

La Porte 4th of July Parade



2024



kiwanis4thofjulyparade.org

HOOSIERS

Calling You Home!





HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE
4TH OF JULY

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HOOSIERS

Calling You Home!

Happy Birthday, USA!

Welcome to downtown La Porte, Indiana - Lincolnway to be exact - where thousands of citizens, family members, and friends share this day of celebration together.

Whether you are a first-timer or part of multiple generations who find and hold a spot along the parade route up to 24 hours in advance, you're officially part of this 78-year long tradition!

The parade begins today with a jet flyover scheduled to occur between 10:00 and 10:15 a.m. The floats, bands, vintage cars, dignitaries, and more will start down Lincolnway immediately following the flyover. The Kiwanis Club of La Porte is once again proud to organize this event as well as to accept the honor seeing La Porte recognized as "Indiana Capital for the Day" by this year's Grand Marshal, Governor Eric J. Holcomb.

Hoosiers - Calling You Home! is our 2024 theme, and it was chosen in honor of those of us who have always called La Porte (and Indiana) home no matter where we've lived. So many people share with us that holidays like the 4th of July draw them back home to visit family, see friends, take part in traditions, and enjoy all that our community has to offer.

We're immensely grateful for the parade sponsors that help fund this event, both the novel and traditional entries that capture our attention, and all the volunteers that collaborate to make today special.

On behalf of the Kiwanis Club of La Porte, we invite you to join us in our mission to improve the world, one child and one community at a time. Equally important to us though - may you always feel at home in La Porte.

Tony Swedersky
Kiwanis President-Elect
Parade Chair

Trudy Menke
Kiwanis Vice President
Parade Co-Chair





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GRAND CELEBRATION MARSHAL



Governor Eric J. Holcomb

Eric J. Holcomb, 51st Governor of the State of Indiana, is a lifelong Hoosier who was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, graduated from Pike High School in Indianapolis and Hanover College in southeastern Indiana. He went on to serve six years in the U.S. Navy, first at Naval Station Great Lakes and later in Florida and Portugal. Holcomb is currently serving in his second term as governor having been elected in 2016 and 2020 when he received the most votes for governor in Indiana History. Prior to his election as governor, Holcomb served as Indiana's 51st Lieutenant Governor. A basketball fan and collector of presidential signatures, Holcomb has not only made a basket in each of Indiana's 92 counties but also possesses documents signed by every U.S. president.

Governor Holcomb joins the Kiwanis Club of La Porte in welcoming everyone to La Porte and also to the great state of Indiana. This year he joins past generations of governors in the long tradition of proclaiming La Porte "Capital for the Day" and celebrates the holiday with us all as Grand Celebration Marshal.

Holcomb serves on the Executive Committee of the National Governors Association and Republican Governors Association. In 2018, *The Hill* named him one of ten governors shaping the future of politics. Holcomb and his wife, Janet, live with their cat, Topper, in the Governor's Residence in Indianapolis. This year marks his 8th year as Governor of Indiana.

Thank you to Governor Holcomb for celebrating the 4th of July in La Porte today!

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4TH of JULY!**

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CITY OF LA PORTE IS CAPITAL FOR THE DAY



Since the mid-1940's the City of LaPorte has been recognized for its 4th of July Celebration excellence. This year is the 78th in which the sitting Governor of the State of Indiana has seen fit to name the City of La Porte, "Capital for the Day". From its citizenry which lines the two miles long parade route, to the community fireworks and local celebrations, La Porte continues to rise above the rest.

As written in the Proclamation:

Whereas, July 4th is a day set aside for celebration and renewed dedication to the principles of our priceless American Heritage; and

Whereas, the mantle of responsibility for the continuation of our free nation rests on the shoulders of every American citizen: and

.....
Whereas, the Kiwanis Club of La Porte seeks to encourage the recognition and respect for the traditions and principles of our American Heritage ... Now, Therefore, I, Eric Holcomb, Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby proclaim La Porte As Capital For the Day.

