

Lafayette's second annual flea market proves unique

BY ETHAN ENOCHIAN
Staff Reporter

Along most of Lafayette's Main Street last Saturday, every piece of sidewalk was filled with flea market vendors selling a wide variety of items for sale.

For the second year in a row, a stretch between Fifth and Sixth Streets carried many odds and ends. The market was filled with people of all ages, browsing the stands with dulled, rainbow silverware or boxed toys exactly as seen in a store.

Stationed in the flea market, was James Post and his estate sale business. His company specializes in helping clients move to a smaller home or part ways with a deceased relative's belongings by



ALLISON MILLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A display of vintage and secondhand items at the Lafayette Flea Market.

helping to sell the contents of an unoccupied home.

"It is our honor to help families through the overwhelming task of what to do with a house full of 'stuff,'" according to Post's company's website.

Post's booth contained varied antique books, toys, and other small articles previously owned by grandparents.

One tent was attended by Emily Weisenberger, who had a collection of thrifted glassware, clothes, assorted novelties, and coupons. The coupons, Weisenberger explained, are for a new collective antique mall at 525 Wabash Ave. in the French Knot warehouse building. The new mall, which will open

by October 1, will hold Weisenberger and several other vendors.

On the corner of Fifth and Main was the father and son partnership of James and Matthew Bishop. The pair source their wares in ways that range from lucky finds to yard sales. The wares in question consisted mainly of ornaments, toys, and loose cooking utensils which were indicative of yard sale finds. Matthew personally enjoyed the event, specifically how the "farmer's market was in the morning and the flea market was in the afternoon."

Even if the day ends in empty hands, there is always next year to find something new.



ALLISON MILLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A woman looks through records at the Lafayette Flea Market.

Prof arrested for allegedly driving under the influence

BY STAFF REPORTS

A Purdue professor was reportedly arrested Tuesday night for driving under the influence, according to Tippecanoe Jail logs.

Elizabeth Tran, 49, teaches biochemistry in the College of Agriculture. Her blood alcohol concentration, taken during a traffic stop at the corner of Sagamore Parkway West and N. Salisbury St, was reportedly .15 or more. The legal limit for ACE

in Indiana is .08, and penalties increase if it reaches above .15.

Tran has a previous charge for driving under the influence with a blood-alcohol content of 0.206 on Oct. 2, 2023, according to reporting from the Journal and Courier.

Tran ran as a Democrat for the Tippecanoe County coroner, but withdrew shortly after she had pleaded guilty to the previous charges, according to previous Exponent reporting.

She is in the Tippecanoe County Jail with a cash bond of \$500 as of Wednesday morning, according to jail logs.

WL City Council approves budget, towing changes

BY LAUREN HOOGEVEEN AND AVERY GOLDTHORPE
Staff Reporter and Managing & City Editor

Tuesday night, the first West Lafayette City Council meeting of the 2025-26 academic year was packed full of potential efforts to address the housing crisis, towing law changes, and the swearing in of a new city council member.

At the meeting, Rabita Rajkarnikar was sworn in as District 2's new city council member. Along with being assistant director of experiential learning and a construction engineering lecturer at Purdue, she has served on the Area Board of Zoning and worked as planner on the Area Plan Commission for the past few years.

She replaced Michelle Dennis, who stepped down to attend law school. Rajkarnikar is the second person to fill a vacant city council seat in 2025 after Nick Schenkel filled the District 1 seat in July.

The first reading of the 2026 city budget was approved, which appropriated \$39 million for the city, an overall 16.3% increase from the 2025 budget. Of the more drastic changes was the Motor Vehicle Highway fund, which saw a \$2.3 million growth, good for a 75.3% increase. The second reading of the budget will take place at next month's Oct. 6 meeting.

After House Bill 1390 was enacted in early May, West Lafayette Mayor Erin Easter sponsored an ordinance to revise city code, now requiring towing companies to provide options for picking up towed vehicles outside of normal hours. Additionally, it sets a maximum fee of \$68 to retrieve a towed vehicle during these times.

"Well, I do think it's good," Easter said. "Because in the past, the statement would just be, 'oh, well, we're closed.' Like, say



EMERY DENHAM | STAFF REPORTER

City council members Nick Schenkel, Michelle Dennis, and Colin Lee sit at a meeting.

you got towed at 9 p.m. on Friday. You have to wait until Monday, you're incurring three full days at least fees, and now you don't have to wait. You can go get your car immediately by reducing potential additional fees. It helps protect customers, which is good."

Following concerns about housing and rental properties in West Lafayette, the city council approved a comprehensive study on all single-family homes in the city.

"There's a concern that a lot of residences are going from owner occupied to rental, and that people may be taking advantage of it," said Councilor David Sanders.

Single-family homes are often eligible for a homestead property tax exemption, but if the owners of the property are not living at the residence, they are not allowed

to claim the exemption. There are anecdotal reasons to believe people renting out their properties are claiming the exemption, Sanders said, so the city is conducting a study to figure out where all the rental properties are in the area.

Finally, a resolution was passed to confirm an agreement between West Lafayette and Lafayette for redevelopment on the John T. Myers Pedestrian Bridge.

"As always, there's an opportunity to just make sure that it's in good working shape for a long time," Easter said.

She said the bridge needs some updated repairs on its pavers as well as reconstruction of the ADA ramps. While West Lafayette is involved in the efforts, Lafayette will take the lead on the project.

POLICE BEAT

PURDUE

Friday

A person reported a group of seven men had been harassing some women near the 800 block of David Ross Road about 11 p.m., according to police logs.

Someone reported a group of drunk men were peeing on trees outside about 10:45 p.m. outside Alpha Chi Omega.

Headphones valued around \$350 were reported stolen about 2:15 p.m. in Dudley Hall.

Saturday

A person reported they had received threatening messages asking for money and "counting down" near the 1100 block of West Stadium Ave. about 11 p.m.

Officers were dispatched to Rawls Hall for a noise complaint about 6:30 p.m. There the officers found Michael Hogg, who had been banned from campus and gave him a citation for criminal trespass.

Sunday

A building in the 600 block of North Russell Street reportedly had to evacuate after residents reportedly smelled gas. Nothing further happened, according to PUPD Capt. Song Kang.

Monday

Police were called about suspected marijuana about 8:30 p.m. near the 1000 block of West Stadium Ave. Andrzej Love, a Purdue student, agreed for his room to be searched and a K-9 unit allegedly found a small amount of suspected marijuana.

Jaider Martinez Arrieta, 22, was arrested for reported possession of marijuana and fake international ID cards about 11 p.m. on Airport Road.

WEST LAFAYETTE

Friday

A trespassing was reported about 6:45 a.m. at Campus Edge. The male was reportedly warned after being found in the building.

A theft was reported about noon at BK Management.

A package theft was reported about 1:30 p.m. near the 100 block of Villageway Lane.

Damaged property was reported about 9 p.m. near the 3000 block of Fall Court.

Sahaj Ra-el, 20, was reportedly arrested for shoplifting about 9:45 p.m. at the Walmart located on Northwestern Avenue.

