

■ TODAY’S VERSE

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

“The role of a journalist is not to tell you what to think. It’s to give you something worth thinking about.”

— Hannah Arendt

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

Know what a sad strawberry is called?

Why, a blueberry, of course!



Summer is finally here! Here’s hoping for a weather friendly and super safe summer for all!



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The TIMES

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Spark Ignited in Fishers

Spark!Fishers, presented by Meijer, returns to the heart of downtown Fishers’ Nickel Plate District for a weeklong celebration from Tuesday, June 24 through Saturday, June 28. Featuring a variety of patriotic activities and summer fun each day, the festival invites the community to come together and celebrate our nation’s freedom. “Spark!Fishers is a time for our community to come

together, celebrate our shared spirit, and enjoy all that makes our city vibrant and unique,” said Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness. “I look forward to seeing families and neighbors making memories and building traditions during this year’s festival.” The festivities kick off Tuesday with a free concert featuring Sixteen Candles at the Nickel Plate District Amphitheater (NPD AMP),

followed by a spectacular drone show at the end of the night. Throughout the rest of the week, visitors and residents can lace up their running shoes for the annual 5K walk/run on Wednesday, see classic cars and local art at the Car & Art Show on Thursday, enjoy a free concert and popular fireworks show on Friday, and end the week with the Spark!Fishers street fair and parade on Saturday.

Returning this year, guests can get a spectacular view of the city on the Ferris wheel located on Municipal Drive on Friday and Saturday. “Spark!Fishers truly offers something for everyone, from the popular aerial drone show and parade to the return of favorite events like the 5K and street fair,” said Marissa Deckert, Director of Fishers

See SPARK Page 4

■ BOOMER BITS RETIREMENT

I’m a Retired Veteran; Why must I pay for Medicare?

Dear Rusty: I’m a retired Navy veteran who is going to be turning 65 years old this year. My question is concerning mandatory Medicare sign-up requirements. Why do I have to sign up for Medicare coverage at 65 when I can’t start collecting full Social Security benefits until I turn 67? My Social Security benefits will not pay for my mandatory Medicare because I can’t start collecting full Social Security benefits until I’m 67! I currently pay for Tricare and utilize my local Veterans Administration medical facilities and referrals for my

healthcare. With me turning 65 and having to wait until I’m 67 for my full Social Security benefits, it just seems unfair that I’ll have to pay out of pocket Medicare monthly expenses for two years! Is there any way to avoid this unfair penalty?



ASK RUSTY
Social Security
Advisor

Dear Retired Navy Vet: First, I want to thank you for your military service to our country. Please know that here at the AMAC Foundation

See RUSTY Page 2

■ BOOMER BITS FINANCES

How to Spot Financial Misinformation on Social Media

(StatePoint) Thanks to content being delivered nonstop over social media channels such as TikTok, YouTube and Instagram, financial advice is more accessible than ever before. The bad news? Much of it can be misinformation. According to CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® professionals, here are some red flags to watch out for, so you can stay on track with your goals: Lack of qualifications: Someone simply calling themselves an expert does not make it so. Look for credentials such as CFP® certification to indicate

that the social media influencer has formal financial planning education and experience. Guaranteed returns: Offers that sound too good to be true typically are. Be wary of “no risk, high reward” claims. Pressure: Applying pressure on viewers to act fast could be a sign that you’re watching a scam artist. CFP® professionals can work with you to plan years and even decades ahead, on goals such as retirement or buying a home. Financial planning can take time.

See MEDIA Page 2

■ BOOMER BITS TECHNOLOGY

Rokita Says Beware of Fake ‘DMV’ Text

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita is alerting Hoosiers about an email and text message scam falsely claiming to be a “final notice” from the Indiana Department of Vehicles DMV, not the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles. These fraudulent messages aim to steal personal and financial information from unsuspecting individuals by threatening actions related to alleged traffic violations. “Scammers are using deceptive tactics to exploit Hoosiers, and we must stay pro-

active to protect our personal information,” Rokita said. “No government organization, including the BMV, will send you unsolicited email or text messages demanding payment, so everyone should be cautious of any communication telling them to do so.” The scam messages claim that, as of June 7, 2025, individuals with outstanding tickets will face the following actions if payment is not completed: They will be reported to the DMV for ticket violation.

