

**Building new clean energy will lower Hoosiers' bills & protect grid reliability.**

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**TODAY'S VERSE**

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

**Hamilton Happenings**

It's official, all the election results have been duly certified in Hamilton County. Want to see all the final tallies? Simply get online and go to <https://www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/civicalerts.aspx?AID=2441>

**Three Things You Should Know**

**1** It's that time of year for Christmas ads and our pals at Visme, an interactive AI presentation and infographic maker, gathered Google search volume data to find which brands' Christmas commercials are being searched for the most in Indiana. The results revealed that Chevrolet makes the most popular Christmas commercials in Indiana, with an average of 47.5 monthly searches for their holiday ads. Second was Hershey's, with 29.17 searches per month, and the third favorite brand for Christmas commercials is Corona, with 27.5 monthly searches. In fourth and fifth place are Coca-Cola and Amazon, with 23.33 and 17.5 monthly searches, respectively.

**2** It seems impossible to escape artificial intelligence these days. The latest is a new AI study has determined the most attractive male celebrities. QR Code Generator examined the nominees from People's Readers' Choice Poll for the Sexiest Men Alive of 2024 and used an AI-powered website to see who, among the 62 male stars, was the sexiest. Jonas Brothers member Joe Jonas was the tops, followed by Maluma, Ryan Gosling, Glen Powell and Joey McIntyre. Taylor Swift's beau, NFL player Travis Kelce, landed himself in 37th place and his sibling Jason ranked 17 slots lower, in 53rd.

**3** Looking for a high-paying tech job? According to our friends at DataCamp, Computer Network Architects, are the highest-paid tech job in Indiana, with an average salary of \$112,560. Software Developers were next at \$110,580 and Information Security Analysts came in third at \$102,690. Computer programmers (\$98K) and Computer Systems Analysts (\$96K) rounded out the top five.

# The TIMES



NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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## Boomer Bits

### Ask Rusty – When Should My Wife Claim Social Security Benefits?



#### Social Security Matters

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website ([amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).

**Dear Rusty:**  
*I turned 64 in July and my wife turned 62 in August. My wife has not worked for approximately 15 years but does qualify for Social Security on her prior work record. My wife is having some physical issues and would like to not return to work. Since she is eligible to collect Social Security, that would be an option to provide additional income, so she doesn't have to work. My question is how would it affect her future SS spousal benefits based on my record if she begins collecting her own benefit now? I plan to work until at least my full retirement age (67), and maybe longer, but plan to start collecting SS at 67 even I continue working.*  
**Signed: Working Husband**

**Dear Working:**  
If your wife has the required 40 SS quarter credits, she is eligible to collect reduced retirement

benefits at 62 (for that needed extra income), but her age 62 benefit will be about 70% of what it would be if she waited until her SS full retirement age (FRA) to claim. That reduction would, in turn, carry over to her spousal benefit when you eventually claim your SS benefit. Here's why:

Your wife's spousal amount when you claim will be a combination of her own SS retirement benefit, plus an auxiliary amount (a "spousal boost") that she is entitled to as your spouse. At age 62, her own benefit will be cut by 30% and she can collect that reduced amount until you claim, at which point her spousal boost will be added to make her benefit equal her spousal entitlement. So, her total benefit as your spouse (when you claim) will consist of her reduced

➔ See RUSTY Page A3

### IAW Shares Ways to Identify Scammers

Indiana American Water wants to keep customers and the general public safe by providing important tips to help identify and avoid scammers targeting unsuspecting utility customers.

Utility company imposters often attempt to scam individuals in two main ways: 1) they may pose as utility workers to gain access to someone's home; 2) they might urgently contact the person, either by phone or another method, demanding

➔ See IAW Page A3

### Week Focuses on Protecting Financial Info From Thieves

WASHINGTON – The Internal Revenue Service, working with the Security Summit partners, today announced a special awareness week focusing on taxpayers and tax professionals to protect sensitive financial information from identity thieves and tax scams as the holidays and the 2025 tax season approach.

The 9th annual National Tax

➔ See THIEVES Page A7

### Tree Lightings, Santa House & More on Slate



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

**Enjoy a Merry Prairie Holiday 2024 at Conner Prairie in Fishers 5:30-9:30 p.m. opens tonight and continues through Dec. 22 with thousands of LED Reynolds lights, a visit to Prairietown, games, food, activities and more, with tickets at [connerprairie.org](http://connerprairie.org)**



**BETSY REASON**  
Columnist

Merry Prairie Holiday 2024 opens at Conner Prairie in Fishers. Shop at the Suburban Indy Holiday at Grand Park in Westfield. Shop Small Business Saturday in downtown Noblesville and the Hamilton North Public Library Bazaar in Cicero. Attend the Cicero Tree Lighting Festival & Parade and the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce's Lighting of the Square tree lighting with live entertainment. Visit Santa in the Santa House at the Courthouse Square. Skate at the Federal Hill Commons Ice Plaza. Enjoy the Holiday Walking Tour at Federal Hill. Shop and eat and experience musical talents at Carmel Christkindlmarkt. There are plenty of activities to do this weekend and beyond in and around Noblesville. Find these and more happenings in The Times' list of 40 things to do:

1. Enjoy a Merry Prairie Holiday 2024 at Conner Prairie in Fishers 5:30-9:30 p.m. opens tonight and continues through Dec. 22 with thousands of Reynolds LED lights, a visit to Prairietown, games, food, activities, Frosty's Skating Rink, North Pole Village, selfies with Santa and Mrs. Claus, Kringle's Carousel,

➔ See BETSY Page A5

### TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

**Consider sitting on an exercise ball instead of a chair – it helps your balance and keeps you more alert.**

*Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts.*



### OBITUARIES

None

The Times appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank **BETH LOGAL** for subscribing!

### TODAY'S QUOTE

**"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable Gift."  
2 Corinthians 9:15**

### TODAY'S JOKE

**Knock Knock.  
Who's there?  
Igloo.  
Igloo who?  
Igloo Susie like I knew Susie, oh what a gal!**

The Times of Noblesville presents...

# Iceland's Magical Northern Lights

Hosted by Dick Wolfsie

March 18 – 24, 2025



For more information contact Collette

1-800-581-8942

Please refer to booking #1232517



## Sen. Walker Shares Update



**KYLE WALKER**  
 Guest Columnist

This week, I gathered with fellow legislators at the Statehouse for Organization Day – the ceremonial start of the 124th Indiana General Assembly.

Organization Day includes the swearing in of new and returning members of the General Assembly, who take the formal oath of office to begin a new term. It also marks the annual first roll call of all state lawmakers.

During the first session of each General Assembly, lawmakers craft a comprehensive budget to fund government services for the next two fiscal years. As always, I will advocate for fiscally responsible policies to ensure Indiana passes another balanced budget that serves all Hoosiers well.

Addressing the concerns of my constituents is always my number one priority during the legislative session, and I hope to hear from you as we resume that work.

Residents of Senate District 31 may contact me with any questions or comments they may have online or by phone at 800-382-9467.

\*\*\*  
**INDIANA STATE**  
 Parks Seek Input

Indiana State Parks is planning for its future and needs your input about current offerings and ideas you may have. To do this, you can take

a 10-15 minute survey.

Participants will be entered into a drawing for prizes like camping or state park inn gift cards.

\*\*\*  
**BUYER SAFETY**

It is time for holiday shopping and bargain deals, but buyers should beware of scammers online.

Building Indiana Business put together some tips to help online shoppers stay protected and cautious when submitting their payment information.

\*\*\*  
**WINTER WEATHER**  
 Preparedness: Stay Ready and Safe

During Winter Weather Preparedness Week, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), in collaboration with state partners and emergency personnel, released a podcast episode dedicated to helping Hoosiers prepare for hazardous winter weather conditions.

In addition, IDHS compiled valuable resources and checklists to ensure your safety throughout the season. Winter preparation involves more than just having a shovel or a warm place to stay—it's about staying protected at home, outdoors and on the road.

*State Sen. Kyle Walker represents District 31 which includes portions of Hamilton and Marion counties.*

## Health Department Launches Online Food Permitting

The Hamilton County Health Department has launched an online system for food permit applications. The system allows both new and established food vendors to apply for and renew their permits, provide necessary documents like floor plans and menus, and pay for their permits online.

“Our goal is to make the application process easier for vendors, helping us ensure timely permits for temporary events and new food establishments alike,” says Amy Ballman, Director of Environmental Health for the Hamilton County Health Department.

A soft launch of the system allowed the Health Department to work through some early kinks. It has received 12 permanent and 74 temporary food permit applications since April. Starting in 2025, food establishment renewals can be processed through the online system, reducing the number of late renewals and making the process much easier for both applicants and staff.

Ballman offers this tip for renewals, however.



**Amy Ballman**

“If you’re already in our system, please don’t create a new account. Instead, contact our office directly to secure the access code associated with your business.”

Once approved, applicants can pay for their permits online through Google or Apple IDs. Vendors will still be allowed to apply or renew permits in-person or by mail if they prefer.

“We are excited to see how this system evolves,” Ballman adds. “Ultimately, we hope to expand this tool to other environmental programs in the future.”

For more information or to apply for a food permit, visit the Hamilton County Health Department’s Food Establishment Program page at [www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/256/Food-Establishment-Program](http://www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/256/Food-Establishment-Program)

## Elkdom’s Heart For America on Full Display

This December, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is spreading hope and holiday cheer across the nation and beyond. From small towns to major cities, Elks Lodges in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Philippines and the Panama Canal Zone are stepping up to serve their communities.

Elk volunteers will deliver food baskets and gifts to thousands of struggling families, while hospitalized Veterans—our nation’s heroes—will be honored with visits, gifts, and festive celebrations.

The Elks’ unwavering promise remains: “So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.” This year alone, the Elks have provided over \$55 million in support to Veterans and active-duty service members, aiding more than 300 VA medical centers, clinics, and care facilities with food, comfort packages, and recreational activities.

Investing in Futures and Communities The Elks will also review thousands of scholarship

applications this month, contributing \$5 million annually to help students achieve their dreams. Their Community Investment Program will deliver \$16 million to local projects that enrich and uplift neighborhoods. In 2024, the Elks’ commitment to service has totaled over \$505 million, embodying their motto: “Elks Care – Elks Share.”

Join the Elks in Service With nearly 1,800 Lodges and 800,000 members, the Elks welcome American citizens aged 21 and older who believe in God to join their mission.

Learn more at [www.elks.org](http://www.elks.org) membership opportunities at [Join.Elks.Org](http://Join.Elks.Org) or stop in at 35 S. 9th St. in Noblesville to explore our facility.

