



## Some in MAGA skeptical of Iran war

INSIDE, 5A

# The Star Press

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026 | THESTARPRESS.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Ball State advances plan for Village Green space



The Village Green plan includes green space, public art, shaded seating, game-ready hardscape, food-truck staging space and enhanced lighting. PROVIDED BY BALL STATE UNIVERSITY

### ‘With today’s action, we will construct a venue that will bring people together’

**Jane Imbody**  
Reporter assisted by AI  
Muncie Star Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

MUNCIE — Ball State University is moving forward with its Village Revitalization Plan.

The university’s Board of Trustees approved the scope, budget and site plan for Village Green, which will be at the southwest corner of Martin Street

and University Avenue, according to a community announcement.

Village Green is intended as a gathering space to strengthen connections between the campus and the Muncie community.

“Village Green represents the kind of thoughtful investment that makes The Village even more attractive to people in our community,” Brian Gallagher, chair of the Ball State Board of Trustees, said in the announcement. “With today’s ac-

tion, we will construct a venue that will bring people together, support local businesses, and strengthen the connection between our campus and our neighbors.”

#### Student design competition inspiration

The plan for Village Green incorporates design insights gathered through a Fall 2025 Estopinal College of Architecture and Planning student design competition, which drew 54 submissions and nearly 2,000 public votes,

See GREEN SPACE, Page 2A

## High court sidesteps push to ban panhandling

**Maureen Groppe**  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — A push by Republican states to ban panhandling was sidelined at the Supreme Court, which on March 2 rejected an invitation from Alabama to rule that begging is not protected speech under the First Amendment.

In an appeal backed by 19 Republican attorneys general from other states, Alabama had asked the court to decide whether the Constitution allows criminalizing panhandling.

A homeless man from Montgomery, Jonathan Singleton, successfully challenged the state’s panhandling bans as a violation of his free speech rights.

Singleton was cited six times for violating a state law against soliciting contributions, including for holding a sign that read “HOMELESS. Today it is me, tomorrow it could be you” while standing in the grass near a highway exit.

Violators could be punished with fines up to \$500 or three months in jail under one anti-begging law.

Another measure set fines up to \$100 or as many as 10 days in jail for soliciting contributions from people in cars.

After Singleton filed a class-action lawsuit in 2020, lower courts blocked enforcement of the laws.

A federal appeals court based in Atlanta cited its previous decision in a different case from Florida that begging is speech protected by the First Amendment.

A three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals said Alabama’s laws are different from a ban on panhandling on Fort Lauderdale’s beaches upheld in 1999, since those restrictions weren’t citywide.

Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall argued that begging was a crime at the start of the nation, so it should not be protected speech under

See PANHANDLING, Page 2A

## ‘Blood moon’ lunar eclipse can be seen by Hoosiers during early morning hours

**John Tufts**  
Indianapolis Star  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A rare total lunar eclipse will be visible to millions of people across the United States next week, including Indiana, so long as the weather cooperates.

Should Central Indiana’s snow and rain hold off, Hoosiers who wake up early enough will see the full moon take on a reddish hue when it slips behind the darkest part of the Earth’s shadow, or Umbra, in March.

The phenomenon is referred to as a “blood moon” and it’s North America’s one and only total lunar eclipse this

year, according to NASA. For Indiana, it’s also the last one until 2029.

#### When is the March 2026 ‘blood moon’ or total lunar eclipse?

The lunar eclipse begins during the early morning of Tuesday, March 3. The process takes hours, but Indianapolis residents should begin to see the process begin starting roughly at 3:44 a.m. ET, according to Time and Date.

Of course, the real majesty of this year’s blood moon won’t occur until closer to dawn.

For Indiana, the total eclipse begins

See MOON, Page 2A



A total lunar eclipse, known as a Blood Moon, can be seen glows red over Savannah City Hall on March 14, 2025. RICHARD BURKHART/SAVANNAH MORNING NEWS

#### Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to thestarpress.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 127 | No. 7  
Subscribe 800-783-2472  
©2026 \$2.99



0 40901 53501 0