Call Back - 2023



Call Back - 1987





GRAND PARADE MARSHAL

Father Dennis Blaney

On March 20, 2024, at the age of 92, Father Dennis Blaney was presented with the state of Indiana's highest civilian honor, the Sagamore of the Wabash. It quickly becomes apparent when you learn about Father Blaney that his life of service and impact emerges authentically from his faith, vision, and passion. Sharing Meadows, which opened in 1994, is the brainchild of Father Blaney, allowing other-abled adult residents to recognize and fully develop their God-given talents. It was Father Blaney's early appreciation and heart for other-abled adults that led to this residential community now residing on nearly 200 acres in Rolling Prairie, Indiana.

Sharing Meadows is a residential community that is made up of 5 villages, each includes 3 homes to accommodate 2 villagers and one steward. A 6th village is currently under construction. Beyond the 30 full-time residents that live onsite, a community center added in 2017 expands its impact. For example, Sharing Meadows hosts "Camp Sharing Meadows" each summer to serve hundreds of other-abled adults for a week of fun, learning, and the opportunity to foster lifelong friendships. It's noteworthy that Father Blaney remains active fishing, helping with chores, and engaging in social activities with the villagers. His legacy is founded on a long history of serving the unhoused, the homeless, and finding solutions to community needs everywhere he serves. We are honored to celebrate him today!



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AND HAPPY
FOURTH
OF JULY!**

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GRAND PARADE MARSHAL

Maria Fruth

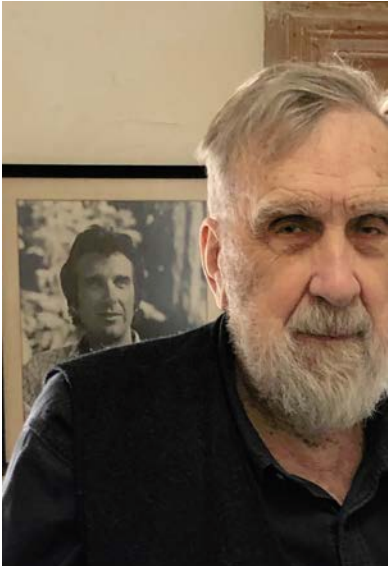
In April of this year, Maria Fruth retired from a career that impacted our La Porte County area through health care for nearly 30 years. From 1996 to 2016, she spent 18 years of her tenure with La Porte Hospital as the CEO of its foundation and served as vice president of the hospital. In 2016, the sale of the La Porte Hospital led to the the creation of the Health Foundation of La Porte (HFL), a private, independent foundation dedicated to empowering La Porte County residents to live healthy and well.

Over the last eight years as HFL's first CEO, Maria led the process of creating what would become the foundation's structure and priorities, including its strategic direction, grantmaking program, nonprofit capacity-building efforts, and the recruitment of an outstanding staff. She has always excelled in bringing together partners to solve complex problems. In 2021 she opened the doors to the newly constructed 13,000 square foot HFL Conference and Learning Center that houses HFL and also provides area nonprofits with great space and technology for meetings. HFL has invested \$41.4 million in the community thus far. Following early years of teaching alongside community and business experience, Maria Fruth's legacy is found in her longstanding commitment to our community and the individual residents whose health she has championed through funding, collaboration, and accessibility. Maria and her husband, Greg, have resided in La Porte since 1976 and enjoy their three sons and four grandchildren. Join us in celebrating Maria Fruth today!

AERO METALS

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GRAND PARADE MARSHAL

John Hancock

John Hancock is a stage and film director, producer and writer who grew up between the suburbs of Chicago and a fruit farm near LaPorte, Indiana. His early interest was music. As an adolescent, he was an accomplished violinist, and concertmaster of the Chicago Youth Orchestra. He became interested in the theatre while attending Harvard College.