Together, let’s make this holiday season brighter for all. For more than 156 years, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has been a cornerstone of community support and patriotism. From aiding Veterans to empowering youth and strengthening neighborhoods, the Elks are dedicated to building a stronger, more compassionate future.

## Santa Arrives This Weekend at Hamilton Town Center

Simon Malls are pleased to announce that families can meet Santa at Hamilton Town Center as part of the Simon Santa Photo Experience. Santa arrives on Friday and will be available until Christmas Eve. All Santa Photo Experiences sponsored by IU Health.

The Santa Photo Experience will be open on Sunday to Friday from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. and 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. on Saturdays. Reservations are encouraged. Make Santa reservations today by clicking here.

Hamilton Town Center shoppers may also meet Santa this season at various events including:

Pet Photos Sponsored by IU Health – Hamilton Town Center is excited to host festive pet photo opportunities multiple times throughout the holiday season. Pet Photos will be located at Santa’s Village across from CoHatch and near the Hamilton Town Center Dog Park. Photos will be taken and available for purchase at this event. Reservations are not required for this event.

Tuesday, December 3: 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Thursday, December 5: 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Tuesday, December 10: 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Thursday, December 12: 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Baby’s First Christmas Photo Sponsored by IU Health - All season long we are celebrating baby’s first Christmas! Enjoy a FREE 5" x 7" photo and holiday ornament with Purchase of Package A for all first-time babies experiencing Santa photos.

A Party That Sleighs! Sponsored by Ford’s Garage On Saturday, December 7 shoppers can expect to find seasonal fun as the cross-off their shopping list including live reindeer, Caricature Artists, Holiday Llamas, Carolers and a Social Media Pop-Up Display with photographer. The holiday event will be located in the Greenspace between Ford’s Garage and Livery.

12 Days of Hamilton Town Center Giveaways: December 10, Hamilton Town Center will host a daily Social Media giveaway on the Mall’s Instagram. Followers can enter to win unique gifts from top retailers including Lilac Blonde, Ford’s Garage, Rally House and more! Be sure to follow along at @ShopHamiltonTC.

## Colts to host watch party in Carmel



*Photo courtesy City of Carmel*

**On Sunday, Dec. 1 at Midtown Plaza in Carmel, Colts fans can watch the Indianapolis Colts take on the hated New England Patriots on a road game. The party is free to attend and open to all ages but fans must secure a ticket to attend. Things get going at noon, prior to the 1 p.m. kick. Midtown Plaza is an outdoor venue. The event will take place rain or shine, unless severe weather is forecast. Midtown Plaza is located at 365 Monon Blvd. in Carmel. For more info, go to <https://www.colts.com/events/watch-party>**

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## ↓ RUSTY From Page A1

age-62 amount, plus an additional amount as your spouse.

If you claim at 67, your wife will be about 2 years short of her own FRA, which means that her spousal boost amount will also be reduced for early claiming. That reduced spousal boost will be added to her already reduced (age 62) SS retirement benefit, which will make her total benefit less than 50% of your FRA benefit amount.

So, your wife claiming her own reduced SS retirement benefit at 62 also means her spousal benefit amount will be affected, and taking her spousal boost before her FRA means that the boost amount will also be reduced for early claiming. The only way your wife can get the full 50% of your FRA entitlement is to wait until she reaches her own FRA (67) to claim Social Security benefits.

Having said all of that, if your wife's physical issues suggest that she claims her benefits early and she is comfortable with the smaller benefit she will get, then that may be the right choice. For reference, the reduction to your wife's spousal boost amount (if you claim at your FRA) will be about 17%, and that reduced spousal boost will be added to her reduced age 62 SS retirement amount. The end

benefit for your wife (if you claim at age 67) will likely be about 42% of your FRA entitlement (instead of 50%).

FYI, you can further delay your own SS retirement benefit (up to age 70) for a higher benefit yourself, but that would also mean your wife would need to wait longer to get her spousal boost. You could also wait to claim your SS until your wife reaches age 67 (her FRA), which would give you a higher personal amount and also ensure your wife gets her maximum spousal boost (but her total will still be less than 50% of yours because she claimed her own SS retirement benefit at 62). When to claim Social Security depends on financial need and life expectancy. If a long life expectancy is anticipated, waiting longer to claim is often the best move. But financial need always trumps waiting longer.

*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.*

## ↓ IAW From Page A1

### About American Water

American Water (NYSE: AWK) is the largest regulated water and wastewater utility company in the United States. With a history dating back to 1886, We Keep Life Flowing® by providing safe, clean, reliable and affordable drinking water and wastewater services to more than 14 million people with regulated operations in 14 states and on 18 military installations. American Water's 6,500 talented professionals leverage their significant expertise and the company's national size and scale to achieve excellent outcomes for the benefit of customers, employees, investors and other stakeholders.

immediate payment to prevent a disruption in services. It's important to be cautious and verify the identity of anyone claiming to be a utility worker before letting them into your home or providing any personal information.

Indiana American Water urges customers and the general public to verify the identity of utility workers by requesting identification before granting access to their homes or businesses:

- Always verify. When unsure about an incoming phone call or email, stop the communication and verify with the utility company's customer service number to confirm legitimacy.
- Be skeptical. When receiving a phone call, text message, email, or visit from someone, be sure

to ask questions and verify their identity before giving out any personal or financial information.

- Remain calm. Scammers thrive on panic. If you are worried, hang up the phone or close and lock your door, and call your utility company to verify.
- Never give cash. Our employees and contractors never collect money or credit card information from customers in the field.

By implementing these tips, you can stay one step ahead and safeguard your personal information from being compromised.

For more information, visit the Better Business Bureau.

## Hamilton County Sheriff's Office Achieves CALEA Law Enforcement Reaccreditation!



Photo courtesy Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

**From left, CALEA Commissioner Mr. Marlon Lynch, Chief Deputy John Lowes, Hamilton County Sheriff Dennis Quakenbush, HCSO Assistant Accreditation Manager Stephanie Ruggles, and CALEA Executive Director Craig Hartley**

The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office proudly announces its successful reaccreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®). The achievement was celebrated during the CALEA Conference, held from November 13-16 in Jacksonville Florida. Sheriff Dennis Quakenbush, Chief Deputy John Lowes and Assistant Accreditation Manager Stephanie Ruggles were in attendance to accept the reaccreditation award from CALEA.

The rigorous CALEA accreditation process involves a thorough evaluation of policies, practices, and adherence to established best practices. This achievement reflects a steadfast commitment to operational excellence, public accountability, and continuous improvement in law enforcement.

CALEA accreditation promotes the principles of community-oriented policing, fostering collaboration between law enforcement agencies and community members to address and mitigate challenges. It provides agencies with clear guidelines aligned with community expectations, ensuring trust and transparency.

Established in 1979, CALEA serves as a credentialing authority developed by major law enforcement executive associations. Agencies earning CALEA accreditation are recognized for their dedication to professionalism and compliance with stringent standards. Hamilton County's exceptional accomplishment underscores its leadership in public safety and community partnership, setting a benchmark for other jurisdictions nationwide.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the City of Westfield, Hamilton County, Indiana, that the City Council at their regular meeting place at Westfield City Hall at 130 Penn Street, in Westfield, IN at 7:00 PM, on the 9th day of December, 2024, will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the budget and the following reduction to appropriations for the current year.

Additional appropriations to be added:

640 Sports Complex Fund		
Major Budget Classification:		
Grand Park (#015)		
Personal Services	Line item # 640015111 -	\$72,500
Personal Services	Line item # 640015119 -	\$4,000
Personal Services	Line item # 640015120 -	\$1,700
Personal Services	Line item # 640015121 -	\$3,900
Supplies	Line item # 640015224 -	\$5,000
Supplies	Line item # 640015226 -	\$1,000
Services and Charges	Line item # 640015341 -	\$4,000
Services and Charges	Line item # 640015342 -	\$2,500
Services and Charges	Line item # 640015343 -	\$1,000
Services and Charges	Line item # 640015345 -	\$2,000
Services and Charges	Line item # 640015349 -	\$20,823
Services and Charges	Line item # 640015366 -	\$500
Sports Campus Indoor Event Ctr (#023)		
Personal Services Line item #	640023111 -	\$21,500
Personal Services Line item #	640023119 -	\$500
Personal Services Line item #	640023120 -	\$270
Personal Services Line item #	640023121 -	\$639
Services and Charges	Line item # 640023328 -	\$3,200
Services and Charges	Line item # 640023331 -	\$68,000
Services and Charges	Line item # 640023341 -	\$10,000
Services and Charges	Line item # 640023342 -	\$2,500
Services and Charges	Line item # 640023343 -	\$2,000
Services and Charges	Line item # 640023345 -	\$10,000
Services and Charges	Line item # 640023349 -	\$16,300
Total for Sports Complex Fund		
\$253,832		

Taxpayers appearing at the meeting shall have a right to be heard on the additional appropriation. TL22079 11/29 It hspaxlp

### NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

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Additional appropriations to be added:

176 ARP-2021 COVID Recovery Fund	
Major Budget Classification:	
Other Services and Charges Line Item #	176013349 \$2,856,804
Total ARP-2021 COVID Recovery Fund	\$2,856,804

Taxpayers appearing at the meeting shall have a right to be heard on the additional appropriation. TL22080 11/29 It hspaxlp

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## A.J. Croce Returns to Palladium

Singer-songwriter A.J. Croce will return to the Palladium this spring with his signature blend of blues, rock, jazz and roots music.

A New Orleans-inspired piano prodigy and multi-instrumentalist, Croce began playing professionally at 15 and soon was touring with B.B. King and Ray Charles. He has released 10 studio albums as a bandleader, performed with artists including Willie Nelson and the Neville Brothers, and co-written songs with Leon Russell, Dan Penn and other esteemed songsmiths.

Croce and his seasoned band have delighted audiences with their "Croce Plays Croce" tributes to his late father, folksinger Jim Croce, who enjoyed a string of pop hits in the early 1970s before his untimely death in 1973. This tour again will include a mix of songs by Croce and his father, along with other classic tunes and the stories behind them.



**Jim Croce's son, A.J. Croce**

### A.J. Croce: Heart of The Eternal Tour

8 p.m. Saturday, April 4

The Palladium at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts, 1 Carter Green, Carmel, IN 46032

Tickets: From \$35

Purchase and information: TheCenterPresents.org (317) 843-3800

This week, Croce released a new single, "Complications of Love," co-written with Grammy-winning producer Gary Nicholson and produced by country-rocker Shooter Jennings.



