement - prepared by the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency - still includes many unknowns but does provide some baseline revenue estimates for hospitality-related taxes.

Under Senate Bill 27, a state-crafted authority would take out bonds to build the stadium. A bevy of taxes would provide revenue to make the annual bond payments.

The exact cost of the project is unknown at this time though the Chicago



AP

A sign hangs outside the Chicago Bears' Soldier field before an NFL playoff game against the Green Bay Packers on Jan. 10 in Chicago.

Bears have committed \$2 billion and House Speaker Todd Huston said Thursday in unveiling the plan that as much as \$1 billion in public funding could be involved.

The bill allows Lake and Porter counties to each adopt a 1% food-and-beverage tax by June 30, 2027. Revenue from these taxes would go to the Northwest Indiana Stadium Board.

Turn to **BEARS, A2**

In appreciation of small victories

It has always been a belief of mine that if we gauge our lives only by their major milestones and most memorable days, we're going to be consistently disappointed. That's why I'm always happy to take the occasional

small victory whenever it comes along.

I write this on an uncharacteristically warm day in mid-February, my cabin windows open to air that

has topped out at over 60 degrees. The sky was so blue and clear this morning that I took advantage of the mild weather to rake a few leaves that had piled up around my back deck and the barn door.



MIKE LUNSFORD



Mike Lunsford

A male Eastern bluebird sits atop a newly-cleaned nesting box in the writer's yard.

It was such a positive experience being in the fresh air and in shirt sleeves that I went ahead and cleaned out a nesting box that had sat all season filled with twigs the wrens had packed in it, mostly just to spite any other bird that might have been interested in the living space.

Turn to **LUNSFORD, A6**

Weather

A6



Mostly cloudy

44
30

WEDNESDAY
Sunny
49 32

THURSDAY
Partly sunny
43 27

Dow Jones 48,804.06

Inside

- Advice B5
- Comics B6
- Obituaries A2
- Opinion A4
- Puzzles B5
- Sports B1

Contact us

Advertise 812-231-4226
 Subscribe 812-231-4274
 Classifieds 812-231-4233

Office hours

Monday through Friday,
 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 2800 Poplar St., Suite 37A



7 97883 50001 6
 TRIBUNE-STAR, P.O. BOX 149
 TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47808

Vol. 42, No. 203
 A1 page editor:
 Jim Willis



Vote for Your Favorite Businesses in the area
 at tribstar.com/readerschoice

March 2nd-15th, 2026