Their vehicle registration will be suspended. Their driving privileges will be suspended for 30 days. They will be transferred to a toll booth and charged a 35% service fee. They may face prosecution and will suffer potential impacts to credit scores. Rokita tells Hoosiers to remain vigilant and take the following precautions: Do Not click on any links in unsolicited email or text messages claiming to be from the DMV.

Do Not provide personal information, such as your driver’s license number or Social Security number. Do Not share any card or account information through text messages or unverified links. Report the unwanted text messages as junk on the app you use and block the phone number or email address. Contact your phone provider for call/text blocking solutions. Many manufacturers

See FAKE Page 2

■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. While most of us bundled up and hunkered down through Indiana’s colder-than-usual winter, we weren’t the only ones seeking shelter. Rodents and other pests were doing the same, and according to one pest expert, this year’s icy season may have set the stage for a serious summer invasion. Zachary Smith, founder of Smith’s Pest Management, said that Indiana’s winter brought more snow cover than usual and that created ideal conditions for pests like mice, rats, and even overwintering insects. And that, Smith warns, is why homeowners across the state may notice an increase in pest

activity this summer.

2. Indiana Pork is proud to announce the official “Taste of the Fair” of the 2025 Indiana State Fair: the Hog and Slaw – a mouthwatering pulled pork sandwich topped with creamy coleslaw and served on a soft bun. The Hog and Slaw will be available exclusively at the Indiana Pork Tents throughout the 2025 Indiana State Fair, running August 1–17 (closed on Mondays) at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis

3. Nominations are now being accepted for farmers and ranchers to serve on local U.S. Department of

Agriculture Farm Service Agency county committees. These committees make important decisions about how federal farm programs are administered locally. All nomination forms for the 2025 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by Aug. 1, 2025. Elections for committee members will occur in certain Local Administrative Areas. Producers interested in serving on the FSA county committee can locate their LAA through a geographic information system locator tool available at fsa.usda.gov/elections and determine if their LAA is up for election by contacting their local FSA office.

■ HAMILTON HAPPENINGS

Hamilton County Commissioner Steve Dillinger will deliver his annual State of the County address Wednesday, June 25 at the Embassy Suites in Noblesville. Hosted by the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce, the annual luncheon will offer residents and business leaders a detailed update on the county’s progress and future plans. The State of the County has sold out in past years and is expected to do so again. Attendees are encouraged to register early to secure their seat. Doors open at 11 a.m., with lunch served at 11:20 a.m. The program begins promptly at noon. Tickets are \$50 for Chamber members and \$55 for non-members. Registration is required and can be completed online at www.noblesvillechamber.com.



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ADOPT A PET CHAMP



Champ has some energy to burn and love to spare! This 3-year-old male Pit Bull Terrier has been available for adoption at the Humane Society for Hamilton County (HSHC) since 10/16/24. With commands like sit down, shake, place, spin, and wait already on his roster, his repertoire of tricks is ever-growing. If you think this little genius might like to meet you, visit him anytime Monday-Tuesday or Thursday-Sunday from 12-5 PM. To meet Champ, please fill out an adoption application at hamiltonhumane.com/adoption application at hamiltonhumane.com/adoption.

MEDIA
Continued from Page 1

Sensational language: Is a financial influencer, or “finfluencer,” dismissing traditional retirement accounts as obsolete? Advising that you tie up all your assets in real estate? Be suspicious of bold claims challenging prevailing financial wisdom. It’s important to remember that many influencers operate with one goal in mind: getting views, likes, comments and reshares. While such content is entertaining, it doesn’t necessarily constitute sound financial advice.

Paid promotions: If the influencer is touting a specific solution or product, it could be a sign they are being paid to do so. Financial advice should be delivered with your best interests in mind.

Anecdotal evidence: Every financial situation is unique, so use caution before following advice based on someone’s personal experience. What worked for the content creator may not work for you.

Of course, knowledgeable financial influencers can exist. While their insights can provide general education, there is no substitute for financial advice tailored to your unique situation, delivered by a qualified professional committed to acting in your best interests. To find your CFP® professional, visit Lets-MakeAPlan.org.

While social media has the power to help consumers, there is a lot of distracting background noise out there. Before acting on advice from social media, always pause to consider how it aligns with your long-term financial goals.

FAKE
Continued from Page 1

have built-in features to block unwanted calls or offer apps to block and label potential spam calls. Click here for a list of resources available.