Among many career experiences and highlights, Hancock received a grant from the American Film Institute and directed a short film, suggested by, and co-authored with John Lahr, called *Sticky My Fingers ... Fleet My Feet*, for which they received an Academy Award nomination. His feature film credits include *Bang the Drum Slowly*, with Robert De Niro (Paramount), *California Dreaming* (AIP), *Let's Scare Jessica to Death* (Paramount), *Baby Blue Marine* (Columbia), *Weeds* (DEG), and the local favorite and Christmas classic, *Prancer* (Orion), starring Sam Elliot, Cloris Leachman, Abe Vigoda and Rebecca Harrell (shot on his family's fruit farm in LaPorte County, Indiana). *Prancer* celebrates its 35th anniversary this December, and plans are in the works to mark the occasion.

Hancock's *The Looking Glass* (2013) and *The Girls of Summer* (2018) were filmed in Indiana too. In *The Looking Glass*, Hancock says he "tried to catch the sense of returning to this place where you grew up, and falling in love with what you were not truly able to see before." Today we celebrate John Hancock and his ability to portray on film the very feelings we associate with our 2024 parade theme, *Hoosiers - Calling You Home!*



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Iconic Hoosier's Bus Visits La Porte for the 4th

It's a 1939 Chevy 1.5 ton truck, made into a school bus with a Wayne body (out of Richmond, Indiana). This old charmer is owned by Darryll Baker from Greenfield, Indiana. The bus was originally a school bus in Lebanon and Indianapolis from 1939 until 1949. Once it was retired in 1949, Darryll's grandfather, Jack Baker of New Ross, bought the bus, put the Wayne body on it, and used it as a camper and cargo bus for the Baker family from 1949-1985. It had a couch, bed, stove and icebox in it for many long trips out west and, according to Jack, had visited 39 states.

Darryll said that his family was the Beverly Hillbillies running around the country in the bus. Later, it was used by the movie "Hoosiers" in 1985 as the team bus, and they put in the current seats. The bus has been used in a wide variety of parades, car shows, sporting events, charity events, fairs, etc. since 1986, including many in Washington DC, such as the Cherry Blossom Festival Parade, the Memorial Day Parade, and St. Patty's Day Parade, all on



**Hoosier Bus transportation costs sponsored
by Visit Michigan City La Porte!**

Constitution Avenue in DC. It was used in 2015-16 by the Indiana Pacers for their "Hickory Pacers" promotions and has been in the 2016 & 2023 Indy 500 Parades. The bus was featured at the NBA All-Star Crossover event, the Horizon League Championships at the State Fair Coliseum, the NIT finals at Hinkle Fieldhouse, the 70 year celebration of Milan's victory both in Milan and a special session in Cincinnati between the Bengals and Reds stadiums. Darryll partners with the Hoosier Gym, the home gym from the movie "Hoosiers" in Knightstown where the bus is often on exhibit. *"Calling You Home" to La Porte has been an honor!*



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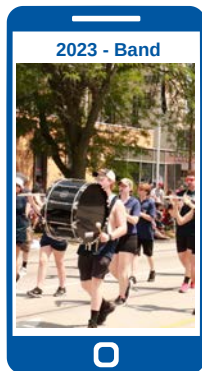
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2024 PARADE LINE-UP