# Snow Blower Safety Tips

With winter weather coming, it seems a good time to talk about the fact that clearing snow and ice from driveways, sidewalks and parking lots is no small job. You rely on your outdoor power equipment to do the heavy lifting, and it's important to keep safety in mind. The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) reminds home and business owners to use snow throwers, often referred to as snow blowers, safely and offers tips to help.



Photo courtesy international trade association OPEI

## Experts say preparation is key and that home and business owners should consider these safety tips.

in a proper fuel container and label it with the date purchased and the ethanol content. Store fuel safely and out of the reach of children. Fill the fuel tank outside before starting the engine and while the engine is cold. Never add fuel to a running or hot engine.

**Clear the area.** Snow can sometimes hide objects. Doormats, hoses, balls, toys, boards, wires, and other debris should be removed from areas you intend to clear. When run over by a snow thrower, these objects may harm the machine or people.

**Dress for winter weather.** Locate safety gear now, and place it in an accessible closet or location. Wear safety glasses, gloves and footwear that can handle cold and slippery surfaces when operating the snow thrower.

**KEY SAFETY TIP:** Never put your hands inside the auger or chute. Use a clean out tool to unclog snow or debris from the snow thrower. Your hands should never go inside the auger or chute.

**Turn OFF the snow thrower if you need to clear a clog.** If you need to remove debris or unclog snow, always turn off the snow thrower. Wait for all moving parts to come to a complete stop before clearing any clogs or debris.

**Operate in visible conditions.** Never operate the snow thrower without good visibility or light.

**Aim with care.** Never throw snow toward people or cars. Keep

children or pets inside and away from your snow thrower when it is operating.

**Use extreme caution on slopes and hills.** Use caution when changing directions on slopes. Do not attempt to clear steep slopes.

**Know where the cord is.** If using an electric powered snow thrower, be aware of where the power cord is at all times. Avoid tripping.

About OPEI  
OPEI is an international trade association representing manufacturers and suppliers of power equipment, small engines, battery power systems, portable generators, utility and personal transport vehicles, and golf cars. OPEI is the advocacy voice of the industry, and a recognized Standards Development Organization for the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and active internationally through the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) in the development of safety and performance standards. OPEI owns Equip Exposition, the international landscape, outdoor living and equipment exposition, and administers the TurfMutt Foundation, which directs the environmental education program, TurfMutt. OPEI-Canada represents members on a host of issues, including recycling, emissions and other regulatory developments across the Canadian provinces.

# Westfield Lions Raise Over \$25K at 'Poker for Sight' Tournament



Joshua Kublnick claimed the \$10,000 prize.



Lions Bruce Bowman and Mike Birk show off the check for Habitat.



Humane Society's Jennifer Hatcher was all smiles when Lion Brian Abraham gave her the check.

On Friday and Saturday, Nov. 15-16, more than 260 poker players competed in the Westfield Lions Club's semi-annual "Poker for Sight" tournament. Over \$25,000 in prize money was paid out, with Joshua Kublnick coming in first place and claiming the \$10,000 prize. The first thing Joshua said when he received his check was that it would be going toward the downpayment of a house he's trying to buy.

For the tournament, the Lions netted just over \$25,000, which will go toward the numerous organizations and projects supported by the club. Prior to each of three qualifying sessions and the final round the Lions presented \$1500 "Big Checks" to organizations that work with veterans, blind students, citizens that struggle to afford health care, and the homeless. This year's recipients of the Big Checks were the Indiana Blind Children's Foundation, Pets Healing Vets, the Heart & Soul Free Clinic, and Habitat for Humanity.

The IBCF is the fundraising arm of the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually

Impaired. Lions Clubs International places a major emphasis on supporting organizations that fight the causes of blindness and helps those suffering from it. This has been part of LCI's focus since Helen Keller challenged LCI to be "Knights of the Blind" at the 1926 LCI convention. To learn more about IBCF and the ISBVI, and how you can support them, go to [www.indianabcf.org](http://www.indianabcf.org).

Pets Healing Vets is a program run by the Humane Society of Hamilton County. It works to pair up veterans suffering from PTSD and TBI with carefully selected shelter animals. Funds raised for Pets Healing Vets go to helping defray the cost of pet ownership for these veterans. You can help support this amazing program by going to [www.hamiltonhumanec.com/programs/pets-healing-vets](http://www.hamiltonhumanec.com/programs/pets-healing-vets).

The Heart & Soul Free Clinic in Westfield is an organization the Westfield Lions have been committed to supporting for several years. Providing free medical services to those who can't afford them fits perfectly with the Lions Club's motto "we serve". The

number of people in Hamilton County utilizing Heart & Soul's services continues to grow every year. Please consider supporting this tremendous organization by going to [www.heartandsoulclinic.org](http://www.heartandsoulclinic.org).

Prior to the championship round on Saturday night, the Lions presented Habitat for Humanity with a Big Check to help with their projects in Central Indiana. Habitat for Humanity brings citizens together to help build homes for those battling homelessness and needing a hand up. You can support the Central Indiana Chapter of HFH by going to [www.indyhabitat.org](http://www.indyhabitat.org).

The Westfield Lions' next tournament is scheduled for April 25th and 26th of 2025. To find out more about the tournament and how to register, go to [www.lionspoker.org](http://www.lionspoker.org). In the meantime, the Westfield Lions are looking for men and women interested in making a difference in our community. Please go to [www.westfieldlions.org](http://www.westfieldlions.org) to find out more about the club and how to become a member.

# Hamilton County 911 Team Receives CALEA Accreditation

The Hamilton County 911 Communications Team recently completed the process for the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. The milestone was celebrated during the CALEA Conference from November 13-16, marking Hamilton County as one of very few, it not the only, county in the nation to have all its municipal police departments, Sheriff's Office, and 911 Center nationally accredited. The rigorous process includes comprehensive evaluations, adherence to best practices, and a commitment to continuous improvement.

"Achieving CALEA accreditation is no small

feat," said Mike Hubbs, 911 Director. "The process requires extensive preparation, dedication, and teamwork. We faced numerous challenges, but our team worked tirelessly to meet the stringent standards set forth by CALEA. It is a true testament to our commitment to excellence in public safety."

Hamilton County Commissioner Christine Altman expressed her pride in the achievement, stating, "I am incredibly proud of the work our agencies have put into earning this accreditation. It speaks volumes about our dedication to providing the best possible service to our community. Holding

ourselves to such high standards ensures that we are always prepared to respond to emergencies effectively."



Photo courtesy Hamilton County

From left: CALEA Commissioner Marlon Lynch, Erin Crank, Hamilton County Public Safety Communications; Travis Comer, Records and Accreditation Specialist for Hamilton County Public Safety Communications; Mike Hubbs, Director of Public Safety Communications; Hamilton County Commissioner Christine Altman; and CALEA Executive Director Craig Hartley.

It took Hamilton County 911 Communications two years to complete the CALEA accreditation process.

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## ↓ BETSY From Page A1

Polar Bear Plunge tubing hill and more, with tickets at [connerprairie.org](http://connerprairie.org)

2. Experience a Blues Night featuring Gordon Bonham 7-10 p.m. today at Sara's Soiree Music Lounge in downtown Noblesville, with The Audits 7-10 p.m. Saturday.

3. Enjoy live music with Sam King tonight and Dec. 27, John Beatrice Band on Saturday at Primeval Brewing in downtown Noblesville.

4. The Federal Hill Commons Ice Plaza is open through Jan. 6, closed Christmas, at Federal Hill Commons in downtown Noblesville with skating passes and more info available at [noblesvilleparks.org](http://noblesvilleparks.org), with the free Holiday Walking Tour opening every night at Federal Hill, and carriage rides, with or without Santa, will be available in December, with reservations at [noblesvilleparks.org](http://noblesvilleparks.org).

5. Shop and eat and experience musical talents at the annual Carmel Christkindlmarkt, which continues through Dec. 24, 4-9 p.m. Wednesday and Thursdays, noon-9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, noon-8 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays and Tuesdays and Christmas, special hours 4-9 p.m. Dec. 16-17, noon-9 p.m. Dec. 23, noon-4 p.m. Dec. 24 at [carmelchristkindlmarkt.com](http://carmelchristkindlmarkt.com)

6. Shop at the Suburban Indy Holiday Show today through Sunday at Grand Park in Westfield with tickets at [suburbanindyshows.com](http://suburbanindyshows.com)

7. Enjoy live music with the Don Stuck Band at 6 p.m. today at Farmhouse Bar and Restaurant in Carmel.

8. Shop Small Business Saturday 9 a.m.-8 p.m. this Saturday in Downtown Noblesville with specials throughout the downtown.

9. Shop the Hamilton North Public Library Bazaar 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday at the library in Cicero, featuring local vendors and craft sellers.

10. Attend the Cicero Tree Lighting Festival & Parade at 4 p.m. Saturday through downtown Cicero, with activities to follow at Cicero Park with Santa and Mrs. Claus Meet and Greet 4-8 p.m., pet a reindeer, warm up by the fire, dine on chili and enjoy holiday filled activities.

11. Attend Noblesville Chamber of Commerce's annual Lighting of the Square tree lighting with live entertainment, at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at the Hamilton County Government & Judicial Center in downtown Noblesville.

12. Enjoy live music with Country Summer 7-10 p.m. Saturday at Urban Apples in Westfield, and Jai Baker 3 at 9 p.m. Saturday at Joe's Grille in Westfield.

13. Enjoy live music with Mike Partin at 7 p.m. Saturday, Ciara Haskett on Dec. 7, Juan Douglas Trio on Dec. 21, Third Space Duo on Dec. 28 at Spencer Farm Winery in Noblesville.

14. Shop at Christmas at the Milltop 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday at the Mill Top Banquet and Conference Center in Noblesville, featuring vendors and more.

15. Visit Santa in the Santa House on the Courthouse Square open Dec. 1-24 in

downtown Noblesville, with donations accepted, thanks to Hamilton County Historical Society. Hours are 2-6 p.m. Dec. 1; 5-7 p.m. Dec. 5; 5-9 p.m. Dec. 6; noon-5 p.m. Dec. 7, 14, 21 and 22; noon-3 p.m. Dec. 8 and 15; 5-8 p.m. Dec. 13, 19, 20 and 23; and noon-4 p.m. Dec. 24.

16. Audition for Carmel Community Players' "Pride and Prejudice," a play based on the novel by Jane Austen, 6-9 p.m. Dec. 1 and 2 at CCP Warehouse in Carmel with more info at [carmelplayers.org](http://carmelplayers.org).

17. Get in the holiday spirit at Noblesville Chamber of Commerce's annual Holiday Luncheon at 11 a.m. Dec. 4 at Purgatory Golf Club in Noblesville and featuring entertainment by Noblesville High School Choirs, with reservations at [noblesvillechamber.org](http://noblesvillechamber.org)

18. Watch All Elite Wrestling's "AEW: Dynamite" and "AEW: Rampage" make their debut at 7 p.m. Dec. 4 at the new Fishers Event Center, with more info at [fisherseventcenter.com](http://fisherseventcenter.com).