Saturday

Robert Barnes, 37, was reportedly arrested for public intoxication about 2:30 a.m. at Neon Cactus.

Alexander Arnold, 25, was arrested for reportedly leaving the scene of a crash and operating a vehicle while intoxicated about 4 a.m. outside of Neon Cactus.

Jalissa Green, 29, was arrested for reportedly operating a vehicle while intoxicated about 4:45 a.m. near the intersection of North River Road and Dehart Street.

A credit card fraud was reported about 1:45 p.m. in the 400 block of North River Road. About \$2,900-worth of purchases were reportedly made.

Noah Roy, 26, was arrested for reportedly operating a vehicle while intoxicated about 3 p.m. near the intersection of North Salisbury Street and Kalberer Road.

A broken window was reported about 11:15 p.m. in the 200 block of South Chauncey Avenue. The suspect is currently unknown.

Sunday

Dylan Barron, 21, was arrested for reportedly operating a vehicle while intoxicated about 1:15 a.m. near the intersection of North Salisbury Street and East State Street.

A battery was reported about 2:30 a.m. at Neon Cactus.

Alex Macias, 21, was arrested for reportedly operating a vehicle while intoxicated about 3:45 a.m. near the 100 block of Tapawingo Drive.

An open burn was reported about 5:15 a.m. near the 300 block of South Chauncey Avenue. An individual was cited.

Jason Powell, 42, was arrested for reported possession of drug paraphernalia and resisting law enforcement about 6 a.m. near the 500 block of Vine Street.

Vehicle damage was reported about 1:30 p.m. near the 200 block of West Fowler Avenue.

An assault was reported about 10:15 p.m. near the 1300 block of Palmer Drive.

Monday

A harassment was reported about 10 p.m. near the 2300 block of Yeager Road.

All person(s) charged or preliminarily charged are presumed innocent until found guilty in a court of law.

- Compiled by Quint Holguin, asst. campus editor, and Aditi Kapadia, asst. city editor

STOLEN BIKE COUNTER



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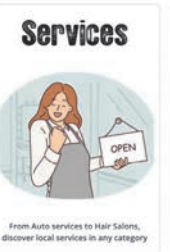
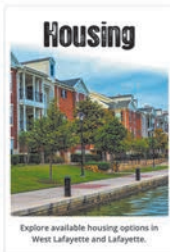
DEANNA HUTTS
Bookkeeper/Accountant

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THE EXPONENT HUB



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Club Carnival will raise money for local clubs, charities

BY OLIVIA MAPES
Editor-in-Chief

Memorial Mall will become a field of festivities this Saturday when the Club Carnival kicks off for the first time. The carnival is a cross between the B-Involved Fair and a fundraising event with over thirty clubs hosting their own activities.

Carnival goers can expect many different games and activities from traditional carnival games like basket toss, milk jug toss, to more club specific activities such as petting a live horse, robots launching projectiles, VR laser tag, and a professor in a dunk tank.

Garrett Foster, a senior in environmental and ecological engineering, started working on putting together the event last March.

The event will run from noon to 7 p.m. The various clubs will price their games individually, but tickets will be sold at \$1.50 per ticket or \$10 for 10 tickets, Foster said.

Classic carnival food like hot dogs, hamburgers, snow cones, popcorn, and soft drinks will also be sold.

Foster had experience with large events by doing 5Ks and long bike rides as president of Purdue Habitat for Humanity. He wanted to create an event that would engage the community more, he said.

A percentage of ticket proceeds from club sales will go toward their operations as well charities.

All net income from the Purdue Habitat booths, food sales will go directly into funding the Boiler Build, a fundraising initiative to raise \$75,000 by the end of the year to sponsor the construction of a house for a local family, Foster said.

“The Boiler Build will be built and funded by boilers,” Foster said.

The net income from the Club Carnival will be donated to Lafayette Habitat for Humanity to help build this house. Purdue Habitat will also be taking Purdue student volunteers to build it for the

next few months.

“I thought about big events on campus such as the B-Involved fair and the Industrial Roundtable and realized that Purdue Habitat could reach the most people by working with other clubs. I eventually settled on a carnival involving as many clubs as possible because it could be a fun event for the community that would also help our fundraising initiatives,” Foster said.

Purdue Habitat did not have enough resources to put on such a large event by itself so it partnered with the 34 other clubs.

“This system works wonderfully as this event won’t just help Purdue Habitat and our fundraising initiative but will also help clubs raise money for their needs and other fundraising initiatives,” Foster said. “This whole project has been focused on bettering the community, helping our fellow student clubs, and providing a fun event for people to go to.”



EXPONENT FILE PHOTO
Jason Padgett, director of development at the Salvation Army of Lafayette, reacts after getting dunked into the tank at the Tippecanoe Celebration of Recovery Rally in 2022. There will be professor dunking at the Club Carnival.

Germanfest to return to Lafayette for 20th anniversary

BY ADITI KAPADIA
Asst. City Editor



EXPONENT FILE PHOTO
At GermanFest, vendors crowd the streets selling food.

St. Boniface Catholic Church will hold its annual Germanfest this Saturday. This year will mark 20 years since the church started gathering to celebrate its German cultural roots.

The festival will have authentic German food, beer and wine tents, live music, carnival rides, games, and more, according to the Home of Purdue website.

Admission tickets are \$5 per person, according to the church’s Germanfest website.

The event will start with a holy mass in the church at 4 p.m. followed by the opening ceremony at 5:15 p.m. Afterwards, people are free to mingle and drink in the beer garden and wine tent as they enjoy traditional German music and food.

Food and drink tickets can be purchased for \$1 each, according to the St.

Boniface Germanfest website. These tickets will be available at concession booths during the event.

Festivities include food and beer sales, games, and music, and will last until the raffle drawing at 10 p.m. The event will end at 11 p.m., according to the St. Boniface Germanfest website.

The event will take place at St. Boniface Catholic Church located on 318 N. 9th St., according to its website.

SPORTS

Women’s golf grabs 4th in season debut

BY DECLAN LITTLE
Staff Reporter

Purdue women’s golf opened the 2025 fall season as host for the Boilermaker Classic at the Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex, with a field of 14 teams.

After three rounds over the course of the two-day tournament, the Boilers secured a fourth-place finish with a team score of +14.

Purdue got out to a strong start in Monday’s opening round, recording a +1 through 18 holes. Things went awry in round two, however, as the Boilermakers shot a +12 to find themselves in fifth place

at the end of day one.

Strong showings from junior Ashley Kim and sophomore Lauren Timpf led the way. The pair each shot +1 to tie for ninth after 36 holes. Sophomore Samantha Brown was not far behind with a +3, tying her for 16th.

In the final round, Purdue managed to adjust from the difficulties of round two, putting up another +1 to end the tournament just two strokes away from a podium finish.

Brown shot a career-best 69 in the closing round, improving each round with a 75-72-69 final line. She managed to shoot even for the tournament,

placing her in a tie for ninth overall in the individual standings.

