

■ 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.

■ AWL GUNNAR



Gunnar is a 3 year old black/white bulldog mix available for adoption since 1/3/25. Gunnar loves going for walks, frolicking in a fenced yard, and will gladly sit for treats. Gunnar came to the shelter with his BFF, Kevin (who’s also available for adoption). Gunnar is looking for his BEST FRIEND! Could that be you? Gunnar’s adoption fee is \$80 with approved application (ADOPT link below). We’re open today (Monday 3/24/25) from 12:15-5p! Come say hi and ask staff about Gunnar!!

■ 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



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

The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County’s oldest locally owned independent newspaper www.thepaper24-7.com | 50¢

Final Stop on Tour is Nelson Home

Wayne and Becky Nelson have lived at this location on SR47 South for 41 yrs. In 2013 their home burned, and it was a year before a new home could be completed. Since then they have enjoyed landscaping the area and adding new gardens each year. Both annuals and perennials are planted in different locations and include very unique and interesting statues and statuettes among the flowers. You will notice white stakes in the gardens which identify the various plants. The front of their home is

highlighted by “A Girl Reading to a Cat” large statue which was purchased in Louisville, Kentucky from the estate of a silent movie star, Mary Pickford, and is surrounded by flowers. The entry door is flanked on both sides with large planters. On the other side of the entry door, you will see a very large concrete angel with a lovely bench for sitting, relaxing and enjoying the flowers. At the side of their home, there are interesting giraffes

See Yard Page 3



The terraced walkway, as well as the pool, are surrounded by flowers and ornamental grasses which attract various butterflies and hummingbirds. *Courtesy Flower Lovers Garden Club*

■ 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*



ASK RUSTY
Social Security Advisor

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?
Signed: Retired Navy Vet

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.

■ MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Looking for your creative outlet? Then consider the Craft Collective, a crafting club for adults. It meets the third Thursday of the month at the Crawfordsville District Public Library at 5:30 p.m. Come on along and create a new project every month. Supplies and instruction will be provided. However, be sure to register in advance. You can go to <https://crawfordsvillelibrary.in.gov/> for more information and to register.

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

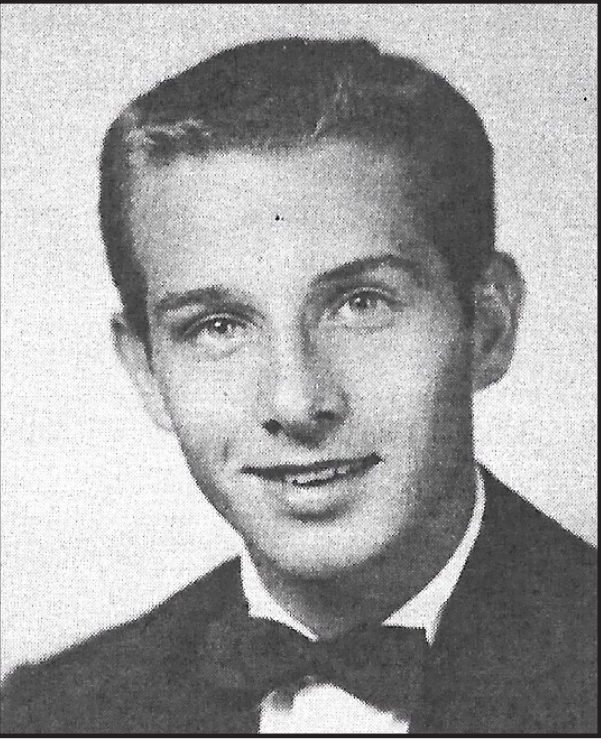
Know what a sad strawberry is called?
Why, a blueberry, of course!



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OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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■ BUTCH’S FLASHBACK TRIVIA



Do You Recognize This 1958 Ladoga H.S. Graduate?
HINT: He liked to hang out at the local drug store.
Answer on Page 4

■ BUTCH’S BACK IN THE DAY



The Sunshine Theater was located on Main Street in Darlington for more than 50 years, but closed in 1959. It remained as a reminder of the good old days when a movie ticket was 25 cents and popcorn was a dime. When the west wall started to lean in the 1980s, the building had to be demolished. I still have the original projector and some seats from the theater.

Thorntown Student Earns Honor

Middle Tennessee State University is congratulating 5,986 students who appear on the dean’s list for the Spring 2025 semester, including Raegan Durbin of Thorntown.

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.