Forward spam emails to the FTC at spam@uce.gov and report at report-fraud.ftc.gov.

If you have already pro-

vided personal information or money through a link in these email or text messages, file a consumer complaint immediately online at indianaconsumer.com or call 317-232-6330.

For more information on avoiding scams, visit the Indiana Attorney General’s website at www.in.gov/attorney-general.

RUSTY
Continued from Page 1

we care a lot about our veterans, and you may find the “For Veterans” section of our Foundation website interesting (www.amacfoundation.org).

Regarding your question, you should be aware that enrolling in Medicare is not mandatory, but there are consequences if you do not enroll when you become eligible (normally at age 65). For one thing, if you are a retired veteran on military TriCare, you will lose your TriCare benefits if you don’t enroll in Medicare when you are eligible (TriCare requires that you enroll in Medicare when eligible). And, since you are not yet collecting Social Security, you will be required to separately pay the Medicare Part B premium directly to Medicare (they will bill you when you enroll in Medicare). Another potential consequence is that if you do not enroll in Medicare

Part B when you are first eligible, you may incur a lifetime late enrollment penalty for enrolling in Part B later.

Something else to keep in mind is that there are two “parts” to Medicare - Part A (which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization services), and Part B, which is coverage for outpatient healthcare services (doctors, medical tests, etc.). Medicare Part A is free to you, but there is a premium for Medicare Part B (\$185/month for 2025). Note that you will need to pay a Part B premium as long as you are enrolled in Medicare Part B (it doesn’t go away after you are collecting Social Security, but it is taken from your Social Security payment). And there is no way for you to avoid the Part B premium after enrolling, and enrolling in Part B is necessary for you to continue your military TriCare-for-life benefits. Note that Medicare Part A and Part B do not include prescription drug coverage, but your

TriCare coverage usually does.

It’s important to note that Medicare and Social Security are two independent senior programs with different eligibility rules. As you may know, you can collect early (reduced) Social Security at age 65 (and have your Medicare Part B premium deducted from your SS payment). But you would be collecting Social Security early and, in addition to a reduced benefit, you would also be subject to Social Security’s annual earnings test if you are still working. The SS earnings test limits how much you can earn before some of your SS benefits are taken away (if you exceed the earning limit prior to your full retirement age).

So, is it unfair that you must pay for Medicare Part B before you are collecting Social Security? Well, I think not, because the two programs are completely independent benefits (the Social Security Administration merely administers

Medicare payments as a convenience). Remember your Medicare Part A is free, but you must pay a premium for Part B, and you must take both to retain your military TriCare-for-Life benefits. You can visit this site to see how to pay your Medicare premiums until it is later deducted from your Social Security payment: www.medicare.gov/basics/costs/pay-premiums/online-bill-pay.

Once again, thank you for your service to our country.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. Russell Gloor is the, National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

County Awards Six Scholarships to Ivy Tech

Hamilton County has awarded six high school seniors \$2,500 scholarships to support their education at Ivy Tech Community College. The scholarship program, which is part of the county’s discretionary grant program, is a partnership between the County Council and six Youth Assistance Programs in Hamilton County.

The following students were awarded the scholarships:

- Youth Assistance Program
- Shaylyn Turner
Noblesville Youth Assistance Program
- Ava Netherton
Sheridan Youth Assistance Program
- Henry Janak
Westfield Youth Assistance Program



Photo courtesy Hamilton County

County Councilman Tim Griffin with Anna Hesser, Carmel Youth Assistance Scholarship Winner.

All the students awarded scholarships plan to attend Ivy Tech’s Hamilton County location.

“We want every student in Hamilton County to have the opportunity to succeed,” says County Councilor Brad Beaver. “Programs like

this not only support individual students, but they also strengthen our community. Ivy Tech is a key partner in making education affordable and accessible, and we’re proud to support their mission.”

Blackhawks Visit Museum



Photo courtesy Sheridan Historical Society Museum

Members of the 2025 Sheridan football team visited the Sheridan Historical Society Museum as they begin preparations for the upcoming season. Members of the team viewed the Museum’s exhibit dedicated to Coach Bud Wright career at Sheridan and his nine state championship teams. The Historical Society and the Sheridan community wish Coach Jake Chesney all the best for a successful season this year.