Timpf and Kim rounded out the top three Boilermakers in the tournament with a +3 and +5, respectively, while freshman Luana Valero shot even for the final 18 holes to finish at a +9.

Timpf secured a tie for 15th while Kim, a transfer from Arkansas State, and Valero placed 18th and 28th in their Purdue debuts.

The Boilermakers head north for their next action when they take on the Wolverine Invitational in Ann Arbor, MI, beginning Sunday.



CHARLIE STAPLETON | PHOTO & VIDEO EDITOR
Freshman Luana Valero attempts a long putt.

OBITUARIES

Victor Ransom

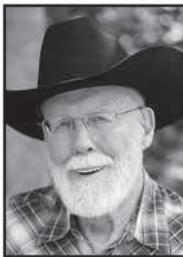
March 23, 1932 - June 27, 2025

Beloved husband, father, and friend, Victor Harvey Ransom passed away on June 27, 2025, surrounded by family. Victor, of Idaho Falls, Idaho and West Lafayette, Indiana, was born on March 23, 1932, in King Hill, Idaho, to Harvey Edgar Ransom and Edna Honess Ransom. He passed away due to heart failure, secondary to metastatic prostate cancer. Remarkably, Victor enjoyed excellent health until the last few months of his life.

A Celebration of Life is tentatively planned for Sunday, July 5, 2026, in Idaho. Please check with Rose-Davis Funeral Home or family members for details as they become available.

Victor was known for his kindness, dedication, and hard work. He deeply valued family and community, often lending his tools and engineering expertise to help neighbors. He enjoyed sharing meals with loved ones and made homemade ice cream on special occasions—always taking time to explain the thermodynamics behind freezing. He had a tender heart for animals and often told the story of raising Grey Tail, a pigeon he cared for from the time it was a tiny squab.

Victor’s ancestry traced back to German immigrants who settled over generations in Pennsylvania, Kansas, and eventually Idaho. Born during the Great Depression, he was raised in Aberdeen, Idaho, where his father worked as a potato inspector and his mother taught fifth grade for 35 years. A brilliant and curious child, Victor designed homemade rockets and



fuel from scratch, earning the Outstanding Science Student of the Year Medal at his graduation from Aberdeen High School in 1950.

In his teenage years, Victor and friends famously restored an old Model A Ford and took a memorable road trip through Utah and California. Mistaken for runaways, they were briefly detained by police, who released them after confirming the boys had parental permission and enough money to return home.

Victor graduated from Aberdeen High School in 1950 and earned a BS in Chemical Engineering from the University of Idaho in 1954. He later earned his PhD in Mechanical Engineering from Purdue University (1966–1970).

Victor began his career at North American Aviation, later Rocketdyne, in 1955, contributing to the Saturn V rockets. From 1959 to 1966, he worked for Aerojet in Sacramento on the Titan rocket engines. He later moved to Idaho Falls and worked at Aerojet (1972–1976) and EG&G (1976–1990), both operating the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL). There, with lifelong friend John Trapp, he developed the first well-posed equations for two-phase flow, wrote the RELAP5 PILOT code, and provided foundational leadership in nuclear safety analysis. For this work, he was named INEL’s first Science and Engineering Fellow in 1980.

RELAP5 remains the most widely used safety code for nuclear power plant analysis worldwide—a lasting legacy of Victor’s genius.

In 1990, Victor became Head of the School of Nuclear Engineering at Purdue University, where he served until retiring as Professor Emeritus in 2001. He was appointed to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards from 2001–2005 and consulted globally, including in Japan, Korea, Russia, France, Germany, and Argentina. He once landed in Russia on the same day the Berlin Wall fell. Even in his 80s, SpaceX reached out to request permission to use his thesis code.

Victor also had a passion for adventure. He rode his Heritage Classic Harley-Davidson with the Harley Owners Group (HOG) in Lafayette, IN, proudly earning the “Loudest Exhaust” award at a rally. He loved national parks, downhill skiing, and RV road trips. A highlight of his later life was flying in his favorite airplane, the P-51 Mustang, in the early 2000s.

Victor met Delrie through mutual friends in Idaho Falls, and they were married on July 6, 1974. Together, they restored an old farmhouse on South Holmes Road and reroofed their red barn—later turned into an event venue by the new owners (Curtis and Kris Smith). Victor and Delrie joyfully celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in that same barn in July 2024, under a weathervane Victor had crafted in the shape of an “R” for Ransom.

Victor is survived by his wife, Delrie Ransom, and children: JoEllen Ransom, Vickie McDonough (Tim), Jessica Ratia Ransom (Eduardo Ratia), Natasha Ransom (Scott Grell), and Darin Ransom.

Also surviving him are: Lynda Tomlinson (Mel), Amber Travis (Matt), Jewel, Scarlett, and Stone

Travis; Sandra Kirkpatrick (Veryl), Duran Adams, and Rae Lynn Perkins; Rick and Corinne Gavalya.

Grandchildren: Clair Anderson Davy (Jack), Jed Anderson (Sarah), Nikoletta, Maria, and Kosta Antonakis, Adrea Sosville, Jason McDonough, William Ransom, Tiffany Witter, Chardonnay Ransom, Stryker, Rayder, and Slayer Ratia-Ransom, and Griffin Grell.

Great-grandchildren: Katelynn Davy, Isla and Owen Anderson, Daison and Adalyn Sosville, Theo Ransom, Sofia Gamez, and Audrey Antonakis.

Victor was preceded in death by his parents, Harvey Edgar and Edna Ransom; sisters Berniece Stone and Mary Ann Ervin; Mary Ann Pierce (mother of JoEllen, Vickie, and Darin), and grandson Michael Ransom.

The family expresses heartfelt thanks to Lynda and Mel Tomlinson for their generous support, to their neighbors in Indiana—Dr. Jim and Janice Lehnert, and Bob Zhang and family. Gratitude also to Dr. De Bruyn Kops, Dr. Adams, Nurse Holly, and the team at Teton Cancer Institute; Mr. Kuntz and his wound care team; Ben Eaton; and especially to Hannah Jensen and Anna Eager, for the dignity and care shown as personal care assistants. Deep thanks to Mission Hospice and Lincoln Court for their care during Victor’s final weeks.

