

AROUND THE REGION

From Indiana

Woman arrested at Beckwith town hall pleads guilty; 2 cases pending

The woman accused of pushing a Warrick County Sheriff’s deputy during Indiana Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith’s town hall last year has pleaded guilty to battery resulting in bodily injury. According to court records, Amanda Bennett entered a change of plea Sept. 14 to plead guilty to Level 6 felony battery against a public safety official. Contingent on the plea, the judgment was entered as a Class A misdemeanor. Bennett was sentenced to one year of non-reporting probation and will be required to write a letter of apology to the deputy. Bennett was one of three individuals arrested during and after a town hall held by Beckwith in Newburgh. Bennett was directed to leave the event after shouting at the lieutenant governor, at which point the Warrick County Sheriff’s Office alleged she pushed a deputy who then tackled her to the ground. Also arrested were Kellie Moore and Matthew Eike. Eike’s case is still pending in Warrick County Superior Court 1 where he faces disorderly conduct charges. The case is set for a bench trial Jan. 22, 2027. Moore’s case is also pending. A status conference is set for Oct. 26 in Warrick County.

– Evansville Courier & Press

St. Joseph County officials pass Microsoft MOU despite pushback from residents

While St. Joseph County officials were voting to move the Microsoft data center in Granger forward Oct. 6, political candidates and local residents were urging them to reconsider. Both the county’s Redevelopment Commission and Board of Commissioners met Oct. 6 to vote on a second memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Microsoft. Not a single member of the public who addressed the officials during the public hearing portions of either meeting spoke in favor of it. The \$65 million MOU, which was presented by the county’s executive director of Economic Development, Bill Schalliol, would be entirely paid for by Microsoft and added more funding for construction design as well as property acquisition for the data center. Five separate bid packages are written in the MOU, including the addition of new water lines and sanitary sewer lines to parts of Veterans Parkway and Cleveland, Douglas and Bittersweet roads. These bids will address immediate needs of the project, Schalliol said at the board of commissioner’s meeting.

– South Bend Tribune

West Lafayette OKs sewage expansion, divvies up SK hynix tax revenue

SK hynix is projected to generate about \$500 million in mixed property tax revenue for the city over the next three decades, and the West Lafayette City Council has approved a resolution to divide some of the money. The revenue comes from the Innovation Development District where SK hynix sits. Such districts capture incremental income, sales and property taxes to finance infrastructure and incentives for Indiana’s high-tech businesses. The quasi-public Indiana Economic Development Corp. manages the zones and controls the majority of the local tax revenue. In August, Mayor Erin Easter and her staff announced they had negotiated a 20% share of the annual incremental property tax, substantially higher than the state-mandated rate of 12%. Over the next 30 years, 52.74% of



Members of the Carroll County Fire Department helped save a person trapped in a farm silo on Oct. 11 in Rose Township.
PROVIDED BY THE CARROLL COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

that share will go to the Tippecanoe County School Corp., as required by state law. The remainder will be split evenly between the city and the county. The West Lafayette School Corp. will not receive any of the money because SK hynix does not sit within its jurisdiction.

– Lafayette Journal & Courier

From Ohio

Residents propose new adventure park and zipline for Cincinnati

A century ago, Cincinnatians went up and down the hills surrounding the city’s basin on incline railways. While the last incline closed in 1948, people could be zipping down one hillside in a few years. Over-the-Rhine residents have envisioned a zipline in the place of one erstwhile incline. It wouldn’t be just a zipline but an “adventure park” with elevated walkways near the treetops and climbing walls on the hillside below Bellevue Hill Park with sweeping views of the city. Residents want the city’s help. The Over-the-Rhine Community Council has applied to the city for \$350,000 to buy land and conduct a feasibility study in its next biennial budget for 2028-2029. The deadline for neighborhoods to submit requests for funding in the next biennial budget was Sept. 28.

– Cincinnati Enquirer

Firefighters rescue person stuck atop grain silo in Carroll County

Multiple firefighters help rescue an injured person stuck in an auger system at the top of a grain silo on a Rose Township farm. A Carroll County Sheriff’s Office deputy arrived first the evening of Oct. 11 to help manage the victim’s bleeding with a tourniquet, according to a Facebook post by the Carrollton Fire Department. Several fire agencies coordinated to get the person free from the silo, bandaged and on the ground. Officials first attempted to fly the victim

on a helicopter, but conditions changed and the victim had to be driven to Akron Children’s Hospital. Details of the victim such as their age and gender were not immediately available.

