Cook hopes to reverse medical device tax

The president of Bloomington-based Cook Medical says despite "considerable disappointment" that the fiscal cliff deal did not include a delay in a new medical device tax, the company will continue efforts to lobby lawmakers and the public. Kem Hawkins says the tax will cost Cook $20 million this year and slow down the development of new products. The company has halted U.S. expansion because of the tax. Hawkins believes small companies will take the biggest hit.

INSIDE INDIANA BUSINESS

BY GERRY DICK

The Clarksville Town Council has appointed Nick Lawrence redevelopment director. He most recently served as One Southern Indiana's senior director of business development.

NOVEMBER HOME SALES ROSE

The Indiana Association of Realtors is reporting an increase in November closed home sales. The organization says that number jumped 26.2 percent, compared to the same month in 2011. The average sale price throughout the state increased 5.1 percent.

ILLINOIS COMPANY BUYS RAIL LINE

A subsidiary of Illinois-based Pioneer Railcorp has purchased a rail line that includes Indiana. The former Maumee & Western Railroad Corp. line, which starts in Allen County, will now be called Napoleon, Defiance & Western Railway.

CONTRACTOR EXPANDS INTO OHIO

Westfield-based Environmental Field Services Inc. is expanding probing and drilling capabilities. The contracting firm is adding equipment and personnel in Ohio.

CARMEL FIRM AIDS RESTORATION

A mesh banner by a Carmel company is being used in the nation's capital. Top Value Fabrics has provided a building wrap that will cover the U.S. Supreme Court building during a restoration project.

LILLY GRANT HELPS BEAUTIFICATION

Keep Indianapolis Beautiful Inc. has received a $325,000 grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. The funding will support greenspace, urban forestry and cleanup initiatives.

WGU INDIANA TOPS GRAD MARK

WGU Indiana has hit another milestone. The online university says it now has 500 graduates. Chancellor Allison Barber says reaching that target shows how quickly the university has grown and highlights the school's commitment to training Hoosiers for the 21st century economy.

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