To share condolences, memories, and photos, please visit DavisRoseMortuary.com

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Pictures are for reference



PSA: Press the button

BY AVERY GOLDTHORPE
Managing & City Editor

Me vexat pede — a pebble in one's foot.
It's bound to happen every year.
A new batch of spry, energetic freshmen
make their entrance to West Lafayette. Eyes
filled with anxious excitement and first-week-
of-school panic, the young souls meander
through Purdue's immense, expansive campus
oblivious to the dangers of the world in their
immediate proximity.
Unlike their rookie counterparts, you would
expect the returners to have more awareness
about them. And after a week or two, you
would expect the condition of the freshmen
to improve. But tragically, I've come to accept
that this is not the case.
There comes a point at which I simply can
not take it anymore. For the love of all that is
holy, please learn how to walk like a productive
member of society.
Full disclosure — a bike is my preferred
method of transport around campus. Bikers
are not absolved from the offenses I am about
to outline, as I have a separate shortlist of
sins expressly for two-wheeler dealers (you're
treated as a car when you're on the road buddy,
you gotta stop at stop signs).
But when I make my daily journey to the

Purdue police station to check out the crime
logs, the sheer number of NPCs I encounter is
absurd.
I'm riding a bike. I'm at the intersection of
Third and University streets, a good 15 feet
away from any of the pedestrian crosswalk
buttons.
The traffic lights are firmly green, and I'm
patiently waiting as pedestrians pile up on the
sidewalk corners. I'm frozen still, waiting for
that heavenly orange glow to appear and indi-
cate it's almost my time to shine.
But it doesn't come.
People often expect things to just happen to
them. Surely one day, the right moment will
come, and they'll finally find that long-desired
love. That revered internship offer will come
right to their doorstep. But that's not how life
works. If you want something to happen, you
need to make it happen.
YOU NEED TO PRESS THE DAMN BUTTON!
At nearly every intersection on campus,
you'll find a pole with an attached yellow rig
and a big button with an arrow. When you
push the button, it gives you a red light indi-
cator and yells "Wait!" at you. It can be quite
entertaining, especially when the speaker is
damaged and all you hear is a bunch of muffled
garbage.
The button tells the traffic light system that

there are people waiting to cross, and it trig-
gers the lights to switch. At some intersections,
there's a regular cycle in place, but at others,
the pedestrian crossing signal won't trigger
unless the button is pressed.
I'm depending on you to make the move
since you're right there. I don't feel like dis-
mounting and towing my bike all that way. It's
convenient for you. PRESS THE BUTTON SO
WE CAN CROSS!
Traversing the streets of Purdue is a delicate
ecosystem. When things are going swell, there
is a beautiful balance between the cars, bikes,
and pedestrians. We all understand the cycle
of the lights and right of way.
Unfortunately, we don't live in an ideal
world. People will always walk in bike lanes,
they'll never understand how the lights work
at the Third and University streets intersec-
tion, and they'll never check before they cross
behind the giant flower pots and become flat-
tened bicycle skid marks.
It's not the end all, be all. It's just a minor in-
convenience that nags at me increasingly with
each instance. If you felt a pebble in your shoe,
you would take a minute to deal with the situa-
tion and avoid any later stress. I'm just asking
for all you pebbles to straighten yourselves out
before I take matters into my own hands.
PLEASE press the button. Please.




PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SAWYER REBENACK |
GRAPHICS EDITOR

'Exponent Investigates': PILK was banned in Ford Where The Exponent puts Duncan's body on the line

BY CONRAD HOOSER
Opinions Editor & Copy Chief

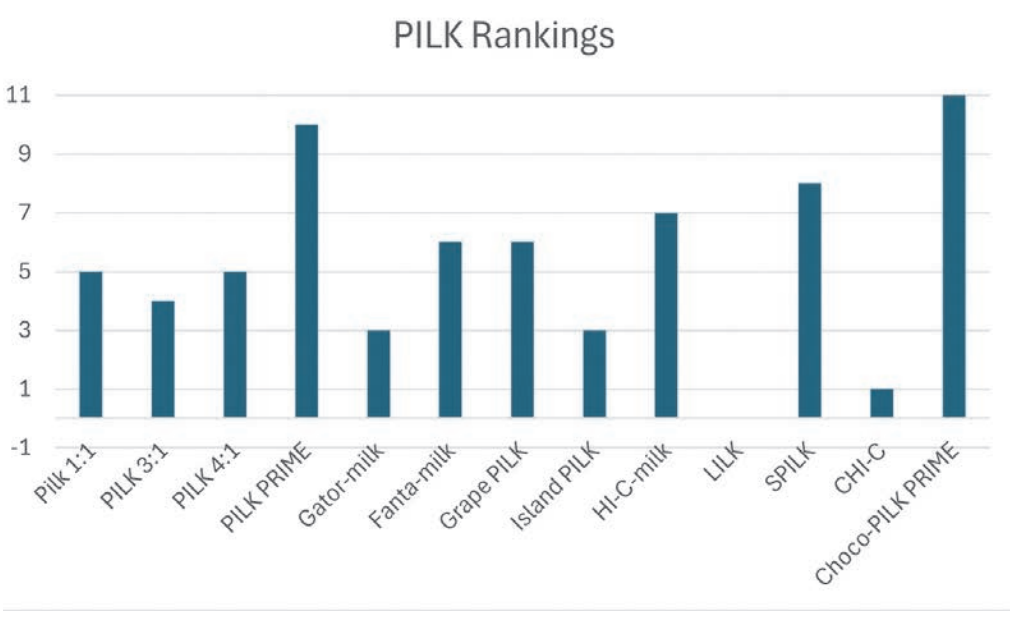
A little over a week ago, signs were posted on
the Ford Dining Court milk dispenser reading
"NO MORE PILK (Powerade + Milk) PLEASE."
The sign's emotional language, begging for
an end to the madness, left us intrigued. But to
get to the bottom of it, we had to be prepared
to put Exponent investigative reporter Duncan
Ways' body on the line.
A quick Google search shows that most peo-
ple understand PILK to be Pepsi + milk, and
four years ago that is what it meant on cam-
pus too. But then something changed. A frothy



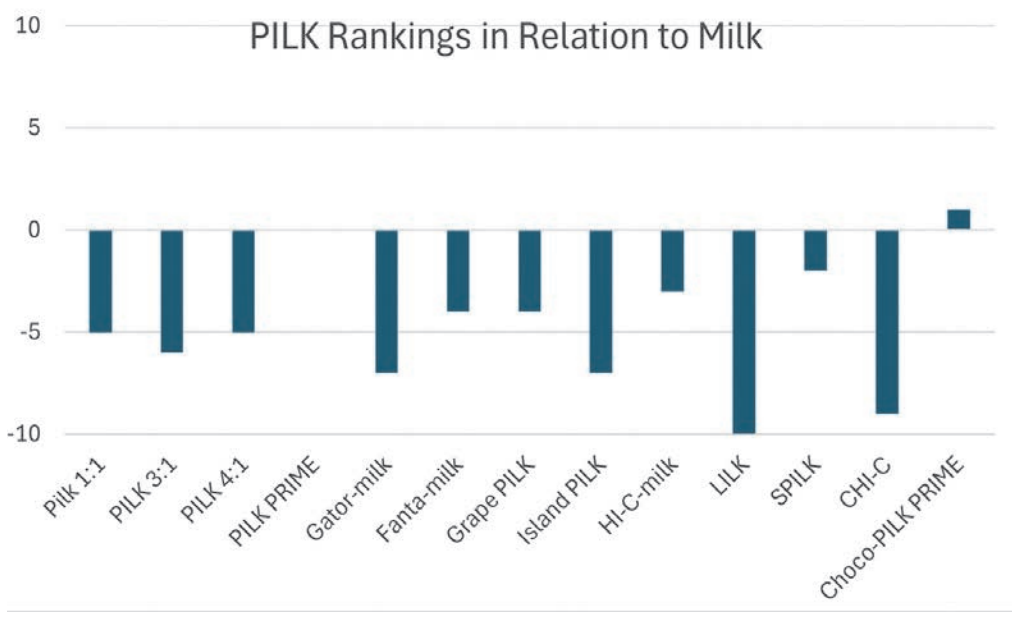
DUNCAN WAYS | STAFF REPORTER
A frothing glass of PILK in a ratio of three parts
Powerade to one part milk.