19. Experience live theater as Main Street Productions' "Greetings!" holiday comedy Dec. 5-15 at Basile Westfield Playhouse, with tickets at [westfieldplayhouse.org](http://westfieldplayhouse.org)

20. Shop at the Janus Holiday Shoppe 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 5, 6, 12, 13 at Janus Developmental Services on Westfield Road (Indiana 32) with items that include new birdhouse designs, tree skirts, stockings, dog leashes and collars, pacifier clips, lanyards, beaded mobiles, mixed

media and upcycled art, clay jewelry and desk decor, with Janus participants making a commission on art pieces sold with more info at [janus-inc.org](http://janus-inc.org).

21. Celebrate Noblesville Main Street's First Friday with Deck the Downtown events 4-8 p.m. Dec. 6 in downtown Noblesville with transportation to Lights Over Seminary Park, ice skating at Federal Hill Commons, The Birdie Gallery and Noblesville Creates (formerly Nickel Plate Arts) and the sounds of Hinkle Creek Carolers, with midnight madness shopping until midnight.

22. Join Noblesville Preservation Alliance's Holiday Home Tour 5-8 p.m. Dec. 6, registration required at [noblesvillepreservation.org](http://noblesvillepreservation.org).

23. Experience the annual outdoor, drive-through, Living Nativity 5-8 p.m. Dec. 6 at Cornerstone Lutheran Church in Fishers.

24. Gather your friends and family to experience the free Lights Over Seminary at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 6 at Seminary Park, an event by Noblesville Preservation Alliance, in downtown Noblesville, with hot chocolate, cookies and caroling.

25. Bring the whole family to "Seussical The Musical" Dec. 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, at The Cat in Carmel, with tickets at [onthestage.tickets](http://onthestage.tickets)

26. Join the Downtown Noblesville Cookie Crawl, in its second year, by pre-ordering a cookie tin (\$40) before Dec. 7 and then pick up your tin and map on Dec. 7 at Linden Tree and walk around the downtown collecting

cookies to fill your tin at participating businesses with more info at [linden.treegifts.com](http://linden.treegifts.com) or by calling 317-773-3238.

27. Santa arrives tonight at Santa's Village near the Hamilton Town Center Dog Park in Noblesville and will be available until Christmas Eve Dec. 24, with a Santa Photo Experience open 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday-Friday and 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturdays, with Pet Photos in Santa's Village 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Dec. 3, 5, 10 and 12. Visit the Llamas noon-3 p.m. Dec. 7.

28. All Whos big and small, join in the magical day with the Grinch and decorate cookies free noon-3 p.m. Dec. 8 at Urban Apples in Westfield.

29. Visit Santa and Mrs. Claus, dance in the street, cozy up to the fire pits, shop the artisan market, enjoy kids activities and eat chili during Arcadia's ninth annual Christmas Tree Lighting with Christmas Market 4-8 p.m. Dec. 7 in downtown Arcadia.

30. Enjoy Santa's Soiree 4-7 p.m. Dec. 7 at Village Green near the Christmas Tree at Clay Terrace in Carmel, with Santa's arrival at 4 p.m., Gian Snow Globe, live music with the Elf Band, beverages from Upland Brewing, Christmas tree lighting just after sundown, carriage rides 4:30-7:30 p.m., selfies with Santa's Friends, roaming entertainment, face painters and more.

31. Celebrate the season at the Handmade Vintage Market Holiday Market 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 7 at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds in Noblesville with free parking and \$5 tickets at the door and at [handmadevintage.market.com](http://handmadevintage.market.com).

32. Shop at Noblesville Main Street's Holiday Market 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 7 outdoors at Federal Hill Commons in downtown Noblesville, with ice skating open and food trucks and more.

33. Celebrate the kickoff of the holidays at Westfield in Lights 3-6 p.m. Dec. 7 at Grand Junction Plaza in Westfield with a tree-lighting ceremony at 6 p.m., plus food and retail vendors, Frosty the Snowman, carnival games, llama walking 3-6 p.m., with more at [westfieldwelcome.com](http://westfieldwelcome.com)

34. Make plans to attend City of Noblesville's Holiday in

Lights Parade, in its second year, at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 7 through downtown Noblesville, with \$25 registration, free to nonprofits, by Dec. 2 registration deadline at [cityofnoblesville.org/parade](http://cityofnoblesville.org/parade).

35. Experience Noblesville's North Pole at Santa's Village 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 14 in Federal Hill Commons in downtown Noblesville, with life reindeer, crafts, elf training, plus vendor booths, plus sign up for Breakfast with Santa in the Green Room at [noblesvilleparks.org](http://noblesvilleparks.org)

36. Good Samaritans' Distribution is Dec. 14 for Christmas baskets with more information on how to donate at [gsnlive.org](http://gsnlive.org). Also, Christmas Eve shut-in delivery available.

37. Experience the joy of the season at the "Christmas Festival of Music: And on Earth, Peace" at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Dec. 15 at Noblesville First United Methodist Church, featuring the Noblesville First Chancel Choir, Orchestra, and new pipe organ, with registration required for free tickets at [noblesvillefirst.com](http://noblesvillefirst.com). Christmas Eve services are at 5 p.m., 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. Dec. 24.

38. Play Ugly Sweater Bingo 5:30-9:30 p.m. Dec. 16 at the Noblesville Moose Lodge, with doors open at 5 p.m., early birds start 6:30 p.m. and regular games at 7 p.m. Next up, Stella Luna & The Satellites will play live music at the Moose Ugly Christmas Sweater Party at 8 p.m. Dec. 20 at the Moose.

39. Join in an evening of holiday musical cheer at the Holiday Show at Sara's Soiree Music Lounge in downtown Noblesville, with shows at 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Dec. 21, with tickets at [sarasoiree.com](http://sarasoiree.com)

40. Shop at Grace Care Center's annual Christmas Store 1-5 p.m. Dec. 21 and 22 at Grace Church in Noblesville, created to help local families find gifts, providing more than 10,000 gifts and serving more than 1,000 families, with reservations for time slots available in advance, with more info at [gracechurch.us/christmasstore](http://gracechurch.us/christmasstore).

*Betsy Reason writes about people, places and things in Hamilton County. Contact The Times Editor Betsy Reason at [betsy@thetimes24-7.com](mailto:betsy@thetimes24-7.com).*



**Visit Santa in the Santa House on the Courthouse Square beginning Sunday and continuing special hours through Dec. 24 in downtown Noblesville, thanks to Hamilton County Historical Society.**



*The Times photos by Betsy Reason*

**Shop Small Business Saturday 9 a.m.-8 p.m. this Saturday in Downtown Noblesville with specials throughout the downtown.**



**Noblesville Chamber of Commerce's annual Lighting of the Square includes lighting up the Courthouse following entertainment that begins at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at the Hamilton County Government & Judicial Center in downtown Noblesville.**



**Attend Noblesville Chamber of Commerce's annual Lighting of the Square tree lighting with live entertainment (Noblesville First UMC sings in 2023) at 6:30 p.m. Saturday in the atrium at the Hamilton County Government & Judicial Center in downtown Noblesville.**

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# Taking an Inside Look at Purdue and Indiana's Old Oaken Bucket Football Series



**KENNY THOMPSON**  
Columnist

Let's look at some numbers behind the Old Oaken Bucket football series

between Purdue and Indiana.

## 28-5

That's the Boilermakers' record in Bucket games decided by more than 21 points. Expect the Hoosiers to notch lopsided victory No. 6 this season.

## 60-0

That was Purdue's margin of victory in the first meeting between the two rivals in 1891. Here's a sample of how the game was reported in the Nov. 30, 1891, edition of the Purdue Exponent.

"Purdue rejoices. We have played and won, and hereafter the name and fame of the sturdy eleven of '91, shall occupy a chosen place in the hearts of Purdue. The pennant is ours. ... In after years the splendid record will be pointed to with pride and made the mark by which to judge future feats of prowess. All hail to mighty men and victory won."

The Boilermakers went 4-0 that season, shutting out all four opponents under first-year coach Knowlton Ames, who was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1969. Ames scored 730 points in his career at Princeton, including 62 touchdowns, and was a member of the first All-America team in 1889.

## 31

Purdue has won the Bucket an equal number of times in West Lafayette (31-16-2) and Bloomington (31-16-1).

## 0-0

The score from the first Old Oaken Bucket game, played in Bloomington on Nov. 21, 1925.

"Neither Purdue nor Indiana was able to score Saturday in the football struggle that marked the dedication of the new Memorial Stadium at Bloomington," the Lafayette Journal and Courier reported. "The fans who expected to see aerial demonstrations by both elevens were disappointed for the two traditional Hoosier foes chose to fight out their 1925 fracas with line smashes and runs instead of forward passes."

## 68

The most points in the rivalry scored by Purdue, a 68-0 victory on Nov. 5, 1892.

"Not only the championship of the state has been kept, but also the championship of the West has been won for Purdue," according to the December 1892 edition of the Purdue Exponent. "Purdue has great cause to feel proud of her boys."

The Boilermakers finished 8-0 overall and outscored their rivals 320-24.

## 56

The most points put up

by Indiana in the series, a 56-36 triumph on Nov. 30, 2013, in Bloomington. That mark may be threatened in 2024 with Purdue owning the worst defense in the Big Ten (Plus 8).

## 45

The Hoosiers posted their largest margin of victory in the Bucket series with a 52-7 triumph on Nov. 19, 1988, at Ross-Ade Stadium. A couple of IU fans taunted Purdue with a sign that read "Pur-Won't."

They were right. Tom Kubat of the Lafayette Journal and Courier wrote that the defeat was so lopsided that "the Boilermakers were taking a head count to make sure Purdue Pete and the Golden Girl also weren't lost in the battle."

Indiana forced six turnovers, owned a 15-minute time of possession advantage, had 30 first downs to Purdue's 10 and outgained the Boilermakers 537-230. Anthony Thompson contributed mightily to those advantages, rushing 25 times for 167 yards and three touchdowns. Thompson, a junior, became Indiana's career rushing leader with 3,366 yards on his way to a career total of 5,299 yards and 65 touchdowns.

## 9-0-1

Purdue's record against Indiana in the 1950s. The teams dueled to a 15-15 tie on Nov. 22, 1958. The deadlock halted a string of 10



Photo courtesy Purdue University

## A scene from the dedication game for the Old Oaken Bucket in 1925.

consecutive Bucket victories for Purdue.

