

MAYOR THOMAS M. MCDERMOTT, JR. AND THE CITY OF HAMMOND
PRESENT THE
**HAMMOND
Holiday
Parade**

**SATURDAY
DEC 6
10AM**

Parade begins at 10AM
at Gavitt High School
and ends at the
Hammond Sportsplex

**Kickoff the 2025
HOLIDAY SEASON
at 9:30 AM with
a FREE ONE MILE
Santa
Sprint**


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THE TIMES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

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NEXT WAVE OF GROWTH



JOSEPH S. PETE, THE TIMES

Calumet College of St. Joseph broke ground on a new athletic field and fitness & flora park Wednesday.

Calumet College of St. Joseph breaks ground on new athletic field, park

JOSEPH S. PETE
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WHITING — Students, dignitaries and college officials huddled while wrapped in puffy coats and snow-flecked caps in a frigid chill and steady snowfall Wednesday to break ground on the next wave of

the Calumet College of St. Joseph’s expansion.

The college in a former Standard Oil research laboratory at 2400 New York Ave., which has a Whiting address but is actually just across the border in Hammond, held a groundbreaking ceremony

on its new athletic field and fitness and flora park. It’s the next major project funded by the college’s Campus & Community Collaboration Initiative Lilly Endowment Grant.

Please see **GROWTH**, Page A5

MC responds to rise in homelessness

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MICHIGAN CITY — As temperatures plunge and much of the Region is left blanketed in snow, city officials laid out Tuesday what they are calling a compassionate and coordinated response to a significant rise in homelessness locally that mirrors a pattern statewide. “Economic hardships are real, and homelessness is a complex issue faced by communities across the country,” Michigan City Mayor Angie Nelson Deutch said in a prepared statement. “Michigan City is committed to working toward solutions that support the unhoused population and also ensure our neighborhoods and businesses can thrive.”

Homeless across a northern region made up of LaPorte, Porter, Jasper, Newton, Pulaski and Starke counties experienced a 41.6% increase in homelessness last year, according to the Indiana Balance of State Continuum of Care and the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority.

This increase has become more noticeable across the city with encampments popping up in various wooded areas near homes and businesses, and an increased complaints of loitering, and incidents of aggressive, inappropriate and offensive behavior. The northern stretch of Franklin Street is among the areas particularly hard hit, triggering a plea for help this fall from business owners, including Monica O’Donnell.

O’Donnell said she is sensitive to the plight of those who find themselves homeless.

“I want to look for a solution,” she said. “Let’s work together.”

The mayor’s Chief Administrator Kelley Smith told the city council Tuesday that after taking part in various trainings and seminars, the city sought funding to create a “street team” of

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2026 INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Republicans reject redistricting pause

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The Indiana House is set to approve a radical reshaping of the state’s congressional district boundaries Friday, with barely any direct public input on the new maps.

The House Committee on Elections and Apportionment heard three hours and fifteen minutes of public testimony Tuesday

on the House Bill 1032 redistricting plan before the Republican-led panel voted 8-5 to endorse it.

But committee Democrats observed nearly everyone speaking on the measure, almost all of whom were opposed, was from central Indiana, since the hearing was only scheduled Monday afternoon and driving anywhere that night or Tuesday morning

was difficult, at best, due to a snowstorm that led to numerous highway crashes and slide-offs.

That prompted state Rep. Carolyn Jackson, D-Hammond, to recommend postponing further action on redistricting until all Hoosiers interested in commenting on the new maps have a chance to register their opinion.

Specifically, Jackson proposed the General Assembly hold nine public hearings, one in each of the state’s congressional districts, exactly as was done in 2021 when state lawmakers drew new districts to adjust for population shifts following the once-a-decade U.S. Census.

Please see **REDISTRICTING**, Page A5

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Weather
Mostly sunny; very cold
High 18 • Low 0
FORECAST • A4

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