blue liquid, more dubious than a yellow Gato-
rade at a construction site, entered the scene.
While many students have been credited
with the invention, we were unable to find a
specific person who actually claimed it for
themselves. Like most tellings of ghost stories,
people always seem near but not present at the
time of tragedy.
We were able to find a recent expert, Mira, a
first-year engineering student who had taken it
upon herself to distill PILK to its tastiest form.
She settled on a 4:1 Powerade to milk ratio.
But to know if it is worth a ban, we drank
and rated not only PILK but several other
milk-related beverages to cover the field.
1 to 10 was the arbitrary non-scientific scale
we chose to rate the concoctions. We used a
measuring cup to keep the ratios exact, and
you may ask "did you clean it between uses?"
No we did not.
As Duncan looked down at the varied liq-
uids, I don't think the reality of what was about
to happen had set in. Likewise, I did not realize
that my job was to watch the joy slip from a
man's eyes one sip at a time.
To begin, the original 1:1 PILK sat at a 5, set-
ting a baseline for the scale.
Duncan's personal mix was 3:1 while Mira's
"optimal" mix was 4:1, which had ratings of 4
and 5 respectively.
All mixes after this stayed at a 1:1 ratio. Pepsi
+ milk, or "PILK PRIME" as we call it, "tasted
like a float" and "felt fun," gaining a surpris-
ing 10.
But all fun must eventually
end.
We thought perhaps a differ-
ent blue drink, like Gatorade
or Fanta Berry, or a different
flavor of Powerade would be a
surprise win, but results were
middling.
Mira recommended Hi-C
and milk, which was pretty
good, but she said not to mix
things with chocolate milk.
She was both right and
wrong. Hi-C and chocolate
milk landed at a well-deserved
1, with a sweetness strong
enough to turn a chocolatier's
stomach. BUT Pepsi and choc-
olate milk broke the scale at a
staggering 11, being the only
thing on the list Duncan would

pick over either of its bases.
Speaking of scale breaking, lemonade + milk
was a well-deserved o. The lemon immediately
curdles the milk and you just end up drinking
spoiled milk.
So we come back to the "PILK ban." After
speaking to several workers, the ban was unof-
ficial and likely a joke. There are unconfirmed
reports of PILK drinkers getting sick, and I
would easily believe that.
Mira suggests everyone try it at least once.
"We're Boilermakers, aren't we? If we can
discover the nature of the universe, invent
world-changing technology, and cure deadly
diseases, surely we can try something a little
strange in our daily lives," she said.
But it is our now-expert opinion which leads
us to the conclusion most of our sane readers
already knew — there is no reason to combine
Powerade and milk, it just makes both of them
worse.
LILK, on the other hand, should certainly be
banned and in a perfect world, it should be il-
legal.
Our investigation has concluded the follow-
ing: The Purdue Exponent's official best ratio
of Powerade to milk is 1:1 with each liquid in a
separate glass on different days.
— Additional reporting contributed by
Duncan Ways, staff reporter



CONRAD HOOSER | OPINIONS EDITOR & COPY CHIEF
The ratings 1-10 of each beverage investigative reporter Duncan Ways tried in the order he
tried them.



CONRAD HOOSER | OPINIONS EDITOR & COPY CHIEF
The PILK rankings on a realistic scale with 0 being drinking milk on its own.

THE EXPONENT

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Delivery@PurdueExponent.org





GAIL MESINA | GRAPHICS ARTIST

On this day, Sept. 4, 1879, the first telephone was installed on Purdue's campus. The phone marked one of over 300 devices to be installed in Lafayette by the end of 1887. A few days after the installation, the first phone call ever made was between Emerson E. White, then president of the university, and John A. Stein, then secretary of the board of trustees.

Squirrel of the Week: On the run



In this photo taken by our Editor-in-Chief, a squirrel is on the run with a snack for later. For a chance to have your own picture featured, send it to digital@purdueexponent.org.

HOROSCOPES

BY KENNEDI THOMAS
Graphics Artist

ARIES: March 21-April 20
Prepare for a time of motivation. Take advantage of your drive to complete tasks and tackle difficult projects.

TAURUS: April 21-May 21
Seek balance and joy during this week. Your hard work requires rest and time to replenish your energy.

GEMINI: May 22-June 21
Get to the source of your stress and anxiety rather than looking for temporary fixes. Don't be afraid to take drastic action.

CANCER: June 22-July 22
Embrace changes in plans and spontaneous decisions. A break in routine will be helpful moving forward.

LEO: July 23-Aug. 23
Don't be afraid to show others your strengths. Professional and personal projects will require you to utilize your specialized skills.

VIRGO: Aug. 24-Sept. 22
Try to remain patient during this time of uncertainty. Decisions and intentions will become clearer soon.

LIBRA: Sept. 23-Oct. 23
Make all communication clear and honest this week. Miscommunication can lead to higher tension than previously.

