

AROUND THE REGION

From Indiana

BB gun incident at Central High School is third this year in EVSC

EVANSVILLE — Two-and-a-half months into the 2025-26 school year, a third known safety-related incident has occurred in Evansville Vanderburgh School Corp. schools.

In a message to parents at Central High School on Oct. 23, the EVSC reported that a student brought a BB gun to school earlier in the day. Students are safe and classes were conducted as usual, the school corporation said.

The BB gun did contain BBs, EVSC acknowledged to the Courier & Press afterward.

There have been at least two other incidents in EVSC schools this year. Within two weeks of the day all students returned to school, miscommunication between a parent and a principal allowed a Thompkins Middle School student who had threatened to unleash potentially deadly violence in the school to get inside briefly the next morning. Two weeks later — less than a month into the new school year — a sixth-grade student was reportedly caught trying to sell an unloaded handgun at Delaware Elementary School.

— Evansville Courier & Press

Tippecanoe County’s first ‘tiny homes’ community proposed in rural West Lafayette

A rural West Lafayette development could include the construction of the first “tiny homes” community in Tippecanoe County.

Wesie’s Tiny Village, according to documents that developer Scott Lods filed with the Tippecanoe County Area Plan Commission, would be on North 400 West, just north of Candlelight Plaza. The 18-acre parcel is currently zoned R2 residential, with a requested rezone to PDRS for residential planned development.

The development would include the construction of about 200 500-square-foot homes. A variety of styles, featuring a mix of traditional and modern design elements, would be offered, including single bedrooms, studios and loft options.

— Lafayette Journal & Courier

From Ohio

Cincinnati hires law firm to investigate leadership of police chief

The city has hired a law firm to investigate the “effectiveness of leadership” under Police Chief Teresa Theetge, officials announced Oct. 27.

The law firm of Frost Brown Todd was hired for the task. Theetge was placed on paid administrative leave Oct. 20.

The Enquirer reached out to the city manager’s office about how much the investigation would cost. City Manager Sheryl Long’s spokeswoman Mollie Lair texted The Enquirer saying it will be less than \$50,000 but didn’t have a specific dollar amount.

The city has come under fire this summer as crime in the urban core spiked. A series of high-profile crimes have drawn national attention, including the killing of Patrick Heringer in his Over-the-Rhine home and a widely shared video of a fight downtown.

— Cincinnati Enquirer

Gov. DeWine announces 1,000 new jobs coming to Ohio

Gov. Mike DeWine announced a dozen new development projects, two of which are in central Ohio, expected to create more than 1,000 new jobs and retain more than 2,500 others.

In Columbus, AndHealth LLC expects to create 75 full-time-equivalent positions, generating \$10.2 million in



From Indiana

The State Theatre building as seen on Feb. 11 in downtown South Bend. ● After years of neglect and vacancy, the State Theatre’s revival appears poised to begin again. ● After purchasing the State earlier this year, the South Bend Redevelopment Commission approved putting the building at 212 and 216 S. Michigan St. up for bid, with a resolution passed establishing an offering price, approving bid specifications and approving notice of intended disposition of property, at its Oct. 23 meeting.

GREG SWIERCZ/SOUTH BEND TRIBUNE

new annual payroll as a result of the company’s expansion at Miranova Place in downtown Columbus.

The proposed project will accelerate hiring and training of specialized staff needed to meet demand and sustain growth, including the creation of local skilled jobs. The tax credit authority approved a 1.9%, nine-year Job Creation Tax Credit for the project. AndHealth, founded in 2021, is a digital health company that provides specialty care and pharmacy services for chronic diseases.

— Columbus Dispatch

Mantua residents weigh options after firing of police chief

MANTUA – Residents of the Mantua area met Oct. 25 to discuss potential next steps days after the village’s police chief was fired.

People at the meeting in a former school building, including a former village councilman, discussed options that include implementing a new form of government that would allow voters to recall the mayor; taking legal action; and asking Mayor Tammy Meyer to step down.

Joseph Urso, Mantua’s police chief since 2017, was fired Oct. 22 after a 12-hour public hearing. The meeting addressed six charges brought by Meyer regarding Urso’s romantic relationship with Mantua Police Officer Miranda Brothers. Their relationship also was the subject of an investigation three years ago.

— Ravenna Record-Courier

From Tennessee

Lawsuit filed against Fayette County school board alleges racial discrimination

Four Black staff members of Fayette County Public Schools have filed a lawsuit against the board of education and county over alleged discrimination.

The lawsuit was filed Oct. 23 in the

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee.

Towanda Maclin-Brown, Brian Cunningham, Bobby Champion and Marqueatte Yates are listed as the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, which alleges demotions and salary reductions against Black teachers and administrators.

School district representatives could not be reached for comment the evening of Oct. 24.

The lawsuit claims that Black staff members were subjected to adverse employment actions, including demotions and salary reductions, while non-Black employees would not endure similar adverse employment actions.

The four plaintiffs, who requested a jury trial, are seeking reinstatement to their former positions, along with compensatory damages for lost wages and pain and suffering.

— Memphis Commercial Appeal

Volkswagen’s Chattanooga plant offers ‘last, best and final contract offer’ to workers

Volkswagen’s Chattanooga plant released its “last, best and final contract offer” last month to workers seeking higher pay, health care, retirement, attendance and more.

The offer included a 20% wage increase, a cost of living allowance, an updated retirement contribution, bonus opportunities and new health and safety processes.

But it wasn’t enough.

“We know that this is not the last and final offer, we just want Volkswagen to stop the intimidation,” United Auto Workers-VW Bargaining committee member and Volkswagen Chattanooga assembly worker Yogi Peoples told The Tennessean.

Volkswagen officials encouraged United Auto Workers members to accept the offer, citing reports from employees in favor of it.

“We’ve received positive feedback on our offer from employees and continue to urge the UAW to give them a say and let them vote before calling a

strike,” a Volkswagen spokesperson told The Tennessean.

— Nashville Tennessean

UT adds more international students while navigating Trump policies

The University of Tennessee at Knoxville enrolled more international students this semester, despite concerns that President Donald Trump’s immigration policies could keep students from getting the documents they need to study in the United States.

The 94-student increase brought UT’s international students total to 1,487 for the fall semester – more than any previous semester going back to fall 2016 – including 100 or more students each from India, China and Bangladesh. UT had 1,393 international students in the spring semester, by comparison.

William Vittetoe, the university’s director of international student and scholar services, shared the update with Faculty Senate members on Oct. 20, roughly six months after Knox News reported nine international students had their immigration statuses revoked and then restored by the Trump administration.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is operating during the ongoing federal government shutdown to process visa applications and enforce changes from the Trump administration, including a proclamation effective Sept. 21 that requires employers to pay a \$100,000 fee for each specialty worker requiring an H1-B visa.

“The language does not specifically target higher education,” Vittetoe said. “It is very much focused on the tech sector. That said, it absolutely impacts us. We are not excluded, so we are included within this, even if the language doesn’t necessarily directly target us.”

While F-1 student visas only need to be processed by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, H1-B visas require additional approvals from the Department of Labor, which is closed during the government shutdown.

— Knoxville News Sentinel

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