



Lions use fast start to down Riley

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Burbrink: Details matter when it comes to corn silage

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# The Elkhart Truth

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## Sheriff's office loses funding for jail program



Jail inmates participate in a job fair held as part of the sheriff's department's efforts to reduce recidivism.

Photo provided / Elkhart County Sheriff's Office

By JORDAN FOUTS  
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GOSHEN — After unexpectedly losing over \$200,000 in state funding, the sheriff's office hopes to keep two caseworkers who are responsible for jail programs meant to reduce recidivism.

The Elkhart County Sheriff's Office abruptly lost around \$230,000 it was receiving from the Indiana Department of Corrections to pay for intensive case managers who help with a range of jail programs. Chief Deputy Sean Holmes informed the Elkhart County Council about losing the grant during budget hearings last week.

"The DOC canceled our program

grants. They canceled everybody's. The IDOC apparently doesn't think jail programs is a good program. I think it is," he said. "We'd like to find ways to keep this program going, because in my opinion, it's very good for the community."

The department didn't learn that the IDOC had cut the grant until shortly before presenting its budget to county officials, according to Capt. Mike Culp with the sheriff's office.

"Usually, we would be aware of that and be able to make some arrangements and figure some things out prior to the budget process. So we were not anticipating that," he said. "I believe every sheriff's office that had the programs, they all

were reduced to zero dollars available."

The county had received the Community Corrections and Justice Reinvestment Grant since 2016, according to Culp. He said it paid for two case managers, and the department now has to find replacement funding if it wants to keep them.

"We have two case managers and a programs director. The sheriff's office fully funds that program director's position," he said. "The sheriff has been working with the council and commissioners to find a solution ... so that we can keep the programs in place in our

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## Police locate truck stolen during shooting

TRUTH STAFF

ELKHART — Police on Monday said they located a pickup truck stolen during a shooting in which a man confronted a masked subject who was attempting to break into his vehicle.

Officers located the Chevrolet GMT on Sunday, parked and unoccupied, in the Elkhart area, the Elkhart Police Department said.

Officers were still looking for a male subject and female subject in connection with the incident, the Elkhart Police Department said.

The Elkhart City 911 Communications Center received a 911 call at 5:16 a.m. of a shooting with injuries at 2300 W. Mishawaka Road, an industrial area on the city's west side. Officers located a 51-year-old man with an apparent gunshot wound.

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## Another vandalism spree reported

TRUTH STAFF

ELKHART — Police were investigating another vandalism spree in which at least 11 vehicles were broken into in a hotel parking lot on the city's far north side.

An officer arrived at 2:08 a.m. Thursday to Fairfield Inn, 3501 Plaza Court for a report of thefts from multiple vehicles, the Elkhart Police Department said.

The officer observed the following vehicles in the parking lot to have the following damage and items missing:

- An Audi Q5 SUV (registered to Ean Holdings, LLC) had a broken rear driver's side window. It was unknown at the time of report what, if anything, was missing from inside the vehicle.

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## MARIACHI GROUPS GATHER



Elkhart Truth photo / Jordan Fouts

Six mariachi groups from across the state performed outside the Goshen College Music Center on Friday. The Mariachi Festival featured traditional home-made food and drinks as well as entertainment including mechanical bull rides. It was also a chance for the bands to workshop with Grammy-winning Mariachi Los Camperos before the Los Angeles-based group gave the first show of the 2025-26 season of the Goshen College Performing Arts Series.

## Indiana Department of Correction to begin jail payments

\$6.1M owed to 41 counties

By CASEY SMITH  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Department of Correction will begin sending payments to dozens of counties on Monday to cover costs for housing state prisoners, ending months of delays that left local jails without reimbursements.

"In recent months, the Indiana Department of Correction has been working to ensure calculations of any money owed to the counties are accurate," DOC spokesperson Annie Goeller said in a statement to the Indiana Capital Chronicle.

She explained that two separate

streams of payments are at issue: funding tied to Level 6 felony diversions, and per diem reimbursements for state prisoners held in county jails awaiting transfer.

Level 6 offenders used to be sent to state prisons until a criminal justice overhaul in 2013. After that, low-level felons were kept in local jails at state expense.

Goeller said the outstanding costs associated with Level 6 diversions were governed by a funding formula established by the General Assembly in 2019.

"This formula has since become outdated and no longer reflects current data, resulting in overpayments to several counties," she said.

To resolve that, DOC will forgive those debts rather than seek repayment, Goeller said.

### MOST-OWED COUNTIES

Elkhart County is owed more than \$638,000 for 34,024 days of holds, while St. Joseph County is owed nearly \$397,000 for 21,910 days. In Lake County, where 13,463 hold days were recorded, the reimbursement totals just under \$178,000.

In total, the department will forgive about \$7.7 million in overpayments across 51 counties, including large amounts in Kosciusko County, which was overpaid nearly \$599,000; Greene County, which was overpaid more than \$254,000; and Clark County, where the overpayment was about \$264,000, according to a DOC

payment summary provided to the Capital Chronicle.

The department will also resume reimbursements for jail holds, where inmates who have been convicted of state crimes remain in county jails until DOC picks them up.

State law requires pickup within five days, but counties are reimbursed at a daily rate for each additional day an inmate is held.

The General Assembly raised that per diem earlier this year, and Goeller said DOC currently owes counties "approximately \$6.1 million to 41 counties for these holds."

"The department will begin reimbursing these counties immediately," she added.

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