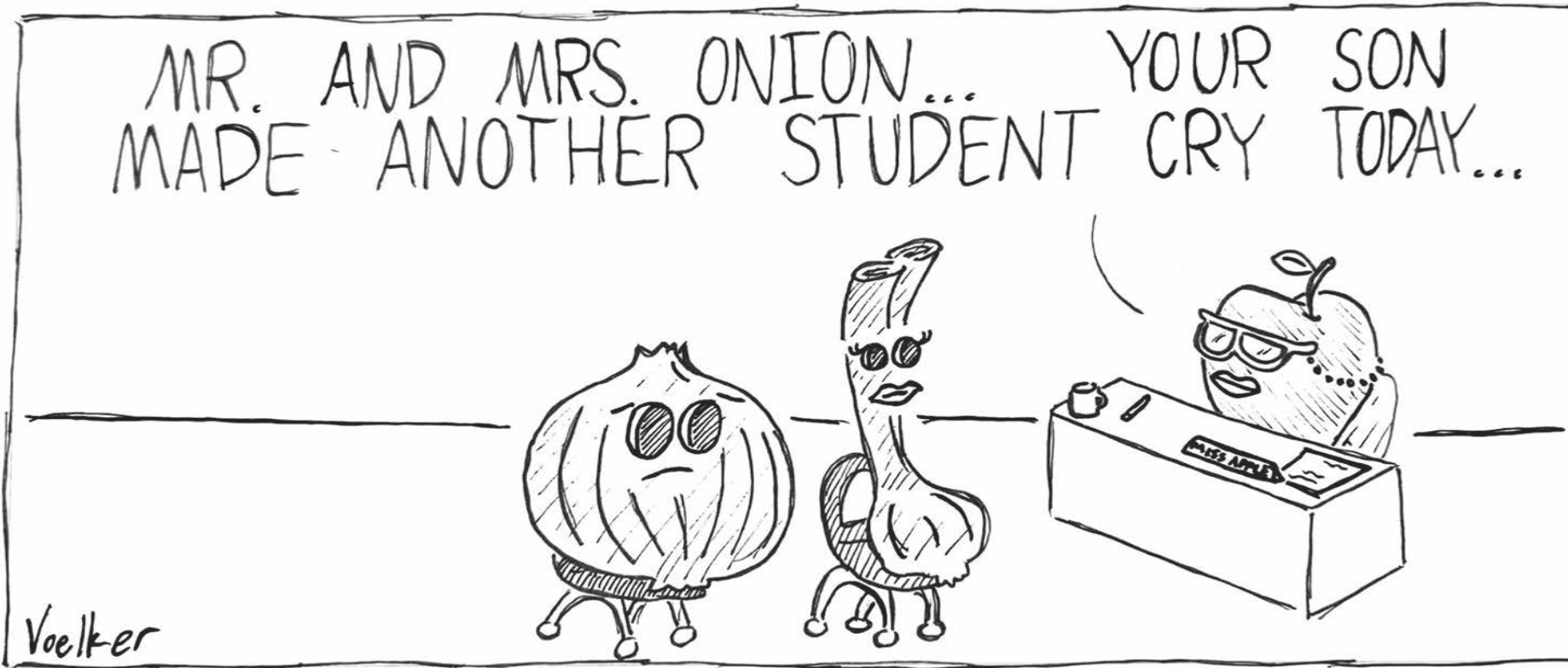
SCORPIO: Oct. 24-Nov. 22
Look for opportunities for new connections. Sources of support and community are all around you.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23-Dec. 21
Focus on thoughtful and fast decision-making this week. Progress in your personal goals will require this.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22-Jan. 20
Don't be afraid to speak up for yourself. Make your needs and opinions known to others when necessary.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Prioritize empathy and patience with those around you. Find a balance between both your needs and theirs.

PISCES: Feb. 19-March 20
Try to avoid becoming too focused on a single project. Manage multiple at a time to achieve the best results.



EXPONENT COMIC FILE

THINGS TO DO

THURSDAY

Open Mic Night

Whether you have a voice to share or want to enjoy the musical talent of your fellow Boilermakers, come to the open mic night on the Hail Purdue Stage located in the basement of the PMU at 101 Grant St., West Lafayette. The event will run from 5:30-8 p.m., so stop by at any time to show your support or step-up on the stage.

Steel Magnolias

Steel Magnolias is being featured at the Civic Theater of Greater Lafayette at 320 N. 5th St. This show follows a group of women in Chinquapin, Louisiana, as they face the struggles of life together and find support in each other along the way. The show will begin at 7:30 p.m., with the house opening at 7 p.m. Adult tickets start at \$26.50.

FRIDAY

Mexico in the Heart

Featuring mariachi bands, cultural dances, and authentic Mexican entertainment, Mexico in the Heart brings its audience on a magical journey through Mexican folklore. Come to the Long Center for the Performing Arts at 111 N. 6th St. doors open at 5 p.m. and the show starts at 6 p.m. Admission is free.



YASEMIN PARSAK | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Women dance in authentic Mexican dresses while performing at the Long Center for the Performing Arts.

Green Clubs Callout

From environmental activism to botany, the green clubs of Purdue are coming together to show what they have to offer to students. The callout fair will host 13 different organizations, all with a different focus. The event will take place in Stewart Center room 320 at 128 Memorial Mall Dr. from 5-7 p.m.

SATURDAY

Astronomical Society Open House

Turn your eyes to the stars with the Wabash Valley Astronomical Society to learn more about the universe we inhabit. The society will have both the main observatory dome open, as well as several additional telescopes outside for participants to look up into space. The event will go from 8:30-10 p.m. at the Wabash Valley Astronomical Society, 600 Cumberland Ave., West Lafayette.

Foam Finger Making

Are you a fan? Got a sports team you're rooting for, a movie you've put on a million times, or a pizza place you really love? Come to the West Lafayette Public Library at 208 W. Columbia St. to make a foam finger customized with whatever you're the biggest fan of. The event will take place in the Creativity Lab from 1-2:30 p.m.

SUNDAY

Pickett Park Party

Get over to Pickett Memorial Park and have some fun with the Asian American Association. Whether you want to play some volleyball, mini games, or enjoy some great food, Pickett Park will be the place to do it. Don't miss the festivities, come to 1400 Stadium Ave., West Lafayette anytime from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Dorm, Sweet Dorm Decorations

It's move-in season again! If you find yourself in a new dorm or apartment surrounded by nothing but blank walls, it might be time to stop by and create some personalized decorations with the Purdue Student Union Board. Make it to the PMU South Ballroom at 101 Grant St., West Lafayette from 3-6 p.m. to start turning your dorm into a home.

ONGOING

Thrill on the Hill

Stop by before the next Purdue Football game and join the Purdue "All-American" Marching Band for a preview of their halftime tunes, trivia, and more. The band will be at the Slayter Center for the Performing Arts at 1200 W. Stadium Ave., and each performance starts 90 minutes before kickoff. The next show is Sept. 6.

Arts Federation Gallery Exhibitions

The Arts Federation is currently hosting the works of four artists: Charmaine Renee, Jamie Hicks, Marlayna Slaughterbeck, and Leanne McGiveron at 638 North St. The galleries are open every weekday, with more detailed hours online, and entry is free.

UPCOMING

The Perils of Girlhood

Join Melissa Fraterigo and Eileen Drennen for a reading and conversation on Fraterigo's newest book, The Perils of Girlhood, where she reflects on her own girlhood growing up, and that of her twin daughters. Come to Second Flight Books at 2122 Scott St., Lafayette, from 6:30-8 p.m.

Blood Drive

Make a difference in someone's life by donating blood at the UBI Mobile Blood Drive. The event will run from noon to 4:30 p.m. and will be set up behind the CoRec at 355 N Martin Jischke Dr., West Lafayette.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE AMERICAN RED CROSS AT PURDUE UNIVERSITY

— Compiled by Emery Denham, campus editor

PUZZLES

If you have any feedback as we develop our student-created puzzles, you can contact us at puzzles@purdueexponent.org.

SLEUTH SQUARES

By Sawyer Rebennack

NAME				
BIRTH MONTH				
THEME				
CAKE FLAVOR				
PARTY FAVOR				

Birthday Club

INSTRUCTIONS

Using the word bank below and the clues on the right, deduce how to fill out the grid completely. Each column corresponds to a different name, and each row corresponds to a different category. Each word will be used once, and there is only one solution.

WORD BANK

Names: Evita, Kim, Ryleigh, Shannon
Birth Months: April, May, June, July
Party Themes: Beach, disco, horror, fantasy
Cake Flavors: Chocolate, red velvet, strawberry, vanilla
Favors: Bubbles, candy, kazoos, jewelry

HELPFUL NOTE

If a clue says “left,” “right,” or “ends,” it is referring to placements on the grid.