Attorney General Champions Justice for Women

In June of 2020, over the course of two days, Victor Johnson conducted a string of attacks on several women in Indianapolis. After a jury trial, Johnson was convicted of eleven counts of criminal activity, which included one count of Level 1 felony attempted murder, one count of Level 1 felony attempted rape, and four counts of Level 5 felony intimidation.

The Court of Appeals of Indiana affirmed the convictions and 87-year sentence of Victor Johnson, who was found guilty of a series of violent attacks

on multiple women in Indianapolis.

“This two-day crime spree caused immense harm to innocent Hoosier women and terrorized our community,” Attorney General Rokita said. “Victor Johnson’s heinous acts, including attempted murder, attempted rape, and multiple counts of intimidation, inflicted profound physical and emotional harm on his victims. This ruling ensures that he will face the consequences of his actions and protects our communities from further harm.”

The Court of Appeals’ unanimous decision rejected Johnson’s claims that the evidence was insufficient to support three counts of Level 5 felony intimidation, that his 87-year sentence was inappropriate, and that the trial court abused its discretion by imposing consecutive sentences for attempted murder and attempted rape. The court highlighted the violent and predatory nature of Johnson’s actions, which targeted multiple victims over two days, causing severe physical and emotional trauma.

Attorney General Rokita praised the work of Deputy Attorney General Andrew Sweet, who represented the State in this case.

“Our office remains committed to protecting Hoosiers from violent crime and ensuring that those who prey on our communities face the full consequences of their actions,” Deputy Attorney General Andrew Sweet said. “This ruling sends a clear message that such egregious behavior will not be tolerated in Indiana.”

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Veteran Sports Scribe Taking Wait-And-See Approach With Purdue



Ken Thompson
Columnist

The days of Purdue athletics being described as “cheap” are over. Athletic director Mike

Bobinski, university president Mung Chiang and the Purdue University Board of Trustees, whether willingly or figuratively kicking and screaming, really had no choice to be part of the revenue sharing agreement that is a major part of the House vs. NCAA antitrust lawsuit settlement that takes effect July 1.

At stake was continued membership in the conference Purdue president James Smart co-founded in 1896 alongside the presidents of the University of Chicago, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Northwestern and Michigan. And with that Big Ten membership comes an equal share of \$8 billion in TV revenue through the end of the 2029-2030 academic year.

“As I’ve said a number of times, I believe as the world turns here in 2025, when we move into the revenue-sharing environment, the world comes back to Purdue in some ways,” Bobinski said during the press conference that introduced new football coach Barry Odom this past December. “We are going to operate at the full cap. We’re going to be as resourced as anybody in the country, allowing Barry and his staff that ability to be eyeball to eyeball to everybody we’re competing with from a transfer and/or high school recruiting perspective.”

In a statement released June 7, Bobinski doubled down on that belief. He calls the House settlement “a pivotal crossroads in the history of Purdue Athletics.”

Let’s break down Bobinski’s statement in bold with my views to follow.

“The new settlement-authorized revenue sharing model introduces reforms that will fundamentally alter how we support our student-athletes. Beginning July 1, 2025, schools like Purdue will be able to directly share athletic

revenues with student-athletes—up to an initial year annual cap of \$20.5 million. This is a groundbreaking change, rebalancing the relationship between institutions and athletes, yet it also presents an enormous financial challenge.

“At the same time, the NCAA will pay \$2.6 billion in back damages to former student-athletes, funded by a reduction in revenue distributions to member schools. For Purdue, this means an estimated loss of \$1.2 million per year in planned NCAA revenues for the next decade. These dual pressures—increased spending requirements and reduced revenue streams—tighten our financial landscape in ways we have never experienced before.”

Unlike our federal government, Purdue cannot deficit spend. Now, the university can help by reducing or not charging the athletic department for rent and utilities for the use of Ross-Ade Stadium, Mackey Arena and other facilities on university land. The Board of Trustees can also assist with the debt burden the athletic department carries from improvements to Ross-Ade (Tiller Tunnel, new scoreboards, etc.) and the upgrades to the other football facilities.

As for the \$1.2 million per year in NCAA revenues, this is why college basketball fans are reading reports of the men’s basketball tournament possibly expanding from 68 teams to 72 or 76 within the next year. More games for TV, more money to ease paying off that 10-year mortgage.