Wabash Appoints New Dean of Students

Wabash College President Scott Feller has appointed Dr. Scott C. Brown as Dean of Students, replacing Dr. Greg Redding ’88, who has served in the post for the last six years. Dr. Brown brings three decades of experience in student development and will assume his role at Wabash on June 30.
“From the moment I was approached about this role, I knew that I wanted to join this special community,” Dr. Brown said. “I look forward to serving as Dean and working closely alongside such extraordinary faculty, staff, and course, our students.”
Dr. Brown earned his bachelor’s degree in English at the University of California, Irvine, a master’s degree in higher education and student affairs from Indiana University, and his Ph.D. in student personnel administration from the University of

Maryland.
He worked in residence life while earning his doctorate then started his career directing the career center at Mount Holyoke College. He served as associate vice president and dean of students at Colgate University for eight years. He left Colgate in 2016 to become vice president of student affairs and dean of students at the College of Wooster, where he oversaw a team of 60 student life professionals.
After a year as interim associate vice president and dean of students at Northern Arizona University, Dr. Brown became dean of the college at Dartmouth College, where he served on the president’s senior leadership team and managed a staff of over 250 employees. He was honored as an honorary member of the Class of 1984. Most recently, Dr. Brown served as interim

dean of students at Sterling College in Vermont.
“I’m very proud of the search we undertook for this critical position at Wabash and pleased that we attracted a robust pool of exceptionally talented professionals,” said President Feller. “Dr. Brown brings an enormous amount of experience at very different institutions, and it’s clear that he is an effective leader of students. We are excited that he is joining our community.”
As a consultant, Dr. Brown has conducted program reviews of career centers at more than a dozen colleges and universities. He has been widely published on topics ranging from wisdom and leadership development to inclusion and mitigating high-risk behaviors. He has given more than 30 invited presentations and keynotes, has been honored with the Annuit



Dr. Scott C. Brown

Coeptis Award for Outstanding Senior Professional and the Diamond Honoree for Contributions to the Profession by the College Student Educators International, and served as an Inaugural Senior Impact Fellow for the Aspen Institute. He is a long-time member of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.
Dr. Brown and his wife, Anne-Marie Lemal, are the parents of three grown children.

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.

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 LetsMakeAPlan.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.

Baird Agrees: No Nuke for Iran

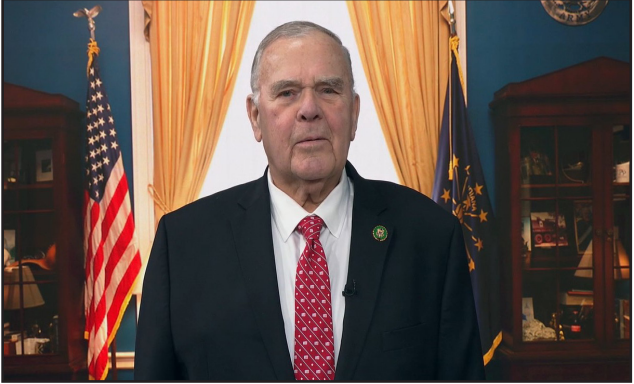


Photo courtesy Congressman Baird’s office

Congressman Jim Baird (IN-04) released the following statement after Israel’s strikes on Iran’s nuclear program and military leadership: “The U.S. has been clear: Iran cannot and will not obtain a nuclear weapon. President Trump has given Iran every opportunity to dismantle their nuclear program and make a deal in good faith. Iran has failed to come to the table. Iran has also been the largest state sponsor of terrorism in the world.

Iran backed Hamas’ horrific October 7th attack that murdered nearly 1,200 Israelis and 46 Americans and took hundreds of innocent people hostage. Iran has long sought the destruction of Israel and used proxies to attack our greatest ally in the Middle East. Israel has the right to take action to defend itself. I will continue to monitor the situation as it unfolds, and I stand with our ally Israel in its fight for its very existence.”



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Cindy McCormick conducts the band.



Greg Carey on the cymbals during the performance.



Marcia Chandler plays the euphonium.

Civic Band Strikes Right Note

The Montgomery County Civic Band played its second concert of the year last Sunday at Milligan Park – the only concert this year that won’t be at Lane Place. If you are looking for a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon, there are still five chances left to catch our local Civic Band. The concerts are set for June 29 (Musical Memories), July 13 (America: Our Heritage and Home), July 27 (Past, Present & Future), Aug. 10 (Children’s Concert) and Aug. 24 (Far and Near). The concerts begin at 3 p.m. and are free. Bring your own lawn chair.



The front of the home is highlighted by “A Girl Reading to a Cat” statue which was purchased in Louisville.