– Canton Repository

As data centers proliferate across Ohio, residents fight back with ballot issues

Ohio is one of the nation’s top five states for operating data centers, according to a Pew Research Center study. And the investment is not stopping anytime soon. For example, there are plans for a roughly half-trillion-dollar complex in southern Ohio that would be the biggest complex in the country, complete with its own natural gas power generation. On Nov. 3, at least 18 municipalities and townships across Ohio will vote on issues related to data centers, and Conserve Ohio is finalizing a ballot initiative for a statewide ban on large data centers next year. In Ashville, a Pickaway County village of 5,000, EdgeConneX wants to build an 800 megawatts data center on 195 acres. A referendum aims to halt, or stall, progress. Bert Cline, village administrator, doesn’t understand the opposition. Teays Valley Local Schools is guaranteed \$77.4 million upfront upon occupancy of the data center building, Cline said. Another \$3 million in property taxes goes to the village. And schools get another \$5 million for operations for the first three



Memphis rapper Tyke T will celebrate 10 years of his Driven By Music label with a show at the Orpheum on Sunday.
PROVIDED BY MICHAEL BUTLER

years. The guarantees depend on Ohio Power Siting Board approval of the power plant.

– Columbus Dispatch

From Tennessee

Rapper helps launch free music studio at Memphis library

The Memphis Library Foundation was set to host an official grand opening celebration for The Mound Lab, a new music production facility at Orange Mound Library. The event was to launch of a “fully equipped, free-to-access music studio” where Memphis residents can record, mix and produce songs. Rapper Tyke T, aka Tyrone Stroble, who is serving as Hip-Hop Innovator-in-Residence for the Memphis Library Foundation, developed the concept for The Mound Lab. According to a statement from the Memphis Library Foundation, the space is “designed to break barriers for people of all ages in Memphis to record, mix and produce a record, providing a unique, hands-on experience at no cost.” Located in Memphis’ Orange Mound neighborhood – which has also produced a legacy of rap artists over the years including 8Ball & MJG – The Mound Lab promises to be a “free resource for the next generation of musicians and artists to bring their creative ideas to fruition.” Tyke T’s curriculum is focused on teaching “real-life skills” in music production and the music business. Drawing from his own experience, Tyke T’s courses will focus on the creative aspects of recording, while also “showing creators how to monetize and own their art.”

– Memphis Commercial Appeal

Nashville lands 2 hotels on TripAdvisor’s best luxury list in the U.S.

Two Nashville hotels have been recognized among the nation’s top luxury destinations by TripAdvisor. JW Marriott Nashville and 1 Hotel Nashville were named to TripAdvisor’s Travelers’ Choice Awards Best of the Best Hotels list, which “celebrates the highest level of excellence in travel.” The distinction is awarded to hotels that receive a high volume of exceptional reviews and ratings from travelers over a 12-month period. According to TripAdvisor, fewer than 1% of the platform’s roughly 8 million listings earn this recognition.

– Nashville Tennessean

Knoxville adding boat docks, kayak storage, trails at three riverside parks

New boat docks, kayak rental stations and upgraded landscaping are coming to three Knoxville riverfront parks after the city was awarded \$1.15 million from the state. The upgrades split \$400,000 to Holston River Park and \$746,730 between Gov. Ned McWherter Park and Suttree Landing Park. ● **Gov. Ned McWherter Park (1648 Riverside Drive, under the James White Parkway):** Money from the Local Parks and Recreation Fund will go toward a “river recreation hub” at this park. Other upgrades include a boat dock, boater staging area, pavilion, restrooms and a station for kayak rentals and storage. ● **Holston River Park (3300 Holston Hills Road):** Money from the state’s Recreational Trail Program will go toward a beginner bike skills area and gravel greenway connectors at this park. ● **Suttree Landing Park (1001 Waterfront Drive):** This South Knoxville park will receive new native plants, kayak storage and accessibility features for people with disabilities.

– Knoxville News Sentinel

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