“While the financial pressures are real, the revenue sharing cap presents Purdue with a unique and timely opportunity. In this new environment, all participating Division I institutions will operate with the same overall maximum limit on direct payments to student-athletes. This cap is intended to level the playing field in the highly competitive world of talent acquisition, ensuring that resource disparities between schools are minimized

and that Purdue—through strategic resource allocation, innovation, and donor support—can recruit, develop and compete directly with the nation’s top programs.”

If you believe Michigan, Ohio State, Penn State and Nike University (aka Oregon) are going to be spending the same amount of money as Purdue on football and men’s basketball, I’ve got a bridge in Brooklyn I’d like to sell you. If you believe Purdue can outsmart, out-budget and out-fund-raise the entire SEC (except for Vanderbilt) and the likes of Clemson and Florida State then you believe in Tinker Bell, the tooth fairy and the Easter bunny.

Purdue fans are desperate for a national championship in basketball and respectability in football. They’re just not willing to pay for it.

The John Purdue Club covers scholarships for all 16 varsity sports. But Purdue lacks the Phil Knights and similar sugar daddies who take great pride making sure their favorite school wins at any cost.

“This is our chance to maximize every dollar, every partnership and every opportunity to attract and retain elite student-athletes. With disciplined investment and passionate support from the Purdue community, we can seize this moment to elevate our program, recruit top-tier talent, and enhance our proud tradition of excellence.”

Part of the House settlement created NIL Go, a clearinghouse overseen by Deloitte to supposedly prevent the pay for play nonsense when Name-Image-Likeness compensation went into effect four years ago.

The settlement dictates that NIL opportunities from university-associated collectives must be paid “for a valid business purpose” at “fair market value rates.” Athletes must report their NIL deals worth at least \$600 to Deloitte. Any deal deemed to violate the new standards can be rejected.

While this will surely trigger lawsuits, one piece of small print in the House settlement may not clog up judicial schedules. Any athlete who accepts revenue sharing payments gives up the right to sue.

“While these changes reshape the landscape of intercollegiate athletics, Purdue’s core mission remains unchanged. We will continue to prioritize the academic achievement, personal growth and holistic development of our student-athletes. Our programs are designed not only to foster success in competition, but to prepare Boilermakers for life after graduation—equipping them with the skills, character, and resilience needed to excel in any arena.”

That set of core values has worked for Matt Painter and the men’s basketball program. Rumors abound of the offers Braden Smith has received from other schools. There’s little doubt that Trey Kaufman-Renn and Fletcher Loyer have been pursued by other schools. But all three stayed at Purdue for a reason.

Other programs haven’t been so lucky. Purdue volleyball’s best two players were lured away this past offseason. Oregon’s unlimited bank account broke up a long-term relationship between the Thieneman family and Purdue.

“As sport-specific roster caps replace scholarship limits, we are committed to leveraging this flexibility to keep Purdue competitive at the highest level. In selected sports, increasing the number of athletic scholarships will be essential for attracting and retaining the best talent. Meeting this new financial demand will depend on continued—and expanded—support of the John Purdue Club. Your annual gifts will fund existing and expanded scholarship offerings, ensuring Purdue remains a destination for top student-athletes.”

The House settlement “grandfathers” the roster spots for existing athletes but from now on, the 85-scholarship limit for football has been replaced by a maximum roster size of 105. Will every school pay for the extra 20 scholarships? Some will to keep talent away from the Purdues and Indianas.

Men’s basketball gets two more scholarship slots to 15. Had Purdue

had 15 scholarships instead of 13 a few years ago, maybe future NBA players like Desmond Bane (Seton Catholic) and Jake LaRavia (Lawrence Central) suit up for the Boilermakers instead of TCU and Indiana State/Wake Forest, respectively.

“In recognition of the transformative power of Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) opportunities, and the need for our student-athletes to have access to this important component of today’s collegiate athletics model, Purdue is proud to announce the creation of Boiler BrandWorks, an in-house student-athlete marketing and brand-building unit. The mission of this unit will be to work directly with student-athletes to develop their personal brands and source meaningful NIL partnerships with donors, alumni, and businesses—both locally and nationally.”

I just don’t see Boiler BrandWorks generating enough NIL to make the difference between an athlete considering Purdue and cheaters by reputation like Kentucky and Louisville. Lexington and Louisville are metropolises compared to Greater Lafayette and can provide far more money-making opportunities.