The Boilermakers have had only three losing decades in the series: 2-4-1 in the 1900s, 3-7 in the 1940s and 4-6 in the 2010s.

## 276

Otis Armstrong's rushing yards in the final game of his Purdue career on Nov. 25, 1972, still stands as the Bucket record.

Alex Smith has the Indiana record for the Bucket game with 245 yards on Nov. 19, 1994, at Ross-Ade Stadium.

## 522

Purdue quarterback Kyle Orton set the Bucket record for passing yards on Nov. 20, 2004, in Ross-Ade Stadium.

The 63-24 rout was the most points the Boilermakers scored in a single game since 1947. Purdue also notched 763 yards in total offense to set Big Ten and school single-

game records.

The 522 yards were a career-high for Orton, who completed 33 of 54 passes for six touchdowns. The yards and TD passes matched Drew Brees' school records.

Orton's favorite target, Taylor Stubblefield, set the NCAA career receptions record after hauling in 14 for 138 yards and three touchdowns.

Kyle Ingraham caught 11 passes for a Bucket record 209 yards.

## 11-2-1

Jack Mollenkopf's Purdue teams only lost to the Hoosiers in 1962 (12-7) and in 1967 (19-14), when fourth-ranked Indiana earned its only Rose Bowl berth to date.

Joe Tiller posted a 10-2 mark against Indiana. Bo McMillin is Indiana's winningest coach in the Bucket series, going 9-4-1 from 1934 to 1947.

## Noteworthy

Purdue point guard Braden Smith surpassed 500 career assists during the Boilermakers' 80-45 victory against Marshall on Nov. 23.

The nine assists against Marshall allowed the former Westfield star to become the third-fastest player to record 500 assists in Big Ten history. Only Michigan State's Mateen Cleaves and Purdue career record holder Bruce Parkinson achieved that mark sooner. ...

Former Purdue running back Tyrone Tracy Jr. has been selected the running back on The Athletic's NFL Midseason All-Rookie Team.

"At the season's midway point, Tracy is leading all rookie running backs in rushing – which is impressive considering he had just 12 carries in September. But once Devin Singletary went down with an injury, Tracy stepped into the Giants' lead role," writes Dane Brugler of Tracy, who has 587 yards and three TDs on 116 rushes.

"A former receiver in college, Tracy has also been productive as a pass catcher (22 receptions for 145 yards). What separates him among this class is the explosive plays. He leads all rookie backs in carries of 20- and 10-plus yards."

*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.*

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## THIEVES From Page A1

Security Awareness Week takes place this year from Dec. 2–6 by the members of the Security Summit, a coalition of the IRS, state tax administrators, tax software companies, the tax professional community and others in the larger tax community. The group formed in 2015 to combat tax-related identity theft through a public-private sector partnership that strengthened internal protections and raised awareness about security threats.

With the holiday shopping season underway and tax season quickly approaching, the Security Summit partners urge taxpayers and tax professionals to take extra steps to protect their financial and tax information during this critical period. During the holiday season, people face the heightened risk of identity theft as criminals ramp up efforts to trick people into sharing sensitive personal information including through email, text message and social media scams and schemes. Identity thieves might use this information to try filing false tax returns and stealing refunds.

“We are entering into a critical period where taxpayers need to be extra careful protecting their valuable information,” said IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel. “Scams and schemes are quickly evolving. Extra caution by people during the holiday season and the upcoming filing season will be essential to avoid being a victim. By being aware of the risks, taxpayers can protect themselves, their families and their communities. Vigilant taxpayers are on the front lines of the larger efforts by the Security Summit partners to strengthen the tax system against identity theft and tax scams.”

The work of the Security Summit to strengthen internal systems and share information across the tax system about fraudsters continues to show results. Since its inception, the work of the Security Summit has helped protect millions of taxpayers against identity theft and prevented billions of dollars from being wrongly paid out to fraudsters.

But as the IRS and the Summit partners have strengthened their systems, identity thieves have increasingly turned their attention to stealing underlying tax and financial information from taxpayers, businesses and tax professionals in hopes of slipping authentic-looking tax returns through the defenses.

To counter this threat to individuals and

businesses, National Tax Security Awareness Week features a week-long series of educational efforts by the Summit partners to educate and inform taxpayers and tax professionals. The week will focus on how to defend against identity theft and other scams, including inaccurate social media information. This year’s campaign includes:

- Daily press releases and Tax Tips during the week of Dec. 2 highlighting specific issues that can protect taxpayers and tax professionals from identity theft and tax schemes.
- Social media awareness on X, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. Follow @IRSTaxSecurity, @IRSnews and #TaxSecurity on X for the latest information.
- Special educational materials, including e-posters and IRS publications, will also be available to share information not just during the special week but the upcoming filing season.
- Dozens of information-sharing sessions by IRS Stakeholder Liaisons with local tax professional groups and community events.

The IRS and Summit partners continue to focus on combating identity thieves and their increasingly sophisticated scams. Identity thieves often impersonate the IRS and others in the tax community using fake emails, texts and online scams. These schemes frequently use recent tragedies or imitate charitable groups to coax people into sharing sensitive financial data, which can lead to tax-related identity theft.

There has been an increase of these activities on social media, including inaccurate tax advice that continues to mislead taxpayers. To help counter this, many of the Security Summit partners have joined together to form the Coalition Against Scam and Scheme Threats (CASST). This group will be increasingly active during the upcoming tax season.

“This special security week highlights ongoing threats against taxpayers and their information,” said Sharonne Bonardi, Executive Director of the Federation of Tax Administrators. “State tax agencies are deeply committed to proactive fraud detection and prevention, and ensuring taxpayers and the revenue system are protected is a top priority for us and our Security Summit Partners. The National Tax Security Awareness Week provides important information to help in the ongoing

battle against identity theft that we encourage you to read and share with others.”

A key tool in identifying and defending against these identity theft scams is the Identity Theft Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC), which was developed by the IRS and Security Summit partners to better identify and coordinate against fraudsters. As the group has strengthened defenses inside the tax system to spot emerging scams, identity thieves continue to look for ways to obtain sensitive personal financial information to file fraudulent tax returns. That has made tax professionals, who hold sensitive tax information on their clients, a key target for scam artists.

“The combined efforts of the Security Summit partners continue to protect millions of taxpayers from identity thieves. But the threat of tax-related identity theft remains, including the increasing presence of tax scams circulating on social media that pose a threat not just during tax season, but during the holidays and throughout the year. Consumers and tax professionals play an important role in helping us in this effort, and the information during this special week can help protect people from these continuing threats,” said Julie Magee, one of the original participants in the Security Summit and Tax Policy Lead for Cash App Taxes.

The security awareness effort is a year-round effort in the tax community. This year’s National Tax Security Awareness Week provides extra awareness for taxpayers during the critical holiday period and in advance of the 2025 tax season. Highlights this year are listed below.

### National Tax Security Awareness Week 2024 highlights

**Cyber Monday:** Beware of phishing as part of online safety

The Security Summit will remind taxpayers to approach Cyber Monday holiday shopping with caution because scammers are also shopping – for their next victim’s personal information. Beware of common email scams including phishing and smishing, spear phishing and whaling. Other common scams include fake delivery notifications, a particularly active scam during the busy holiday season, as well as unexpected messages promising people a tax refund.

Especially during the holiday season, some basic safety steps include:

- Shop at sites with web addresses that begin with the letters “https:” – the “s” stands for secure communications; also look for a padlock icon in the browser window.
- Don’t shop on unsecured public Wi-Fi in places like a mall or restaurant.
- Ensure security software is updated on computers, tablets and mobile phones, includes a feature to stop malware, and that there is a firewall enabled to prevent intrusions.
- Protect the devices of family members, including young children, older adults and other less technologically savvy users.
- Use strong, unique passwords for online accounts.
- Use multi-factor authentication whenever possible.

**Tuesday:** Don’t fall for schemes, misinformation on social media

The IRS and Summit partners continue to see a variety of filing season hashtags and social media topics misleading taxpayers with inaccurate and potentially fraudulent information. Many of these share a common theme of people trying to use legitimate tax forms for the wrong reason.

The IRS has seen a spike this year in the following scams:

- “Self Employment Tax Credit”, which in reality doesn’t exist.
- Household employment taxes, which taxpayers are coaxed into claiming by inventing fake household employees.
- Fuel Tax Credit, for which many claimants aren’t eligible as it’s meant for off-highway business and farming use. The vast majority of individual taxpayers do not qualify for the Fuel Tax Credit. It is only for businesses that use certain types of fuel (not for the gas people put in their car).
- Inflated Income and Withholding, which encourages people to use tax software to manually fill out Form W-2, Wage and Tax Statement, and include false income information.
- Claim of Right, in which taxpayers are advised to file tax returns and attempt to take a deduction equal to the entire amount of their wages.

**Wednesday:** Get an IP PIN and IRS Online Account

The IRS will remind taxpayers to add an extra layer of protection between their tax returns and identity thieves by joining the Identity Protection Personal Identification Number (IP PIN) program at the start of the 2025 tax season. They can do so after creating an IRS Online

### More resources

For more information on preventing tax information theft, visit Security Summit.

Victims of identity theft can visit Identity Theft Central.

Find additional information at Tax Scams.

Get reliable tax information from the following trusted sources:

Follow IRS on social media. Visit an IRS walk-in center. Talk to a trusted tax professional.

- Account, a critical online tool that allows taxpayers to securely access their tax and return information from prior years.
- An IP PIN is a unique six-digit number used to verify a taxpayer’s identity when filing a return.
- More than 10.4 million taxpayers already have their IP PIN.
- To get one, a taxpayer must create or sign onto their IRS online account and set a reminder to sign-in in early January, when the IP PIN program reopens for registration following a brief shutdown for maintenance.
- IP PINS are only valid for a year; participating taxpayers must acquire a new PIN annually.
- Never share an IP PIN with anyone but a trusted tax advisor.

**Thursday:** Update digital security to protect businesses and customers

The Security Summit partners will offer taxpayers ways to guard against identity thieves looking to pilfer personal information like names, passwords and account numbers. The fraudsters are relentless in sending emails, texts and direct messages made to look like they come from a legitimate source, like the IRS, state tax agencies, a bank or a trusted tax professional. Taxpayers need to watch for such solicitations and the dangerous links, attachments and contact information they contain. Never click, call or reply on these without first independently verifying the source.

Steps that can protect taxpayers, businesses and tax professionals include:

- Automatically update security software.
- Back up important files.
- Require strong passwords and pair them with multi-factor authentication (MFA).
- Encrypt all devices.

