

OPINIONS

GUEST COLUMN

Why Ind. economic growth leads nation

Brandt Hershman
For the Journal & Courier

As we enter the political silly season, it's disappointing to see some politicians and special interests take shots at Indiana's economy simply to score political points.

Recently, we've seen Carrier's misguided business decision used to promote a skewed caricature of Indiana's job climate. Businesses come and go for a variety of reasons, but the truth about the Indiana economy is a very different story.

This week, the federal government reported Indiana's economic growth during the fourth quarter of 2015 ranked No. 1 in the nation. It's the latest in our string of successes.

Under Gov. Mike Pence, Indiana's record of job creation and retention is becoming the envy of the nation, including CEO Magazine ranking us as the best in the Midwest and fifth-best business climate in the U.S.

Since 2012 Hoosier businesses have created 152,100 new jobs, the unemployment rate has dropped from 8.4 percent to 5.2 percent and average wages for new jobs

created are almost \$25 per hour.

In contrast, under Illinois' failed leadership, the average worker's salary has decreased by \$3,000 annually, half of Chicago's manufacturing jobs have disappeared, and the state has the highest unemployment rate in the United States. Leadership truly matters.

Recently, General Motors announced a \$1.2 billion investment in Ft. Wayne, Rolls-Royce announced a \$600 million investment in Indianapolis, and General Electric built a new \$50 million jet engine manufacturing facility in Lafayette. Subaru is hiring 1,200 workers and investing \$140 million, and Salesforce is adding 800 jobs in Indianapolis after passing over San Francisco, New York, Chicago, Seattle and Atlanta. These investments are directly tied to high-wage jobs located in the No. 1 advanced manufacturing state in the nation.

Average income in Indiana is growing and has outpaced the nation since 2009, our unemployment rate has hovered among the best in the Midwest, and Indiana has the seventh-best job growth in America during Pence's term in office. And, despite higher incomes in some other states, Hoosiers have more disposable income than their counterparts in places like Massachusetts, Cali-

fornia and New York due to our fourth-lowest cost of living.

None of this success happened overnight.

In 2004, Indiana was ranked as the 38th best business climate in the nation. Today we are No. 8 in the Tax Foundation's business tax climate rankings. From the Great Recession until today, Indiana has gained 30 places in the rankings, all while maintaining a balanced budget, investing billions in roads and education, cutting state debt by almost half and maintaining a \$2 billion reserve that preserves our AAA credit rating.

Under Gov. Pence's leadership we have cut a score of taxes, lowering income, corporate and property taxes while eliminating the inheritance tax. As a result of Indiana's leadership and our neighbor's poor choices, 53 companies have moved from Illinois to Indiana.

While Illinois-style political rhetoric tries to tear Indiana down, the facts paint a picture of continuing success of which Hoosiers can be proud. Indiana is truly a state that works. And we're not done yet.

State Sen. Hershman, R-Buck Creek, is majority floor leader of the Indiana State Senate and chairman of the Senate Committee on Tax and Fiscal Policy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A brother's thanks to a true community

As my studies came to an end, many of my friends and classmates discussed future plans. After explaining I was moving back to my hometown, I was often asked, "Why do you want to move back to West Lafayette? Didn't you grow up there? Don't you want to live somewhere new



JACKIE MOLLOY/THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR
Christian Burns' West Lafayette track teammates wore this wristband in his honor at the IHSAA State Track Meet this month.

and different, or in a big city?" As the first priority of many classmates was to leave their hometowns, returning to this community was always mine.

According to Webster, community may be simply defined as: a group of people who live in the same area.

The Greater Lafayette area however, is much more than a place where a group of people happen to live.

Two weeks ago, on May 31, my brother, Christian Thomas Burns, was killed in a car crash. Over the past two weeks the abundant kindness, overwhelming love and endless stream of support this community has shown my family is truly incredible. It is as much a testament to the strength and character of our community, as it is to the strength and character of my brother Christian. Our community is much more than just a place to live, it embodies a more appropriate definition: a feeling of fellowship and common character.

My family and I will never truly possess the words necessary to fully express our gratitude. As we remember Christian, we will never forget how this community embodied true fellowship and strength of character in helping the Burns family through this most difficult time. My brothers Christian and Stewart, sister Sarah and I were all raised in West Lafayette. We are proud to call this community our home.

Love and gratitude,

Alex Burns
West Lafayette



Brandt Hershman



28 PAGES OF FUN DELIVERED WEEKLY!

Here is a sample of what you can look forward to every week!

TELEWORD by David Ouellet

HOW TO PLAY: All the words below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and circle their letters. The leftover letters spell the Teleword.

PIZZES MORGAN Solutions: 7 letters

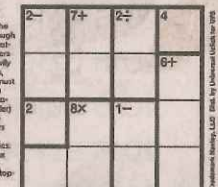
RETSACDAORBOOKS
SSRIAFFATNERRUC
ETSEUGOLDENNZIE
INODNOLEADQYRBL
RGRUPERTXRLTFEE
AAOOCREPAPSWENB
IBMTVBASHOHDCRR
DRAETSSUHIJSJEL
EIRRRRAOHOTLTSPT
REOCKELLNIAOLLI
OLSELIBEVICROAE
HLASAARENRIIPCS
TETBTPPSLTIELEA
USUHPFINAISTAE
ADNAMARSENALAEIM

© 2015 Universal Uclick 12/13

Amanda, Appointments, Arsenal, Authorized, Books, Britain's, Broadcaster, Chair, Celebrities, Current Affairs, Games, Dubai, Ease, Finalist, Gabriel, Golden, Got Talent, Guest, History, Host, High Lead, Life, Lives, London, Millions, Meal, Newspaper, Omarosa, Osborne, Rebel, Republic, Rupert, Secret, Sharon, Stories, Suzy, Tabloid, Talk

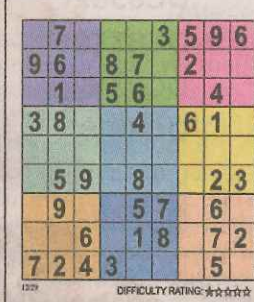
KENKEN

Each row and column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 without repeating. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target number in the top-left corner. Fractions: Fill single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

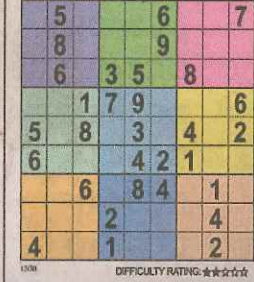


SUDOKU PACIFIC

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 4x4 box contains every digit 1 to 9 inclusive.



12/13 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



13/13 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

GRAND-DADDY OF A SALE!

BUY 6 GET 3
FREE
OR 33% OFF
ALL OTHER PRODUCTS



CALL TODAY to talk to one of our experts and schedule an appointment!

765-250-4767

Hurry Sale Ends June 30th!

SUBSCRIBE NOW! 1-877-282-1776

Mention Promo Code P-A2



For about \$1 per week you can now add our new puzzle book to your existing subscription!

DON'T MISS A WEEK, SUBSCRIBE TODAY!