“We invite every member of the Purdue community to play a role in this exciting initiative. If you are a business owner, entrepreneur, or have connections to organizations that may be interested in partnering with our student-athletes, we encourage you to participate or refer those entities to us. Your efforts will help open doors for our student-athletes, amplifying their opportunities and strengthening Purdue’s competitive position in the NIL era.”

I wouldn’t hold my breath.

“Our University leadership has made a clear and forward-looking commitment to partner with Purdue Athletics to ensure our ability to fully participate and compete within the framework of the new model. This part-

nership will provide meaningful support and alignment as we navigate the evolving landscape. At the same time, the expectation for fiscal responsibility within Athletics and the need to aggressively pursue revenue growth remains unchanged. We are committed to stewarding our resources wisely, making strategic financial decisions and upholding the highest standards of accountability to our supporters and the broader Purdue community.”

In other words, President Chiang and the Board of Trustees will offer financial assistance, within reason. Purdue athletics used to boast that it took no university money to finance its operation. A noble gesture which has resulted in too many terrible football seasons, the loss of good coaches to better-paying jobs, the decline of women’s basketball over the past 20 years and nearly losing Matt Painter to Missouri in 2011.

I’ll fast forward through Bobinski’s pleas for money for the final thoughts from the Purdue athletic director.

“This moment requires all of us—alumni, fans, donors, and friends—to step up and be bold. The new revenue sharing cap environment presents an opportunity for Purdue to rise up and compete on an even footing with the best in the nation.

“Your support is not just appreciated—it is absolutely essential. In the coming months, we will keep you informed about our progress and the tangible ways your contributions are making a difference.

“Let’s forge ahead, together, and ensure that Purdue not only meets this moment but leads the way into a new era of excellence.”

“Even footing?” I’ll believe it when I see it.

Kenny Thompson is the former sports editor for the Lafayette Journal & Courier and an award-winning journalist. He has covered Purdue athletics for many years.

State Clarifies Anti-Sanctuary Law

The Indiana Attorney General’s office is providing new guidance to Indiana sheriffs on their obligations under Indiana’s anti-sanctuary law following the improper release of an illegal alien from the Randolph County Jail.

“When Indiana law enforcement agencies encounter illegal aliens wanted for immigration-related crimes or civil violations, they cannot limit their cooperation with federal authorities,” Attorney General Todd Rokita said. “In this case, the release of this criminal alien should’ve never occurred.”

As the state’s top legal officer, Rokita is responsible for enforcing the state’s anti-sanctuary law implicated in the Randolph County incident.

Rokita has brought lawsuits against the sheriffs of Monroe and St. Joseph counties over their policies and practices of refusing to cooperate with federal immigration authorities. For the time being, he has issued warnings to other agencies that have committed violations mistakenly rather than deliberately and willfully. By issuing the new guidance, Rokita is ensuring that all sheriffs are on notice about their obligations and that mistaken violations of state law will be less likely to occur.

“This improper release of a wanted criminal alien likely would not have happened had the Indiana State Senate Judiciary Committee Chairwoman done her job and passed House Bill 1531 like Hoosiers wanted the General

Assembly to do,” Rokita said. “Sen. Liz Brown had an opportunity to add clarity and teeth to current provisions, which would’ve helped keep Indiana communities safer and given sheriffs reassurance about their authority to cooperate with federal immigration officials.”

On May 28, the Randolph County Jail released Marcio Romero Torres after only seven hours. Torres, an illegal alien, is wanted by federal authorities for multiple felonies, including alleged hostage taking — facts discovered by a Union City police officer who took Torres to jail following a traffic stop.

Rokita said, “under well-settled federal and state law, a jail can maintain custody of an individual who the jail

knows is the subject of a federal arrest warrant for 48 hours — or longer with a copy of the warrant in hand.” He added that if “a sheriff was to deliberately adopt a policy or practice of releasing individuals in circumstances like those that occurred in Randolph County, he would be in violation of Indiana law.

The guidance Rokita sent to sheriffs explains both what sheriffs are permitted to do with respect to the detention of illegal aliens and individuals wanted for immigration crimes as well as what sheriffs are prohibited from doing under state law. Clear legal guidance on these matters will help sheriffs keep their counties safe.

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SPARK

Continued from Page 1

Parks. “It’s exciting to see this festival grow each year and bring our community together to celebrate summer in Fishers.”