CLUES

- The friend who hosted a horror party is at one of the ends.
- Shannon was not born in May.
- The friend with chocolate cake is somewhere to Kim’s left.
- Ryleigh is somewhere in between the friend who gave out kazoos and the friend who gave out jewelry, in that order.
- The friend who gave out candy was born in June.
- The friend who hosted a disco party gave out bubbles.
- Evita’s cake was strawberry-flavored.
- The friend born in July had a red velvet-flavored cake.
- The friend who hosted a beach party is somewhere to Shannon’s right.
- Kim is in the last position of the grid.
- The friend who hosted a fantasy party had a strawberry-flavored cake.
- Ryleigh was born in April.
- The friend born in May is directly to Kim’s left.

SUDOKU

Top: Easy

By Eddie Culbertson

Bottom: Hard

1				3	2		9	
		2	8		5			6
		7	1				5	
								8
		6					5	3
7							6	
				3	6		9	
					8			
		9		1	7	3	2	

6		3	8	9				
	8	9		5				
	5	1						
5						7		3
				3		1		
			4	8		9		6
			7					8
		6						
3		5	6				4	

Fill in the blanks with the numbers 1 through 9 so that every row, column and bold 3x3 box holds every number only once. The diagonals do not count.

NEWS QUIZ

By Sawyer Rebennack

Answers can be found within the edition previous to this one.

How much money is the Big Ten offering as a prize to the winner of the We Give Blood Drive?

- a. \$500,000
- b. \$750,000
- c. \$1 million
- d. \$2 million

CRYPTO CODE

By Sawyer Rebennack

Each letter stands in for another. If A = B, every given A is truly a B. Solve through trial and error, recognizing short words and guessing the phrase.

B DJUG HC RCOU JUVHULQUY,
QDH ECA BH TDJH YWFLUJ ABHW
“YULULQUY.”

Quote by GCLBEX YBXXBHURRC. Helpful clues: U = E, L = M

MATH PATH

By Eddie Culbertson

Start with the number on the left. Then, moving through the grid (no diagonals), end up on the right side with the target number. The number will always be whole.




30	-3	÷5	x2	+2	23
	+1	+6	-4	+1	
	-6	x3	÷2	x4	
	÷3	+7	-5	+3	

BALANCED BORDERS

By Anna Crowel

Divide the grid into the same number of sections as there are labeled squares, using the labels as a guide for either the shape of the section or the number of squares in the section. For example, if a square is labeled with a 3, there will be three squares in its section. If a square is labeled with a horizontal rectangle, its section will be in the shape of a horizontal rectangle.

Each square must be filled. There may be more than one solution.

				
				6
				
4				

SYMBOLS OF SEPTEMBER

ASTER
AUTUMNAL EQUINOX
CHEESE PIZZA
DILL
DUMPLING
GRANDPARENTS
LABOR
LAPIS LAZULI
LIBRA
LUMBERJACK
MINI GOLF
MORNING GLORY
NINTH
PEANUT
PET ROCK
REMEMBRANCE
SAPPHIRE
THYME
VIRGO

BIG OL’ WORD SEARCH

By Sawyer Rebennack

T O G N W L U M B E R J A C K U C
A U T U M N A L E Q U I N O X L D
S V J R E M E M B R A N C E Q A Z
G J C W I M A G T H Y M E N V H W
R F D V Y O P L Z R V G M K V P Z
A L U S N R O T I S F D C F H T A
N A M B M N J F E L J O L S U Z G
D P P K A I L A B O R J H N Z M L
P I L P Y N N Q M T O J A I Z I R
A S I E Z G U I E M V E P L U E S
R L N I J G A P G I P E A J V T A
E A G T Q L S U C O S B J K T A P
N Z R X H O T M T E L I Y K R S P
T U Y T H R E N E D U F S B O F H
S L N Q K Y R H Y X V M I H S P I
J I D I L L C N T B F L B S M J R
N A V I R G O U Z X P T X Q K U E

MATHDOKU

By Eddie Culbertson

Fill in the blanks with the numbers 1 through 6 so that every row and column has every number only once. Numbers within bolded areas must combine together using the mathematical operation to make the number in the top-left corner. Solve by noting all possible numbers in each box. Some bolded areas have only a few combinations that satisfy the math. Eliminate possibilities through trial and error if needed.

x18			x36	-1	x15
÷2		+3			
x25				+11	
	+13	x12			x24
		+9			
-4			x15		

ANSWERS UPSIDE DOWN

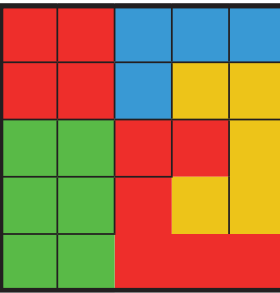
6	8	9	5	1	7	3	2	4
5	3	4	2	8	6	9	7	1
2	7	1	3	6	4	9	8	5
7	5	8	4	3	1	6	2	1
4	1	6	7	2	8	5	3	9
6	2	3	6	5	1	7	4	8
8	4	7	1	9	6	2	5	3
3	6	2	8	7	5	4	1	6
6	2	3	8	9	1	4	7	5

N
V I R G O
L
D I L L C
S L N
Y R H
T U
R E T
H O T
L S
E A G
R L N
G A P
G I E
N N
I L A B O R
O
C
T A
K
M
T H Y M E
R E M E M B R A N C E
A U T U M N A L E Q U I N O X
L U M B E R J A C K

Math Path: -6, ÷3, +7, -5, ÷2, x4, +1, +2
I used to love September, but now it just rhymes with “remember.” (Dominic Riccitello)

Crypto Code:
News Quiz: C

6	2	4	5	3	1
4	3	5	1	2	6
5	6	3	4	1	2
1	5	2	3	6	4
2	4	1	6	5	3
3	1	6	2	4	5



NAME	Shannon	Ryleigh	Evita	Kim
BIRTH MONTH	July	April	May	June
THEME	Horror	Disco	Fantasy	Beach
CAKE FLAVOR	Red velvet	Choco-late	Straw- berry	Vanilla
PARTY FAVOR	Kazoos	Bubbles	Jewelry	Candy

TAILGATE GUIDE

www.purdueexponent.org

‘Purdue is home’



Ryan Browne shows he bleeds black and gold

KATHLEEN MARTINUS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore quarterback Ryan Browne pumps his fist in the air after throwing a touchdown in the second-half of Purdue’s game against Ball State. Browne went 18-26 and threw for 311 yards.

BY WILL DOWTON
Sports Co-Editor

Sophomore quarterback Ryan Browne has grown accustomed to change in his athletic career. The 6-foot-4 Clarkson, Michigan native played for three high schools and a prep school before committing to Purdue under then-head coach Jeff Brohm.

Similar to high school, the start of Browne’s collegiate career was filled with change as well. Brohm left Purdue to take a coaching job at Louisville in 2022; two years later, his successor, Ryan Walters, was fired, leaving Browne unsure about the future of Purdue’s program.

“Losing a coach and being on a team was kind of an interesting place to be in,” Browne said.