As of June 25, 2024



1. American Flag - LaSalle Council-
Potawatomi District Scouting BSA
2. Vietnam Veterans Inc., LaPorte, IN
3. Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #1130,
LaPorte IN
4. Vans for Vets for LaPorte County
5. American Legion Post 83
6. Roger Galloway, PROUDLY SUPPORTS
VETERANS
7. Guardian Riders
8. The Great Lakes Museum of Military History
9. City of LaPorte LakeFest
10. City of LaPorte Mayor Tom Dermody
11. LaPorte City Band
12. Hoosier A's Model A Club
13. **Grand Celebration Marshal Governor of
Indiana Eric J. Holcomb**
14. Indiana State Police
15. Westville Correctional Facility Emergency
Response Operations (ERO)
16. LaPorte County Sheriff's Office
17. LaPorte County EMS
18. LaPorte City Police Dept
19. LaPorte City Fire Dept
20. Center Township Volunteer Fire Dept
21. Coolspring Township Volunteer Fire Dept
22. Pleasant Township Volunteer Fire Dept
23. Kingsbury Township Volunteer Fire Dept
24. Lincoln Township Volunteer Fire Dept
25. Scipio Township Volunteer Fire Dept
26. Springfield Township Volunteer Fire Dept
27. Kingsford Union Fire Dept
28. State Senator Mike Bohacek District 8
29. **Honorary Parade Marshals - LaPorte High
School State Qualifiers**
30. LaPorte High School Marching Band
31. LaPorte High School FFA
32. **Grand Parade Marshal Father
Dennis Blaney, Sharing Meadows**
33. E-Pak Machinery, Inc.
34. Michiana Clowns
35. Girl Scouts Community 204
36. QCC
37. Bethany Church Local Heroes Raffle Car
38. LaPorte Municipal Airport
39. LaPorte County Meals on Wheels
40. South Central Rockettes Varsity Dance
Team
41. Pioneer Land
42. LaPorte County Fair
43. LaPorte County Fair Queen & Contestants
44. 4-H Horse & Pony E-Z Riders
45. LaPorte Lions Club
46. **Grand Parade Marshal Maria Fruth,
Health Foundation of LaPorte**
47. Jaeger-Unitek Sealing Solutions, Inc.
48. **Iconic Hoosier's Bus - Hickory Bus**
49. LaPorte Invitational
50. LaPorte County Public Library Bubble
Mobile
51. Orak Shrine Oriental Band
52. Excelsio Lodge #41
53. Polish Falcons
54. LaPorte County Democratic Party
55. LaPorte County Assessor Michael Schultz
& LaPorte County Treasurer Joie Winski
56. **Honorary Parade Marshals - New Prairie
High School State Qualifiers**
57. Kankakee Township Volunteer Fire Dept
58. New Prairie High School Marching Cougars
59. New Prairie High School Cheerleading
60. Purdue University Boilermaker Special
sponsored by Purdue Federal Credit Union



Scan for Most
Current Line-Up



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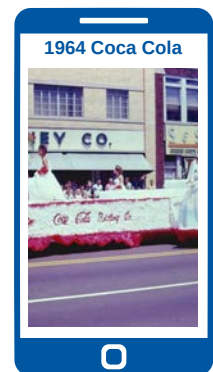
2024 PARADE LINE-UP

As of June 25, 2024

- 61. LaPorte County Special Olympics
- 62. LaPorte County Family YMCA
- 63. Kiwanis Club of LaPorte
- 64. **Grand Parade Marshal John Hancock, Producer and Film Director**
- 65. LaPorte High School Dance Team
- 66. LaPorte Pop Warner
- 67. LaPorte Transportation
- 68. Works in Motion Dance Company
- 69. Re/Max County Wide 1st
- 70. State Representative Jim Pressel
- 71. LaPorte Community Federal Credit Union
- 72. Kingsford Heights Police Dept
- 73. Kingsford Heights Elementary School
- 74. LaPorte High School Cheerleading
- 75. Xinsurance Great Lakes Grand Prix
- 76. Michiana Shores FD Former 1974 Ford/Pierce Pumper Fire Truck
- 77. Michigan City High School Wolfpack Pride
- 78. LaPorte County Sunday Farmers
- 79. Rumely-Allis Chalmers LaPorte Heritage Center
- 80. Carpenters Local 1485
- 81. LaPorte County Republican Party
- 82. LaPorte County Clerk Heather Stevens
- 83. LaPorte County Recorder Ela Bilderback
- 84. Meghan Maddox, Realtor MTM Realty Group & Peggy Loza, The Mortgage Exchange
- 85. UPS - "We want to race the truck"
- 86. Harvest Time Church of God
- 87. New York Blower
- 88. Horizon Bank
- 89. Arts in the Park
- 90. ASM Mechanical/Crush Baseball