FESTIVAL LINEUP

Tuesday Concert & Drone Show

Tuesday, June 24
8 p.m. | NPD AMP | Free

Kick off the Spark!Fishers celebration with a free Tuesday night concert featuring Sixteen Candles. No tickets are required, and guests can bring chairs, blankets, food, and non-alcoholic beverages. Outside alcohol is not permitted; food and drinks will be available for purchase on-site. For details, visit [sparkfishers.com](#).

5K & All Abilities 1-Miler, Presented by IU Health

Wednesday, June 25
Various Times | NPD AMP | Register at [SparkFishers.com](#)

Hit the Nickel Plate Trail for the family-friendly Spark!Fishers 5K Walk/Run and All Abilities 1-Miler, Presented by IU Health Fishers. The All Abilities 1-Miler begins at 6 p.m. at the NPD AMP and is an untimed, fun-run-style event for all ages and abilities who want to participate without

running a full 5K. The 5K begins at 7 p.m., followed by the 5K After Party with a DJ, inflatables, a yoga class by Honor Yoga, food trucks, and drinks. Don’t forget to redeem your bib for a free drink (alcoholic or non-alcoholic). Free wristbands are required to participate in the inflatables, which will be available at the event after signing a safety and liability waiver on-site. To view the course map and register, visit the website. Onsite registration is available until 6:30 p.m.

Car & Art Show

Thursday, June 26 | 6 p.m. | Central Green | Free

Stroll the Central Green and check out the Spark!Fishers Car & Art Show featuring vintage and modern cars alongside local artists and artisans curated by Fishers Arts Council. This event is free to attend, and no tickets are required. Car owners can register their vehicles here.

Friday Night Concert & Fireworks Show, presented by Northwest Bank

Friday, June 27 | 8 p.m. | NPD AMP | Free

This year’s concert begins at 8 p.m. on the NPD AMP stage, featuring Saved by the ’90s, followed by a fireworks show. Admission is free, and no tickets are required. Food, non-alco-

holic beverages, chairs, and blankets are welcome. Outside alcohol is not permitted, and food and drink will be available for purchase on site. Learn more at [sparkfishers.com](#).

Street Fair

Saturday, June 28 | 2 - 9 p.m. | Nickel Plate District | Free

Soak up the summer at the Spark!Fishers Street Fair around the Municipal Complex, with fun for all ages:

- Enjoy delicious food, handmade goods, and demonstrations from more than 100 carefully selected food and art vendors.
- Find a variety of musicians and live entertainment throughout the day on Saturday, complete with main stage entertainment at the NPD AMP, a community stage at the Central Green, and two solo stages – one at the Monumental Stairs at 116th Street and the Nickel Plate Trail and one at the City Hall breezeway.
- Get a spectacular view of the city on the Ferris wheel located on Municipal Drive.
- Enjoy inflatables and water fun, a roller rink, skate park, face painting, caricatures, magicians, balloon artists, and more.

Parade

Saturday, June 28 | 6 p.m. | Nickel Plate District | Free

Celebrate this fun-filled tradition with a parade through the heart of downtown Fishers featuring floats and walking groups from various local organizations and civic groups. The parade route will be announced in the coming days at [sparkfishers.com](#).

ACTIVITY WRISTBANDS

A wristband is required for access to all inflatables, the skate park, carousel, and Ferris wheel. Wristbands will be available for purchase on-site for \$5 (credit card only; cash will not be accepted). A signed waiver is required for each individual receiving a wristband. Wristbands will not be available in advance. Distribution and sales will take place on Saturday only.

ACCESSIBILITY & RESPITE

Accessible parking is available at all Spark!Fishers events (see below for details). Fishers Parks will also offer KultureCity sensory-inclusive bags and weighted lap pads for those with sensory needs during all events. Items will be available for checkout at Info Tents at festival entrances. Assisted listening devices

will also be available for live stage entertainment on the NPD AMP stage. A respite room, inclusive of mothers, prayer, and sensory needs, is available for use during the event. To locate, ask any Info Tent or learn more here.

EVENT PARKING & ROAD CLOSURES

Find parking information for Tuesday through Friday events here.