“I wasn’t sure what it would be like just waiting (for a new coach to be hired) and being the guy that a coach (would inherit because he) was just there. So I went and explored my options,

and that’s when I ended up in North Carolina. I thought that was the best spot for me, and I cherished my time there.”

Because of the uncertainty at the end of the ‘24 season, Browne entered the transfer portal and moved to Chapel Hill, N.C. to play under new Tar Heel head coach NFL legend Bill Belichick.

“He was a really personal guy, very smart,” Browne said. “I learned a lot from him. I’m really grateful for that experience.”

But it wasn’t the right fit. After one semester and many talks with former teammates, Browne decided it was best to return to West Lafayette.

“I learned a lot about the game, but I think I realized just being gone that Purdue is home, and I think I’m meant to be here,” Browne said.

When Browne arrived at Purdue in the summer, he immediately got to work throwing extra routes to wide receivers. His hard work was rewarded when he was named the team’s starting quarterback for the 2025 season, beating out at least two

others in a wide-open training camp competition.

“It was definitely an honor to come out and win the job,” Browne said. “But, you know, all the credit in the world to our whole room. We have a really talented room. I think all of us are very capable of, you know, going out there and doing what I did, and I think we all made each other a lot better throughout the summer and throughout camp.”

In Week One, Browne came out shooting, going 18 for 26 with 311 yards passing and three total touchdowns.

Immediately the connection Browne had with his wide receivers was apparent as he launched a 49-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Arhmad Branch on the game’s third play, and he found senior wideout Michael Jackson III with seven targets. He says he feels comfortable with the duo.

“After a play, if I throw a bad ball and I miss Mike on something, I go talk to him, I say, ‘Hey, I was thinking this.’ And he’s like, ‘I was thinking that.’ And we just, we get a good idea of where

we’re at and why we miss each other, and kind of get on the same page. And I think we’ve done a really good job of that,” Browne said.

Browne has built relationships that stretch well past the receiver room, earning respect from the entire locker room.

“I don’t think it’s anything more than just being myself,” Browne said.

“I think our whole team, like everybody’s just themselves, and that’s the most important thing to build relationships with people, is just be genuine, be a real person. And I think people see how hard I am on myself, and I think that just builds respect amongst everybody else.”

Browne and the Boilermakers will look to improve to 2-0 on the season when they face off against Southern Illinois under the lights in Ross-Ade Stadium on Saturday.

“I want to go win games, that’s the whole reason we play,” Browne said. “... Show (the coaches) why they made the right decision.”

Five keys for Purdue against Southern Illinois

BY GABE FRYLING
Staff Reporter

As the calendar turns to September, college football season continues as Purdue football stays home for the second straight week.

On Saturday night, Purdue hosts Southern Illinois University for a 7:30 p.m. kickoff as multiple touchdown favorites for the second-straight week.

Looking to gain some momentum before facing a tough conference opponent next week, Purdue will need to hit these five keys points to get a another convincing win:

1. Establish Mockabee’s presence in the ground game

In the season-opener against Ball State, the running game was the only portion of the offense to not produce proficiently, averaging just over three yards a carry.

Mockabee himself struggled to find many openings, running for 59 yards on 14 carries with his longest rush of the day falling in at 13 yards. His most productive touches came in the passing game, as he rallied in two catches for 45 yards.

With conference matchups just around the corner, the Boilermakers should look to get Mockabee rolling with higher numbers against lesser opponents to build some offensive momentum.

The 100-yard mark should be the goal for Mockabee against Southern Illinois’ undermanned defense, capped by at least two big rushes to put on film for upcoming USC Trojans.

2. Limit the Saluki’s No. 1 receiver

In its opening game, Southern Illinois totaled 238 passing yards, a fairly average total despite its dominant 49-3 win against Thomas More.

A bulk of the yards (97) went to senior wide receiver Vinson Davis III, a

2023 All-MVFC honorable mention, and the Saluki’s No. 1 wideout on the depth chart.

Davis will be the Boilers’ biggest threat on defense, and they’ll need to focus on limiting his numbers to make sure the Salukis have no chance to get into the game.

3. Feed its own big play man

Sophomore wide receiver Arhmad Branch came out of the gates sprinting last Saturday, encapsulating the 100-yard receiving mark within the first four minutes of the game.

Branch had two catches for over 30 yards, including one for a 49-yard touchdown on the third play of the game.

Branch said fans will get used to these numbers here soon, and this Saturday will be his best opportunity to repeat his career day, if not exceed it.

Purdue will look for Branch in any one-on-one scenario, letting him create space and make big plays through his speed and route-running ability.

While the Boilers still seek to find their No. 1 receiver, feeding Branch early and often can be the path they use to recreate their fast start from a week ago.

4. Start quick and efficient again

The Boilers started last Saturday’s game to near perfection, shooting down the field in only a couple plays for a quick touchdown to set the tone and get Ross-Ade pumped up early.

Their second drive was just about the same, tallying another seven points on the board in six plays to take a 14-0 edge just after five minutes of game time. Purdue will look to recreate this start under the lights on Saturday, giving fans something to cheer for early once again.

The Boilers accomplished this quick start through the air in Week 1, and look to lean on sophomore quarterback Ryan Browne’s arm once again to move them down the field in chunks.

Whether it be in three plays or 13, taking an early lead and securing momentum is the goal of any football program, and this weekend is a great opportunity for Purdue to make this a pattern.

5. Continue defensive dominance

In Week 1 the Boilermakers pitched a defensive shutout, allowing only 203 yards of offense and totaling the 12th-best defensive grade, according to the Pro Football & Sports Network.

They allowed a 31%-conversion rate on third down and held the Cardinals to just over five yards-per-pass, both impressive numbers that they’ll look to repeat this weekend.

The only piece of defense Purdue lacked was forced turnovers. If it can add a forced turnover, or two, this weekend the defensive core should feel confident heading into conference play.



KATHLEEN MARTINUS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore wide receiver Corey Smith dives for the ball for a first down in the first half of Purdue’s game against Ball State.

Four-star guard Jacob Webber commits to Purdue

BY WILL DOWTON
Sports Co-Editor

Purdue men’s basketball has secured the No. 31-ranked recruit in the 2026 class, according to Rivals.

Jacob Webber is an athletic guard who can spread the floor and knock down difficult shots. The 6-foot-6 flamethrower is touted by many as the best shooter in the class of 2026.

The Kearney, Nebraska native is a rising senior at La Lumiere School in La Porte, Indiana.

Webber had received offers from Tennessee, Nebraska, Creighton, Washington, Arizona State, Iowa, and others, according to Rivals/On3 Sports.

In an interview with Rivals/On3, Webber was asked why he chose Purdue.

“I felt like Purdue is the best fit with coaching and play style,

and I feel like I can thrive through their offense,” Webber said. “I feel like Coach Painter and all the other coaches care for their players and overall want what’s best for them as a person and a player.”

Webber joins other 2026 four-star recruit Luke Ertel, who committed to the Boilers in August 2024.

Ertel and Webber are the two top-ranked players in their class in Indiana, according to Rivals/On3.