Wayne and Becky are constantly adding more items of interest to their property and hope you enjoy viewing it as much as they do landscaping it.

YARD

Continued from Page 1

in the middle of the circle drive. Just past them a rose garden on the left side of the walkway features both climbing and tea roses of different colors. If you look closely, you will see the memorial from their original home. Opposite the rose garden is a statuette of a Griffin with braided willows on either side. At the back are several varieties of sculptured trees, and two trellises which showcase two dif-

ferent shades of purple clematis. The terraced walkway, as well as the pool, are surrounded by flowers and ornamental grasses which attract various butterflies and hummingbirds. There are tables and chairs, and a concrete bar attached to the pool, for eating and drinking. Along the patio are assorted statuettes and small planters overlooking a large area of various perennials. There is a large Chinese marble pagoda lamp which was purchased on a family trip with their grandchil-

dren to Washington, DC. At the far end of the patio is a large pagoda with lights, bells, bird houses and bat houses to attract the bats which eat various flying pests. In addition to the twinkling of the bells and the chirps of the birds is a lovely hosta garden on the hill. Wayne and Becky are constantly adding more items of interest to their property and hope you enjoy viewing it as much as they do landscaping it. Bonus feature: we will have a raffle for a beautiful ceramic bird feeder!

Who: Flower Lovers Garden Club

What: 17th Annual Garden & Arts Tour

When: Sunday June 29 11-5 (Rain or Shine)

Where: There are 8 different gardens on the tour and the addresses are listed on the tickets along with a map

Cost: This is a ticketed event and tickets are \$12, 12 and under free – tickets available NOW at following locations.

- ProGreen Garden Center
- Davidson’s Greenhouse
- Ryan’s Flowers
- Country Hearts & Flowers
- Just Because
- Milligan’s Flowers
- Crawfordsville Library

Tickets will also be available the day of the tour at Pike Place from 11-2

4 From County Honored by NAIA

Thirty-two Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College student-athletes, including four from Montgomery County, have been named 2025 Daktronics NAIA Spring Scholar-Athletes, as announced by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). The four from Montgomery County are: Nolan Allen of Crawfordsville, Bailey Barker of Ladoga, Bailey Mittal of Crawfordsville and Macie Shirk of Crawfordsville. This prestigious honor recognizes student-athletes across spring sports who have demonstrated

outstanding academic achievement. To qualify, recipients must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale, appear on the eligibility certificate for their sport, and have completed at least one full year at their institution. The award encompasses several spring championship sports, including baseball, men’s and women’s golf, men’s and women’s lacrosse, track and field, softball, men’s and women’s tennis, men’s volleyball, and women’s beach volleyball.

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.”

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.

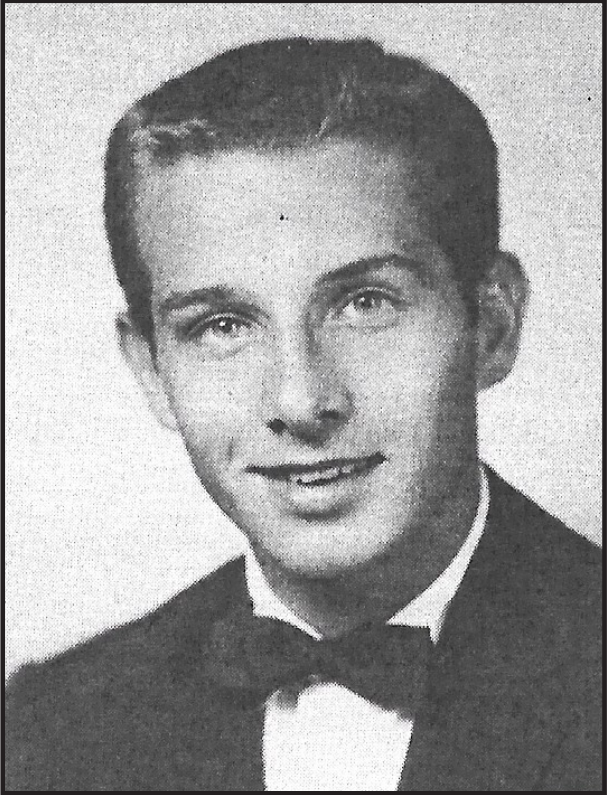
“Your support is not just appreciated—it is absolutely essential. In the coming months, we will keep you informed about our progress and the tangible ways your contributions are making a difference.

“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.

■ BUTCH’S FLASHBACK TRIVIA



ANSWER: Bernie Bouse

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.