On Saturday, guests are encouraged to park at the FORUM Conference Center (11313 USA Parkway) and take the free shuttle. Surface lots around Municipal Drive will not be available to Spark!Fishers guests as well as some street parking within the event footprint or along the parade route. Public parking is available in The Edge, The Depot, Nickel Plate Station, First Internet Bank, and Spark Apartments garages. Access to downtown parking will be limited from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. due to the Parade route, and travel from open garages and parking lots may be delayed for Parade participant safety. Rideshare drop-off and pick-up will occur at The Edge Parking Garage (8890 E. 116th Street). Bicycle parking is available around the Municipal Complex.

Additional road closures will be in effect for Spark!Fishers festivities beginning on Tuesday evening, June 24 through Saturday, June 28.

Accessible parking is available at all Spark!Fishers events. Daily accessible parking options include:

- **Tuesday:** South City Services Building parking lot (3 Municipal Drive)
- **Wednesday:** Fishers Fire Station 91 South parking lot (2 Municipal Drive)
- **Thursday:** Fishers Dog Park lot (Located at the Northwest corner of Fishers Pointe Drive and Municipal Drive)
- **Friday:** South City Services Building parking lot (3 Municipal Drive)
- **Saturday:** Ellipse Lot (Enter at Lantern Road and Municipal Drive – Must have permit or placard for admittance)

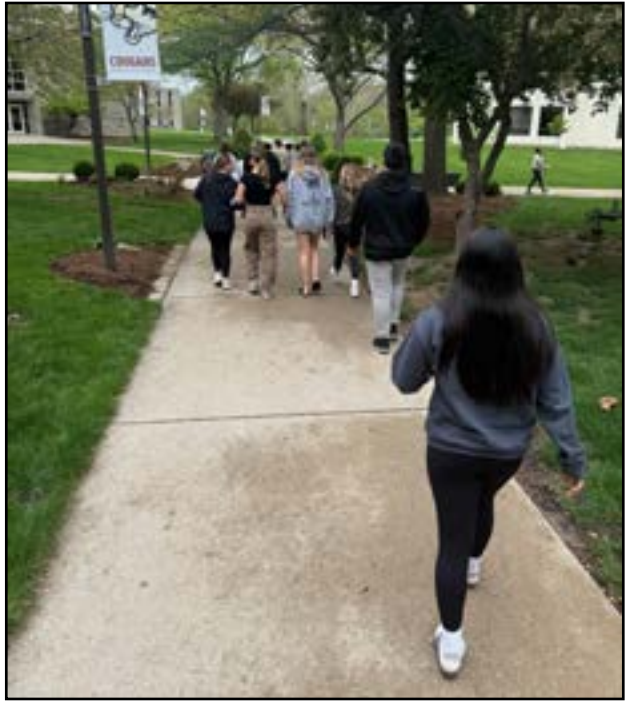
For parking details, visit the Festival Info page.

VOLUNTEER

Several volunteer opportunities are available for all ages and abilities to get involved in this year’s celebration. Learn more and register to volunteer at [volunteerfishers.com](#).

LEARN MORE

Visit [sparkfishers.com](#) and follow Fishers Parks on Facebook, X and Instagram for festival news and updates.



Photos courtesy Hamilton Heights Schools

A day of discovery! Hamilton Heights High School freshmen explored IU Kokomo in May, connecting with professors, touring campus, and diving into new opportunities—all while taking their first steps toward an exciting future.

Reaching New Heights: Freshmen Dive into Higher Education Opportunities at IU Kokomo

Hamilton Heights High School freshman class (Class of 2028) embarked on an exciting visit to IU Kokomo, immersing themselves in the campus experience last month. They explored post-secondary options as part of the Explore section of our Portrait of a Graduate curriculum and Freshman Seminar. Every freshman participated in this event

through the high school’s Guaranteed Experiences, a key component of the Reaching New Heights Initiative. During their visit, students engaged with professors, toured the campus, and discovered the wealth of opportunities IU Kokomo has to offer. The following student reflections of the interactive experience

highlight the impact of this experience: “I think it was a very good experience, and it gave me a good idea of what college would be like. The tour guide was very helpful and gave lots of information that was helpful.” - Matthew Lynas, “It gave me a clear view of what college life looks like as well as an oppor-

tunity to see the financial side of it like budgeting.” - Zayra Pena “It was fun to see all the things that they do at IU. The crime thing was really cool, and it was nice to see that they have an esports team.” - Sawyer Berry Special thanks to IU Kokomo for hosting this up close and personal experience for Hamilton Heights’ freshman class.