**Friday:** Tax pros need to maintain heightened awareness

- Identity thieves on the hunt for taxpayer data aren’t just targeting taxpayers, they’re also going after tax professionals who receive and hold large amounts of sensitive taxpayer data. This makes the tax pros a tempting target for identity thieves.
- To help guard against loss, the IRS and Security Summit partners this year released an updated Written Information Security Plan (WISP). Tax pros can use these as a roadmap to protect their practice. Under federal law, tax pros are required to have a WISP on hand, and this tool offers an easy template that can be scaled to any size tax practice. The Summit partners also remind tax pros that they also required by law to use MFA with clients.
- In addition to getting a WISP and establishing an action plan in case of a system breach or data theft, the IRS also recommends signing up for a Tax Pro Account. The Summit partners also remind tax pros to report a security event affecting 500 or more people to the FTC as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days from the date of discovery.
- Go to National Tax Security Awareness Week 2024 for additional information.

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# Hall of Fame Inductees Includes Ex-NHS Coach

Basketball is passion, and that passion is shown throughout the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. That passion continues as the board of directors of the Hall announces its 63rd induction class, to be honored in ceremonies on Wednesday, March 19, 2025.

Eighteen men are in the class, including a former Noblesville coach and a pair of Indiana Mr. Basketball winners in Bryce Drew of Valparaiso in 1994 and Troy Lewis of Anderson in 1984. The class also includes eight other players, seven coaches and one administrator – Greg Humnicky of South Bend – as the Indiana Pacers/Indiana Fever Silver Medal winner. The Silver Medal is presented to a person who contributed to Indiana high school basketball in a role other than as a player or coach.

Dave McCollough has a 630-298 record and a .679 win percentage in 40 years as he enters the 2024-25 season at Connersville, his second at the Fayette County school. Over his career, he has posted marks of 157-95 in 11 seasons at North Judson (1993-94), 308-138 in 20 seasons at Noblesville (1994-2014), 148-32 in seven seasons at Shenandoah (2015-22), 11-13 in only 2022-23 at Frankfort and 6-20 last season at Connersville. Those tenures include 14 conference championships, 13 sectional titles (1986, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, 2010, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021), two regional trophies (1997, 2019) and three Hall of Fame Classic appearances (1997 champion, 2001, 2020) with just two Indiana All-Star players – Kirk Manns in 1986 and Tom Coverdale, the 1998 Mr. Basketball. McCollough is a four-time IBCA district Coach of the Year (1997, 2007, 2016, 2020) and has collected 21 other Coach of Year honors from conferences and media outlets. He also was a 1997 Junior All-Star assistant coach, a 1997 Wendy’s Classic assistant coach, the North head coach for the 1998 Coca-Cola All-American Game and the 2000 Indiana All-Star head coach. A 1975 graduate of LaVille, where he earned three letters in basketball, two letters in football and one letter in baseball, McCollough matriculated to Manchester College. He played one season of basketball for the Spartans and earned a bachelor’s degree in 1979. He started his coaching career as a junior high coach in Richmond (1979-81) and then served as a high school assistant at North Judson from 1981-83 before being named the Blue Jays’ head coach for the 1983-84 season. McCollough earned a master’s degree from Indiana University in

1986 and served as IBCA president from 2000-03. He enters the 2024-25 season as Indiana’s 14th all-time winningest coach.

The late D. Earl “Swede” Chambers is the Centennial Award winner, which is presented to one inductee who graduated high school 100 years or longer ago. A 1920 graduate of Smithville, Chambers’ teams won more than 530 games with five sectional titles (1931, 1944, 1945, 1949, 1950), one regional crown (1931) and a 1931 State Finals berth over 36 seasons at seven schools – Smithville (1920-21), Crothersville (1921-24), Brownstown (1924-31), Center Grove (1931-38), Shoals (1938-42), Paoli (1942-52), Shoals again (1952-54) and Medora (1960-62). Chambers was a 1920 graduate of Smithville, where he played varsity basketball for four seasons, including the last three for coach John Adams. Chambers earned a bachelor’s degree from Indiana University in 1933 and a master’s degree from Indiana State in 1952. He also served as an elementary school principal in Daviess and Tipton counties. The gymnasium at Paoli Junior/Senior High School was named the D.E. “Swede” Chambers Gymnasium on Feb. 6, 1976.

The late Wilbur Cummins was a 1925 graduate of Frankfort, where he led the Hot Dogs to the 1925 state championship and a 1924 state runner-up finish. Cummins totaled 1,140 points during high school, including a school-record single-game best of 49 points vs. Owensville on Dec. 11, 1923. He averaged 10.7 points for a 24-6 State Finalist squad as a sophomore, 17.8 points for a 27-2 team as a junior and 16.3 points (despite missing 10 games because of injury) for a 27-2 unit as a senior. Cummins played at Purdue for Ward “Piggy” Lambert, earning first-team all-Big Ten honors in 1927 when he led the league with a 10.3 average in 12 conference games, and served as the Boilermakers’ captain in 1928-29. He also coached at Brook (1929-31), Elwood (1931-33), Mooresville (1933-37), Gas City (1937-47) and Frankfort (1947-52), his teams winning seven sectionals (1930, 1931, 1944, 1946, 1949, 1950, 1952) and two regionals (1946, 1949).

Bryce Drew, the 1994 Indiana Mr. Basketball and IHSAA Trester Award winner from Valparaiso, has succeeded at all levels of basketball as a player and coach. He had high school career totals of 1,577 points (17.9), 303 rebounds (3.4), 386 assists (4.4) and 218 steals (2.5) while leading the Vikings to a 69-26 record over four seasons. That included

a 28-1 state runner-up finish as a senior while averaging 24.7 points, 4.1 rebounds, 5.3 assists and 2.8 steals. Earlier, he tallied 10.4 points, 2.0 rebounds and 3.7 assists as a freshman for an 8-14 squad, 15.2 points, 2.8 rebounds and 4.2 assists as a sophomore for a 16-5 team and 17.7 points, 4.3 rebounds and 3.9 assists as a junior for a 17-6 unit. He was named 1992 IBCA honorable mention All-State, 1993 AP high honorable mention All-State, 1993 IBCA Underclass All-State, 1994 AP first-team All-State, 1994 IBCA first-team All-State and 1994 Gatorade Indiana Player of the Year. Drew then went to Valparaiso University to play for his father, Homer Drew. At VU, Bryce amassed a school-record 2,142 points (17.2) plus 380 rebounds (3.1) and 626 assists (5.2) in keying the team to an 88-36 record. That included a memorable 1998 NCAA Tournament run where Drew hit “The Shot” that catapulted 13-seed Valparaiso past 4-seed Mississippi before VU upset Florida State in overtime. Drew four-times earned all-Mid-Continent Conference honors, twice was league Player of the Year, was named to the 1998 NCAA all-Midwest Region team and was a third-team All-American. A first-round pick by Houston in the 1998 NBA Draft, Drew played six seasons in the NBA – two with Houston, one with Chicago, one with Charlotte and two with New Orleans. He averaged 4.4 points and 2.2 assists in 243 career regular-season NBA games. He played professionally in 2004-05 in Italy and Spain, then joined his father’s staff as an assistant coach at VU from 2005-11. In 2011, Bryce was promoted to head coach at Valparaiso, going 124-49 over five seasons with four Horizon League regular-season titles, two HL Tournament crowns and two NCAA Tournament berths. He was a three-time HL Coach of the Year and a two-time NABC District 12 Coach of the Year. Drew then went to Vanderbilt with NCAA Tournament appearance, and he currently is in his fifth season at Grand Canyon University in Arizona. His first four seasons at GCU have produced a 94-32 record with two Western Athletic Conference regular-season championships, three WAC Tournament trophies and three NCAA Tournament berths. Entering 2024-25, Drew’s overall college coaching ledger is 258-140 with six NCAA Tournament berths in 12 seasons.

Matthew Graves totaled 1,804 career points while leading White River Valley to three sectional titles and two regional crowns during high school. A 1993 Indiana All-Star, Graves averaged 16.0 points (354), 3.8 rebounds and 4.3 assists as a freshman at Switz City Central in the final year before the school consolidated

with L&M and Worthington into White River Valley. He then netted 15.8 points (411), 3.2 rebounds and 3.5 assists for a sectional winner as a sophomore, 20.5 points (535), 5.4 rebounds and 4.2 assists for a regional winner as a junior and 20.2 points (504), 5.4 rebounds and 3.9 assists for another regional winner as a senior. He was voted 1993 AP first-team All-State after being selected 1992 AP high honorable mention All-State and 1991 AP honorable mention All-State. He also was all-tournament in the Hall of Fame Classic in December 1992. Graves matriculated to Butler University, averaging 8.8 points and 1.7 rebounds with a career 84.6 free throw percentage over five seasons (playing just six games in 1994-95 because of injury). He averaged 9.9 points as junior and 12.0 points and was Midwestern College Conference all-tournament as senior as the Bulldogs qualified for the 1997 and 1998 NCAA Tournaments. Graves began a coaching career in 1998-99 at Indianapolis North Central, which was the 1999 Class 4A state champion. He assisted the next two seasons at Ben Davis before returning to Butler for 12 years, 2001-03 as director of basketball operations and 2003-13 as an assistant (or associate head) coach. On the sidelines, he helped the Bulldogs earn seven NCAA Tournament berths and national runner-up finishes in 2010 and 2011. Graves went 65-96 in five seasons as head coach at the University of South Alabama. He then was an assistant coach for one season at the University of Evansville, two seasons at Xavier University and three seasons at Indiana State before being named this past April as the Indiana State head coach for 2024-25.

Ron Hecklinski posted a 434-245 record in 30 seasons as an Indiana varsity basketball coach, leading teams to six conference championships, six sectional titles and one regional crown in a career that included stops at Wapahani (36-30 from 1981-84), Jasper (14-7 in 1984-85), Edgewood (44-21 from 1986-89), Anderson (274-138 from 1993-2011) and Mishawaka (66-49 from 2017-22). He also served as a college assistant for five seasons, 1985-86 at Illinois State and 1989-93 at Ball State (including a spot in the 1990 NCAA Sweet 16 and a 1993 NCAA Tournament berth). Hecklinski is a 1974 graduate of South Bend Saint Joseph, where he played two varsity seasons for teams that finished 15-8 and 10-11. He averaged 10 points, six rebounds and won the best defender award as a senior.