- 91. Play for Jake
- 92. Servpro of LaPorte & Porter County
- 93. Garwood Orchards
- 94. Mangled Axles Jeep Krew
- 95. Full Tilt Arcade & Pinball
- 96. Calvary Baptist Church
- 97. CYO Summer Camp At Camp Lawrence
- 98. Gann Mechanical
- 99. W.A.I.R. We All In Recovery Cafe
- 100. Go Aerial Fitness
- 101. IBEW Local 531LP, EWMC/RENEW Committee
- 102. Polish National Alliance
- 103. Iron Horse Saloon Riders
- 104. J&B West Roofing and Construction
- 105. Coates Racing - Andrew Coates La Porte
- 106. Niles Scream Park
- 107. Robert Tylicz Appliance
- 108. Independent Political Party
- 109. Mosquito Joe of South Bend
- 110. Quality Manufacturing Group LLC
- 111. Strengthening Families Indiana La Porte County Resource Center/ Geminus Regional Care Group Members
- 112. Summers of La Porte
- 113. Swanson Center Mental Health
- 114. Waste Management

Portable Toilets 2 at Old Aldi location (Andrew Ave/Hwy 2) & 2 at Triangle property-Bethany Church; 2 at Court House & 2 at La Porte Pantry (Lincolnway/Tipton)



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HONORARY PARADE MARSHALS

~ *State Qualifiers* ~

The Kiwanis Club of La Porte is proud to have communicated with all our community public high schools in an effort to offer state qualifying teams, individuals, and clubs an opportunity to be recognized as Honorary Parade Marshals in the 4th of July parade. We anticipate even greater representation in the years ahead! Teams, clubs, and individual achievers are recognized below - please cheer them on as they pass by, and join us in celebrating with them today! (*Achievers had to be represented in parade in order to be listed.*)



La Porte High School

TEAMS

- La Porte Marching Band
- Boys Cross Country
- Girls Bowling
- Indoor Percussion

INDIVIDUALS

- Boys Wrestling- Josh England
- Boys Track- Willie Clay, Landyn Hunt, Tayshaun Williams, Dylan West



New Prairie High School

TEAMS

- **Boys Baseball Team - STATE CHAMPIONS**
- Indoor Percussion Band
- Robotics Team
- Dance Team
- Boys Wrestling Team

INDIVIDUALS

- Boys Wrestling - Jeffrey Huyvaert
- Girls Swimming - Emma Tulacz
- Gymnastics - Anna Jasnieski
- FFA (Future Farmers of America) Small Engines - Lucas Bradshaw & Brayden Doms
- **FFA AG Diagnostic Technician STATE CHAMPIONS - Jacob Davis & Reese Doms**

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La Porte - a Community that Comes Together!

Give us a minute to notice those within the club and the community who contributed to this year's parade. Though we highlight sponsors in our program and on our website, the parade doesn't happen without a lot of support from our Kiwanians, other community-minded individuals, and generous local businesses!

- **Kiwanis Parade Committee and others in the Club** - stepping up in big and small ways
- **Kiwanians** - coordinating Run for Riley and the 2nd Annual Window Decorating Contest
- **Kiwanians** - creating and building our Kiwanis Club of La Porte float
- **Kiwanians and Volunteers** - logistics, sponsorships, communications, social media, accounting, design and preparation of the parade sponsor book, starters, and road rangers
- **Bob Wellinski and Mark Williams** various photographs generously shared for our use
- **Sera Group** - parade web site design and support, above and beyond
- **La Porte County media outlets** - parade news and information shared across the county
- **Al Ott & LPHS Girls Basketball Team** - Trash Box Distribution, year after year
- **Waste Management** - Trash Box Pick Up - always dependable
- **Hawkins Print Shop** - support for this parade book printing
- **Urban Enterprise Association (UEA)** grant award - financial support and encouragement
- **City of La Porte** - assistance with road closures, police protection, proclamation request, and more

We apologize in advance, because we know we likely forgot someone!!

Let us know if we did, and we'll add you to our post-parade THANK YOUs on social media!

Would you be a great addition to the Kiwanis Club of La Porte? There are a variety of ways you could participate, and you don't have to do them all!

