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IU Health plans job cuts at Bloomington Hospital

Health care system to consolidate some of its IT, payroll, accounting work in Indianapolis

By Dann Denny
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"The IU Health system, as well as our entire industry, is trying to figure out how to make health care cost less so we can continue providing high-quality health care to the community."

STEVE DECKARD, IU Health Bloomington Hospital's vice president of human resources, discussing plans to shift some local work to Indianapolis

IU Health Bloomington Hospital plans to cut jobs in the coming months, but officials will not yet say how many.

The losses will accompany consolidation of IU Health's information technology system, may be accomplished partly by attrition, and are part of an effort to keep costs down in light of recent health care reform measures, according to a hospital spokesman.

"We are trying to get a handle on our costs based on the health care landscape, one in which the reimbursement model is changing," said Steve Deckard, the hospital's vice president of human resources, referring to the Affordable Care Act, which calls for $716 billion in Medicare cuts, much coming from payments to doctors and hospitals. Additionally, a 2 percent cut in Medicare payments to doctors

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SUSPECTS SOUGHT
in Boston Marathon bombings

FBI | ASSOCIATED PRESS

The FBI released a number of surveillance video images Thursday showing Boston Marathon bombing Suspect 1, at left in dark cap, and Suspect 2, in white cap, walking through the crowd before Monday's explosions. The public is being asked to help identify the two suspects. See story, page E1, and a video at HeraldTimesOnline.com.

Timing going high tech at Little 500

DAVID SNODGRESS | HERALD-TIMES

Paige Gruber and other Indiana University Student Foundation members place boards along the track for the Little 500 races. The women's race festivities begin at 4 p.m. today and the men start at 2 p.m. Saturday.

Women's bicycle race today at IU's Armstrong Stadium, men's Saturday

By Mike Leonard
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Little 500 race official Jordan Bailey says there's a saying that goes along with running the country's largest competitive collegiate cycling event: "It's not a matter of if chaos will ensue, it's when."

A major step to address the difficulties inherent in running the Indiana University women's and men's races, which are today and Saturday, will be implemented this year with the installation of a high-tech timing system that should not only ensure accuracy but add to the enjoyment of race fans and followers.

Each bicycle will be equipped with a small RFID timing chip, about the size of a half dollar and affixed to the front axle of each bike. A detection loop buried under the start/finish line will pick up each chip's unique signature, relay it through a decoder and provide instant and highly accurate information to race scorers.

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Little 500 at a glance

WOMEN'S RACE: 4 p.m. today.
See a preview in Sports, page B2.

MEN'S RACE: 2 p.m. Saturday.

WHERE: Indiana University's Bill Armstrong Stadium, North Fee Lane at East 17th Street.

TICKETS: $25 adults, $10 children 12 and younger; good for both events.

BROADCAST: Televised live on AXS.tv (Comcast HD channel 1241).

Lockdown: Ivy Tech drill runs smoothly

System would be used if a security or weather emergency should arise

By Mike Leonard
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When a man allegedly threatened to "blow up" the main building at Ivy Tech's Bloomington campus last December, the community college launched its lockdown procedures and campus officials generally were pleased with the response.

The alert did expose a major shortcoming in campus security, however, Chancellor John Whikehart admitted this week.

"We didn't have locks on the classroom doors," he said. "We did everything in our plan right, but that was something no one ever pointed out or thought about."

The campus has nearly completed the installation of locks on all classroom doors — a project that could cost as much as $20,000. In March, it activated a new Alertus system that sends out texts and emails if a weather or security emergency arises and even broadcasts alerts on every computer and video screen active

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PLEASE RECYCLE

Week of events to celebrate Earth Day

Tree plantings, lectures, mural creation planned

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Earth Day is Monday, but local events over the next week will provide numerous opportunities to celebrate our planet and engage in activities to improve the environment.

Today

Tree planting. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 200 students at Harmony School, 909 E. Second St., plan to plant 100 trees on the school's grounds. The school has focused on environmental stewardship throughout the spring semester, and today will celebrate nature by planting trees.

The tree planting is one of hundreds of "Branching Out of Wildlife" projects across the country, sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation.

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down to earth