Hecklinski attended St. Edward’s University in Texas for a semester, then transferred to play three seasons at Manchester College. He averaged 11.1 points for a 17-11 squad that reached the NAIA District 21 final as a sophomore, had norms of 15 points and 10 rebounds in being named honorable mention all-conference as a junior and had a 9.0-point average as a senior. Hecklinski began his coaching career in 1978-79 as freshman coach at Knox, then was Richmond JV coach from 1979-81 before his first head coaching opportunity at Wapahani. He was head coach for the East team in the 2003 McDonald’s All-American Game in Cleveland, assisted in the McDonald’s game four other times and was the 2010 Indiana All-Star head coach. Twenty-one of his former assistant coaches have become head coaches. Also, 38 of his former players have gone into teaching and coaching, with 11 of those ex-players becoming head coaches. Hecklinski accomplished much of his success after undergoing a life-saving liver transplant in July 1996. Notably, the IHSAA granted Anderson special permission for a benefit game in Washington, D.C. On Jan. 29, 1998, Heck’s Indians – No. 1 in Indiana Class 4A and No. 14 nationally – posted a 68-63 victory over national No. 2 DeMatha (Md.) and coach Morgan Wootten, who also had recovered from a liver transplant in the summer of 1996.

Scott Hicks is a 1983 graduate of Indianapolis Cathedral, where he totaled 1,336 career points en route to being named an Indiana All-Star after he helped the Irish to a four-year record of 70-30 record and a spot in the 1982 IHSAA State Finals. He averaged 7.5 points as freshman for a 9-14 team, 13.8 points as a sophomore for a 14-10 squad, 15.6 points and 9.7 rebounds as a junior for a 27-3 unit and 20.4 points and 11.2 rebounds as a senior for a 20-3 squad. Hicks was named AP first-team All-State, UPI first-team All-State and All-American by Parade Magazine, Converse and Adidas in 1983. He was AP honorable mention All-State and UPI first-team Junior All-State in 1982. He also was a three-time Indianapolis All-City and three-time all-sectional honoree as well as MVP of the Hall of Fame Classic in December 1982. Hicks matriculated to Notre Dame, where he totaled 878 points (7.5), 380 rebounds (3.2) and 156 assists (1.3) as the Fighting Irish went 89-35 during his four seasons and played in three NCAA Tournaments. He was a captain and the ND mental attitude award

winner in 1986-87. Hicks, named to an Indianapolis 1980s all-decade team by The Indianapolis News in 1989, played with Athletes In Action and in the World Basketball League from 1989-93. He served as an assistant athletic director at Butler University from 1994-97 and was a Cathedral assistant coach from 1997-2000. He then went 172-54 as Cathedral head coach from 2000-10 and 115-73 as Indianapolis Broad Ripple head coach from 2010-18. His overall head coaching record in 18 seasons was 287-127 (.693) with seven Indianapolis City Tournament titles, two sectional crowns (2013, 2016) and a Hall of Fame Classic championship (December 2006). An assistant coach for the Indiana All-Stars in 2016, Hicks has been athletic director at Indianapolis Washington from 2018 to the present.

Daryl Warren is a 1971 graduate of Linden, where he became Montgomery County’s all-time leading scorer with 2,083 points, a 23.9 average for 87 career games. The Bulldogs’ ace totaled 347 points as a freshman, 491 points as a sophomore, 607 points as a junior and 638 points as a senior for respective squads that went 6-16, 15-7, 12-9 and 17-5. He was a four-time all-Montgomery County selection, a three-time all-conference choice, a three-time all-sectional pick and became known as “the Legend of Linden.” He tallied a career-high 46 points against Waynetown on Feb. 7, 1970. Warren went on to Indiana Central College (now the University of Indianapolis), where he amassed 1,228 points, 551 rebounds and 209 assists in four years with the Greyhounds. He was a three-year starter, a three-time all-Indiana Collegiate Conference selection and a two-time team MVP and captain for Angus Nicoson teams that went 18-10, 15-8, 15-11 and 14-10. Warren earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration and management at Indiana Central. He then worked his entire post-college career for Ceres Solutions Cooperative, rising to the position of vice president of agronomy before retiring in 2022. Warren was featured in a book called “The Last County Championship,” written by former Linden coach Tom Speaker in 2011. He also received a Montgomery County “Champions of Character Award” in 2014.

The late Dan Howe averaged 13 points and 10 rebounds as a senior to help Fort Wayne South Side to the 1958

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IHSAA state championship. A four-year varsity player, Howe tallied 6.4 points as a junior and helped the Archers to records of 21-7, 20-7 and 28-2 over his last three seasons with three Fort Wayne city titles plus crowns in three sectionals, three regionals and one semi-state. The 6-5 forward was chosen 1958 Indianapolis News first-team All-State and played in the 1958 Indiana-Ohio All-Star Game. He also played football, golf and excelled in track in high school, winning state titles in 1956 (880-yard relay) and 1958 (low hurdles). Howe played collegiately at The Citadel and Ball State. He averaged 12.1 points and 6.6 rebounds as a junior at The Citadel and 15.0 points and 11.1 rebounds as a senior at Ball State. Howe followed with a career in education, working as a teacher and coach at Kekionga Junior High, Fort Wayne Central and Fort Wayne Northrop (1965-73). He then was dean of boys at Fort Wayne Snider in 1973-74, principal at Fort Wayne North Side in 1974-91 and assistant superintendent for Fort Wayne Community Schools in 1991-95. He served on the IHSAA Board of Directors from 1984-90 and was the 1988 Indiana Educational Administrator of the Year. Howe was inducted into the Fort Wayne South Side Athletic Hall of Fame in 1974, collected a Fort Wayne South Side Distinguished Alumni Award in 1996 and was inducted into the Indiana Track & Field Hall of Fame in 1996.

Erv Inniger is a 1963 graduate of Berne, where he totaled 1,132 points while leading the Bears to a three-year record of 67-12. The team went 25-3 and won Adams County, sectional and regional titles in 1960-61, 21-4 with county, conference and sectional crowns in 1961-62 and 21-5 with sectional and regional trophies in 1962-63. Inniger averaged 20.0 points with exactly 500 points in 25 games as a senior. He was the lone underclass starter and an all-regional performer as a junior. He also started as a sophomore and was selected all-semi-state. Inniger matriculated to Indiana University, averaging 13.5 points and 5.1 rebounds for an 18-8 squad that made the NCAA Tournament as a senior. He totaled 343 points (6.7) and 139 rebounds (2.7) in 51 games over three seasons with the Hoosiers and was a sixth-round draft choice by the ABA's Minnesota Muskies in 1967. Inniger played two seasons in the ABA, one with Minnesota and one with the Miami Floridians. His ABA career totals were 1,102 points (9.3), 442 rebounds (3.8) and 191 assists (1.6) in 119 games (109 regular

season, 10 playoff), his second season cut short because of military service. Inniger then became a college coach, posting a 409-224 mark with seven 20-win seasons at three schools. He was 66-32 at Golden Valley Lutheran College (Minn.) from 1969-73, 99-42 at Augsburg College (Minn.) from 1973-78 and 244-150 at North Dakota State from 1978-92. He was three-time Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Coach of the Year (1975, 1976, 1977), the 1977 NAIA District 13 Coach of the Year and the 1981 North Central Conference Coach of the Year. At NDSU, his teams had 13 winning seasons, won the 1981 NCC title and placed third in 1981 and second in 1983 in NCAA Division II regional events. Inniger then was an associate athletic director at NDSU from 1992-2011 and was inducted into the NDSU Athletic Hall of Fame in 2001. He coached Park Christian School in Moorhead, Minn., to a 22-10 record in 2013-14, and he was recognized with an NBA Community Service Award in 2017 for his efforts in fundraising for the American Heart Association.

LeRoy Johnson is a 1957 graduate of Mishawaka, where he totaled 1,556 points and averaged 22.2 points over three seasons in 70 career games for squads that went 47-25. He netted exactly 500 points (18.5) and was named all-regional and all-semi-state as a sophomore for a 20-8 team that won sectional and regional trophies. He scored a single-season record 563 points (25.6) for a 12-10 team as a junior. He tallied 493 points (23.5), including a gym-record 40-point game against South Bend Washington on Jan. 18, 1957, and was named to the 1957 Indiana All-Stars as a senior. He then played two seasons at Indiana University. He averaged 9.0 points and 6.3 rebounds as a sophomore for an 11-11 squad, then produced 6.1 points and 2.9 rebounds as a junior for the 20-4 Hoosiers. He also excelled in track and field, setting a high school state mark of 6-7¾ in the high jump, winning the 1956 IHSAA state title and placing second in the 1960 Big Ten meet. After departing IU, Johnson played basketball in Spain and France for a decade, becoming a notable figure in the French first division Nationals and being recognized as the country's most dominant player. He received a bachelor's degree from the University of Caen in France, a master's degree in 1972 from Sarbonne University in Paris and a doctorate in history in 1981 from the University of Michigan. Johnson was a professor and lecturer from 1970 to

2005 at 10 colleges – University of Paris-Nanterre (1970-72), Michigan State University (1972-76), University of Florida (1976-78), University of Michigan (1978-80), University of Lagos, Nigeria (1980-82), Bryn Mawr College (1982-86), Towson State University (1986-88), Minnesota State University-Moorhead (1988-91), Northeastern University (1991-95) and Baltimore City College (1996-2005). He was an inaugural inductee into the Mishawaka High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 1986.

The late Floyd Kerr was a three-year varsity player who along with twin brother Lloyd helped South Bend Washington to the 1965 semi-state final as a senior. The left-handed Floyd averaged 11.6 points as a junior and 17.2 points as senior when he was named all-sectional, all-regional, all-semi-state and second-team All-State by the Kokomo Tribune. Washington teams went 13-10, 15-6 and 20-5 in his three seasons. Both he and Lloyd matriculated to Colorado State, where Floyd averaged 14.0 points, 6.9 rebounds and helped the Rams to the 1969 NCAA Midwest Regional final at 17-7 as a senior when he was named to the all-region team. He totaled 861 points (13.0) and 387 rebounds (5.9) with a three-season record of 41-30. Floyd was drafted by the NBA's Phoenix Suns, the ABA's Los Angeles Stars and NFL's Dallas Cowboys before a professional basketball career with the Harlem Magicians and in Belgium. He was head coach at Weequahic High School in New Jersey from 1972-73, posting a two-year mark of 46-7 and winning the 1973 New Jersey Group IV state title at 25-3. He moved to the college ranks an assistant coach at Colorado State (1974-80), Colorado (1985-86), Appalachian State (1986-87), Chicago State (1987-88), Western Michigan (1988-89), Akron (1989-91) and Youngstown State (1993-94). He also went 22-13 as head coach for the Youngstown Pride of World Basketball League in the summer of 1992 and assisted Girard High School to an Ohio Division II state title in 1992-93. He served as assistant athletic director at Youngstown State from 1994-2000, athletic director at Southern University in Louisiana from 2000-05 and athletic director at Morgan State in Maryland from 2005-16. Floyd also excelled in football and was inducted into the South Bend Washington Athletic Hall of Fame in 1997.