- Two Wednesday meetings a month (one in the morning and one at noon)
- 4th of July Parade planning and coordinating
- Spring pancake breakfast - free to the community
- Pop-up picnics at area parks - free to the community
- Student-led clubs in our schools - sponsored by Kiwanis
- Shenanigans and new friends
- Fundraisers like "Radio Days" and an annual golf outing
- The impact of donations to youth-related organizations and programs



Kids need Kiwanis, and Kiwanis needs you! www.kiwaniscluboflaporte.org



Ready to learn more? Contact Kiwanis Club of La Porte President, John Pappas at 219-363-9989

Happy 4th of July!
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 parade!
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**Riley
Children's
Foundation**



Kiwaniis

Kiwaniis Club of LaPorte

Thank you to our 2024 Run for Riley Sponsors



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From the very first brick to the current Maternal-Fetal Medicine Specialist Endowment, Indiana Kiwanians have supported the work of Riley Hospital for Children for 105 years!

The Kiwanis Club of La Porte organizes a 4th of July Run for Riley that occurs in the morning just prior to the parade. All proceeds from the run are directed to Riley. In conjunction with this year's parade sponsorships, we thank the above highlighted organizations for their sponsorship of the Run for Riley.

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LaPorte 4th of July Parade



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Coachman
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Decorating
Contest Display

Second Annual Window Decorating Contest

Right now your votes are needed! Voting ends at midnight on the 4th of July. Visit www.kiwanis4thofjulyparade.org to view the photos from those that entered the contest and from there click over to the survey to register your vote! The top 3 vote getters receive \$250, \$100, and \$50 accordingly, as well as a business spotlight on WIMS Radio, a commemorative Kiwanis Parade Chair, and a free entry in the 2025 parade – plus bragging rights!

THANK YOU to all Contest entrants and community support. After more than 800 popular votes in 2023 from the community, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, were awarded last year to Coachman Antique Mall; Jeff Miller, DDS; and Freckle Farm Primitives & Antiques, respectively.

A special “Committee Shoutout for Creativity” was awarded to Parkhouse Laundry for their entry. Wonderful displays in our area business windows just add to the celebration and are another way to welcome everyone to La Porte for the 78th annual 4th of July parade – VOTE today!



SCAN
SCROLL
VOTE



HOOSIERS

Calling You Home!



La Porte's community traditions and history of innovation runs deep. Did you know La Porte, Indiana was the first city in the world to adopt an automatic telephone exchange in 1892? This automated phone system allowed calls to be routed without a switchboard operator, helping people become better connected.



WIMS
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VALPARAISO 106.7 FM



Happy 4th of July!
Team WIMS wishes you a fun and safe
holiday, from our family to yours!

Happy Fourth of July!



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www.accesslaportecounty.org

You're at the LaPorte 4th of July Parade? So are we!
We will have the replay of today's parade available
for you to enjoy tomorrow night (or anytime after!).

Where to watch:
Comcast Cable Channel 97 and 99 in
Michigan City and LaPorte
(Guaranteed Showing on Friday, July 5 at 6:30 p.m.)

Streaming on our website at www.accesslaportecounty.org
(Guaranteed Showing on Friday, July 5 at 6:30 p.m.)

Watch it anytime at our YouTube Channel
[@AccessLaPorteCountyMedia](https://www.youtube.com/@AccessLaPorteCountyMedia)
(Available on or before Friday, July 5 at 6:30 p.m.)

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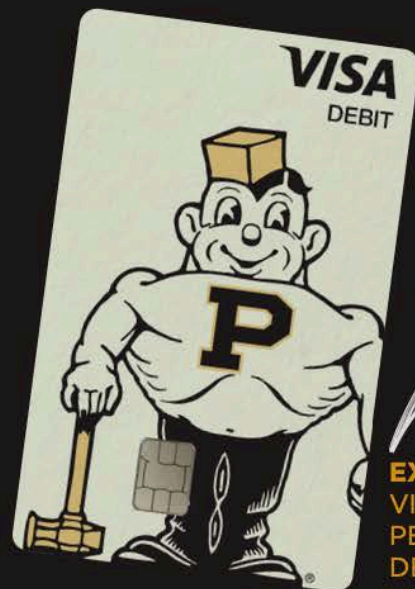


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July 31, 2024

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