The late Lloyd Kerr was a two-year varsity player who along with twin brother Floyd

helped South Bend Washington to the 1965 semi-state final as a senior. The right-handed Lloyd averaged 12.6 points as senior when he was named all-sectional, all-regional and all-semi-state. Washington teams went 15-6 and 20-5 in his two seasons. Both he and Floyd matriculated to Colorado State, where Lloyd averaged 15.8 points, 5.7 rebounds and helped the Rams to the 1969 NCAA Midwest Regional final as a senior at 17-7. He totaled 916 points (13.3) and 334 rebounds (4.8) with a three-season CSU record of 41-30. Lloyd was drafted by the NBA's Phoenix Suns and ABA's Oakland Oaks before a professional basketball career with the Harlem Magicians and in Belgium. Lloyd entered the health-care field in 1973, living in Indiana, Oregon and finally Bolingbrook, Ill. He started in pharmaceutical sales before becoming a medical technical specialist for CIBA Diagnostics, Bayer and Siemens. He also was a township trustee for the Village of Bolingbrook and coached youth basketball and youth baseball for a number of years. Lloyd also starred in track & field, excelling in the high hurdles, and was inducted into the South Bend Washington Athletic Hall of Fame in 1993.

Troy Lewis was the 1984 Indiana co-Mr. Basketball after he totaled 1,966 points, 508 rebounds, 238 assists and 131 steals while leading Anderson to a three-year record of 68-11 that included two sectionals, two regionals, one semi-state and a 1983 state runner-up finish. After playing no varsity as a freshman and netting 8.4 points and 3.5 rebounds as a sophomore for a 20-4 squad, Lewis became a state-wide name as a junior when he tallied 30.0 points, 8.1 rebounds, 3.3 assists and was MVP of the '83 State Finals for the 24-5 Indians. He completed a magnificent high school career by averaging 35.3 points, 7.6 rebounds and 3.9 assists as a senior for a 24-2 unit that fell in the semi-state. Lewis, who had a career high of 50 points as a senior against Muncie Central, was named a 1984 McDonald's All-American, played in the Capital Classic national all-star game and was USA Today third-team all-USA. He also was selected 1984 AP and UPI first-team All-State, 1983 AP second-team All-State, 1983 UPI Junior All-State and had his jersey No. 23 retired at Anderson. Lewis matriculated to Purdue, where he is sixth on the career list with 2,038 points, totaled 465 rebounds and is 14th on the career list with 398 assists. The Boilermakers went 96-

28 during his four seasons with two Big Ten championships and four NCAA Tournament berths. Lewis averaged 10.4 points as a freshman, 18.4 points as a sophomore, 18.5 points as a junior and 17.9 points as a senior en route to being selected second-team all-Big Ten in 1986 and first-team all-Big Ten in 1987 and 1988. He had career highs of 39 points vs. Michigan (Jan. 5, 1987) and 14 assists vs. Indiana (Feb. 21, 1988). Lewis won a silver medal in the 1987 World University Games, was named to the AP's high school second-team 1980s all-decade squad in 1990 and was chosen to Purdue's all-time Centennial Team in March 1997. After college, he played for the Dayton Wings in the World Basketball League. That led to a job as a sales executive with Victory Wholesale Grocers in Dayton, Ohio, where Lewis has worked for more than 30 years. He also has been an assistant coach at Springboro and Centerville high schools, helping guide the latter school to the 2021 Ohio Division I state championship and state final four berths in 2022, 2023 and 2024. Lewis was inducted into the Purdue Athletics Hall of Fame in 2010.

Jeff Moore enters the 2024-25 campaign with a 531-286 ledger and a .650 win percentage in 34 seasons at Sullivan, the only school where he has been a varsity coach. During his time with the Golden Arrows, his teams have won 13 conference titles, 11 sectional trophies (1991, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2010, 2011, 2021, 2022, 2024) and four regional crowns (1998, 1999, 2001, 2022). He has been selected conference Coach of the Year 13 times, the Terre Haute Tribune-Star area Coach of the Year four times and was the 2021 IBCA District 3 Coach of the Year. He was an Indiana All-Star assistant coach in 2011 and coached the South team in the 2014 North/South Indiana All-Star Classic. His teams have produced eight 1,000-point scorers, including 2022 graduate Randy Kelly (1,687), 2012 graduate Rhett Smith (1,534), 1999 graduate Joey Davidson (1,274) and his son, 2004 graduate Jeffrey Moore (1,133). The coach is a 1979 graduate of Scottsburg, where he was a two-year varsity starter for teams that went 22-5 and 18-8 and both won sectional and regional. He averaged 16.8 points, was named all-Mid-Southern Conference and won team free throw and J.A. Mohler awards as a senior. He played briefly at Averett College in Virginia and later at Lees Junior College in Jackson, Ky. Moore completed his bachelor's degree in 1986 at Indiana University-Southeast. He started his career in

coaching as a student-teacher at Seymour, guiding the Owls' freshman team to a 9-1 mark in 1985-86. He then directed the Brownstown Central JV to a 52-28 record from 1986-90 before moving to Sullivan. Moore enters 2024-25, his 35th season as a varsity coach, as Indiana's 32nd all-time winningest coach.

Jim Shannon posted a 616-292 record in 39 seasons as varsity basketball coach, including a 451-153 mark in 25 seasons from 1998 to 2023 at New Albany. During his time with the Bulldogs, he guided five Indiana All-Star players – including 2018 Mr. Basketball Romeo Langford – while directing the team to 12 sectional titles, three World Basketball League titles, one semi-state trophy and the 2016 Class 4A state title at 27-1. Over his career, Shannon's teams won 15 sectional titles, 18 conference championships and two Hall of Fame Classic crowns (2007, 2016). Shannon was a conference Coach of the Year 19 times, a three-time IBCA District Coach of the Year (2002, 2008, 2016), the 2016 NFHS Indiana Coach of the Year, the 2008 Ball State Alumnus Coach of the Year, a 2002 Junior All-Star assistant, a 2005 Indiana All-Star assistant and 2018 Indiana All-Star head coach. Shannon is a 1978 graduate of Anderson, where he was a two-year varsity regular and an all-sectional player in 1977. He attended Anderson College for one year, then transferred to Ball State where he earned a bachelor's degree in 1982 and a master's degree in 1986. He started his coaching career while in college, assisting at Anderson from 1980-84. Shannon's first head coaching position was at North Decatur, going 23-41 from 1984-87. He then went 74-55 at South Dearborn from 1987-93 and 68-43 at Lebanon from 1993-98. He completed his coaching career with a .678 percentage and entered the 2024-25 season as Indiana's 16th all-time winningest coach.

The late Forest "Jake" Weber, a 1937 Plainfield graduate, totaled 1,384 points in 101 career games as one of the state's early top scorers. Weber, a 6-6 center, tallied 174 points as a freshman, 346 points as a sophomore, 441 points as a junior and 423 points as a senior while leading the Quakers to sectional titles in 1934, 1935, 1936 and 1937. He also excelled in football, baseball and track, twice collecting all-state honors as an end in football and twice placing second in the shot put in the IHSAA outdoor track State Finals while

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setting a school record that stood for 40 years. Weber then went to Purdue, where he excelled in basketball and track (setting a school record in the shot put) and also playing one season of football. In basketball, he averaged 5.2 points and was chosen to be the Big Ten All-Stars as a sophomore, tallied 2.8 points as a junior on the 1940 Big Ten champs and netted 2.8 points as a senior in 1940-41. Weber played professional basketball for two seasons, in 1945-46 for the Indianapolis Kautskys of the National Basketball League and in 1946-47 for the New York Knickerbockers and Providence Steamrollers of the Basketball Association of America. He totaled 191 points in 55 games for a 3.5 average. The BAA later became the NBA, and Weber was a starter in the Knicks' opener on Nov. 1, 1946, a 68-66 victory over the Toronto Huskies that now is considered the first-ever NBA game. Weber returned to Plainfield in 1947, working for the family-owned Consumer Coal Company. In 1952, he became a home builder for National Homes

Company and later worked for Paul Cripe Engineering. Plainfield High School has presented a Jake Weber Mental Attitude Award to an outstanding senior (or two) since 1960. Weber was inducted into the Plainfield High School Hall of Fame in 2020.

Indiana Pacers/Indiana Fever Silver Medal winner

Greg Humnicky, a 1964 graduate of South Bend Central, is an inductee as the 2025 men's Silver Medal winner. Humnicky is known as top-notch athletic administrator, serving as athletic director at South Bend Clay High School from 1988 to 2008 and as secretary/treasurer and historian for the Northern Indiana Conference from 1994 to the present. He also was on the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame board of directors from 2010-18 and still serves on multiple Hall of Fame committees. Earlier, Humnicky was a teacher and boys' basketball assistant coach at South Bend Central Middle School (1970-75), South Bend Adams High School (1975-82) and South

Bend Clay High School (1982-88) while also helping run summer Purdue Basketball Camps from 1973-88. Over the years, Humnicky has been a member of the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association, the Indiana Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association and the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. He was nominated for an IIAAA Distinguished Service Award in 2007 and received the Sam Wegner Award from South Bend Schools in 2013. Humnicky earned a bachelor's degree from Purdue in 1968 and a master's degree from Indiana University in 1973. He is a life member of the South Bend Alumni Association, the Purdue Alumni Association and the John Purdue Club.

The Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame's 63rd Men's Awards Banquet is planned for Wednesday, March 19, 2025. The day's events will include a reception at the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame Museum in New Castle that afternoon with a banquet that evening at the Primo Banquet Hall in Indianapolis.

Name	High School	Graduation
Don Chambers* !	Smithville	1920 #
Wilbur Cummins	Frankfort	1925 #
Bryce Drew	Valparaiso	1994
Matt Graves	White River Valley	1993
Ron Hecklinski	South Bend St. Joseph's	1974
Scott Hicks	Cathedral	1983
Dan Howe*	Ft. Wayne Southside	1958
Greg Humnicky	South Bend Central	1964
Erv Inniger	Berne	1963
LeRoy Johnson	Mishawaka	1957
Floyd Kerr*	South Bend Washington	1965
Lloyd Kerr*	South Bend Washington	1965
Troy Lewis	Anderson	1984
Dave McCollough	LaVille	1975
Jeff Moore	Scottsburg	1979
Jim Shannon	Anderson	1978
Daryl Warren	Linden	1971
Jake Weber*	Plainfield	1937

\*indicates deceased  
! indicates Centennial Award  
# indicates graduated high school 60 or more years ago

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